

Director  
Resources Policy  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001  
13 February 2018

**Dear Sir/Madam**

## **IMPROVING MINE REHABILITATION IN NSW**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Mine Rehabilitation Discussion Paper (Discussion Paper).

ARTC is the rail infrastructure manager for the Defined Interstate Rail Network and Hunter Valley Coal Network, providing a one stop shop for freight rail transport across Australia.

In this role, ARTC delivers a range of rail infrastructure projects and manages the operation of rail infrastructure. ARTC has responsibility for the management of over 8,500km of standard gauge track in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia.

ARTC note the benefits of backfilling final voids to restore the pre-mining landform and believe significant opportunity exists to reduce the financial costs to industry of backfilling.

Rail maintenance and construction produces large quantities of spoil (>100,000 tonnes per annum) for which there are currently limited reuse options. The spoil typically has contamination levels below the Open Space criteria specified in the National Environment Protection (Assessment of Contamination) Measure 1999.

ARTC consequently see opportunity for spoil to be recognised as a medium for backfilling mining voids and would suggest that the regulatory framework be modified to facilitate this pathway. ARTC consider that modifications in this area would assist with the economic backfilling of final voids enabling previously mined land to sustain other uses.

We trust this submission will contribute to DPE improving rehabilitation outcomes for major mining projects.

If you have any questions regarding this submission, please contact Mark Curran on 0411 161 769.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Ross  
**Environment Manager**