



A framework for developing completion criteria in Western Australia

Completion criteria in Western Australia

The development of acceptable and achievable completion criteria is a necessary part of mine closure planning, and fundamental to the successful transition of mined land to a future use. Once achieved, the criteria can be used to demonstrate that financial assurances and liabilities may be removed. Completion criteria should be:

- Agreed;
- Evidence based;
- Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Relevant and Time bound (SMART); and
- Supportive of the post-mining land uses.

Filling a gap

Considerable progress has been made in mine closure and rehabilitation planning in Western Australia. However, there is still a need to build capacity and understanding of how to define and measure closure and rehabilitation success, particularly with respect to environmental parameters.

To address this gap, The Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute (WABSI) has brought together leading experts, mining industry representatives and regulatory agencies to develop the Western Australian Completion Criteria report.

What it is

The Western Australian Completion Criteria report is an **independent report** providing a framework for developing site-specific risk-based completion criteria and associated monitoring. The report includes a review of rehabilitation research, a survey of current **industry practice and challenges** and **three case studies** across Western Australia.

This report is the first of its kind in Australia and has been released as such, with the intent to call for feedback and produce revised versions in the future.

Is this report for you?

This report and the associated framework have been developed with the resources sector as the target audience, but is applicable to other rehabilitation or ecological restoration contexts. The framework does not intend to replace existing approval processes, but rather to guide industries that are developing new criteria, or wish to improve existing systems.

What are the benefits?

- Assist **industry** to develop site-specific risk-based completion criteria and monitoring plans;
- Support **regulators** by providing greater consistency in the development of mine closure plans across companies, locations and commodities; and
- Provide improved social and environmental outcomes to the **community** through an improved process for the definition of mine completion criteria, and contribute ultimately towards relinquishment.



How to use the report

Bounded by an introduction and summary, the report has two parts: Chapter 2 presents a new framework to help guide the decision-making process associated with completion criteria development; Chapters 3–5 document current understanding and perspectives on completion criteria development.

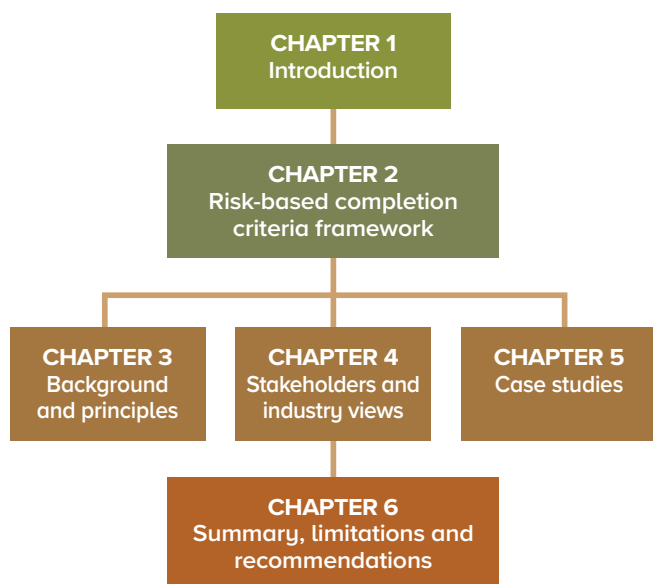


FIGURE 1. The WABSI Completion Criteria report structure

The Framework

The framework comprises six steps that guide proponents in the definition of completion criteria to satisfy regulatory requirements and move towards mine closure (Figure 2). The framework:

- Includes key considerations and guidance to inform the decision-making and prioritisation process;
- Is flexible in its use – can be used in its entirety as a linear pathway, develop multiple components consecutively, in an alternate order, or as isolated components;
- Recognises the importance of monitoring processes towards assessing progress;
- Is an iterative process that provides pathways for review and refinement; and
- Allows for application to multiple post-mining land uses and spatial domains within a mine site.

Where does it fit into current practice?

The framework is intended to be used as a supporting guide to develop completion criteria for mine closure in Western Australia. The framework and associated report has been designed to:

- Complement, not replace, existing guidance and legislation;
- Be used in its entirety, or as individual components, to strengthen current practice;
- Be used across all life-of-mine phases; and
- Provide a mechanism for adaptive management and refined risk assessments.



FIGURE 2. Components of the Completion Criteria framework

Find out more

📍 Download the full report: wabsi.org.au/category/publications

📍 For more information about the project:
wabsi.org.au/our-work/projects/completion-criteria-and-risk-based-monitoring/

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