

Introduction

The NSW Government established the Mine Subsidence Remediation Fund (the Fund) in 2015 in response to demands to address financial uncertainty that mine subsidence was placing on the development of land in Newcastle CBD.

The financial uncertainty stemmed from the requirement to remediate underground mine voids when developing land within the Newcastle CBD, with the cost of grouting the mine voids being unknown until the mine grouting works were complete.

The objective of the Fund is to provide financial certainty for proponents of development in relation to the unique matter of Mine Subsidence Remediation. Initially to apply to the Newcastle CBD, other areas may also benefit from strategies developed where mine subsidence is impacting construction.

The Fund was initially established in 2015 as a pilot program. In 2018 it was established as an ongoing funding model, with the NSW Government committing to review the Fund and submit a report to the Minister for Planning by the end of 2022.

The review will be undertaken by Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation, in consultation with relevant NSW Government agencies and stakeholders.

Purpose of Review

To review the operation and performance of the Fund to determine:

- if the Fund has achieved its original objectives
- if the Fund objectives are still relevant
- if the Fund should continue in its current form
- if other geographic locations should have access to the Fund in order to address similar issues

Scope of Review

- review applications submitted through the Fund
- review developments that have been delivered that did not seek funding
- review studies and evidence produced during the operation of the fund
- consider the objectives of the Fund in the current strategic planning context and NSW Government priorities
- consider alternate funding mechanisms for the Fund
- consult with key stakeholders within the current Fund area
- consult with stakeholders regarding if the fund would be suitable in other locations
- request and consider advice and evidence relevant to this review
- consider and provide advice on any other matters related to the purpose of the review

Terms of Reference

NSW Government Advisory Group

A NSW Government Advisory Group will be established to guide the review.

Advisory Group members include:

- Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation (Chair)
- Subsidence Advisory NSW
- Department of Planning and Environment (Central Coast & Hunter Regional Team)
- Department of Regional NSW

The role of Advisory Group will be to:

- inform the Terms of Reference for the review
- provide input into what the report will cover
- review material, evidence and stakeholder input
- review and provide input into the report and recommendations to Government
- inform communication and stakeholder strategy

Role of Subsidence Advisory NSW

Subsidence Advisory NSW regulates development in Mine Subsidence Districts (Districts) to manage and assess subsidence risks. It's expertise to assist with the review relates to providing advice regarding mine subsidence risks and the likelihood of grouting as a requirement for development applications.

Due to its role as an approval authority and its application of conditions of approval that may impose mine grouting, Subsidence Advisory's role in the review will be limited to the below:

- Providing information, assistance and engineering advice relating to mine grouting.

Administration of the Advisory Group

- HCCDC will be responsible for setting meeting times in agreement with members
- HCCDC will distribute agendas and relevant material prior to meetings
- HCCDC will chair and distribute minutes for the meetings
- Additional material and evidence may be distributed out of session for comment if agreed

Confidentiality

Certain geospatial data provided by Subsidence Advisory NSW will remain confidential, consistent with requirements of the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2014¹.

¹ <https://www.resourcesregulator.nsw.gov.au/our-role/legislation/survey-plans>