

work
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working TOGETHER



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New Board overseeing mine activity

A new Board has been established to oversee activity at the Brukunga Mine site.

Formed in April this year by the Deputy Premier and Minister for Primary Industries and Resources, Mr Rob Kerin, the Brukunga Mine Site Remediation Board has taken over from the Brukunga Mine Site Task Force.

The five-member Board has been formed to address the short and long-term solutions to rehabilitating the mine site and is comprised of experts and concerned community members.

The Board's objective is to ultimately ensure that: *Water quality in Dawesley Creek emanating from the Brukunga Mine site is suitable for domestic (excluding human consumption), stock and primary production purposes.*

The Board is identifying and documenting a number of issues associated with the mine site, including:

- Water quality
- Human health implications
- Environmental impact
- Impact on primary production

Since its formation, the Board has spent considerable effort on thoroughly examining and analysing relevant information on Brukunga.

The Board is due to report to the Minister soon with broadly costed proposals for both short and long-term remedial measures, as well as details of any pollution arising from the former operation of the mine and the consequences of this.

Following the delivery of this report and acceptance of the recommendations by the Government, it will be the responsibility of the Board to oversee the implementation of remedial measures, some of which are already happening. The Board hopes to have a financial commitment from the State Government for rehabilitation of the mine site by mid next year.

Let's Talk

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for details



Hume Macdonald

Chairman of the Brukunga Mine Site Remediation Board, Hume Macdonald also chairs the Mount Lofty Ranges Catchment Program and the South Australian Landcare Committee. He is also a Director of Landcare Australia Ltd. Now retired and managing a stud cattle enterprise at Echunga, Hume previously worked for 35 years in the banking industry and has farmed for some 25 years.

Hume said the main function of the Brukunga Board was to present a proposal to the State Government to remedy the pollution entering Dawesley Creek from the Brukunga Mine site.

"In addition to this, it will be the Board's responsibility to devise plans aimed at restoring the creek to acceptable standards for sustainable agriculture purposes – as quickly as reasonably feasible," Hume said.

"I am delighted that the State Government has allocated significant funds for initial research and immediate groundworks."



Neville Alley

Neville is Director of Primary Industries and Resources SA's (PIRSA) Mineral Resources Group which plays an important role in promoting the development of SA's mineral resources as well as ensuring that any exploration and development is undertaken in a responsible manner.

"The issue of the pollution of Dawesley Creek has been around for too long," Neville said. "Residents of the area deserve a speedy resolution to the problem. The Government is keen for prompt action and is providing PIRSA with the resources to achieve solutions to the issue.

"I am very happy with the commitment of the new Board in seeing through the strategies to achieve those solutions."



Carol Vincent

Carol is the Councillor for the Nairne Ward in the District Council of Mt Barker. She grew up on a farm at Woodside and has lived in Harrogate for 10 years. Carol has long been a supporter of addressing the issues associated with the mine site.

"I want to work towards the Government having a sincere and open relationship with the community of Brukunga and its surrounds," Carol said. "I also want to ensure that considerable effort is put into finding real solutions to the environmental disaster that we have here. If solutions can't be found, then we need to be honest about that."

The Brukunga Board

All members of the Brukunga Mine Site Remediation Board are committed to ensuring that the issues at the site are addressed as soon as possible.



Rolly MacDonald

Rolly is a local landowner and businessman, CFS member and founding member and treasurer of the Dawesley Creek Catchment Landcare Group. Rolly was previously on the Taskforce as a community member. Having lived in the area for 14 years, he has a keen interest in the future wellbeing of Brukunga.

"I would like to see the mine rehabilitated in order to prevent any further pollution going downstream for both economic and sustainable agricultural reasons."



Peter Beaumont

Peter has been an Environmental Health Officer with the District Council of Mt Barker for the past 16 years. He has been involved with a number of health-related issues involving the Brukunga Mine site during this time.

"As a member of the Board, I think it is imperative that the long-standing environmental problems associated with the Brukunga Mine site are rectified as soon as possible."



Debbie Johnson

Debbie, from PIRSA, is Administrator for the Brukunga Mine Site Remediation Board.

Any community members wishing to raise an issue with the Board should make contact with Debbie.

Debbie can be contacted on 8463 3034.

Next Board meetings

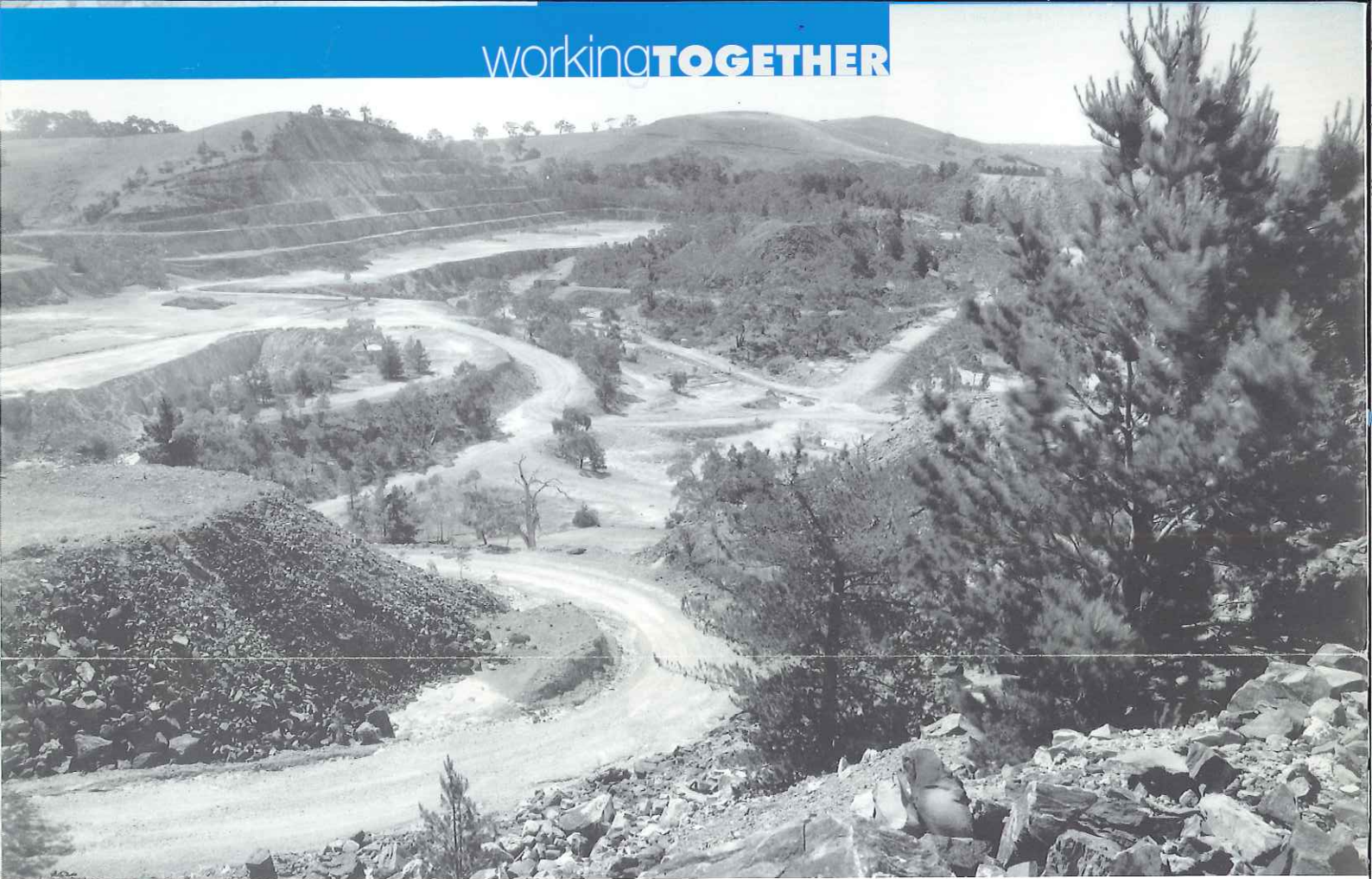
In line with the Brukunga Mine Site Remediation Board's aim to address the issues associated with the site as quickly as possible, Board members meet regularly to discuss progress.

The next Board meetings will be held on Thursday 4 November and Thursday 18 November at the Brukunga Hall. All interested community members are welcome to attend these meetings between 10am and noon.

LET'S TALK

All interested members of the local community are invited to attend a public forum about the progress of investigations into the remediation of the mine site, ask questions and provide their input.

**WEDNESDAY 3 NOVEMBER FROM 7.30PM
BRUKUNGA HALL**



The latest Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) for the Brukunga Mine site has almost been completed by PIRSA and will soon be presented to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

As mentioned previously, a number of activities associated with the program are already underway. These include:

- Installation of additional in-ground pump chambers along Dawesley Creek within the mine site area to further reduce leachate entering the creek.
- Minor improvements to the treatment plant.
- Diversion of stormwater away from the site to reduce the total volume of contaminated water.
- Interception of spring water in the tailings dam to dramatically reduce the volume of leachate from this area.
- Rehabilitation of the tailings dam surface.

Additional works overseen by the Board include:

- Contact with landholders along Dawesley Creek by PIRSA officers in an effort to minimise the impact of creek water on stock by offering fencing, liming of creek flats and the spraying of gorse.
- Collection of information from landholders along the creek on water usage and possible alternatives of water supply.

Environmental Improvement Program continues

- A CSIRO study on the reported infertility of livestock in the Dawesley Creek area, which is due to be completed by mid-October.
- A study on the impact and extent of pollution from the mine site, which will be completed by the end of October and audited by the CSIRO.
- Investigation of other possible sources of pollution entering Dawesley Creek.
- Calling of tenders to investigate the impact or beneficial use of biosolids in mine site rehabilitation.
- Analysis of any gaps in the many number of reports that have been undertaken on the mine site in past years.