



**NSW  
Resources  
Regulator**

**FWP0001233**

# **DENDROBIUM COLLIERY FORWARD PROGRAM**

Saturday 1 July 2023 to Tuesday 30 June 2026



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## Summary

### DETAIL

<b>Mine</b>	Dendrobium Colliery
<b>Reference</b>	FWP0001233
<b>Forward program commencement date</b>	Saturday 1 July 2023
<b>Forward program end date</b>	Tuesday 30 June 2026
<b>Forward program revision (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Contact</b>	Amy Alice Bradbury
<b>Mining leases</b>	ML 1566 (1992), ML 1510 (1992), CCL 768 (1973)
<b>Project location</b>	Dendrobium Coal Pty Ltd
<b>Date of submission</b>	Thursday 28 September 2023

## Important

The department may make the information in your program and any supporting information available for inspection by members of the public, including by publication on its website or by displaying the information at any of its offices. If you consider any part of your program to be confidential, please communicate this to the department via the message function on this submission within the NSW Resources Regulator Portal.

# Three-year forecast – surface disturbance activities

## Project description

The Dendrobium Operations are managed in accordance with Development Consent 60- 03-2001, as modified (the Consent). Dendrobium Operations incorporate legacy sites and the Cordeaux Pit Top which are covered by CCL 768 and Development Consent D74/134 (Cordeaux). Dendrobium Mine is owned and operated by Dendrobium Coal Pty Ltd, a subsidiary company of Illawarra Coal Holdings Pty Ltd (ICHPL), a wholly owned subsidiary of South32 Limited. The mining operations are located immediately adjacent to Mt Kembla, approximately 8 km west of Wollongong, NSW, on the Woronora Plateau. Under the Consent, Dendrobium Mine is approved to produce up to 5.2 million tonnes (t) per annum until 31 December 2030. Dendrobium Mine primarily extracts hard coking coal from the Wongawilli Seam of the Southern Coalfield. Five major mining areas make up the approved mine plan for Dendrobium (Areas 1, 2, 3A, 3B and 3C). Cordeaux is under “care and maintenance” and has maintained this status.

## Description of surface disturbance activities

### Exploration activities

Exploration activities over the next three years will include:

- Drilling of nominally ten boreholes to target identified features and to explore in Dendrobium Area 3c.
- Drilling to target structural features to enable mining in existing domains for Longwall 21a.
- Drilling and installation of groundwater monitoring boreholes associated with Cordeaux Dam.

### Construction activities

The following activities are associated with MOD9 of the Dendrobium Development Consent (DA 60-03-2001):

- Area 3C ventilation upgrade, including gas management infrastructure installation at Ventilation Shaft 2/3 site.
- Area 3C power upgrade, including power pole and conductor replacement in various areas around Dendrobium Mine.
- Slope stability remediation to address landslip issues in FY23, including the main carpark.
- Surface upgrades including installation of workshop domes and pallet racking.
- Installation of self-bunded diesel storage.

- Ongoing hardstand and drainage upgrades.
- Surface flow monitoring sites are proposed in catchment watercourses and around the Dendrobium mining area.
- Installation of pond structures are proposed near catchment watercourses and fire roads within the Dendrobium mining area as part of the Swamp Rehabilitation Research Program.

## Mining schedule

Mining development method and sequencing and general mine features.

The Dendrobium Mine currently extracts from the Wongawilli Seam within Consolidated Coal Lease (CCL) 768. Coal is extracted using conventional longwall underground mining methods. Underground roadways are also developed to access and support the underground operations. ROM coal is transported from the underground operations to the Kemira Valley Coal Loading Facility via an underground conveyor network, reaching the surface via the Kemira Valley Tunnel. ROM coal is temporarily stockpiled at the Kemira Valley Coal Loading Facility before being loaded onto trains for transport to the Dendrobium Coal Preparation Plant. Three mining areas make up the approved mine plan for Dendrobium and are named Areas 1, 2 and 3 (including 3A, 3B and 3C). Mining is currently occurring within Area 3C.

Areas identified for emplacements, the sequencing of emplacements, construction, and management.

The coal wash from the Dendrobium Coal Preparation Plant will continue to be emplaced at the West Cliff Coal Wash Emplacement Area (CWEA) (Stage 3 CWEA) located at Appin North if alternative beneficial uses cannot be utilised i.e. coal wash to customers for engineering purposes (e.g. civil construction fill) or for other circular economy opportunities.

Processing infrastructure activities and the location of tailings facilities and schedule for emplacement.

ROM coal is transported from underground workings to the Kemira Valley Coal Loading Facility via an underground conveyor network. Sizing and stockpiling of coal take place at the Kemira Valley Coal Loading Facility prior to transport to the Dendrobium Coal Preparation Plant via the Kemira Valley Rail Line, in accordance with the approved hours of operation. The coal wash from the Dendrobium Coal Preparation Plant will continue to be emplaced at the West Cliff CWEA at Appin North if alternative uses cannot be utilised i.e. coal wash to customers for engineering purposes (e.g. civil construction fill) or for other circular economy opportunities.

Waste disposal and materials handling operations.

Waste will be managed in accordance with the Dendrobium Mine Waste Management Plan. Presently there are comprehensive waste segregation processes in place (on- and off-site) which significantly reduces the amount of general waste going to landfill. Waste generated by the project is collected and segregated into appropriate waste types to enable the proper

facilitation of waste classification, storage, transport, disposal and tracking. Waste sorting is limited on site with most of the general and recyclable waste being sorted off site at an approved waste management facility. Waste hydrocarbons such as oil are removed from the site collection point by tanker and taken to a licenced facility. Transportation of up to approximately 1 Mtpa of coal wash may be required by road from the Dendrobium CPP to the Stage 3 CWEA at Appin North where alternative uses cannot be found. Emplacement of coal wash is managed in accordance with the approved CWEA Management Plan (CWEAMP).

**Key production milestones**

MATERIAL	UNIT	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
<b>Stripped topsoil</b> <small>(if applicable)</small>	(m <sup>3</sup> )	45	0	0
<b>Rock/ overburden</b>	(m <sup>3</sup> )	0	0	0
<b>Ore</b>	(Mt)	2.67	2.61	2.56
<b>Reject material<sup>1</sup></b>	(Mt)	0.58	0.59	0.66
<b>Product</b>	(Mt)	2.09	2.02	1.9

<sup>1</sup> This includes coarse rejects, tailings and any other wastes resulting from beneficiation.

# Three-year rehabilitation forecast

## Rehabilitation planning schedule

### Rehabilitation planning schedule

Most facilities are required for the operational life of Dendrobium Mine. IMC is currently progressing investigations and studies to inform the rehabilitation works required for a number of Dendrobium and Cordeaux's redundant assets.

Investigations and engineering are underway, looking at redundant infrastructure associated with O'Briens Drift with planning to commence demolition of redundant infrastructure, however the final rehabilitation works are not expected to take place within the next three years.

Investigations are underway for some of Dendrobium's redundant powerlines. It is expected to take at least three years to complete investigations and progress into approvals phase.

Executing the rehabilitation work remains subject to the outcomes of relevant investigation and studies, as well as external and internal approval processes. Refer Forward Work Program and Schedule in the Dendrobium and Cordeaux Rehabilitation Management Plan (RMP) for more details. RMP located on the IMC website: <https://www.south32.net/what-we-do/our-locations/australia/illawarra-metallurgical-coal/documents>.

The WC21 rehabilitation trial work has been completed. Monitoring and reporting on the trial outcomes is planned to occur in FY24. Refer WC21 and Donalds Castle Creek (DCC)

Rehabilitation Plan on the IMC website for more details: <https://www.south32.net/what-we-do/our-locations/australia/illawarra-metallurgical-coal/documents>.

### Stakeholder consultation

Refer Table 18, Page 46 of the Dendrobium and Cordeaux RMP found on the IMC website: <https://www.south32.net/what-we-do/our-locations/australia/illawarra-metallurgical-coal/documents>.

### Rehabilitation studies, risk assessments and/ or design work

Rehabilitation of redundant assets: As mentioned previously, IMC is currently progressing investigations and studies to inform the rehabilitation works required for a number of Dendrobium's redundant assets. Executing the rehabilitation work remains subject to the outcomes of these investigation and studies, as well as external and internal approval processes. Refer to the Forward Work Program and Schedule in the Dendrobium and Cordeaux

RMP (Table 19, Page 49) found on the IMC website: <https://www.south32.net/what-we-do/our-locations/australia/illawarra-metallurgical-coal/documents>.

WC21 and DCC Rehabilitation Trial: A monitoring program will remain in place during and after the implementation of the rehabilitation measures. The monitoring locations will be reviewed during the rehabilitation as required and can be modified (with agreement) accordingly. Analyses of monitoring data (principally pool water level recession curves) from pre-mining, control, impact and mitigation sites is used to determine the success of the rehabilitation. Observations undertaken as part of the monitoring program will provide contextual information to the above assessment approach. Objective performance criteria will be developed following the rehabilitation works and monitoring at the WC21 trial remediation sites.

Analogue sites: Monitoring of the analogue sites established in FY23 will be monitored at least once in the next three years.



## Rehabilitation research and trials

RRT NUMBER	PROJECT/ TRIAL NAME	OBJECTIVE OF TRIAL/ PROJECT	METHODOLOGY	EXPECTED DATE OF COMPLETION	STATUS
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## Rehabilitation maintenance and corrective actions

Progression of the WC21 and DCC Rehabilitation Plan is contingent on the outcomes of the trial. Revision of the WC21 and DCC Rehabilitation Plan with the results and recommendations was undertaken in Q1 FY24 and submitted. Due to a lack of rainfall since the trial was undertaken, monitoring will continue.

## Rehabilitation schedule

Refer Forward Work Program and Schedule in the Dendrobium and Cordeaux RMP (Table 19, Page 49) found on the IMC website: <https://www.south32.net/what-we-do/our-locations/australia/illawarra-metallurgical-coal/documents>.

## Subsidence remediation for underground operations

Subsidence effects include surface and subsurface cracking, buckling, dilation and tilting. These effects have occurred in WC21 and DCC, resulting in changes to the hydrology of the streams. IMC is currently undertaking investigations to support the rehabilitation of WC21 and DCC. The investigations and remediation trials are detailed within the WC21 and DCC Remediation Plan and summarised in the Dendrobium and Cordeaux RMP, found on the IMC website: <https://www.south32.net/what-we-do/our-locations/australia/illawarra-metallurgical-coal/documents>.

Monitoring and remediation of subsidence impacts from current longwalls will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant subsidence management plan.

## Progressive mining and rehabilitation statistics

### Three-yearly forecast cumulative disturbance and rehabilitation progression

FORECAST	UNIT	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
<b>A Total surface disturbance footprint</b>	(ha)	232.31	232.31	232.31
<b>B Total active disturbance</b>	(ha)	228.58	228.45	228.33
<b>P Total new area of land proposed for active rehabilitation</b>	(ha)	0.12	0.25	0.37

### Rehabilitation key performance indicators (KPIs)

FORECAST	UNIT	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
<b>O Total new active disturbance area</b>	(ha)	0.13		
<b>P Total new area of land proposed for active rehabilitation during the reporting period</b>	(ha)	0.12	0.12	0.12
<b>Q Annual rehabilitation to disturbance ratio</b>		0.92		

# Attachment 1 – Reporting Definitions

REPORTING CATEGORY	DEFINITION
<p><b>A</b> Total disturbance footprint – surface disturbance</p>	<p>All areas within a mining lease that either have at some point in time or continue to pose a rehabilitation liability due to surface disturbance activities.</p> <p>The total disturbance footprint is the sum of the total active disturbance, decommissioning, landform establishment, growth medium development, ecosystem and land use establishment, ecosystem and land use development and rehabilitation completion (see definitions below).</p> <p>Underground mining operations should not include the footprint of underground mining areas/subsidence management areas in the total disturbance footprint.</p>
<p><b>B</b> Total active disturbance</p>	<p>Includes on-lease exploration areas, stripped areas ahead of mining, infrastructure areas, water management infrastructure, sewage treatment facilities, topsoil stockpile areas, access tracks and haul roads, active mining areas, waste rock emplacements (active/unshaped/in or out-of-pit), tailings dams (active/unshaped/uncapped) and temporary stabilised areas (e.g. areas sown with temporary cover crops for dust mitigation and temporary rehabilitation).</p>
<p><b>C</b> Rehabilitation – land preparation</p>	<p>Includes the sum of all disturbed land within a mining lease that have commenced any, or all, of the following phases of rehabilitation – decommissioning, landform establishment and growth medium development.</p> <p>Refer to the glossary of terms in this document for the definition of these phases of rehabilitation.</p>
<p><b>D</b> Ecosystem and land use establishment</p>	<p>Includes the area which has been seeded/planted with the target vegetation species for the intended final land use. However, vegetation has not matured to a stage where it can be demonstrated that it will be sustainable for the long term and or require only a maintenance regime consistent with target reference/ analogue sites.</p> <p>Typically, rehabilitation areas would be in this phase for at least two years (and usually more) before rehabilitation can be classified as being in the ecosystem and land use development phase. This phase does not apply to infrastructure areas that are being retained as part of final land use for the site.</p>

REPORTING CATEGORY	DEFINITION
O	The area of any new active disturbance that will be created during the next three years, as defined under definition A1 (definition A1 Table 5).
P	The sum of any new rehabilitation to be commenced in the next three years. These areas may be in the phases “Rehabilitation - Land Preparation” or the “Ecosystem & Land Use Establishment” (definitions C & D in Table 5).
Q	The rehabilitation to disturbance ratio (S/ R) indicates how many hectares of new rehabilitation are undertaken for each hectare of land disturbed during the three years. A ratio of 1/1 indicates that the area of new rehabilitation and disturbance in that period are the same.

## Attachment 2 – Definitions

WORD	DEFINITION
<b>Active</b>	In the context of rehabilitation, land associated with mining domains is considered ‘active’ for the period following disturbance until the commencement of rehabilitation.
<b>Active mining phase of rehabilitation</b>	In the context of rehabilitation, the active mining phase of rehabilitation constitutes the rehabilitation activities undertaken during mining operations such as salvaging and managing soil resources, salvaging habitat resources, and native seed collection. This phase also includes management actions taken during operations to manage risks to rehabilitation and enhance rehabilitation outcomes such as selective handling of waste rock and management of tailings emplacements.
<b>Analogue site</b>	In the context of rehabilitation, an analogue site is a ‘reference site’ that represents an example of the defining characteristics (such as vegetation composition and structure or agricultural productivity) of the final land use. Characteristics of analogue sites can be assessed to develop the rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria for final land use domains.
<b>Annual rehabilitation report and forward program</b>	As described in the Mining Regulation 2016.
<b>Annual reporting period</b>	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
<b>Closure</b>	A whole-of-mine-life process, which typically culminates in the relinquishment of the mining lease. It includes decommissioning and rehabilitation to achieve the approved final land use(s).
<b>Decommissioning</b>	The process of removing mining infrastructure and removing contaminants and hazardous materials.
<b>Decommissioning Phase of Rehabilitation</b>	Activities associated with the removal of mining infrastructure and removal and/or remediation of contaminants and hazardous materials. In the context of the rehabilitation management plan this phase of rehabilitation may also include studies and assessments associated with decommissioning and demolition of infrastructure or works carried out to make safe or ‘fit for purpose’ built infrastructure to be retained for future use(s) following lease relinquishment.

<b>WORD</b>	<b>DEFINITION</b>
<b>Department</b>	The Department of Regional NSW.
<b>Disturbance</b>	See Surface Disturbance.
<b>Disturbance area</b>	<p>An area that has been disturbed and that requires rehabilitation.</p> <p>This may include areas such as on-licence exploration areas, stripped areas ahead of mining, infrastructure areas, water management infrastructure, sewage treatment facilities, topsoil stockpile areas, access tracks and haul roads, active mining areas, waste emplacements (active/unshaped/in or out-of-pit), tailings dams (active/unshaped/uncapped), and areas requiring rehabilitation that are temporarily stabilised (i.e. managed to minimise dust generation and/or erosion).</p>
<b>Domain</b>	<p>An area (or areas) of the land that has been disturbed by mining and has a specific operational use (mining domain) or specific final land use (final land use domain). Land within a domain typically has similar geochemical and/or geophysical characteristics and therefore requires specific rehabilitation activities to achieve the associated final land use.</p>
<b>Ecosystem and Land Use Development</b>	<p>This phase of rehabilitation consists of the activities to manage maturing rehabilitation areas on a trajectory to achieving the approved rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria.</p> <p>For vegetated land uses this phase may include processes to develop characteristics of functional self-sustaining ecosystems, such as nutrient recycling, vegetation flowering and reproduction, and increasing habitat complexity, and development of a productive, self-sustaining soil profile.</p> <p>This phase of rehabilitation may include specific vegetation management strategies and maintenance such as tree thinning, supplementary plantings and weed management.</p>
<b>Ecosystem and Land Use Establishment</b>	<p>This phase of rehabilitation consists of the processes to establish the approved final land use following construction of the final landform.</p> <p>For vegetated land uses this rehabilitation phase includes establishing the desired vegetation community and implementing land management activities such as weed control. This phase of rehabilitation may also include habitat augmentation such as installation of nest boxes.</p>
<b>Exploration</b>	Has the same meaning as that term under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007.

<b>WORD</b>	<b>DEFINITION</b>
<b>Final landform and rehabilitation plan</b>	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
<b>Final land use</b>	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
<b>Form and way</b>	Means the form and way approved by the Secretary. Approved form and way documents are available on the Department’s website.
<b>Growth Medium Development</b>	<p>This phase of rehabilitation consists of activities required to establish the physical, chemical and biological components of the substrate required to establish the desired vegetation community (including short lived pioneer species).</p> <p>This phase may include spreading the prepared landform with topsoil and/or subsoil and/or soil substitutes, applying soil ameliorants to enhance the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the growth media, and actions to minimise loss of growth media due to erosion.</p>
<b>Habitat</b>	Has the same meaning as that term under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> and the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> (as relevant).
<b>Indicator</b>	An attribute of the biophysical environment (e.g. pH, topsoil depth, biomass) that can be used to approximate the progression of a biophysical process. It can be measured and audited to demonstrate (and track) the progress of an aspect of rehabilitation towards a desired completion criterion (i.e. defined end point). It may be aligned to an established protocol and used to evaluate changes in a system.
<b>Land</b>	As defined in the <i>Mining Act 1992</i> .
<b>Landform Establishment</b>	<p>This phase of rehabilitation consists of the processes and activities required to construct the final landform.</p> <p>In addition to profiling the surface of rehabilitation areas to the approved final landform profile this phase may include works to construct surface water drainage features, encapsulate problematic materials such as tailings, and prepare a substrate with the desired physical and chemical characteristics (e.g. rock raking or ameliorating sodic materials).</p>
<b>Large mine</b>	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
<b>Lease holder</b>	The holder of a mining lease.



WORD	DEFINITION
<b>Life of mine</b>	The timeframe of how long a mine is approved to mine, from commencement to closure.
<b>Mine rehabilitation portal</b>	<p>Means the NSW Resources Regulator's online portal that lease holders must use (via a registered account) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ upload rehabilitation geographical information system (GIS) spatial data</li> <li>■ develop rehabilitation GIS spatial data (using online tracing functions)</li> <li>■ generate rehabilitation plans and rehabilitation statistics using the map viewer and Rehabilitation Key Performance Indicator functionalities.</li> </ul> <p>Data submitted to the mine rehabilitation portal is collated in a centralised geodatabase for use by the NSW Resources Regulator to regulate rehabilitation performance of lease holders.</p>
<b>Mining area</b>	As defined in the <i>Mining Act 1992</i> .
<b>Mining domain</b>	A land management unit with a discrete operational function (e.g. overburden emplacement), and therefore similar geophysical characteristics, that will require specific rehabilitation treatments to achieve the final land use(s).
<b>Mining land</b>	As defined in the <i>Mining Act 1992</i> .
<b>Native vegetation</b>	Has the same meaning as that term under section 60B of the <i>Local Land Services Act 2013</i> .
<b>Overburden</b>	Material overlying coal or a mineral deposit.
<b>Performance indicator</b>	An attribute of the biophysical environment (for example pH, slope, topsoil depth, biomass) that can be used to demonstrate achievement of a rehabilitation objective. It can be measured and audited to demonstrate (and track) the progress of an aspect of rehabilitation towards a desired completion criterion, that is, a defined end point. It may be aligned to an established protocol and used to evaluate changes in a system.

<b>WORD</b>	<b>DEFINITION</b>
<b>Phases of rehabilitation</b>	<p>The stages and sequences of actions required to rehabilitate disturbed land to achieve the final land use. The phases of rehabilitation are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ active mining</li> <li>■ decommissioning</li> <li>■ landform Establishment</li> <li>■ growth medium development</li> <li>■ ecosystem and land use establishment</li> <li>■ ecosystem and land use development.</li> </ul>
<b>Progressive rehabilitation</b>	<p>The progress of rehabilitation towards achieving the approved rehabilitation completion criteria. This may be described in terms of domains, phases, performance indicators and rehabilitation completion criteria.</p>
<b>Rehabilitation Completion</b>	<p>The final phase of rehabilitation when a rehabilitation area has achieved the approved rehabilitation objectives and rehabilitation completion criteria for the final land use. Rehabilitation areas may be classified as complete when the NSW Resources Regulator has determined in writing that the relevant rehabilitation obligations have been fulfilled following submission of <i>Form ESF2 Rehabilitation completion and/or review of rehabilitation cost estimate</i> application by the lease holder.</p>
<b>Rehabilitation Completion criteria</b>	<p>As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.</p>
<b>Rehabilitation cost estimate</b>	<p>As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.</p>
<b>Rehabilitation management plan</b>	<p>As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.</p>
<b>Rehabilitation objectives</b>	<p>As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.</p>
<b>Rehabilitation risk assessment</b>	<p>As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.</p>
<b>Rehabilitation schedule</b>	<p>The defined timeframes for progressive rehabilitation set out in the forward program.</p>

WORD	DEFINITION
<b>Relevant stakeholders</b>	Means any persons or bodies who may be affected by the mining operations, including rehabilitation, carried out on the lease land, and includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ the relevant development consent authority</li> <li>■ the local council</li> <li>■ the relevant landholder(s)</li> <li>■ community consultative committee (if required under the development consent) or equivalent consultative group</li> <li>■ affected land holder(s)</li> <li>■ government agencies relevant to the final land use</li> <li>■ affected infrastructure authorities (electricity, telecommunications, water, pipeline, road, rail authorities)</li> <li>■ local Aboriginal communities, and</li> <li>■ any other person or body determined by the Minister to be a relevant stakeholder in relation to a mining lease.</li> </ul>
<b>Risk</b>	The effect of uncertainty on objectives. It is measured in terms of consequences and likelihood (AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009).
<b>Secretary</b>	The Secretary of the Department.
<b>Security deposit</b>	An amount that a mining lease holder is required to provide and maintain under a mining lease condition, to secure funding for the fulfilment of obligations under the lease (including obligations that may arise in the future).
<b>Surface disturbance</b>	Includes activities that disturb the surface of the mining area, including mining operations, ancillary mining activities and exploration.
<b>Tailings</b>	A combination of the fine-grained solid material remaining after the recoverable metals and minerals have been extracted from the mined ore, and any process water <sup>2</sup> .
<b>Waste</b>	Has the same meaning as that term under the <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i> .

<sup>2</sup> Commonwealth of Australia (DITR), 2007. *Tailings Management*.

## Attachment 3 – Plans

Plan 2A.zip

DENCDX\_2023\_Domain 10\_FC\_Plan2B-C.pdf

DENCDX\_2023\_Domain 10\_FC\_Plan2C-C.pdf

Forward Program (LARGE MINE) v2.1