

## Our approach to closure

Although it may extend over decades mining is a temporary land use. It is a priority that we plan for the closure of our operations when the commercially recoverable ore is exhausted.

We strive to minimise social and environmental impacts from our activities, and aim to provide lasting benefits to host communities by ensuring sites are left in a condition which is compatible with subsequent land uses when our operations close.

Effective closure planning is mandatory at every Rio Tinto managed operation. A detailed Closure standard applies to all our operations, providing consistency in closure planning and management. It also assists in identifying opportunities for positive socio-economic benefits from our activities.

### **Our priorities for effective closure include:**

- All Rio Tinto businesses must plan for closure from the earliest stages of project development. This planning is intended to minimise financial, social and environmental risks when the operation eventually closes and optimise social, economic and cultural opportunities for the host community.
- Closure objectives must address legal requirements, as well as any other commitments made to stakeholders.
- Closure planning must be integrated into operational activities. For example, we aim to progressively rehabilitate as much land as possible prior to closure. Both our Closure and Communities standards require that our operations engage with stakeholders, including employees, traditional landowners, local communities and governments, so as to incorporate their concerns and priorities into our closure plans.
- Closure planning aims to incorporate beneficial post-mining land uses – which could include subsequent economic activities, conservation or community use. We recognise that the landscape in some mined areas is permanently altered, and may not be suitable for reuse. In such cases, our goal is to ensure that the site is safe and stable, and that the cost of aftercare is minimised and appropriately provided for.
- Rio Tinto businesses must design and plan their operations so that adequate resources are available to meet the full cost of closure, including post-closure management and monitoring.
- Our Closure standard applies to all Rio Tinto managed operations, including industrial properties whose life may not be tied to a finite mineral resource, and to non-operational (legacy) sites inherited through acquisitions and mergers.

## **To achieve this we:**

- Form multi-disciplinary teams responsible for developing plans which mitigate potential environmental and social impacts at closure, and for embedding these plans into our everyday activities.
- Maintain a knowledge base of the environmental and social setting of each site. This includes the legal and regulatory requirements for closure and any agreements with, or commitments made to, stakeholders.
- Prepare detailed closure plans for each operation, to ensure closure cost estimates are based on reasonable assumptions.
- Ensure closure planning reflects legal and regulatory requirements and stakeholder commitments.
- Design a post-closure monitoring programme which includes performance criteria to demonstrate completion of closure to the satisfaction of government and other stakeholders.
- Consult with stakeholders on post-closure land use options and strategy development.
- Review and update closure plans regularly through the operation's life cycle.