NSW GOVERNMENT

Resources Regulator

FWP0001964

ESCOTT ZEOLITE MINE FORWARD PROGRAM

Monday 2 November 2026 to Thursday 1 November 2029

Summary

Detail	
Mine	Escott Zeolite Mine
Reference	FWP0001964
Forward program commencement date	Monday 2 November 2026
Forward program end date	Thursday 1 November 2029
Forward program revision (if applicable)	
Contact	Stephen Shoesmith
Mining leases	ML 1356 (1992)
Project location	Zeolite Australia Pty Limited
Date of submission	Wednesday 30 September 2026
Document URL *Security reminder: Please exercise caution before opening external links. If a link appears suspicious, avoid clicking it and report it to the Resources Regulator.*	https://zeolite.com.au/

Important

The department may make the information in your program and any supporting information available for inspection by members of the public, including by publication on its website or by displaying the information at any of its offices. If you consider any part of your program to be confidential, please communicate this to the department via the message function on this submission within the Resources Regulator Portal.

Three-year forecast - surface disturbance activities

Project description

Escott Zeolite Mine (Zeolite) is an open cut zeolite mine owned and operated by Zeolite Australia Pty Limited (ZAPL). Zeolite comprises Mining Lease (ML) 1356 [including ancillary mining activities] and, is located approximately 1.5km South of Werris Creek and 11km North-Northwest of Quirindi in New South Wales, within an area defined as the Gunnedah Coalfield. Zeolite currently operates under the conditions and commitments of DA 27/88, DA 29/93, ML 1356 (including AMA 1012 and AMA 1032) and Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) 6378. Zeolite is approved to produce up to 30,000 tonnes (T) of Zeolite annually.

Description of surface disturbance activities

Exploration activities

Exploration during the forward program within ML1356 is currently being planned for the 2026/2027 period. Exploration activities would generally include: • Drone imagery. • Geological mapping. • Reverse Circulation (RC) drilling. The relevant exploration activity approval requirements will be completed prior to exploration being undertaken.

Construction activities

No construction activities are currently planned to be undertaken during the forward program.

Mining schedule

Mining development method and sequencing and general mine features.

Key mining activities to be undertaken during the Forward Program will include: • Continued open cut mining in the Pit with Zeolite to be extracted at a rate of up to 1,000 tonnes (YR 1), 3,000 tonnes (YR 2), and 6,000 (YR 3) tonnes. • Minor extension to the Main Pit North is proposed, along with an extension to the overburden dump to the east. • Progressive rehabilitation activities across the Forward Program are not available. Opportunities to advance rehabilitation will be investigated as part of future Forward Programs.

Areas identified for emplacements, the sequencing of emplacements, construction, and management.

Emplacement of overburden at the eastern emplacement will continue across the Forward Program. It is noted that Opportunities for backfilling and in pit dumping are minor across the next three years to facilitate production. Opportunities to advance emplacement rehabilitation will be investigated as part of future Forward Programs. Sequencing has been planned to assist in minimising amenity impacts. ZAPL is considering the following activities: • In Pit processing - ML1356. • In Pit Crushing and Overburden Stockpile Winning and Crushing - ML1356. • Output enhancement activities. • Reviewing opportunities to process overburden within the existing pit or on the overburden stockpile/dump for sale as a separate product (gravel/road base/soil conditioner).

Processing infrastructure activities and the location of tailings facilities and schedule for emplacement.

The Escott Zeolite Processing Plant (DA 29/93) is a small-scale zeolite mineral processing plant that is now subject of AMA 1012 and AMA 1032 and forms part of the RMP and associated Rehabilitation documents. There is no tailings or emplacement facilities.

Waste disposal and materials handling operations.

Waste generated at ZAPL is removed from site by a licensed waste contractor. There is no rejects or tailings produced at Escott Mine.

Key production milestones

MATERIAL	UNIT	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
Stripped topsoil (if applicable)	(m^3)	0	300	300
Rock/overburden	(m^3)	0	1,000	1,000
Ore	(Mt)	0.01	0	0
Reject material[1]	(Mt)	0	0	0
Product	(Mt)	0.01	0	0

[1]This includes coarse rejects, tailings and any other wastes resulting from beneficiation.

Three-year rehabilitation forecast

Rehabilitation planning schedule

Rehabilitation planning schedule

ZAPL is continuing to undertake mine optimisation planning activities, which may include infrastructure upgrades, methodology changes and conducting mining operations in additional areas. These activities would likely be subject to future modifications and/or approvals and have not been discussed in detail within this Annual Rehabilitation Report (ARP). Key planning works undertaken during the reporting period include: • AL17 and ML1356 Exploration Program. • In Pit processing - ML1356. • In Pit Crushing and Overburden Stockpile Winning and Crushing - ML1356. • Output enhancement activities. • Reviewing opportunities to process overburden within the existing pit or on the overburden stockpile/dump for sale as a separate product (gravel/road base/soil conditioner). There is no rehabilitation currently planned across the Forward Program.

Stakeholder consultation

Consultation will be undertaken with Council, Agencies and other stakeholders with regard to the mine optimisation planning activities, which may include infrastructure upgrades and conducting mining operations in additional areas.

Rehabilitation studies, risk assessments and/or design work

The ZAPL Risk Assessment will continue to be updated as required.

Rehabilitation research and trials

RRT NUMBER	PROJECT/TRIAL NAME	OBJECTIVE OF TRIAL/PROJECT	METHODOLOGY	EXPECTED DATE OF COMPLETION	STATUS

Rehabilitation maintenance and corrective actions

Rehabilitation maintenance and corrective action requirements will be reviewed as part of annual processes and subsequent Forward Programs.

Rehabilitation schedule

Progressive rehabilitation activities across the Forward Program are not available. Opportunities to advance rehabilitation will be investigated as part of future Forward Programs. Rehabilitation maintenance activities on rehabilitation areas within ML 1356, completed prior to 2018 was not required.

Completion of rehabilitation

No areas are expected to be completed for rehabilitation across the Forward Program.

Subsidence remediation for underground operations

Subsidence Remediation is not applicable. Zeolite is an open cut mine.

Progressive mining and rehabilitation statistics

Three-yearly forecast cumulative disturbance and rehabilitation progression

	Forecast	UNIT	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
A1	**Total disturbance footprint - surface disturbance**	(ha)	9.98	10.88	10.88
B	**Total active disturbance**	(ha)	8.29	9.18	9.18
P	**Total new area of land proposed for active rehabilitation**	(ha)	0	0	0

Rehabilitation key performance indicators (KPIs)

	Forecast	UNIT	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
O	**Total new disturbance area during reporting period**	(ha)	0.15	0.9	
P	**Total new area of land proposed for rehabilitation during the reporting period**	(ha)			
Q	**Annual rehabilitation to disturbance ratio**				

Attachment 1 - Reporting Definitions

REPORTING CATEGORY		DEFINITION
A	**Total disturbance footprint - surface disturbance**	All areas within a mining lease that either have at some point in time or continue to pose a rehabilitation liability due to surface disturbance activities. The total disturbance footprint is the sum of the total active disturbance, decommissioning, landform establishment, growth medium development, ecosystem and land use establishment, ecosystem and land use development and rehabilitation completion (see definitions below). Underground mining operations should not include the footprint of underground mining areas/subsidence management areas in the total disturbance footprint.
B	**Total active disturbance**	Includes on-lease exploration areas, stripped areas ahead of mining, infrastructure areas, water management infrastructure, sewage treatment facilities, topsoil stockpile areas, access tracks and haul roads, active mining areas, waste rock emplacements (active/unshaped/in or out-of-pit), tailings dams (active/unshaped/uncapped) and temporary stabilised areas (e.g. areas sown with temporary cover crops for dust mitigation and temporary rehabilitation).
C	**Rehabilitation - land preparation**	Includes the sum of all disturbed land within a mining lease that have commenced

REPORTING CATEGORY		DEFINITION
		any, or all, of the following phases of rehabilitation - decommissioning, landform establishment and growth medium development. Refer to the glossary of terms in this document for the definition of these phases of rehabilitation.
D	**Ecosystem and land use establishment**	Includes the area which has been seeded/planted with the target vegetation species for the intended final land use. However, vegetation has not matured to a stage where it can be demonstrated that it will be sustainable for the long term and or require only a maintenance regime consistent with target reference/analogue sites. Typically, rehabilitation areas would be in this phase for at least two years (and usually more) before rehabilitation can be classified as being in the ecosystem and land use development phase. This phase does not apply to infrastructure areas that are being retained as part of final land use for the site.
O	**N/A**	The area of any new active disturbance that will be created during the next three years, as defined under definition A1 (definition A1 Table 5).
P	**N/A**	The sum of any new rehabilitation to be commenced in the next three years. These areas may be in the phases "Rehabilitation - Land Preparation" or the "Ecosystem & Land Use Establishment" (definitions C & D in Table 5).

REPORTING CATEGORY		DEFINITION
Q	N/A	The rehabilitation to disturbance ratio (P:O) indicates how many hectares of new rehabilitation are undertaken for each hectare of land disturbed during the three years. A ratio of 1:1 indicates that the area of new rehabilitation and disturbance in that period are the same.

Attachment 2 - Definitions

WORD	DEFINITION
Active	In the context of rehabilitation, land associated with mining domains is considered 'active' for the period following disturbance until the commencement of rehabilitation.
Active mining phase of rehabilitation	In the context of rehabilitation, the active mining phase of rehabilitation constitutes the rehabilitation activities undertaken during mining operations such as salvaging and managing soil resources, salvaging habitat resources, and native seed collection. This phase also includes management actions taken during operations to manage risks to rehabilitation and enhance rehabilitation outcomes such as selective handling of waste rock and management of tailings emplacements.
Analogue site	In the context of rehabilitation, an analogue site is a 'reference site' that represents an example of the defining characteristics (such as vegetation composition and structure or agricultural productivity) of the final land use. Characteristics of analogue sites can be assessed to develop the rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria for final land use domains.
Annual rehabilitation report and forward program	As described in the Mining Regulation 2016.
Annual reporting period	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.

WORD	DEFINITION
Closure	A whole-of-mine-life process, which typically culminates in the relinquishment of the mining lease. It includes decommissioning and rehabilitation to achieve the approved final land use(s).
Decommissioning	The process of removing mining infrastructure and removing contaminants and hazardous materials.
Decommissioning Phase of Rehabilitation	Activities associated with the removal of mining infrastructure and removal and/or remediation of contaminants and hazardous materials. In the context of the rehabilitation management plan this phase of rehabilitation may also include studies and assessments associated with decommissioning and demolition of infrastructure or works carried out to make safe or 'fit for purpose ' built infrastructure to be retained for future use(s) following lease relinquishment.
Department	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.
Disturbance	See Surface Disturbance.
Disturbance area	An area that has been disturbed and that requires rehabilitation. This may include areas such as on-licence exploration areas, stripped areas ahead of mining, infrastructure areas, water management infrastructure, sewage treatment facilities, topsoil stockpile areas, access tracks and haul roads, active mining areas, waste emplacements (active/unshaped/in or out-of-pit), tailings dams (active/unshaped/uncapped), and areas requiring rehabilitation that are temporarily stabilised (i.e. managed to minimise dust generation and/or erosion).

WORD	DEFINITION
Domain	An area (or areas) of the land that has been disturbed by mining and has a specific operational use (mining domain) or specific final land use (final land use domain). Land within a domain typically has similar geochemical and/or geophysical characteristics and therefore requires specific rehabilitation activities to achieve the associated final land use.
Ecosystem and Land Use Development	This phase of rehabilitation consists of the activities to manage maturing rehabilitation areas on a trajectory to achieving the approved rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria. For vegetated land uses this phase may include processes to develop characteristics of functional self-sustaining ecosystems, such as nutrient recycling, vegetation flowering and reproduction, and increasing habitat complexity, and development of a productive, self-sustaining soil profile. This phase of rehabilitation may include specific vegetation management strategies and maintenance such as tree thinning, supplementary plantings and weed management.
Ecosystem and Land Use Establishment	This phase of rehabilitation consists of the processes to establish the approved final land use following construction of the final landform. For vegetated land uses this rehabilitation phase includes establishing the desired vegetation community and implementing land management activities such as weed control. This phase of rehabilitation may also include habitat augmentation such as installation of nest boxes.
Exploration	Has the same meaning as that term under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining,

WORD	DEFINITION
	Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007.
Final landform and rehabilitation plan	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
Final land use	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
Form and way	Means the form and way approved by the Secretary. Approved form and way documents are available on the department's website.
Growth Medium Development	This phase of rehabilitation consists of activities required to establish the physical, chemical and biological components of the substrate required to establish the desired vegetation community (including short lived pioneer species. This phase may include spreading the prepared landform with topsoil and/or subsoil and/or soil substitutes, applying soil ameliorants to enhance the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the growth media, and actions to minimise loss of growth media due to erosion.
Habitat	Has the same meaning as that term under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 and the Fisheries Management Act 1994 (as relevant).
Indicator	An attribute of the biophysical environment (e.g. pH, topsoil depth, biomass) that can be used to approximate the progression of a biophysical process. It can be measured and audited to demonstrate (and track) the progress of an aspect of rehabilitation towards a desired completion

WORD	DEFINITION
	criterion (i.e. defined end point). It may be aligned to an established protocol and used to evaluate changes in a system.
Land	As defined in the Mining Act 1992.
Landform Establishment	This phase of rehabilitation consists of the processes and activities required to construct the final landform. In addition to profiling the surface of rehabilitation areas to the approved final landform profile this phase may include works to construct surface water drainage features, encapsulate problematic materials such as tailings, and prepare a substrate with the desired physical and chemical characteristics (e.g. rock raking or ameliorating sodic materials).
Large mine	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
Lease holder	The holder of a mining lease.
Life of mine	The timeframe of how long a mine is approved to mine, from commencement to closure.
Mine rehabilitation portal	Means the Resources Regulator's online portal that lease holders must use (via a registered account) to:

WORD	DEFINITION
	• upload rehabilitation geographical information system (GIS) spatial data • develop rehabilitation GIS spatial data (using online tracing functions) • generate rehabilitation plans and rehabilitation statistics using the map viewer and Rehabilitation Key Performance Indicator functionalities. Data submitted to the mine rehabilitation portal is collated in a centralised geodatabase for use by the Resources Regulator to regulate rehabilitation performance of lease holders.
Mining area	As defined in the Mining Act 1992.
Mining domain	A land management unit with a discrete operational function (e.g. overburden emplacement), and therefore similar geophysical characteristics, that will require specific rehabilitation treatments to achieve the final land use(s).
Mining land	As defined in the Mining Act 1992.
Native vegetation	Has the same meaning as that term under section 60B of the Local Land Services Act 2013.
Overburden	Material overlying coal or a mineral deposit.
Performance indicator	An attribute of the biophysical environment (for example pH, slope, topsoil depth, biomass) that can be used to demonstrate achievement of a rehabilitation objective. It can be measured and audited to

WORD	DEFINITION
	demonstrate (and track) the progress of an aspect of rehabilitation towards a desired completion criterion, that is, a defined end point. It may be aligned to an established protocol and used to evaluate changes in a system.
Phases of rehabilitation	The stages and sequences of actions required to rehabilitate disturbed land to achieve the final land use. The phases of rehabilitation are: • active mining • decommissioning • landform Establishment • growth medium development • landform Establishment • ecosystem and land use establishment • ecosystem and land use development
Progressive rehabilitation	The progress of rehabilitation towards achieving the approved rehabilitation completion criteria. This may be described in terms of domains, phases, performance indicators and rehabilitation completion criteria.
Rehabilitation Completion	The final phase of rehabilitation when a rehabilitation area has achieved the approved rehabilitation objectives and rehabilitation completion criteria for the final land use. Rehabilitation areas may be classified as complete when the Resources Regulator has determined in writing that the relevant

WORD	DEFINITION
	rehabilitation obligations have been fulfilled following submission of *Form ESF2 Rehabilitation completion and/or review of rehabilitation cost estimate application* by the lease holder.
Rehabilitation Completion criteria	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
Rehabilitation cost estimate	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
Rehabilitation management plan	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
Rehabilitation objectives	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
Rehabilitation risk assessment	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
Rehabilitation schedule	The defined timeframes for progressive rehabilitation set out in the forward program.
Relevant stakeholders	Means any persons or bodies who may be affected by the mining operations, including rehabilitation, carried out on the lease land, and includes: • the relevant development consent authority • the local council • the relevant landholder(s) • community consultative committee (if required under the development consent) or equivalent

WORD	DEFINITION
	consultative group • affected land holder(s) • government agencies relevant to the final land use • affected infrastructure authorities (electricity, telecommunications, water, pipeline, road, rail authorities) • local Aboriginal communities, and • any other person or body determined by the Minister to be a relevant stakeholder in relation to a mining lease.
Risk	The effect of uncertainty on objectives. It is measured in terms of consequences and likelihood (AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009).
Secretary	The Secretary of the department.
Security deposit	An amount that a mining lease holder is required to provide and maintain under a mining lease condition, to secure funding for the fulfilment of obligations under the lease (including obligations that may arise in the future).
Surface disturbance	Includes activities that disturb the surface of the mining area, including mining operations, ancillary mining activities and exploration.

WORD	DEFINITION
Tailings	A combination of the fine-grained solid material remaining after the recoverable metals and minerals have been extracted from the mined ore, and any process water[2].
Waste	Has the same meaning as that term under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*.

[2]Commonwealth of Australia (DITR), 2007. Tailings Management.

Attachment 3 - Plans

63030206_Plan2A_Year1_2027_01.pdf

63030206_Plan2B_Year2_2028_01.pdf

63030206_Plan2C_Year3_2029_01.pdf

ZEOLITE MINE
FORWARD PROGRAM 2025

MINING AND REHABILITATION
YEAR 1 - 2027

Plan 2A

LEGEND

- Project Approval Boundary
- Current Authorisations

Forecast Area

- Forecast Disturbance

Disturbance

- Beneficiation Facility
- Infrastructure Area
- Overburden Emplacement Area
- Active Mining Area (Open cut void)
- Water Management Area

Rehabilitation Phase

- Ecosystem and Land Use Development

Data sources:
NSW SS
Basemap: Vantor
Project Approval Boundary: © State Government of NSW and Department of Regional New South Wales 2019
High resolution imagery: Stewart Surveys (2023 & 2025)

DISCLAIMER: All information within this document may be based on external sources. SLR Consulting Pty Ltd makes no warranty regarding the data's accuracy or reliability for any purpose.

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Coordinate System:	GDA2020 MGA Zone 56
Scale:	1:10,000 at A3
Project Number:	630.30206
Date Drawn:	30-Sep-2026
Drawn by:	JH

SLR

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ZEOLITE MINE
FORWARD PROGRAM 2025

MINING AND REHABILITATION
YEAR 2 - 2028

Plan 2B

LEGEND

- Project Approval Boundary
- Current Authorisations

Forecast Area

- Forecast Disturbance

Disturbance

- Beneficiation Facility
- Infrastructure Area
- Overburden Emplacement Area
- Active Mining Area (Open cut void)
- Water Management Area

Rehabilitation Phase

- Ecosystem and Land Use Development

Data sources:
NSW SS
Basemap: Vantor
Project Approval Boundary: © State Government of NSW and Department of Regional New South Wales 2019
High resolution imagery: Zeolite Mine - Stewart Surveys (2023)

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Coordinate System:	GDA2020 MGA Zone 56
Scale:	1:10,000 at A3
Project Number:	630.30206
Date Drawn:	30-Sep-2026
Drawn by:	JH

SLR

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ZEOLITE MINE
FORWARD PROGRAM 2025

MINING AND REHABILITATION
YEAR 3 - 2029

Plan 2C

LEGEND

- Project Approval Boundary
- Current Authorisations

Disturbance

- Beneficiation Facility
- Infrastructure Area
- Overburden Emplacement Area
- Active Mining Area (Open cut void)
- Water Management Area

Rehabilitation Phase

- Ecosystem and Land Use Development

Data sources:
NSW SS
Basemap: Vantor
Project Approval Boundary: © State Government of NSW and Department of Regional New South Wales 2019
High resolution imagery: Zeolite Mine - Stewart Surveys (2023)

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Coordinate System:	GDA2020 MGA Zone 56
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Drawn by:	JH

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Rehabilitation Cost Estimate Tool - Mining New South Wales

Zeolite Australia Pty Ltd - Escott Zeolite Mine

RCE Summary

SITE REGISTRATION

Complete the following fields prior to calculating the Security Deposit.

Date of Estimate	30-Sep-26	Mine Name	Escott Zeolite Mine
Lease(s):	ML 1356 and AMA 1012		
Lease Holder(s):	Zeolite Australia Pty Ltd		
Term of RCE:	1 year	This is period of time over which the RCE amount will apply.	
Date of last Security Deposit Review:	01-Nov-25	This is the date of the most recent correspondence from the Department advising of the assessed deposit amount.	
Amount of the last Security Deposit Review:	$ 655,000.00	This is the most recent assessed deposit amount as per the most recent correspondence from the Department (see above).	
Current Security Deposit held by the Department:	$ 295,000.00	This is the current security deposit amount held by the Department.	
List key changes since previous submission:	No material changes since previous submission		

COST SUMMARY

Mining Domain Type			Cost	Comments
Infrastructure Area			$ 98,134	
Infrastructure - Mine Entries			$ -	
Beneficiation Facility			$ 100,495	
Tailings Storage Facilities			$ -	
Water Management Area			$ 8,152	
Overburden Emplacement Area			$ 14,149	
Active Mining Area (Open Cut Void)			$ 212,987	
Underground Mining Areas			$ -	
Exploration			$ -	
Sub-total			$ 433,917	
Additional Items			**Cost**	
Other and Sundry			$ 75,142	
Sub-total			$ 75,142	
Totals				
Subtotal - all except Exploration			$ 509,058	
Subtotal - Exploration			$ -	
Subtotal - all		User	$ 509,058	
Contingency (Mining)	30%		$ 152,718	Enter reason here if contingency **greater** than default is entered
Contingency (Exploration only)	15%		$ -	Enter reason here if contingency **greater** than default is entered
Contingency Total			$ 152,718	
Grand Total (excluding GST)			$ 661,776	

Contingency for mining activities ok
Contingency for exploration activities ok