NSW Resources
Resources Regulator

March 2026

2026 Mining Rehabilitation Forum

Insights report

Executive summary

More than **280 representatives from industry, government and regulatory bodies** attended the February 2026 Mining Rehabilitation Forums held in Newcastle and Dubbo. The forums provided a platform to discuss regulatory priorities, share practical rehabilitation experiences, and identify opportunities to improve outcomes across NSW.

Overall feedback was strongly positive, with **83% of participants rating the forum very or extremely helpful** and **92% rating the facilitation as good or excellent**.

Three key messages emerged consistently across workshops and survey responses:

1. **Clarity and Consistency**
   Industry wants clearer regulatory guidance, consistent interpretation of requirements, and practical examples of good rehabilitation outcomes.
2. **Practical Tools and Systems**
   Participants highlighted the importance of improved digital tools, streamlined processes, and better data management to support rehabilitation planning and reporting.
3. **Collaboration and Communication**
   Industry emphasised the value of ongoing engagement with the Regulator, including case studies, sector-specific engagement sessions, and clearer communication pathways.

Forum overview

The Mining Rehabilitation Forums were designed to bring together experts and practitioners to discuss **current challenges, regulatory expectations, and practical solutions for mine rehabilitation across NSW**.

Key objectives of the forums were to:

- share regulatory priorities and upcoming reforms
- provide updates on rehabilitation compliance programs
- encourage open discussion between industry and regulators
- identify opportunities to improve rehabilitation outcomes.

The forums included presentations, panel discussions and interactive workshops exploring real-world rehabilitation challenges.

Key agenda topics

Major topics discussed across the two forums included:

- strategic direction and regulatory priorities for rehabilitation
- panel discussion with subject-matter experts on successful rehabilitation practices
- regulatory updates including progress on NSW Audit Office recommendations
- updates to the Exploration Code of Practice
- introduction of the new Rehabilitation Cost Estimate (RCE) tool
- expectations for rehabilitation completion criteria
- clarification of the principle of **"As Soon As Reasonably Practicable" (ASARP)**
- findings from Targeted Assessment Programs (TAP)
- updates to digital portals and rehabilitation guidance.

Presentation materials and agenda are available for both events.

Industry workshop insights

Workshop discussions highlighted several consistent themes across industry participants:

- Regulatory clarity and consistency.
- Processes, approvals and regulatory frameworks.
- Stakeholder engagement and whole-of-government alignment.
- Technical and operational rehabilitation challenges.
- Information management, systems and data quality.

- Understanding and demonstrating **"As Soon As Reasonably Practicable" (ASARP).**
- Expectations for rehabilitation completion and relinquishment.
- Need for more guidance, case studies and practical examples.
- Stronger engagement and communication with the Regulator.

Survey results

A post-forum survey was completed by **65 participants**.

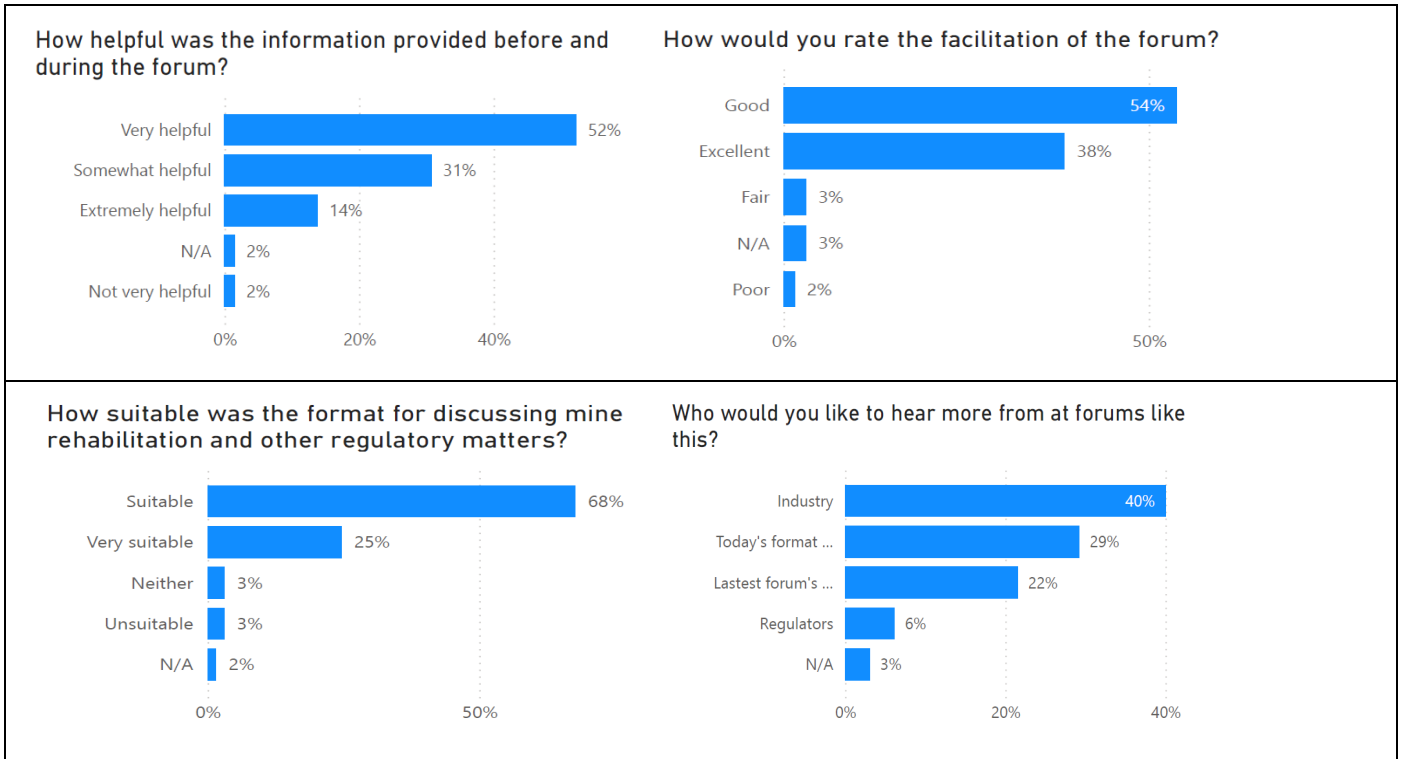
Response breakdown - Newcastle: 49 responses - Dubbo: 16 responses.

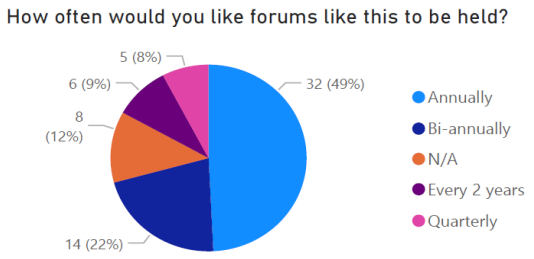
Overall satisfaction - 83% rated the forum **very or extremely helpful** - 92% rated facilitation **good or excellent.**

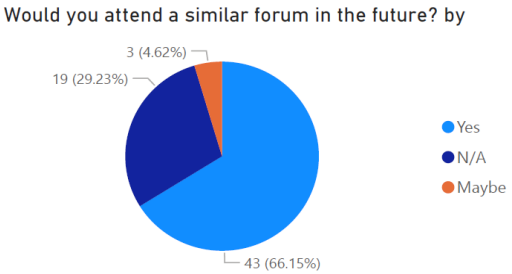
Format feedback - Most participants supported the existing forum format, however suggestions for improvement included:

- Including more industry success stories and rehabilitation case studies.
- Smaller, better-structured workshop groups.
- Additional opportunities for discussion and networking.

Many respondents indicated they would support the forums being held **annually**.







Key takeaways

Three consistent themes emerged across both forums and the survey results:

- **Clarity** – Industry seeks clearer regulatory expectations and practical guidance.
- **Consistency** – Consistent interpretation and application of rehabilitation requirements.
- **Transparency** – Improved access to information through digital tools and communication.

Next steps

The Resources Regulator will review the feedback gathered through the forums and survey responses and prioritise opportunities for business improvement.

Progress updates and actions will be communicated through:

- regulator newsletters
- stakeholder engagement sessions
- updated guidance materials.

These initiatives will support a **transparent, consistent and adaptive regulatory environment** that enables industry to deliver sustainable rehabilitation outcomes across NSW.

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