

REHABILITATION INFORMATION RELEASE

DATE: 5 MAY 2020

Catherine Hill Bay Coal Preparation Plant rehabilitation achieves residential land use

Overview

The NSW Resources Regulator is a stand-alone regulator within Regional NSW and is responsible for compliance and enforcement activities across the mining and exploration industry. The Regulator undertakes risk-based compliance and enforcement activities in relation to obligations under the *Mining Act 1992*. This includes:

- conducting assessments and compliance activities to ensure the rehabilitation of mines is undertaken in accordance with the conditions of mining leases and the requirements of the *Mining Act 1992*
- ensuring that rehabilitation security deposits held by the department cover the full costs in undertaking rehabilitation in the event of default by the mining company.

This information release provides guidance about the completion of rehabilitation on part of the former Catherine Hill Bay Coal Preparation Plant.

The mines

Catherine Hill Bay is about 30 kilometres south of Newcastle, NSW. Mining commenced in 1873 and continued until 2002. The Catherine Hill Bay Coal Preparation Plant, and associated coal stockpile areas, were built in 1964 to store and handle coal from the former Moonee and Wallarah Collieries. When mining ceased in 2002, a large part of the land, including the site, was sold to Catherine Hill Bay Developments Pty Ltd (now known as Coastal Hamlets Pty Ltd).

In 2011, development consent MP10_0204 was approved by (then) Minister for Planning and Infrastructure over part of the former mining areas at Catherine Hill Bay. The approved development

comprises a 72 hectare residential subdivision of about 540 lots. The domain associated with the former mining operations, and where rehabilitation has now been completed, comprises around 6 hectares of a former coal stockpile area within this approved residential development.

Required rehabilitation outcomes

The required rehabilitation outcomes for the site are detailed in the Catherine Hill Bay Coal Preparation and Coal Stockpile Areas mine closure plan approved by the department in June 2015. The 6 hectare site is known as Domain 5A – Snake Gully in the closure plan as shown in Figure 1. It should be noted that progressive rehabilitation is continuing over the remaining domains under the oversight of the Regulator.

The site has been progressively rehabilitated in accordance with the obligations set out in the approved closure plan. The closure plan requires the title holder (Great Southern Energy) to achieve the approved rehabilitation objectives, rehabilitation completion criteria and final landform. This includes establishing a safe, stable and non-polluting landform to support the approved residential subdivision.

The approved final landform and land use is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 1: Mine closure domains (areas) associated with the former Catherine Hill Bay Coal Preparation Plant



Figure 2: Approved residential development as per development consent MP10_0204
(Source: <https://beacheschb.com.au/masterplan/>)



Rehabilitation progress

The progress of rehabilitation has been in accordance with the measures outlined in the approved closure plan and are summarised below:

- Completion of site contamination and other technical investigations to progress mine rehabilitation closure (including geotechnical and contamination assessments).
- Stakeholder consultation.
- Decommissioning and removal of infrastructure at the Catherine Hill Bay Coal Preparation Plant.
- Implementation of a remedial action plan for the contaminated areas.
- Recovery of fine coal material from the stockpile areas.
- Completion of earthworks to reshape the site, to ensure it is in a safe and stable condition.

- Erosion controls, revegetation and weed management in preparation for future residential development.

Figures 3 to 7 below show the progress of these rehabilitation works, including how the residential development of the site has progressed over time.

Figure 3 Domain 5A in 2014



Figure 4: Domain 5A in 2016 – commencement of remediation works and importing capping material



Figure 5 Domain 5A in 2017 – continued importing capping material



Figure 6 Domain 5A in 2018 – commencement of major bulk earthworks and rehabilitation activities



Figure 7 Domain 5A in 2019 – formation of final landform to support residential subdivision



Rehabilitation completion

In October 2019, Great Southern Energy lodged an application with the Regulator (using form ESF2 *Rehabilitation completion and/or review of rehabilitation cost estimate*) to obtain formal sign-off on the completed rehabilitation works. As part of the application, evidence was provided including contamination remediation reports and as-constructed drawings to demonstrate that the rehabilitation was completed.

The Regulator carried out an assessment and determined that the rehabilitation obligations were fulfilled to the requisite standard in accordance with the approved closure plan and development consent.

Further information

- [Exploration and mining rehabilitation fact sheet](#)
- [Form ESF2: Rehabilitation completion](#)
- [NSW Resources Regulator mining operations plan guidelines](#)
- [Rehabilitation compliance and reporting reforms](#)
- [Australian Government, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science 2016: Leading Practice Sustainable Development Program in the Mining Industry – Mine Rehabilitation](#)

- [Australian Government, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science 2016: Leading Practice Sustainable Development Program for the Mining Industry – Risk Management](#)

About this information release

Visit www.resourcesregulator.nsw.gov.au to:

- learn more about mine rehabilitation
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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (April 2020). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of Regional NSW or the user's independent advisor

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