

MINING REHABILITATION ADVISORY PANEL

COMMUNIQUE – 2/2025

A summary of the Mining Rehabilitation Advisory Panel's meeting on
Wednesday 30 July 2025

1. Mining Rehabilitation Advisory Panel member appointments

This meeting was the final meeting of the Term 4 panel. The Term 4 panel were advised of the Term 5 members

The panel congratulated Vern Newton, a Term 4 panel member reappointed to the panel for its Term 5 as the Panel's Chair. Vern's expertise includes working for several construction material and mining companies in senior roles in areas that include operations, logistics, budgeting, strategic planning and marketing. Vern has also been involved in driving sustainable policies and has engaged with research institutes to help achieve partnerships between industry and science for a higher standard of restoration on the ground, receiving environmental awards including two Golden Geckos.

The Term 5 panel members officially commence on 10 August and will cease on 15 December 2027.

- Vern Newton – Chair (panel member Term 4 reappointed)
Hanson - National Property Manager
- Paul McDonald - Deputy Chair
South 32 - Group Manager Closure Planning & Studies Planning
- Andrew Buckley – Member (replaced resigning member during Term 4)
BHP Western Australia Iron Ore - Head of Asset Planning
- Nelson Amoah - Member
ATC Williams Water/Tailings Consultants - West Australia Operations Manager/Senior Principal Engineer
- Melissa Harrison - Member
Perth Airport - General Manager Approvals, Environment and Heritage

DMPE Newstory: [New Mining Rehabilitation Advisory Panel announced](#)

2. AMP Achievements

General Manager of the Abandoned Mines Program Tara Read presented at the recent GEMG Conference 2025, the presentation was well received with the delegates voting it best presentation of the 36 papers presented across the three-day conference.

Tara was also recently invited to be interviewed on the Abandoned Mines Program on a podcast hosted by Andrew Mack from Talis Consultants. The 'Talis All About It' Podcast is available to the public on Spotify and YouTube.

Youtube : [Episode 4: Shafted No More - WA's Fight to Fix Abandoned Mines](#)



3. **Smoke Creek**

Smoke Creek originally part of the Kimberley Diamond Company Ellendale portfolio, was on-sold by the liquidator in 2015. The site was subsequently abandoned leaving redundant plant and equipment, a small tailings facility, exploration impacts and remnants of a camp. With environmental risks given the close proximity to Lake Argyle, the project has been prioritised for completion. The Panel endorsed the request for declaration of abandoned mine as outlined in the Smoke Creek Charter marking commencement of the project.

4. **Collieries Project**

Overall project is on track with modifications to schedules reflecting the outcomes of investigative works which will continue to inform project development.

The Panel endorsed the request for declaration of abandoned mine as outlined in the Collieries - Moira Colliery and Stockton Colliery Charter.

5. **Safer Shafts for Towns Project**

The initial project proposal is to remediate abandoned mine features situated within 50 metres of the Yalgoo-Morawa Road, a popular tourist route. The Panel endorsed the request for declaration of an abandoned mine as outlined in the Safer Shafts for Towns – Yalgoo Phase 2 Charter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R Young".

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Renee Young
Chair