



Background

The historical abandoned mine site known as Black Diamond is located within the town of Allanson approximately five kilometres west of Collie in the South West of Western Australia.

Black Diamond was mined for coal between the late 1940s and early 1950s by Amalgamated Collieries Pty Ltd. The discontinuation of mining resulted in the pit filling with water creating a pit lake. Soon after, Black Diamond became a popular unmanaged recreation area, leading to safety concerns being raised by the local community.

To address these concerns, the site was selected by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) to be rehabilitated as a pilot project through the Abandoned Mines Program, utilising funds from the Mining Rehabilitation Fund (MRF).

Funds from the MRF can be used to rehabilitate abandoned mine sites when all other avenues to ensure rehabilitation have been exhausted. Interest generated from the MRF can be used to rehabilitate legacy abandoned mine sites, with all MRF funded projects delivered through the Abandoned Mines Program.

Approach

The first phase of the project focused on identifying and engaging with stakeholders. Given the complexity of the site, in March 2016, DMIRS invited representatives from regulatory bodies, interest groups, land owners, local government and members of the public to form a Working Group. The Working Group's purpose was to provide advice to DMIRS on the scope of proposed works to manage key risks at the site, as well as potential future land use options.

Outcomes of the stakeholder engagement process were considered in the detailed site assessment. In July–August 2016, an engineering design plan for reshaping the southern pit wall was developed and approved by the site's various landowners and endorsed by the Working Group.

Earthworks to batter down the southern pit wall were completed in October 2016 in accordance with the engineering design plan. This work was undertaken to reduce the public safety risks associated with pit wall failure and people falling, diving or jumping into the lake. Erosion management works on the western end of the pit lake were also undertaken.



The southern pit wall at Black Diamond pre rehabilitation works.

Following the approval of the project's revegetation strategy by relevant stakeholders, the Abandoned Mines Program sought interest from local contractors and suppliers to help revegetate the Black Diamond project area. The revegetation works involved the distribution of native seed and planting of native tubestock as well as the management of weeds and the spreading of mulch to stabilise topsoil and reduced erosion.

Conclusion

The primary safety risk associated with the site has been mitigated through implementation of the project. As such, the declaration of Black Diamond as an abandoned mine site under the *Mining Rehabilitation Fund Act 2012* was revoked on 17 August 2018.

DMIRS' involvement with the Black Diamond abandoned mine project is now complete.



The application of growth medium on the slope.



Allanson Primary School students planting seedlings at the western end of the lake.

How to find out more

For further information on the Abandoned Mines Program, please contact the Abandoned Mines Branch:

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The southern pit wall at Black Diamond post rehabilitation works.