

## **Key Points: Senate Inquiry into Rehabilitation of Mining and Resource Projects**

Some points that you might like to make about the problems with mine rehabilitation in Australia:

- State Governments have failed to protect the public interest and the environment in regards to mine rehabilitation.
- The number of un-rehabilitated abandoned mines continues to grow.
- The percentage of operating mines that is being rehabilitated is either in decline or very low and static.
- The number of large mines that have been fully and successfully rehabilitated over the last 25 years remains at zero across all jurisdictions.
- All State Governments continue to approve mine closure plans that include leaving behind large un-rehabilitated pit voids and huge waste dumps that will eventually leak
- The gap between what state governments hold in financial assurance against the actual mine rehabilitation liability remains inadequate across all jurisdictions
- Mining companies continue to avoid their rehabilitation responsibilities by either declaring bankruptcy or off-loading aging mines to junior companies

You could encourage the Commonwealth Government to act in the following ways:

- Adopt binding national mine rehabilitation standards based on world's best practice for mine planning, rehabilitation cost estimates and rehabilitated landscape design
- Create a national Environmental Protection Authority with responsibility for enforcing compliance
- National standards must include legally binding progressive rehabilitation targets applied during the mines operational life of all mines and adequate upfront cash bonds that reflect the true cost of rehabilitation
- Ensure rehabilitation conditions on those mines that impact on areas of national environmental significance require the landscape is returned to as close to its former condition as possible including no pit voids or waste dumps,
- Establish a national abandoned mines commission including all states and territories, industry and community stakeholders, responsible for coordinating a binding national response to abandoned mines,
- Change corporate mine rehabilitation liability annual reporting to ensure investors, regulators and the broader community are fully aware to the levels of rehabilitation liabilities being carried by mining companies, and
- Undertake a national review of the extent of financial liabilities across all states and territories resulting from abandoned and operating mines.