

Aurukun Bauxite Sustainable Mine Rehabilitation

Taking care of Wik People's country



Review of current environment

Before we start mining understand what is there; the plants, animals, soil, water and cultural heritage the important places.

Consultation

With land rehabilitation already identified, now is the time to talk about:

- how to manage the country for fire, weeds and different land uses; and
- what the mix of rehabilitation is.

Establishing a Mine Closure Plan

A "MCP" is the big plan. Before anything happens, together we agree on this plan, so we know what we are aiming towards. The MCP talks about the steps we take before the country is cleared for mining, the process to collect seed from the best trees and plants, to cut the timber and other products (eg sugarcane) and then to turn that forest we don't use into woodchip to make fuel or to use in mine rehabilitation

Rehabilitation mix

This means that areas are regenerated with local and regional native vegetation, and will include the building of protective buffer zones for creeks, rivers and cultural heritage sites. This also includes rehabilitation to re-connect these areas back to each other and will introduce business and job opportunity plantations, such as education and training for Traditional Owners, so they can work in and manage each step of the operations.

Collecting seeds

Seed collection happens before we clear the forest country, to ensure we collect seeds from the best and strongest trees that we put back on country.



Forest clearing ahead of mining

No more burning of the forest. Forest resources (timber, non-timber forest products) to be used to make chipwood for biofuel and biochar. These forest resources will then support Indigenous employment and business opportunities.

Set up of nursery

Employing a mix of locals, traditional owners, and trained nurserymen, a nursery will be established. This nursery is the place to collect seeds and special plants, to grow them ready to put back into mine rehabilitation.

Plant management

Whilst mining activity preparation takes place, the nursery workers must maintain and manage the growth of the seedlings. The ensure a successful rehabilitation of the land, ensuring the soil is kept alive and balanced, planting should take place no longer than 3 months after bauxite is mined.



Soil management

Looking after the soil is very important, we have to be careful. When the soil is disturbed, we must give it a chance to come back to life again so that the mine rehabilitation can work. After mining we put the living soil back and then rip up the mine area which has been compacted and pushed down by the heavy mine machinery.

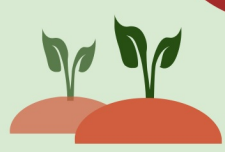
Preparation of soil

Mine rehabilitation will include the trees we grow in the nursery and the ones people have chosen to go on their country. The mine rehabilitation takes place at specific time of year, the right time for regenerating trees. This is just after the first rains and before the wet season to give the plants the best chance to thrive.



Fire Management

Fire management starts before mining. We have to manage fire the old traditional way, to manage the whole lease area before mining and then in mine rehabilitation areas. Fire is what shapes the country and makes the plants and animals stronger.

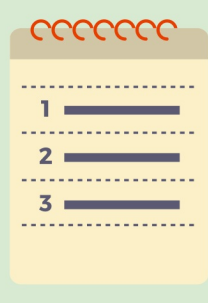


Planting

Planting will take place according to the agreed MCP. New plantation (locally employed) management teams will be employed focusing on weed control and plant health monitoring.

Quality assurance process

This quality assurance is about making sure everyone does things by the book, to double check and learn as we go. With quality assurance we can review how we're going and make changes and improvements each year to ensure a more successful rehabilitation.



Rehabilitation happens concurrently with mining

Mine rehabilitation has to be part of the mine planning. It is one of the most important parts of mining. Mine rehabilitation is what people are left with after mining, and it will be there for generations in the future. If we get it wrong then our children, grandchildren and their grandchildren will be stuck with it.



Rolling employment options

Getting mine rehabilitation right will provide jobs for all future generations, and keep people living and working on country with real jobs and a real future. It won't run out like the bauxite mining will (life of mine is an estimated 75 years), it will keep going providing sustainable jobs and economic benefit.



Commercial opportunities for locals

The mine rehabilitation will be many things and meet the needs of all people. It is about learning from the past to build on the future.

GROWING WIK'S LAND

"Bauxite mining is a mere dot in our 40,000 years of landcare. Rehabilitation creates opportunity for our future generation"

ABD's rehabilitation operation will be supported by:

- Wik, Wik Waya and Kugu Native Title Holders
- Dadaru Pty Ltd
- Thiess Pty Ltd
- Sustainable Mineral Institute, part of University of Queensland
- Northern Australian Indigenous Mining Services
- Ngan Aak-Kunch Aboriginal Corporation

... and we'll continue to discuss our operation and plans with local contractors, companies and people willing and able to work on this project.