

# COMPLIANCE MANAGEMENT IN EXPLORATION WEBINAR 2021

## Q&As

### December 2021

Below are a series of questions and answers which were raised at the Compliance management in exploration webinar, held online on 1 December 2021. In addition, a number of questions were also posed and answered live during the webinar. A recording of the session can be found [here](#).

**Q:** *Would you consider that the vision of Resources Regulator also includes fostering a sustainable industry? It's not in your current Vision, despite being an aim of the Mining Act.*

**A:** A safe and responsible mining and extractive industry essentially underpins a sustainable mining industry. Our approach to regulating mine rehabilitation and environmental impacts have been designed to facilitate a sustainable industry.

**Q:** *Why is that only on rare occasions we receive acknowledgment of submission of a Rehabilitation Plan to support an approved APO and hardly ever receive approval of the document - despite it being a mandatory requirement?*

**A:** Going forward when we receive documents through the Regulator portal, there will be acknowledgement to the title holder that we have received the document. However, there is no obligation for the Regulator to approve the document. The objective of this mandatory requirement is to ensure that a title holder has developed a Rehabilitation Management Plan to address the risks associated with higher-risk prospecting operations. The Regulator's key focus is that a title holder achieves the rehabilitative and completion criteria whilst providing flexibility for industry to adopt methodologies designed to address site specific risks.

**Q:** *If a photographic record is not acceptable why is it specifically asked for in the application process and has been used as an example of good practice in this presentation?*

**A:** Essentially information to be supplied to the Regulator as part of an application for rehabilitation sign off needs to contain sufficient evidence that the rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria have

been met. In some instances, based on site specific risks, before and after photographs may be all that is required. However, encourage you to reach out and liaise with the Regulator to discuss your site-specific requirements.

**Q:** *Can you post a link to the explorer's checklist?*

**A:** <https://www.resourcesregulator.nsw.gov.au/environment/exploration/guidance-material-for-exploration>

**Q:** *What about rapid antigen testing for COVID-19? Would you perform one of these before entering site if requested?*

**A:** Yes, we would be happy to perform the test before entering the site. Currently our procedure is to ensure that an inspector has had a negative COVID-19 test within 7 days of conducting an inspection. On top of this we are happy to undergo a rapid antigen test.

**Q:** *Independent holes? I think this is the wrong approach. We drill to explore i.e. We do not know where the gold (or other) is. So exploration is iterative, that is we learn from each successive hole that is drilled and decide where to drill the next. That is why when we apply for an APO it will be a drill area.*

**A:** The APO allows for "Drilling Area Projects" which cater for a set number of holes within an area.

**Q:** *Why are decimal degree coordinates required? Grid coordinates are more usual and practical.*

**A:** Grid coordinates will replace degree coordinates in next year's upgrade. We are aiming to allow for user selection of which dataset you want.

**Q:** *In your updates if you were able to add in an option to send all notifications to certain authorised users this would be helpful. Often the geo heading to the field for other work is the one lodging the APOs.*

**A:** Will add this to the list of potential improvements as we continue to build and refine the system.

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