DOWNER MINING’S MINE RECLAMATION AND LAND REHABILITATION SERVICES BUSINESS (REGEN) OFFERS THE MINING INDUSTRY COMPLETE SOLUTIONS FOR MINE CLOSURE, AS WELL AS PROGRESSIVE REHABILITATION AND STAND-ALONE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT.

Our team’s wealth of experience in mining, rehabilitation and mine closure means that we can work hand in hand with our clients to understand their business drivers, and tailor each unique program to meet specific sustainability and post-mining land use criteria.

We integrate cost-effective bulk-material movement and civil capability with engineering expertise and ecosystem knowledge to provide our clients with the trusted efficiency of Downer Mining – a proven Tier 1 mine operator.

Where specialist solutions are required, we can efficiently partner with other rehabilitation and closure experts using our own proven systems and controls.

Our extensive range of capabilities includes:

- Providing all components of a mine closure plan, including landform design, progressive rehabilitation, waste rock/spoil management and water-management structures, to a standard that meets regulatory requirements, corporate and industry standards, and aligns with environmental and stakeholder aspirations and values
- Bulk earthworks, including landform profiling, tailings storage facility decommissioning and closure, leveraging Downer Mining’s cost-effective earthmoving capability and track record
- Civil capacity, including topsoil handling and placement, ripping, final grade profiling, water-management structure construction and erosion mitigation structures, such as rock armouring
- Revegetation of native ecosystems or other agreed post-mining land use using seeds or seedlings, including soil preparation and amelioration requirements, such as fertilisers
- Post-closure management and maintenance, such as weed control, erosion repairs and landform/ecosystem monitoring, to demonstrate post-mining criteria and stability
PROGRESSIVE APPROVAL OF REHABILITATION: COMMODORE, QLD

Local community involvement in the development of design criteria and regular liaison with regulators to develop statutory documentation have been key contributors to the success of our comprehensive, progressive rehabilitation program at InterGen’s Commodore Mine. The project includes topsoil management and revegetation, as a component of which we have developed an integrated weed management system to ensure successful establishment of new flora.

The rehabilitation program is in the final stages of obtaining regulatory approval and has been independently assessed as meeting analogue undisturbed monitoring criteria for successive years.

LARGE PROJECT COMPLETED EARLY: BLACKWATER CREEK DIVERSION, QLD

The diversion of approximately 10.2km of Blackwater Creek at the Curragh Mine in Central Queensland was an ambitious and technically challenging project to re-establish an important ecological corridor.

Undertaken for Wesfarmers Curragh, the project involved relocating the creek to enable access to coal reserves beneath it. It comprised bulk earthworks, civil works, and the rehabilitation of approximately 167ha of land with 35,000 seedlings, hydromulch pastures and native shrub species. With key objectives of reinstating habitat, creek biodiversity and ecological function, the project exceeded its vegetative cover and flora species diversity targets 12 months ahead of schedule.

The project’s success was externally recognised through its selection as a finalist in the 2010 Civil Contractors Federation Earth Awards.

COST-EFFECTIVE REHABILITATION SUCCESS: BAAL BONE, NSW

At Xstrata Coal’s Baal Bone mine near Lithgow, we not only successfully returned 300ha of highly disturbed land to its early 1900s state, we did so at a cost that was significantly lower than the original estimate.

The comprehensive mine rehabilitation and closure project was carried out using limited topsoil reserves and capping material, and below average rainfall. The Baal Bone project team also met the challenge of updating the pre-war landform designs to incorporate modern infrastructure, such as power lines.

FROM WASTE DUMPS TO NATURAL LAND FORM: SUNRISE DAM, WA

Waste dump rehabilitation has been a large component of Downer Mining’s 16-year mining services contract at Sunrise Dam.

In accordance with AngloGold Ashanti’s Rehabilitation Management Plan, we have conducted application and profiling of topsoil on waste dumps and the tailings storage facility in preparation for eventual mine closure. Over 640ha of land have so far been rehabilitated to ensure that the mining environment is returned to its natural land form.

KEY PERSONNEL

ROSS BROWNING
General Manager ReGen

Ross has 18 years’ experience in the rehabilitation of mined lands across Australia and overseas, including projects undertaken for BHP Billiton, Xstrata, MIM and Downer Mining.

TIM MORGAN
Construction Manager

Tim has over 25 years’ experience in the civil and mining industries. He has been responsible for the delivery of a diverse range of major civil projects, and has managed creek diversions, tailings dams and major rehabilitation works across a range of commodities and environmental landscapes.

GRAHAM PARMINTER
Engineering Manager

Graham has been working in the Queensland and NSW mining industry for the past 33 years. With qualifications in geology and mining engineering, his experience covers a broad range of mine design and planning, and mine operations for both BMA Coal and Downer Mining. Graham’s mine rehabilitation experience includes the Baal Bone project in NSW.