



## **Guidance Note – Decommissioning, rehabilitation and closure of petroleum activities**

Rehabilitated petroleum activity sites should be physically safe to humans and animals, geotechnically stable, non-polluting and capable of sustaining the post activity land use.

Planning for closure should start in the project feasibility stage. Post petroleum activity land use should be identified and agreed upon through consultation with stakeholders before approval of any new projects. The decommissioning, rehabilitation and closure of the Operations Environment Plan should be developed by a suitably qualified person and:

- a) specify the post petroleum activity land use;
- b) demonstrate that the agreed post activity land use is ecologically sustainable without posing unacceptable liability to the State;
- c) include a structured risk assessment process to identify, assess and manage the potential risks associated with decommissioning, rehabilitation and closure, taking into consideration the baseline environmental data, local climatic conditions, impact sources, pathways and environmental receptors;
- d) include rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria relevant to each of the environmental factors impacted by the activity. Objectives may include but should not be limited to landforms, revegetation, fauna, groundwater, surface water, waste and infrastructure. Completion criteria must be S.M.A.R.T, (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant to the post activity environment and time bound);
- e) detail the project's decommissioning and rehabilitation activities and timeframes;
- f) provide for progressive decommissioning and rehabilitation of disturbed areas not required for current or future activities, within 12 months of the cessation of the activity;
- g) demonstrate that appropriate systems are in place for rehabilitation performance monitoring and maintenance:
  - i. with at least annual monitoring of rehabilitation areas;
  - ii. with trigger levels for intervention and adaptive environmental management;
  - iii. with threshold levels of acceptable impact beyond which there is likely to be a significant effect on the environment; and
  - iv. include a commitment that if contamination is detected, remediation will commence immediately.
- h) demonstrate that appropriate reporting systems are in place referencing trends against predicted performance based on completion criteria; and
- i) include adaptive environmental management strategies to be implemented if monitoring results are not trending towards compliance with completion criteria.

