

working TOGETHER

State Government Commits \$26.1 million to Brukunga Mine Site Rehabilitation



Mr Craig Daniel

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Mr Craig Daniel has joined the Brukunga Mine Site Rehabilitation Board to replace Mr Andrew Gear, representing the District Council of Mount Barker.

Mr Daniel is employed on a five-year contract with the Council as General Manager of Service Delivery, a role that manages all the Council's community services.

He was previously employed by the City of Tea Tree Gully, where he performed the role of Senior Manager for several years.

The South Australian Government has announced funding totalling \$26.1 million over the next 10 years for the Brukunga mine site rehabilitation program.

In announcing the funding, the Premier, Mr Olsen, said Stage 1 would involve spending \$1.6 million during 2001-2002 to divert Dawesley Creek around the mine site, significantly improving downstream water quality.

The first 400 metres of the diversion, which goes around the outskirts of the township, will be an underground piped section. The piping will continue for 200 metres under the Country Fire Service Training Centre with the remainder of the diversion being via an open channel.

The diversion work will have an immediate impact on water quality in Dawesley Creek.

It will also significantly improve the collection of contaminated water from the mine site. A small weir located downstream from the mine will hold contaminated water, which will be pumped to the neutralisation plant for treatment. Water released into Dawesley Creek from the diversion will be suitable for livestock and irrigation use.

The capacity of the existing neutralisation plant needs to be increased to treat extra contaminated water retained on site, particularly during winter. To achieve this, a second treatment plant will be built next to the existing plant to effectively double treatment capacity.

A total of \$5.1 million will be spent on the diversion project and the construction of the additional treatment plant during the next three years.

At the completion of this work, a seven year, \$21 million restoration project for the mine site will commence.

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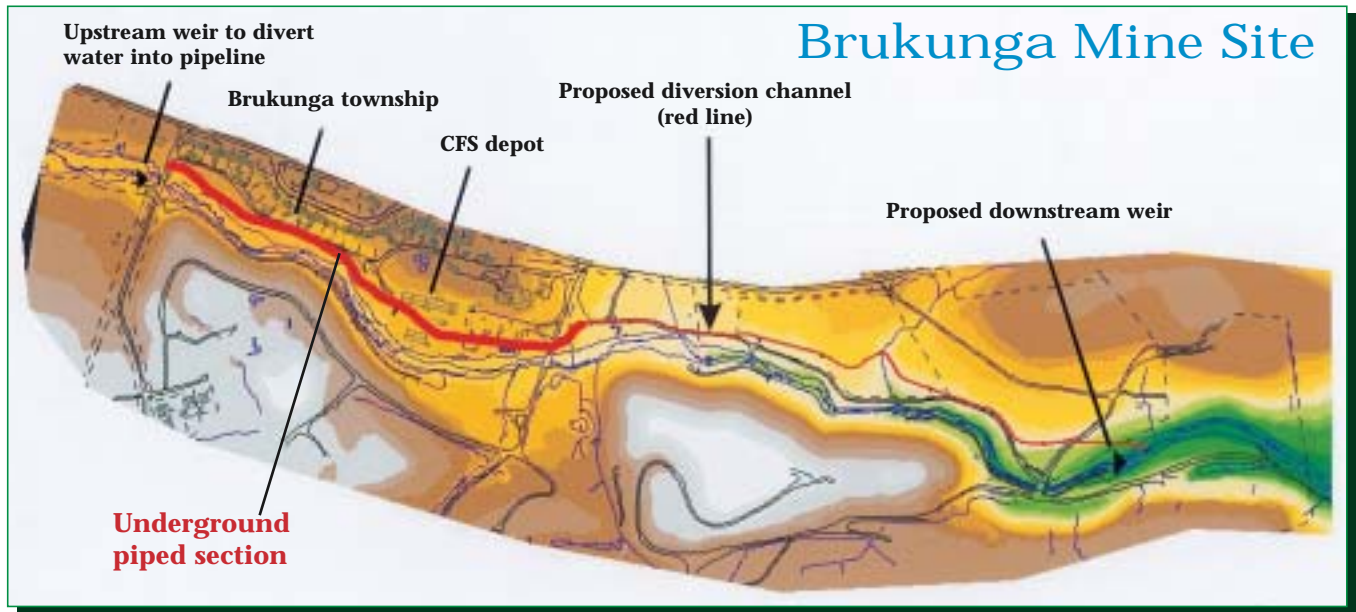
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As part of the long-term control of acid seepage and to progressively rehabilitate the mine site, a program to relocate rock dumps back into the quarry and away from Dawesley Creek will be implemented.

The rock will be compacted and blended with limestone marl to introduce alkalinity to the dump. The site will then be landscaped and planted with native vegetation. It is expected this work will reduce acid seepage and increase the efficiency of interception techniques to such an extent that the old treatment plant can be decommissioned.



Brukung Mine Site diagram illustrating the proposed underground piped section



Biosolids Report Available for Public Viewing

A study commissioned to evaluate potential adverse environmental and human health impacts from the use of precipitate and biosolids in rehabilitation is now available for public viewing.

The report, Environmental Evaluation of Municipal Biosolids and Neutralisation Plant Precipitate for use on the Brukung Mine Site, concludes that there is minimal risk from the use of precipitates and biosolids. In fact, the report suggests biosolids would have a beneficial impact.

The report also recommends that some minor management and monitoring practices be put in place to reduce the risk of erosion of materials from the sites where the association of biosolids and precipitate has occurred.

Copies of the report are available to view at the Brukung General Store, the District Council of Mount Barker, the Brukung Residents Association Incorporated and through the Dawesley Creek Catchment Landcare Group.