



# Mine Closure Plans from 9 September 2025

Changes introduced to the *Mining Act 1978* have retained the requirement for mining operations to lodge a Mine Closure Plan (MCP) to the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (the department).

This document summarises the changes that have occurred between the 2020 and 2025 versions of the MCP guidelines.

## Why were the MCP guidelines updated?

The form and content of a MCP is now set out in the Mining Regulations 1981 removing the need to have statutory guidelines. Further detail on how to develop a MCP is set out in the department's ['Guideline for preparing mine closure plans'](#).

The department has introduced a new Mining Development and Closure Proposal (MDCP) and Approvals Statement framework which replaces Mining Proposals. The MCP guidelines have been updated and refined to align with this new framework.

## Key changes

Table 1. Key changes between the 2020 and 2025 MCP guidelines

Aspect	2025 MCP guidelines	2020 MCP guidelines
Lodgement	Resources Online	Departmental submission portal
Alignment with MDCP framework	Headings and terminology aligned with MDCP guideline.	N/A
Standardised tables	The 2025 guidance has introduced several preferred table formats as a method to improve the data presented to the department.	Standardised tables not presented.
Environmental data	The terminology for the data section has changed to emphasise that data should continue to be collected during the life of the operation. The baseline data is still important, but not the only data required.	The MCP must include baseline environmental data.
Risk assessment	Environmental risk assessment of the rehabilitation and closure of the mining activities must be undertaken using the department's standard risk framework (presented in MCP guidelines).	The MCP must include an environmental closure risk assessment for mining activities including a description of methodologies and framework used.

Aspect	2025 MCP guidelines	2020 MCP guidelines
Closure outcomes	The MCP must present closure outcomes. The department has developed a list of standard closure outcomes (presented in the MCP guidelines) which will be applicable to most mining operations. Site-specific outcomes can be proposed where the department's standard outcomes are not appropriate.	The MCP must include site-specific closure outcomes that the mining operation will achieve.
Closure costing	The MCP must include details of the closure costing methodology undertaken to estimate the cost of closure and provide a predicted (estimated) closure cost based on the current/actual land disturbance and features existing on the site.	MCP must include the details of closure costing methodology, including clearly documented assumptions and uncertainties.
Guidance on development of a MCP plan to execution phase	'Appendix 8: Guidance on development of a Mine Closure Plan to execution phase' provides specific guidance on the increased level of detail required to be presented as the mining operation approaches closure.	No specific guidance provided on development of the closure plan to execution phase.

## Do small mining operations submit MCPs?

In accordance with the department's [Policy for small mining operations](#) the closure risks associated with small mining operations are considered to be low and as such can be managed through standard rehabilitation practices. In most circumstances, MCPs will not be required for small mining operations. However, the department reserves the right to require a MCP for small mining operations. A template for preparing a Mine Closure Plan for small mining operations is available on the website.

## Where can I access a MCP?

MCPs received after the 9 September 2025 will continue to be made publicly available through [Resources Online – public search](#).

## Where can I find more information?

This factsheet provides a snapshot of the department's 'Mine Closure Plans from 9 September 2025'. **For more information:**

- **Visit:** [Prepare a Mine Closure Plan](#) or scan the QR code →



- **Refer** to the document links within the factsheet.

- **Contact** the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration [Resource and Environmental Compliance Division](#).

