



# MINING REHABILITATION ADVISORY PANEL

COMMUNIQUE – 1/2026

Public summary of meeting held Wednesday 22 April 2026

## 1. Abandoned Mines Program 10 Year Anniversary Seminar

Seminar was well attended with indigenous businesses, people from academic institutions, industry members and consultants with a lot of positive feedback.

## 2. Smoke Creek

The initial abandoned mine declaration area for the Smoke Creek project did not cover all proposed access routes. Following engagement with the contractor to undertake the planned deconstruction and rehabilitation earthworks, it has become apparent that additional works are likely to enable heavy machinery to safely access the site and as such the access roads require including within the declared abandoned mine area.

The additional proposed abandoned mine declaration area has been drafted for Smoke Creek project area, which includes site access for the project works. Declaration of an abandoned mine for these additional areas is aligned with the Smoke Creek Charter and the Panel agreed out of session to endorse the declaration of abandoned mine over the additional Smoke Creek area.

## 3. [Elverdton](#)

The initial abandoned mine declaration area for the Elverdton project did not include several extreme and high-risk abandoned shafts and features located outside the Elverdton project footprint. Following consultation with the Shire of Ravensthorpe and the wider community, the risks posed by these legacy shafts have been reassessed. This has led to the proposed inclusion of high-risk features located near accessible areas, including those frequented by visitors during the wildflower season in this internationally recognised biodiverse region, as well as shafts located near the Ravensthorpe townsite that present particular risks to the community.

Inclusion of these additional sites has elevated the assessed public safety risk in accordance with the AMP risk prioritisation tool. An expanded abandoned mine declaration area has been developed to incorporate these features, consistent with the Elverdton Charter and supporting a coordinated, risk-based approach to managing legacy mine hazards. All Panel members endorsed, out of session, the declaration of an extended abandoned mine area for Elverdton.

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Vern Newton  
Chair