MLRA Vocabulary – aligning on communication in mine closure

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# Abstract

The publication in 2020 of the ISO Mine Closure and Reclamation Vocabulary addressed a lack of globally consistent set of terms for mine closure. While the ISO terms are available for free online, the complete document must be purchased and does not account for variances between different mining regions around the world.

In Australia, the lack of consistent closure terminology between Victoria, and other states and countries, has created confusion for government, industry and communities. The Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority (MLRA) developed and published its first version of the MLRA Vocabulary in 2022, to enable better communication and provide a common language for mine closure in Victoria. The MLRA's aim was to provide a free, publicly accessible vocabulary by collating commonly used rehabilitation and closure terms, and terms specific to Victorian legislation for closure, and refining them for general use.

The Vocabulary comprises of over 100 terms and provides a basis for conversations about mine closure in Victoria. It does not replace or alter existing definitions in Victorian legislation, but rather incorporates and simplifies legislated terminology, providing a broader resource for industry, government and community to engage in mine closure conversations with greater consistency and clarity.

The Vocabulary was accessed almost 500 times across Australia and in six other countries worldwide in its first full year, 2024. The next revision of the Vocabulary is underway, which will comprise additional terminology, identified through ongoing stakeholder interactions and is expected to be released in 2025. This paper describes the methodology the MLRA used to develop its list of terms and definitions, including the consultation process undertaken with key Victorian stakeholders, both for the first revision and the update.