



Background

The historical Pro-Force abandoned mine site is located approximately two kilometres south-east of the Coolgardie town-site in Western Australia.

Pro-Force was a former gold processing site previously operated by Pro-Force Mining Contractors Pty Ltd from 1996 to 2004 and is adjacent to the Gorge, a public use area and water reserve. Access to the Gorge is unrestricted, with the community and tourists accessing the site from the Coolgardie-Esperance Highway.

The derelict processing plant and other site features had been in situ for more than a decade and were an ongoing public safety concern for the Shire of Coolgardie and the local community. In response to the community's safety concerns about the abandoned site, Pro-Force was selected by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) to be rehabilitated as a pilot project through the Abandoned Mines Program, using funds from the Mining Rehabilitation Fund (MRF).

Funds from the MRF can be used to rehabilitate future abandoned mine sites, when all other avenues to ensure rehabilitation have been exhausted.

Interest generated from the MRF can be used to rehabilitate legacy abandoned mine sites (sites that have not had an MRF reporting obligation), through the Abandoned Mines Program.

Approach to rehabilitation

To address the public safety concerns at Pro-Force, DMP held an auction of the processing infrastructure in November 2015. Items auctioned included hoppers, a processing tank, walkways, stairs and earthmoving equipment. The infrastructure was successfully sold and the plant and

equipment was removed from the site by early 2016. The equipment has been utilised for mine processing at another facility in the goldfields area.

This was the first time DMP had been involved in auctioning off the equipment from an abandoned mine site.

After successfully completing the auction, DMP began planning for the next stages of the project. In February 2016 a stakeholder identification workshop was undertaken by DMP to identify potential stakeholders with an interest in the site. Following the workshop a stakeholder identification plan was prepared and communication began with the key project stakeholders, the Shire of Coolgardie and the underlying tenements holders.

The overall rehabilitation approach was released in an information brochure in May 2016, titled "Improving Community Safety at the Pro-Force Plant Site" which outlined the following three project stages:

1. Site assessment and stakeholder engagement.
2. Site rehabilitation works.
3. Ongoing monitoring and further consultation.

Stage 1 of the project involved undertaking a detailed site assessment to identify the type and degree of safety and environmental issues at the site. This stage also involved consultation with a range of stakeholders, including the Shire of Coolgardie and underlying tenement holders, to identify the key concerns for the site. A key consultation event, a Community Workshop held by DMP in August 2016 at the Coolgardie Recreation Centre, gave members of the local community an opportunity to provide input into the rehabilitation plans.



Plant and scrap material before the rehabilitation works in February 2016



Works removed 9.75 tonnes of miscellaneous scrap material

Safety, availability of land for future mining and land use/culture were all important aspects for the project that were identified through the workshop. It also highlighted the need to remediate some hazardous features and miscellaneous rubbish.

As part of the project plan and to estimate the cost associated with rehabilitating Pro-Force, the Rehabilitation Liability Estimate was calculated using the category rates in the Mining Rehabilitation Fund Regulations 2013. These rates are an average estimate of rehabilitation costs used to calculate the levy payable by the mining and exploration industry.

Completion of clean-up works

After six months extensive consultation, DMP released two Expressions of Interest in October for works to clean up rubbish located at the site, one for scrap material and one for large tyres. The purpose of these Expressions of Interest was to provide local contractors an opportunity to register interest in the works.

Works to clean-up the site were carried out in December 2016. These works removed a total of 25 earthmoving tyres, 21 car/truck tyres and 9.75 tonnes of miscellaneous scrap material from the Pro-Force site. Additional earthworks were

also undertaken by contractors to improve the aesthetic look of the site as well as contribute to the environmental conditions.

Where to from here

The rehabilitation works undertaken to date have been successful in removing the abandoned processing infrastructure and rubbish from the site which removes the immediate safety risk associated with these features.

Consultation with the key stakeholders and community will continue in 2017 to determine additional rehabilitation works including revegetation which can be undertaken at the site. DMP will continue to work with underlying tenement holders to ensure that any future rehabilitation works undertaken at the site do not affect mining and exploration plans for the area.

How to find out more

DMP will provide regular updates regarding the Pro-Force project on the [Abandoned Mines webpage](#).

Further information on the Pro-Force project is available from the Abandoned Mines Team on:

Ph: (08) 9222 3162

Email: abandonedmines@dmp.wa.gov.au



Works removed 25 earthmoving tyres



Works to clean up the rubbish were completed December 2016



Works removed 21 car/truck tyres



Additional earth works have contributed to the environmental conditions