



Department of **Mines,**
Petroleum and Exploration

Policy

Environmental Objectives Policy for Mining

September 2025

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Document hierarchy

Legislation	Mining Act 1978
Policy	Environmental Regulatory Strategy. Small Mining Operations Policy. This Document.
Guidelines	Guideline for preparing Mining Development and Closure Proposals. Guideline for preparing Mine Closure Plans.
Procedures	Procedures Environmental Applications Administrative Procedures. Mining Development and Closure Proposal and Approvals Statement Framework.

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.
3.0	2024	Updated for alignment with EPA's environmental factors and objectives.
4.0	2025	Update to department name change.

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 Department's objectives for environmental regulation and decision making under the *Mining Act 1978*.
- inform the development of environmental and closure outcomes; and
- provide to industry and the community the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE); expectations relating to environmental acceptability of proposed mining activities.

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 environmental and closure 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.

DMPE's key environmental objectives are listed in Table 1 for the key environmental factors that are relevant to mining activities. DMPE will consider these environmental objectives when determining whether proposed mining activities are acceptable.

Table 1

Factor	Objective
Flora, vegetation and fauna	To protect flora and vegetation, subterranean fauna, and terrestrial fauna so that biological diversity and ecological integrity are maintained.
Inland waters	To maintain the hydrological regimes, quality and quantity of groundwater and surface water so that environmental values are protected.
Terrestrial environmental quality	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/ noncontaminating, and capable of sustaining an agreed postmining land use, with consideration for cultural values and without unacceptable liability to the State.

Government of Western Australia

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8.30am – 4.30pm

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