

1,836 Views | 33 CrossRef citations to date | 22 Altmetric

Articles

Transition or transformation: shifting priorities and stakeholders in Australian mined land rehabilitation and closure

Corinne J. Unger  , Jo-Anne Everingham  & Carol J. Bond 

Pages 84-113 | Published online: 11 Feb 2020

🗨️ Cite this article <https://doi.org/10.1080/14486563.2020.1719440>



Sample our
Built Environment
Journals

>> [Sign in here](#) to start your access
to the latest two volumes for 14 days

 Full Article  Figures & data  References  Citations  Metrics

 Reprints & Permissions

[Read this article](#)

[Share](#)

ABSTRACT

This article is a retrospective study of the shifting priorities and stakeholders over the last four decades of Australia's mine rehabilitation and closure practices. We map the evolution of knowledge, stakeholder involvement, and community awareness of mining socio-environmental risks and impacts to show how mine rehabilitation and closure practices have evolved over time. We conclude that shifting priorities have transitioned through three phases as understandings of the priorities for successful closure evolved. An initial focus on biophysical rehabilitation within the boundaries of individual mines has extended to currently attend to management of risks that extend beyond the boundaries and include social dimensions. These practices are guided by a desire for

improved engagement processes and agreement on outcomes for post-mining landscapes.

KEYWORDS:

Mine rehabilitation mine closure legacy risks liability stakeholder engagement

Acknowledgements

This article builds on data gathered for an Australian Senate Inquiry submission (Unger [2017](#)). The authors would like to thank the anonymous reviewers who gave valuable feedback on earlier drafts which enabled us to improve the article.

Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

ORCID

Corinne J. Unger <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-1982-6967>

Jo-Anne Everingham <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-7631-9462>

Carol J. Bond <http://orcid.org/0000-0003-2919-2790>

Additional information

Funding

The first author is the recipient of a Coal Minesite Rehabilitation Trust Fund post-graduate scholarship from the Queensland Resources Council and Queensland Government.



Related research

People also read

Recommended articles

Cited by
33

Information for

[Authors](#)

[R&D professionals](#)

[Editors](#)

[Librarians](#)

[Societies](#)

Opportunities

[Reprints and e-prints](#)

[Advertising solutions](#)

[Accelerated publication](#)

[Corporate access solutions](#)

Open access

[Overview](#)

[Open journals](#)

[Open Select](#)

[Dove Medical Press](#)

[F1000Research](#)

Help and information

[Help and contact](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[All journals](#)

[Books](#)

Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources by email



Sign me up



Copyright © 2026 Informa UK Limited [Privacy policy](#)

[Cookies](#) [Terms & conditions](#) [Accessibility](#)

Registered in England & Wales No. 01072954
5 Howick Place | London | SW1P 1WG

 Taylor and Francis
Group