



FRIDAY ENVIRONMENT FORUM

NPA Environment Centre

28 October 2016

Lock The Gate's Mine Rehabilitation Reform Campaign.

Noosa Parks Association's guest speaker at Friday Environment Forum on **October 28** will be Rick Humphries who is currently coordinating Lock The Gate's Mine Rehabilitation Reform Campaign. Having worked with a range of environmental NGOs as well as in the corporate sector for Rio Tinto and MMG as specialist strategic advisor on biodiversity, land management risk mitigation and mine closure planning, Mr. Humphries has a wealth of experience.



Rick Humphries - coordinating Lock The Gate's Mine Rehabilitation Reform Campaign.

According to the Queensland Auditor General, Queensland now has some 15,000 registered abandoned mines. Whilst many are very small and low impact, there are 120 to 130 medium sized abandoned mine sites most likely to have infrastructure such as tailings dams, and 317 much larger abandoned sites.

The cost of repairing these abandoned mines falls to the Queensland taxpayer. The bill is in the millions as mine rehabilitation is a very expensive exercise.

Successful mine rehabilitation is best measured by what is termed 'mine relinquishment'. Once the mining company has satisfied all the rehabilitation goals and objectives and other legal requirements, the mining lease is terminated and the ex-mine site is either handed back to the Government or sold to a third party. The fact is that there has not been a single successful relinquishment of a major mine site in Queensland in the last 30 years.

"The bottom line is that the regulation of mine rehabilitation in Queensland doesn't work, meaning current taxpayers and future generations will bear the cost of mine sites that are left unusable in regards to future economic value and which have no use in terms of conservation or use by the community" he says.

Rick Humphries will discuss three key reforms that need to be achieved if the environment and the interests of the taxpayer are to be protected. Come along to the Environment Centre, 5 Wallace Drive, Noosaville on **28 October**, to learn about this important issue. Friday Environment Forum commences at 10.30am while coffee and a chat are on offer at 10.00. For those interested in an interpretive birding walk before the forum, meet Valda in the Environment Centre car park at 8.30am.

All welcome.



Rio Tinto's Blair Athol Mine, Clermont, Qld showing the extent of incomplete rehabilitation after mine closure in 2012.