



Abandoned mines - Residual risk to residual value

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Residual risk to residual value

1. Overview of how we manage and prioritise abandoned mines in Queensland.
2. Re-commercialisation*
3. Remediation

*includes re-purposing



Mount Garnet Mine

Residual Risk to Residual Value

Mining has played a significant role in Queensland for over 150 years, and in this time, mines have been abandoned.

Abandoned mines create risks to the community and environment.

We're finding ways to reduce **risk** and realise **value**

Abandoned Mines Legislative Setting

- Resource sites with no mining tenure or Environmental Authority are considered “abandoned”.
- The *Mineral Resources Act 1989* provides discretionary powers to manage abandoned mines to protect public health, safety and the environment, and to assess re-commercialisation potential.



Abandoned mines in Queensland

100 abandoned mine sites

40 high-risk abandoned mine sites

15,000 small scale historic mine workings

Across all commodities



Abandoned Mines Management Policy

- Aims to make sites safe, secure, durable, and where possible productive
- Productive = opportunities to re-commercialise the site

Risk and Prioritisation Framework

- Objective is to prioritise sites based on risk
- Identify re-commercialisation opportunities
- Where low potential for re-commercialisation or intolerable risks exist, the site is prioritised for remediation

Desktop and
Spatial Review

Risk/Opportunity
Assessment

Prioritisation



Re-commercialisation

- Objective to facilitate re-commercialisation opportunities at prospective abandoned mines
- Focussing on a market-led approach
- In line with existing mineral resource development frameworks
 - MRA
 - Native Title
- Commenced data release through the Queensland Abandoned Mines Recommercialisation Atlas (QAMRA)
 - information and data regarding the site, remnant mine features and potential mineral enrichment in mine waste features



Re-commercialisation projects

Heritage Minerals – Mount Morgan

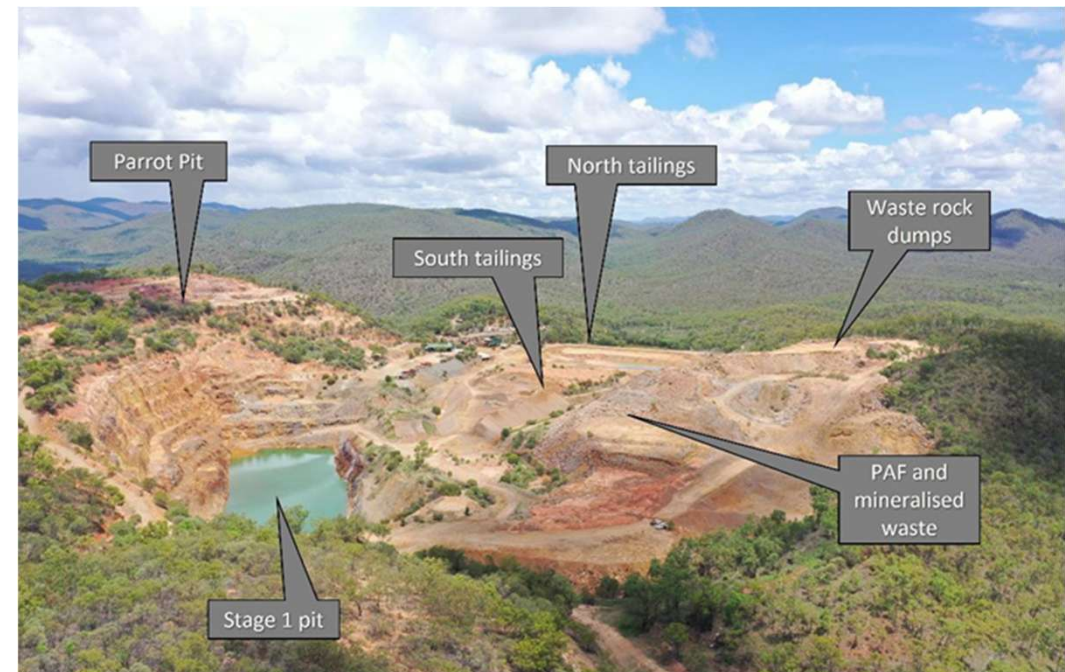
- Site handed back to state in 1990s and managed as an abandoned mine
- Collaboration with Heritage Minerals for their tailings re-processing project (gold)
 - Aims to produce: 60,000 ounces gold and 5,000 tonnes copper
 - Construction of processing plant
 - TSF construction
 - 150 operational / 400+ indirect jobs
 - Associated remediation of legacy environmental impacts



Re-commercialisation projects

EQ Resources – Wolfram Camp

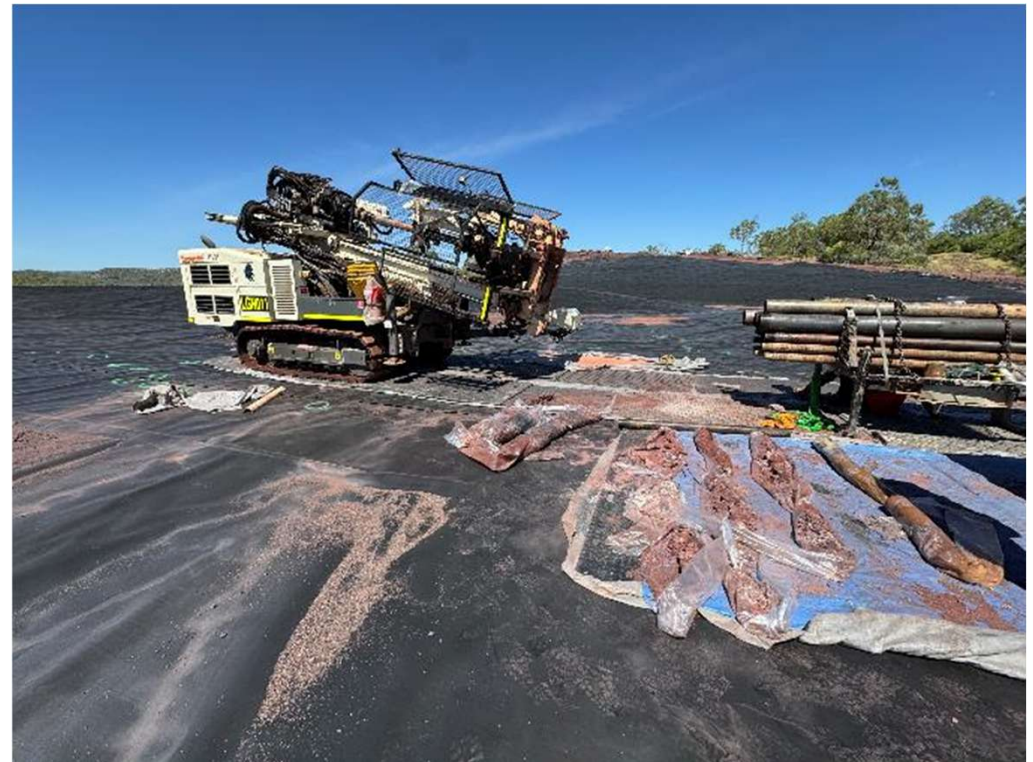
- Site disclaimed 2018
- Re-commercialisation pilot program on Restricted Area 442
- Market sounding and competitive tender process
 - Tenders closed April 2023
 - Tender awarded to EQ Resources June 2024 for exploration permit.
- Collaboration with EQ Resources to support tenure progression.



Re-commercialisation projects

True North Copper – Mount Oxide

- Abandoned 1999
- True North Copper current EPM holder
- True North Copper and Regeneration Enterprises received funding from the department's Collaborative drilling and exploration grants program
- Recent drilling of hdpe lined stockpiles was conducted to assess residual mineralisation in heap leach pads and waste rock dumps
- Ongoing collaboration to facilitate project



Research collaborations – University of Qld

- MiWatch Program
 - Research, government and industry collaboration
 - Technical Services and GSQ partnering with Sustainable Minerals Institute and University of Queensland
 - 6-year program across 23 abandoned mines including:
 - Baal Gammon, Herberton TSF, Horn Island, Mary Kathleen, Mount Garnet, Mount Oxide, Mount Morgan, Wolfram Camp
- UQ Alliance
 - Partnership between the department and UQ aiming to strengthen Queensland's critical minerals industry.
 - \$8 million research program to drive identification, discovery and development of critical minerals.
 - Research projects include pyrite resources in mine waste for acid production and circular economy initiatives.



Current remediation projects

Mount Garnet zinc mine

- Abandoned in March 2024
- Site clean-up underway
- PAF waste rock moved to TSF
- Water management
- TSF remediation commenced 2026
- FPS funding of \$7.7M
- ERC was not fully provisioned (\$10.74M ERC held for both Mt Garnet and Surveyor-Balcooma mines)



Current remediation projects

Jumna tin TSF

- Legacy tin processing site
- TSF remediation commenced in late 2025
- Reprofile, consolidate, cap TSF
- Over three financial years
- FPS grant funding of \$8M
- Reduce downstream AMD impacts
- Indigenous owned local contractor undertaking remediation works



Residual Risk to Residual Value

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Abandoned mines create risks to the community and environment.

We're making progress to re-commercialise and remediate abandoned mines to reduce risk and realise value

GeoResGlobe is a free, interactive platform for Queensland's mining and exploration data, offering 600+ spatial data layers on exploration, production, geology, and native title areas.

Search 'GeoResGlobe' in Google to access.

Re-commercialisation opportunities at abandoned mines | Business Queensland
(<https://www.business.qld.gov.au>)

Abandoned mine management in Queensland | Environment, land and water | Queensland Government
(<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment>)

