



Social Aspects of Mine Closure

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RESOLVE - FPIC Solutions Dialogue

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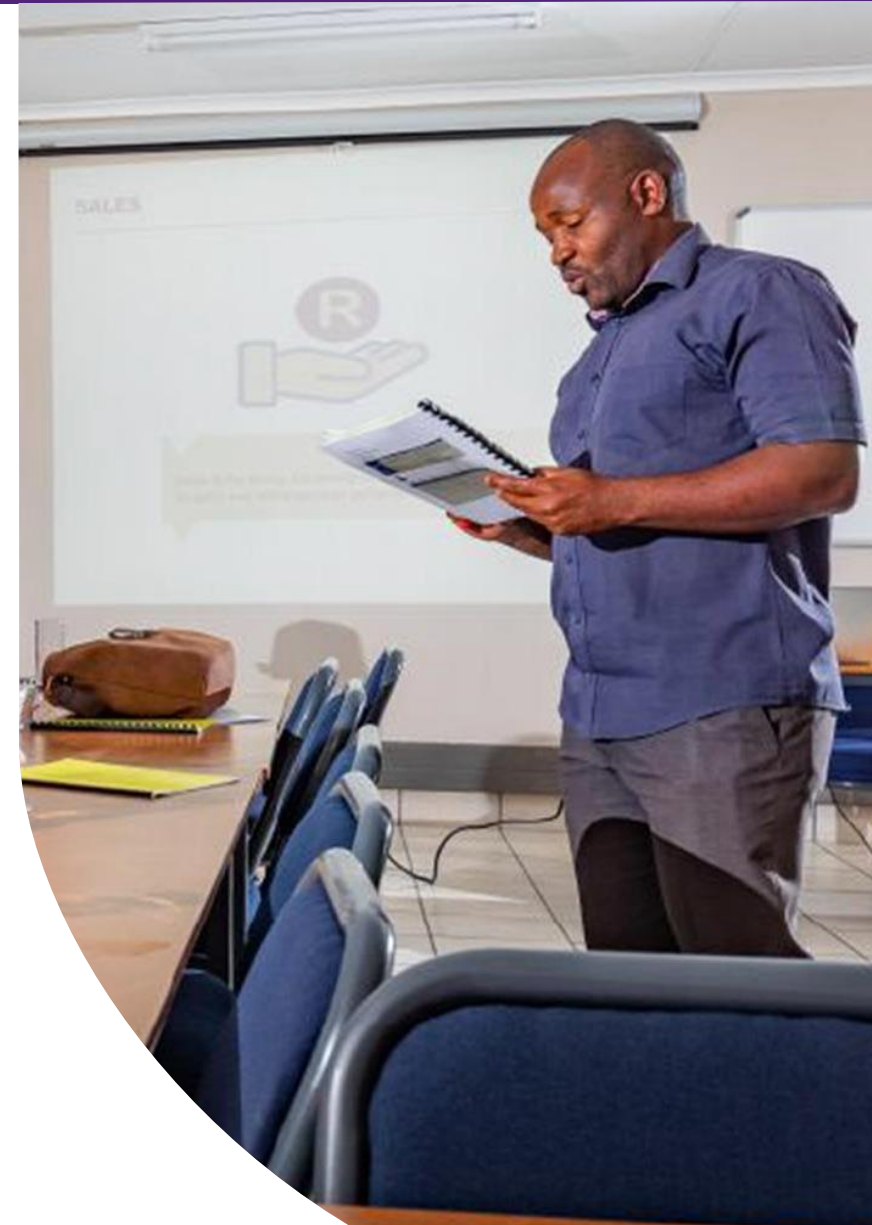


Social aspects of mine closure

overview of the research landscape
(15 mins)

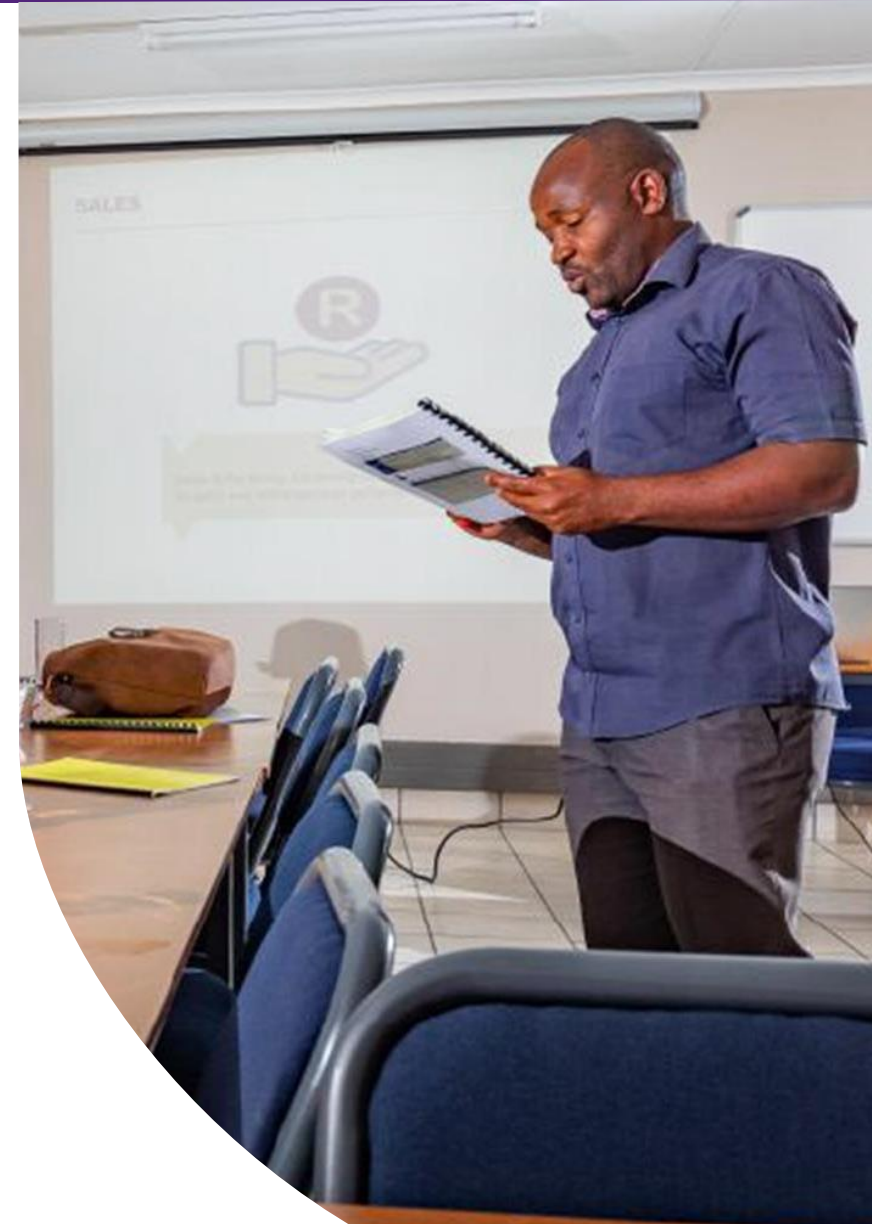
Social aspects – what does this cover?

- All of the various social, political, cultural, economic and institutional aspects and dynamics associated with (planned) mine closure and associated transitions. For instance:
 1. Workforce and employment transitions
 2. Town normalisation (incl. infrastructure, services)
 3. Land use, including zoning
 4. Housing and accommodation
 5. Local procurement and businesses in post-mining economies



Social aspects – what does this cover?

6. Local-level agreements and mine closure
7. Culture and heritage, spiritual transitions
8. Social impact assessment for closure
9. Disclosure and transparency
10. Engagement processes and mechanisms



Downside impacts

- Closure can have adverse impacts :
 - Disruption to local economies incl. changes in population composition e.g. out- or in-migration
 - Negative impacts on infrastructure and services (e.g. schools)
 - Stress on local identity and the process of re-invention
 - Environmental legacies and liabilities
 - Loss of tax revenue, royalties and diminished economic activity



Upside potential

- Significant opportunities for the industry to have a positive impact at mine closure:
 - Repurposing infrastructure and mining landscapes
 - Innovating to support a transition to a low carbon future
 - Catalysing alternative economies (tourism, heritage etc.)
 - Supporting livelihood transitions (e.g. agricultural activity)
 - Reskilling and re-deploying workers
 - Landscape-level planning
 - Reparation and 'remedy' by addressing legacy issues, including reconciliation with Indigenous peoples



Pressures can align

- Towards the end of mine life, different pressures can align:
 - financial constraints at the end of economic life
 - unfulfilled stakeholder expectations
 - demobilisation and attrition of key personnel
 - complex legacy impacts and unresolved grievances
- Not always, but mine closure can generate conflict.



What do we know about these transitions?

- Unfortunately, not enough. The positive impacts are largely lie in the realm of “possibilities” rather than “precedents”.
- Empirical, longitudinal knowledge is limited – mostly one-off, point-in-time case studies research.
- At this stage, little is known about:
 - Closures patterns per commodity, location, age, type (underground, open pit), ownership
 - Clusters per jurisdiction (cumulative social impacts)
 - Trajectories of closure (timeframes) in different places
 - Social and human rights risk factors in different contexts
- Less is known about abandoned and legacy sites.



Where does knowledge sit and what is the focus?

Sources:

- Private – in the heads of specialists, or documents held under NDAs
- Industry guidance and case study ‘vignettes’
- Specialist conferences (e.g. IMCC proceedings)
- Peer reviewed material: journals, edited volumes and monographs

Emphasis:

- Planning focused, relative to outcomes
- Physical sciences: slopes, seeds & soils
- Practitioner insights and experiences, relative to “other” perspectives
- Normative, rather than empirical

Future research

- Expanding the research agenda to include lifecycle and long-term legacy issues (positive and adverse)
- Building a more multi-dimensional, multi-scalar, multi-stakeholder understanding of mine closure
- Legitimizing social research:
 - Building a base of evidence, and integrating social with other sciences
 - Moving beyond “perceptions” studies and compliance-driven engagement
- Leveraging industry commitments to encourage capability building and social research





THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

CREATE CHANGE

UQ Research Consortium

(5 mins)

Structural elements

Industry partners

- 6 Industry Partners
- Industry investment of \$720K over 3 years, or \$240K per year for 3 years (i.e. \$40K per year, per partner)
- Four projects seeded...

University match

- UQ-SMI 50% match, for each of the 3 years, to “seed and lead” research
- Five projects seeded...



BHP



**NEWMONT
GOLDCORP.**



RioTinto

Brief rationale

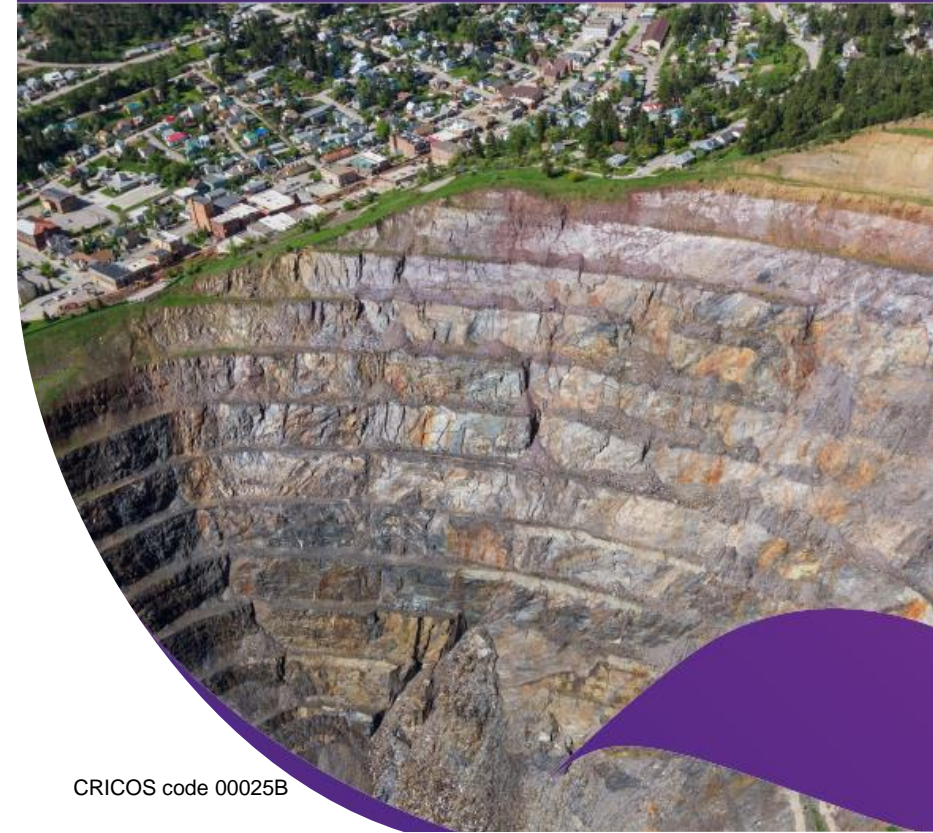
What we were observing:

- An issue of increasing public interest
- New roles and arrangements within leading companies
- Developments in the regulatory domain
- New industry priority (e.g. ICMM guide)
- The “Just Transitions” agenda in the transition from coal
- Industry debates about terminology and nomenclature – moves towards “transitions” and away from closure
- Clear appetite for collaborative research on this topic – beyond individual companies, cases and studies.

Proposing a research consortium for
social aspects of mine closure

A prospectus for industry members

Sustainable Minerals Institute



Consortium aims to:

01

Understand

Better understand how the **social dimensions** of mine closure are being understood and managed by the industry and its partners.

02

Identify

Identify strategies for improving **post-mining futures** for the communities in which mining takes place.

03

Drive

Drive the **integration** of social aspects into mine lifecycle **transformation** in the transition towards closure.

UQ seeded projects



Website & e-library consolidating all available literature



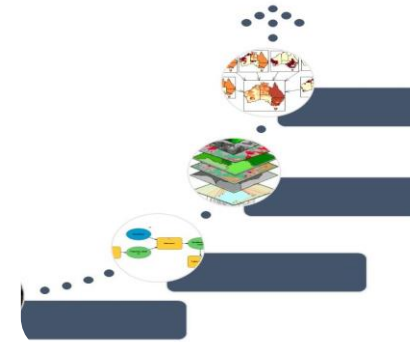
Government engagement on roles and responsibilities for closure (Australia)



Research into Indigenous "Ranger" groups, land rehabilitation and mine closure



Key characteristics of mine closure regulations and bonds



Data landscape for mine closure: use existing global data sources for aggregate global analysis

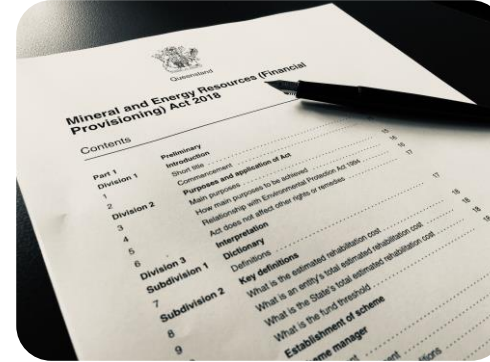
Industry funded projects



Public participation processes for mine closure and social transitions



Mining as a temporary land use: post-mining landscapes and local economies



Closure governance and regulation: How do regulators manage mine closure?



Integrated mine closure planning: a rapid scan of innovative corporate practice



Mine closure and FPIC

key considerations
(5 mins)

Considerations for FPIC

For existing mines, the following issues may need to be considered:

1. Where FPIC was not initially obtained (i.e. for the original project), indigenous peoples may not deem FPIC possible for later/subsequent decisions e.g. mine closure.
2. The absence of an initial opportunity to provide or withhold consent for the project may not prevent FPIC for subsequent project decisions if indigenous people deem it possible.
3. Indigenous people may only deem FPIC possible following remedy for prior impact or loss, or outstanding grievances.



Considerations for FPIC

4. Indigenous peoples may wish to enter into an Agreement to negotiate conditions for closure, but withhold their consent. Agreements do not *by definition* signal consent, and must not be interpreted as such. Agreements are often bounded choices.
5. If an Agreement is in place (an FPIC agreement, or otherwise) it is most likely that it will not have canvassed mine closure. It may be possible to address closure in the review period.
6. Aside from FPIC, mine closure may provide opportunities to engage on outstanding matters of importance to indigenous peoples.

Companies can work through these issues in good faith and provide meaningful opportunities for indigenous or tribal peoples to influence mine closure and relinquishment.



FPIC and mine closure: which topics to explore?

- Planning for land use transitions
- Exiting and transitioning local-level agreements (FPIC Agreements, NTAs, ILUAs, IBAs, CDAs)
- Culture and heritage sensitivity in closure, including spiritual transitions
- Impact on the rights and interests of indigenous groups (e.g. land, water)
- Opportunities for reparation and 'remedy' (e.g. by addressing legacy issues)
- Wider processes of reconciliation with indigenous groups
- Opportunities for catalysing alternative economies (tourism, heritage etc.), including workforce, and employment, and livelihood transitions
- Ongoing monitoring and care for country, incl. after relinquishment

Going forward

- What are the big ticket topics that the Consortium should think about tackle over the next two, five or 10 years?
- What about topics that industry might not want to pursue right now, that the University could tackle?
- Who are they key groups that should be collaborating, and who social researchers should be connecting with?
- On FPIC, what driving questions or activities should we and others be engaging?

An aerial photograph of a large-scale dam construction project. The image shows several large, interconnected reservoirs with blue water, surrounded by extensive earthworks and dirt roads. The surrounding landscape is a mix of green grass and brown soil, indicating recent excavation and construction activity. A dirt road with a blue vehicle is visible on the right side of the image.

Questions and discussion