



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety**

**POLICY**

# Environmental Objectives Policy for Mining

*Mining Act 1978*

Version 3.0

Effective from 3 March 2020

## Document Hierarchy

Legislation	<i>Mining Act 1978</i>
Statutory Documents	Statutory Guidelines for Mining Proposals. Statutory Guidelines for Mine Closure Plans.
Policy	Environmental Regulatory Strategy. <b>This Document.</b>
Guidelines	Mining Proposal Guidance – How to Prepare in accordance with Part 1 of the Statutory Guidelines for Mining Proposals. Mine Closure Plan Guidance – How to Prepare in accordance with Part 1 of the Statutory Guidelines for Mine Closure Plans.
Procedures	Environmental Applications Administrative Procedures.

## Version History

Version	Date	Changes
1.0	2016	Initial publication of the Environmental Objectives Policy in the Guidelines for Mining Proposals 2016.
2.0	2019	Republishes the policy information in a stand-alone policy document.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to identify the environmental objectives for decision making under the *Mining Act 1978*.

## OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this policy are to:

- clearly identify the environmental objectives of regulation under the *Mining Act 1978*;
- inform the development of site-specific environmental outcomes; and
- provide to industry and the community the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety's (DMIRS) expectations relating to environmental acceptability of proposals.

In a risk and outcome-based environmental assessment process, it is imperative clear environmental objectives are established. This is to ensure the environmental risk assessment and setting of site-specific environmental outcomes is consistent with the expectations of the regulator, industry and the community.

## SCOPE

This policy specifically applies to activities regulated under the *Mining Act 1978*.

## POLICY

The principal objective for environmental regulation is: Resource industry activities are designed, operated, closed, decommissioned and rehabilitated in an ecologically sustainable manner, consistent with agreed environmental outcomes and post-mining land-uses without unacceptable liability to the State.

DMIRS' key environmental objectives are listed in Table 1 for the key environmental factors that are relevant to mining activities. DMIRS will consider these environmental objectives when determining whether a site-specific environmental outcome is acceptable.

**Table 1: Objectives for environmental factors**

Factor	Objective
Biodiversity	To maintain representation, diversity, viability and ecological function at the species, population and community level.
Water Resources	To maintain the hydrological regimes, quality and quantity of groundwater and surface water to the extent that existing and potential uses, including ecosystem maintenance, are protected.
Land and Soils	To maintain the quality of land and soils so that environmental values are protected.
Rehabilitation and Mine Closure	Mining activities are rehabilitated and closed in a manner to make them physically safe to humans and animals, geo-technically stable, geo-chemically non-polluting/non-contaminating, and capable of sustaining an agreed post-mining land use, and without unacceptable liability to the State.

Government of Western Australia

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