

## Policy

# Annual report release policy

## Mining Act 1992

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Table 1 Links for further information.

Subject	Webpage and email
Annual report release policy and report redaction	<p><a href="http://www.resourcesregulator.nsw.gov.au/meg.site/mining-and-exploration/compliance-and-reporting/exploration-reporting">www.resourcesregulator.nsw.gov.au/meg.site/mining-and-exploration/compliance-and-reporting/exploration-reporting</a></p> <p><b>Contact:</b> <a href="mailto:redaction@regional.nsw.gov.au">redaction@regional.nsw.gov.au</a></p>
Titles Management System (TMS)	<p><a href="http://www.resourcesregulator.nsw.gov.au/meg.site/mining-and-exploration/titles-management-system">www.resourcesregulator.nsw.gov.au/meg.site/mining-and-exploration/titles-management-system</a></p> <p><b>Contact:</b> <a href="mailto:tms@regional.nsw.gov.au">tms@regional.nsw.gov.au</a> or raise a ticket using the 'Feedback' link in top right corner of the TMS dashboard.</p>
Reporting requirements, group reporting, extensions and exemptions	<p><a href="http://www.resourcesregulator.nsw.gov.au/meg.site/mining-and-exploration/compliance-and-reporting/exploration-reporting">www.resourcesregulator.nsw.gov.au/meg.site/mining-and-exploration/compliance-and-reporting/exploration-reporting</a></p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Mining and Exploration Assessment (MEA) via email <a href="mailto:mining.explorationassessment@regional.nsw.gov.au">mining.explorationassessment@regional.nsw.gov.au</a></p>
Large file submission and LaFix	<p><a href="http://www.resourcesregulator.nsw.gov.au/meg.site/geoscience/products-and-data/company-exploration-reports/online-services/large-file">www.resourcesregulator.nsw.gov.au/meg.site/geoscience/products-and-data/company-exploration-reports/online-services/large-file</a></p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Mining and Exploration Assessment (MEA) via email <a href="mailto:mining.explorationassessment@regional.nsw.gov.au">mining.explorationassessment@regional.nsw.gov.au</a></p>

## Supporting documentation

To support the implementation of this policy, the following documents have been updated or developed and should be read in conjunction with this policy.

- The Annual Report Redaction Guide outlines the process to redact information that is personal, commercially sensitive and/or proprietary in nature. This guide also indicates how a company can request to redact reports.
- The Guideline Exploration Reporting: A guide for reporting and prospecting in NSW has been updated to reflect the latest reporting requirements, data formats, lodgement facilities, and the annual report release policy.
- The Guideline - Lodging exploration reports, data and requests in Titles Management System (TMS) provides step-by-step guidance on lodging redacted reports in Titles management System (TMS).

# Contents

Contacts.....	3
Supporting documentation.....	3
Annual report release policy.....	5
Purpose.....	5
Benefits.....	5
Release stages and timing.....	6
Initial stage release (2022).....	6
Second stage release (2024).....	6
Subsequent annual releases (2025 – 2027).....	6
Second stage release (2024).....	7
Relinquishment of authorities.....	9
Historic ‘Flow-on’ authorities.....	9
Extended confidentiality provisions.....	10
Report release and redaction process (Group 1-6, 8, 10-12).....	15
Process to request redaction.....	15
Key dates.....	15
Requests for review of redaction assessment outcome.....	17
Baseline geological data release process (Group 9 and 9A).....	17
Appendix 1 Glossary.....	18

# List of Tables

Table 1 Links for further information.....	3
Table 2 Summary of reports eligible for release and not eligible for release under the second stage release.....	7
Table 3 Annual reports and data (current authorities) - Eligibility for release under the annual report release policy.....	8
Table 4 Annual, partial relinquishment and final reports and data (relinquished authorities) - Eligibility for release under the annual report release policy.....	12
Table 5 Key dates for release of existing and new reports and data (Groups 1-6, 8, 10-12) ...	15
Table 6 Redaction review group.....	17
Table 7 Glossary of key terms in this guide.....	18

# Annual report release policy

## Purpose

Holders of authorities (exploration licences, assessment leases and mining leases) need to prepare and lodge annual reports (annual exploration reports), under clause 59 of the Mining Regulation 2016. Annual reports remain confidential for the first 5 years after lodgement (section 365 of the *Mining Act 1992*, clause 64 of the Mining Regulation 2016). However, after 5 years, annual reports may be released to the public. This is also known as the 'Sunset Clause'.

The NSW Government is committed to making historical exploration data available to support new investment in exploration to meet the growing global demand for minerals. Mining, Exploration and Geoscience (MEG) within the Department of Regional NSW meets this commitment by publicly releasing annual reports with associated data under the annual report release policy.

The purpose of this policy is to inform stakeholders about the way in which MEG intends to manage the process for the public release of annual reports and associated data 5 or more years after lodgement. Reports associated with relinquished authorities are also covered by the policy.

*The annual report release policy aims to promote effective and successful mineral exploration in NSW through the progressive release of geoscientific information and data following a 5-year confidentiality period. This policy governs the release of reports and data to support the NSW exploration and mining industry in the discovery of new mineral resources, whilst protecting commercially sensitive and proprietary information.*

## Benefits

Exploration data is a valuable resource for the state, mining and exploration companies and the geoscientific community. Having access to a comprehensive exploration data set enables companies to explore more effectively.

Improved report and data availability:

- encourages greater mineral exploration investment in under-explored and under-utilised areas of NSW to stimulate the economy
- increases the likelihood of locating new commercially viable mineral deposits to improve long term job creation in regional areas
- improves investment attraction and export development opportunities in new prospective mining areas
- improves the efficiency and equity of exploration and mining for the benefit of businesses, communities and people of NSW.

## Release stages and timing

The timing of the policy release stages is outlined in Figure 1. To ensure procedural fairness, the policy enables authority holders to redact commercially sensitive and proprietary information from reports lodged prior to 1 January 2022 before they are made public.

### Initial stage release (2022)

Under the initial stage release, MEG commenced the progressive release of annual reports and associated data for exploration licences and assessment leases for mineral groups 1-6 and 10 that were lodged more than 5 years before 1 June 2021. Reports are released annually as they became eligible for release, that is 5 years after lodgement.

The annual report release policy was published in October 2021, and the first tranche of eligible reports were released in 2022.

Exceptions for the initial release were made for historical exploration licences and assessment leases that had ‘flow on’ provisions to subsequent mining leases and for coal authorities. Reports submitted under those exploration authorities were withheld from initial release pending further consultation, prior to a second stage of release.

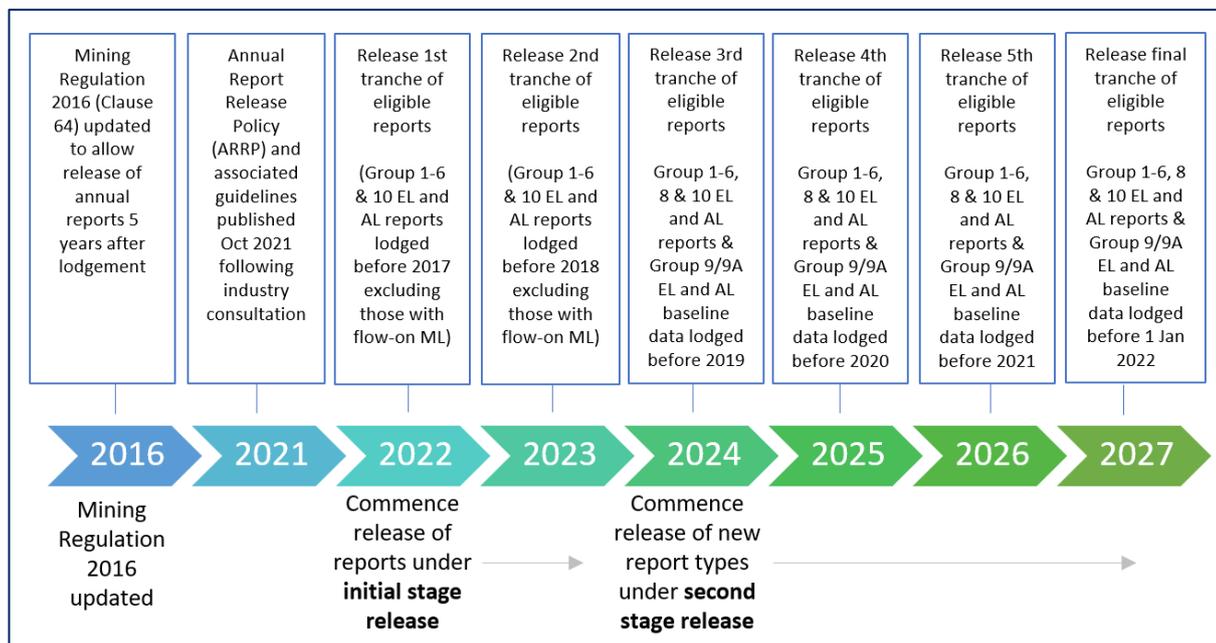
### Second stage release (2024)

In 2024 MEG will commence the release of previously exempt annual report types and associated data, subject to limited exceptions, as outlined in Tables 2, 3 and 4. The second stage release does not include mining leases.

### Subsequent annual releases (2025 – 2027)

MEG will release annual reports and associated data annually, subject to limited exceptions, as they become eligible to be released (5 years after lodgement). A list of annual reports eligible for release will be published annually on 31 March.

Figure 1 Release stages and timing



## Second stage release (2024)

MEG will commence the release of previously unreleased annual report types in 2024, those not previously included in the policy, subject to limited exceptions. The reports available for release are outlined in Tables 2, 3 and 4.

- **Table 2** provides a summary of reports eligible for release and not eligible for release under the second stage release.
- **Table 3** provides a detailed breakdown of eligibility for release by mineral group and authority type, for current authorities.
- **Table 4** outlines the limited circumstances where extended confidentiality provisions apply for wholly or partially relinquished authorities.

Table 2 Summary of reports eligible for release and not eligible for release under the second stage release

Release	Not for release
✓ <b>Group 1-6</b> and <b>Group 10</b> exploration licence and assessment lease reports and associated data	× <b>Mining Lease</b> reports and associated data (all mineral groups)
✓ <b>Group 8</b> (geothermal) exploration licence and assessment lease reports and associated data	× <b>Group 7</b> small scale titles (opal prospecting licences and mineral claims) within an opal prospecting area reports and associated data
✓ <b>Group 9</b> (coal) and <b>Group 9A</b> (oil shale) baseline geological data <sup>1</sup> from exploration licence and assessment lease reports	× <b>Group 9</b> (coal) and <b>Group 9A</b> (oil shale) reports and coal quality analytical data <sup>1</sup>
✓ <b>Group 11</b> (uranium) exploration licence and assessment lease reports and associated data	× There are limited circumstances where reports and data will not be released, or extended confidentiality provisions will apply upon relinquishment, to be consistent with not releasing mining lease reports. Refer to Tables 3 and 4 for further detail.
✓ <b>Group 12</b> (hydrogen and nonmetals) exploration licence and assessment lease reports and associated data	
<p><b>Note:</b> Community Consultation Reports and Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Reports are not governed by clause 59 and 64 of the Mining Regulation 2016 and are therefore will not be released under this annual report release policy.</p>	

<sup>1</sup> Baseline geological data and coal quality analytical data are defined in Glossary.

Table 3 Annual reports and data (current authorities) - Eligibility for release under the annual report release policy

Mineral group	Annual reports and data submitted on or prior to 31 December 2021	Annual reports and data submitted from 1 January 2022 onward
Group 1-6 and Group 10	<p><b>Exploration licences and assessment leases</b></p> <p>5 years after lodgement of the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• release annual report (original report or redacted report where submitted)</li> <li>• release associated geoscientific data that is eligible to be released<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>	<p><b>Exploration licences and assessment leases</b></p> <p>5 years after lodgement of the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• release Part A of annual report</li> <li>• release associated geoscientific data that is eligible to be released<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>
Group 7	<p>Annual reports from opal prospecting licences and mineral claims within opal prospecting areas are not available for release.</p> <p><b>Exploration licences and assessment leases that include Group 7 but are not located in an opal prospecting area</b></p> <p>5 years after lodgement of the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• release annual report (original report or redacted report where submitted)</li> <li>• release associated geoscientific data that is eligible to be released<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>	<p>Annual reports from opal prospecting licences and mineral claims within opal prospecting areas are not available for release.</p> <p><b>Exploration licences and assessment leases that include Group 7 but are not located in an opal prospecting area</b></p> <p>5 years after lodgement of the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• release annual report (original report or redacted report where submitted)</li> <li>• release associated geoscientific data that is eligible to be released<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>
Group 8	<p><b>Exploration licences and assessment leases</b></p> <p>5 years after lodgement of the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• release annual report (original report or redacted report where submitted)</li> <li>• release associated geoscientific data that is eligible to be released<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>	<p><b>Exploration licences and assessment leases</b></p> <p>5 years after lodgement of the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• release Part A of annual report</li> <li>• release associated geoscientific data that is eligible to be released<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>
Group 9 and 9A	<p><b>Exploration licences and assessment leases</b></p> <p>5 years after lodgement of the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• release baseline geological data<sup>Error! Bookmark not defined.</sup> that is eligible to be released</li> </ul>	<p><b>Exploration licences and assessment leases</b></p> <p>5 years after lodgement of the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• release baseline geological data<sup>1</sup> that is eligible to be released</li> </ul>
Group 11 and 12	Not applicable – no reports available	<p><b>Exploration licences and assessment leases</b></p> <p>5 years after lodgement of the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• release part A of annual report</li> <li>• release data that is eligible to be released<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> Schedule of data confidentiality is included within Appendix 2 of Annual report redaction guide, and outlines data that is eligible for release 5 years after lodgement.

Mineral group	Annual reports and data submitted on or prior to 31 December 2021	Annual reports and data submitted from 1 January 2022 onward
<b>Mineral groups 1-6, 8, 9, 9A, 10, 11, and 12</b>	<p><b>Mining Lease group reports:</b> Annual reports for exploration licences and assessment leases that were historically group reported under an approved reporting group with a mining lease will not be released while the mining lease remains in force, for any reports submitted after the grant of the associated mining lease. 5 years after lodgement of the report, data that is eligible to be released<sup>2</sup> or baseline geological data<sup>1</sup> may be released from areas where there is no spatial overlap with a current mining lease<sup>3</sup>.</p>	<p><b>Mining Leases – stratified:</b> Annual reports for exploration licences and assessment leases that overlie a subsurface mining lease, underlie a surface or subsurface mining lease, or are stratified between subsurface mining leases will not be released while the mining lease remains in force, for any reports submitted after the grant of the associated mining lease. 5 years after lodgement of the report, data that is eligible to be released<sup>2</sup> or baseline geological data<sup>1</sup> may be released from areas where there is no spatial overlap with a current mining lease<sup>3</sup>.</p>

## Relinquishment of authorities

When an authority is relinquished wholly, the public release of any annual reports, partial relinquishment reports, final reports and associated data for that authority is permitted under the Mining Regulation 2016 (clause 64). In the case of the partial relinquishment of an authority, public release of the partial relinquishment report and associated data is permitted.

Where an authority is relinquished (wholly or partially) to allow for the grant of another authority, authority holders may apply to have Extended Confidentiality provisions applied to the relinquished authority. Historically a similar ‘flow-on’ provision was applied. However, the Extended Confidentiality provisions differ from the historic flow-on provisions, as reports and basic geoscientific data continue to be released from relinquished exploration licences and assessment leases, but sensitive and proprietary information from those authorities will remain confidential, in line with the objectives of the annual report release policy.

Where an authority is relinquished and none of the limited circumstances for extended confidentiality provisions apply, or where an application for extended confidentiality provisions is sought and refused, all of the previously submitted annual reports, partial relinquishment reports, final reports and associated data will be publicly released once the authority to which the report relates ceases to be in force. In the case of partial relinquishment of an authority, the partial relinquishment report will be publicly released.

## Historic ‘flow-on’ authorities

Historically, some mining leases contained a confidentiality licence condition related to ‘flow-on’ authorities. A ‘flow-on’ was defined as where an application for a new authority had been lodged or granted over the same ground (or part thereof), during the currency of an authority and the ownership is retained for that subsequent new authority even though the authority type may change.

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<sup>3</sup> Basic geoscientific data from historic DiGS exploration reports is being digitally captured by MEG for release via MinView, as per this policy.

MEG has now removed the former confidentiality condition from all authorities, and all authorities granted are subject to a set of general conditions. As such, all exploration licence and assessment lease reports from authorities associated with mining leases with the former confidentiality condition, are now eligible for release under the annual report release policy, subject to clause 64 of the Mining Regulation 2016, and have been included in this revised policy under the second stage release.

## Extended confidentiality provisions

MEG provides authority holders, through the annual report release policy, an option to apply for Extended Confidentiality in limited circumstances for relinquished (wholly or partially) authorities. These provisions meet the MEG objective of progressively releasing geoscientific information and data that supports the exploration and mining industry, whilst protecting commercially sensitive and proprietary information.

The limited circumstances in which a relinquished or partially relinquished authority will be granted Extended Confidentiality provisions are outlined below.

1. Exploration licences or assessment leases relinquished (wholly or partially) due to grant of a mining lease.
2. Exploration licences relinquished (wholly or partially) due to grant of an assessment lease.
3. Surface exempt or depth restricted exploration licences and assessment leases that overlie, underlie or are stratified between subsurface mining leases, that are relinquished (wholly or partially).
4. Mining leases relinquished (wholly) due to grant of another mining lease that incorporates the same area (e.g. consolidated mining leases).

Under the extended confidentiality provisions, reports and associated data from relinquished authorities will be progressively released in accordance with Table 4, which is either 5 years after lodgement, or when the subsequent authority or associated mining lease (in the case of depth restricted authorities) ceases to remain in force. This is opposed to the public release of reports and associated upon relinquishment of an authority.

## How to apply for Extended Confidentiality

Applications for Extended Confidentiality must be lodged in a letter emailed to [mining.explorationassessment@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mining.explorationassessment@regional.nsw.gov.au). Applications should be made in accordance with the below timeframes and include which of the four limited circumstances apply.

- For reports lodged from 29 March 2024 onward, applications can be made prior to the relinquishment of the authority, and no later than one calendar month after the relinquishment, or in case of partial relinquishment within one calendar month after the partial relinquishment of an authority takes effect.
- For reports lodged prior to 28 March 2024, MEG will apply extended confidentiality on behalf of authority holders<sup>4</sup> where one of the limited circumstances apply.

Occasionally there will be other exceptional circumstances where an authority holder believes that extended confidentiality would be appropriate for their reports or data. Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis and should include supporting information or justification.

Extended Confidentiality provisions will not be applied where a report has already been publicly released.

While an application for Extended Confidentiality is under consideration by MEG, the relevant reports or associated data under application will not be released. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application.

In cases where an application for Extended Confidentiality has been refused, an authority holder can seek a review. An independent technical expert with relevant experience in the relevant resource will be engaged. To seek an independent review of a decision, direct the request in writing to [redaction@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:redaction@regional.nsw.gov.au).

## Applications for exemption from preparing and lodging partial relinquishment and final reports

Where Extended Confidentiality provisions are approved by MEG, authority holders can also apply for an exemption from the requirement to prepare and lodge partial relinquishment and final reports.

Applications for exemptions from reporting must be lodged via Titles Management System (TMS) and made in accordance with the timing outlined in Clause 68 of the Mining Regulation 2016. Guidance for lodging an extension or exemption request in TMS is available in the *Guideline - Lodging exploration reports, data and requests in Titles Management System (TMS)*. Refer to the exploration reporting guideline for further details on reporting extensions and exemptions.

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<sup>4</sup> Redaction must be completed by the authority holder in accordance with the redaction guide.

Table 4 Annual, partial relinquishment and final reports and associated data (relinquished authorities) - Eligibility for release under the annual report release policy where extended confidentiality provisions apply

Annual reports and data submitted on or prior to 31 December 2021	Annual reports and data submitted from 1 January 2022 onward	Partial relinquishment and final reports
<p><b>Relinquished authorities</b> - Extended confidentiality provisions that will be applied in limited circumstances, subject to approved application</p>		
<p><b>5 years after lodgement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• release annual report (original report or redacted report where one has been submitted) for mineral group 1-6, 8, 10-12 exploration licences and assessment leases.</li> <li>• release data that is eligible to be released five years after lodgement<sup>2</sup> for mineral group 1-6, 8, 10-12 exploration licences and assessment leases.</li> <li>• release baseline geological data<sup>1</sup> that is eligible to be released five years after lodgement for mineral group 9 and 9A exploration licences and assessment leases.</li> </ul> <p><b>Confidential</b> for life of the subsequent authority, or in the case of depth restricted authorities the associated mining lease:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the original annual report (where a redacted report has been submitted) for mineral group 1-6, 8, 10-12 exploration licences and assessment leases.</li> <li>• annual reports for mining leases and data acquired under mining leases.</li> <li>• annual reports for mineral group 9 and 9A authorities.</li> </ul>	<p><b>5 years after lodgement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• release Part A of annual report for mineral group 1-6, 8, 10-12 exploration licences and assessment leases.</li> <li>• release data that is eligible to be released five years after lodgement<sup>2</sup> for mineral group 1-6, 8, 10-12 exploration licences and assessment leases.</li> <li>• release baseline geological data<sup>1</sup> that is eligible to be released five years after lodgement for mineral group 9 and 9A exploration licences and assessment leases.</li> </ul> <p><b>Confidential</b> for life of the subsequent authority, or in the case of depth restricted authorities the associated mining lease:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part B of annual report for mineral group 1-6, 8, 10-12 exploration licences and assessment leases.</li> <li>• annual report Part A and Part B and data acquired for mineral group 1-6, 8, 10-12 mining leases.</li> <li>• annual report Part A and Part B for mineral group 9 and 9A authorities.</li> <li>• data that is eligible to remain confidential for life of authority<sup>2</sup> for mineral group 1-6, 8, 10-12 authorities.</li> </ul>	<p>Authority holders may apply for an exemption from submission of a final report.</p> <p>Under Extended Confidentiality provisions, the final report will remain confidential for life of the subsequent authority, or in the case of depth restricted authorities the associated mining lease.</p> <p>Where a final report is submitted and no application for extended confidentiality provisions is made in accordance with the prescribed timeframes, the report is eligible for release immediately.</p>

Annual reports and data submitted on or prior to 31 December 2021	Annual reports and data submitted from 1 January 2022 onward	Partial relinquishment and final reports
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• data that is eligible to remain confidential for life of authority<sup>2</sup> for mineral group 1-6, 8, 10-12 authorities.</li> <li>• coal quality analytical data<sup>1</sup> for mineral group 9 and 9A authorities.</li> </ul> <p>Where no application for extended confidentiality provisions is made in accordance with the prescribed timeframes, annual reports and associated data are eligible for release immediately.</p> <p>Authority holders will have the opportunity to redact sensitive information from annual reports lodged on or prior to 31 December 2021 in accordance with the Redaction Guide.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• coal quality analytical data<sup>1</sup> for mineral group 9 and 9A authorities.</li> </ul> <p>Where no application for extended confidentiality provisions is made in accordance with the prescribed timeframes, annual reports and associated data are eligible for release immediately.</p> <p>Redaction of Part A of annual reports and data that is eligible to be released five years after lodgement<sup>2</sup> is not permitted. Commercially sensitive and proprietary information should be included in Part B of the annual report.</p>	
<p><b><u>Partially relinquished authorities</u></b> - Extended confidentiality provisions that will be applied in limited circumstances, subject to approved application</p>		
<p>As the current authority remains active, reports and data submitted will continue to be released in alignment with the standard release schedule outlined in Table 3.</p>	<p>As the current authority remains active, reports and data submitted will continue to be released in alignment with the standard release schedule outlined in Table 3.</p>	<p>Authority holders may apply for an exemption from submission of a partial relinquishment report.</p> <p>Partial relinquishment reports will remain confidential for life of the subsequent authority, or in the case of depth restricted authorities the associated mining lease.</p> <p>Where a partial relinquishment is submitted and no application for extended confidentiality provisions is made in accordance with the prescribed timeframes, the report is eligible for release immediately.</p>

**Annual reports and data submitted on or prior to 31 December 2021**

**Annual reports and data submitted from 1 January 2022 onward**

**Partial relinquishment and final reports**

Where an authority is relinquished and MEG has determined, following an unsuccessful application by the authority holder that none of the limited circumstances or other exceptional circumstances apply, all annual, final and partial relinquishment reports and associated data for that authority will be released once the authority to which the report relates ceases to be in force. In the case of partial relinquishment of an authority, the partial relinquishment report will be publicly released.

Extended Confidentiality provisions for relinquished authorities do not apply where an area is subject to an application that has not yet been determined (i.e., exploration licence application (ELA), assessment lease application (ALA) or mining lease application (MLA)). Where an authority is wholly or partially relinquished, and an application over the area has not been determined, the public release of reports is permitted. Where an application has been made over an area that is currently held under an authority, the release of reports and data for the current authority will continue in line with Table 3, until that authority is relinquished.

## Report release and redaction process (Group 1-6, 8, 10-12)

Before the release of historic reports (those submitted prior to 1 January 2022), MEG will publish a list of reports eligible for release and give authority holders the opportunity to redact personal, proprietary or commercially sensitive information in accordance with the annual report redaction guide.

- For the second stage release (2024), the list of annual reports eligible for release will be published on the MEG website on 28 March 2024.
- For subsequent releases, the list of annual reports eligible for release will be published on the MEG website on 31 March each year from 2024 to 2027.

Note: Annual reports submitted from 1 January 2022 are in a two-part format (Parts A and B) and are required to have any proprietary or commercially sensitive information included in Part B of the annual report. Part B will not be published while the authority remains in force. No personal information should be included in a report, with exception of the name of the report author.

Redaction of reports will not be required after 1 January 2027, as any reports submitted after 1 January 2022 will be in the two-part format. Redaction provisions may continue to exist for reports for which release was initially deferred and that were submitted before 1 January 2022.

### Process to request redaction

An authority holder may request to redact parts of an annual report before release to the public. The annual report redaction guide outlines the process to request the redaction of information that is personal, commercially sensitive and/or proprietary in nature.

The request for redaction will be assessed against the criteria outlined in the annual report redaction guide, using the process illustrated in Figure 2.

### Key dates

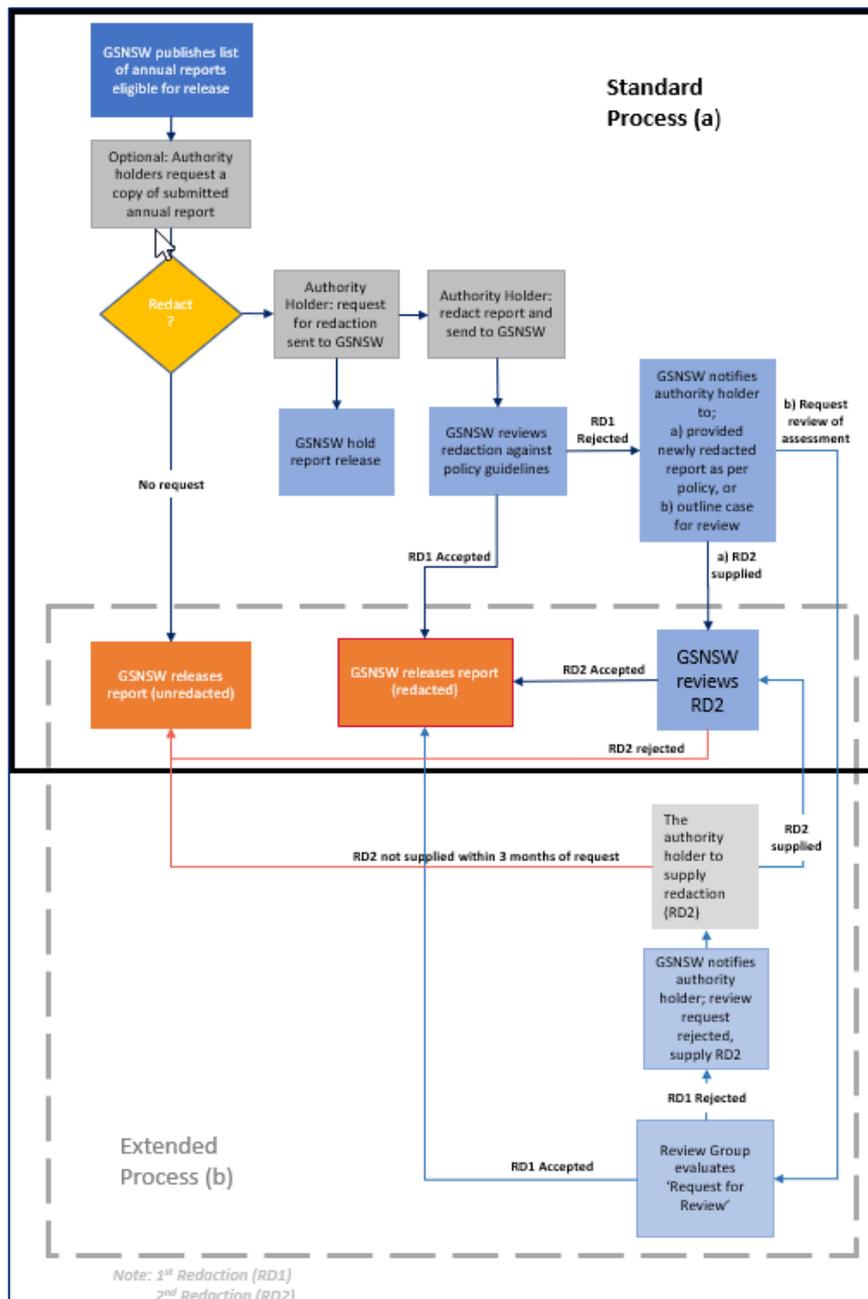
Key dates for the report release and redaction process are outlined in Table 5.

Table 5 Key dates for release of existing and new reports and data (Groups 1-6, 8, 10-12) under second stage release and subsequent annual releases

Date (annually)	Milestone
31 March	MEG published list of annual reports eligible for release.
31 May	Deadline for authority holders to request a copy of relevant annual reports.
30 June	Deadline for MEG to provide a copy of requested annual reports.
30 September	Deadline for authority holders to submit a request to redact.
1 October	MEG commence release of reports and associated data where no request to redact has been received.

Date (annually)	Milestone
31 March (following year)	Deadline for authority holders to provide redacted reports. The original version of the report will remain confidential for the life of the authority.
1 April (following year)	MEG commences release redacted reports that have been received and accepted.
01 May (following year)	MEG release original reports where a request to redact was received but no redacted report was provided.

Figure 2 Release and redaction process



## Requests for review of redaction assessment outcome

If a redaction is rejected by MEG, but the authority holder does not agree with MEG’s decision, the authority holder may request a review. Each request to review will be evaluated and decided by the Redaction review group within MEG as detailed in Table 6.

Authority holders will have one month following receipt of email notification of their first redaction (RD1) being rejected, to appeal and state their case to the group in writing through TMS. For further details regarding TMS see the MEG webpage.

Table 6 Redaction review group

Position	Responsibility
Manager Mineral Exploration Assessment	Review request and advise action
Director Assessment and Advice	Approve advised action

In cases where a redaction request has been refused by the redaction review group, an authority holder can seek an independent review. An independent technical expert with experience in the relevant resource sector will be engaged. To seek an independent review of a decision, direct the request in writing to [redaction@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:redaction@regional.nsw.gov.au).

## Baseline geological data release process (Group 9 and 9A)

From 1 July 2024, MEG will commence the release of baseline geological data that is eligible to be released 5 years after lodgement for Group 9 and Group 9A authorities. Baseline geological data is defined in Appendix 1.

Key dates are:

- 1 July 2024 – Release eligible drillhole collar data via MinView. Data eligible for release will be data that has been provided in annual reports for exploration licences and assessment leases, 5 or more years after lodgement. Where an area is now subject to a current mining lease, drillhole collar data may be released from reports submitted prior to the grant of the associated mining lease.
- 2025 onward - Commence release of baseline geological data via DiGS. Data eligible for release will be baseline geological data that has been provided in annual reports for exploration licences and assessment leases, 5 or more years after lodgement. Where an area is now subject to a current mining lease, baseline geological data may be released from reports submitted prior to the grant of the associated mining lease.

Note: Baseline geological data eligible for release will be sourced from DiGS. Authority holders will not be requested to re-submit data for release.

# Appendix 1 Glossary

Table 7 Glossary of key terms in this guide

Abbreviation	Description
Annual report	Annual exploration report including associated data submitted together with the report.
Assessment Lease	Assessment lease (AL), assessment (mineral owner) lease (A(MO)L).
Baseline geological data - Group 9 and Group 9A	Borehole locations, rehabilitation status, borehole metadata, downhole surveys, geological logging, geophysical and wireline logging, geotechnical logging and sampling, formation depths, seam details, core and chip photos, water observations, and other sampling such as hydrogeochemistry etc.
Coal quality analytical data	Raw sampling results including sample details, laboratory details, sample preparation, analytical methods, detection limits, analysis dates, original laboratory certificates, analysis, metallurgical properties, washability, composites and reflectance.
Commercially sensitive	Commercially sensitive and/or proprietary information that is not already publicly available through other means.
Confidentiality condition	Some mining leases previously had a report release confidentiality period written into their licence conditions. These conditions have been removed from all current Mining Leases.
DiGS	Mining, Exploration and Geoscience's publicly accessible online collection of reports, publications, and data.
Exploration licence	Authorisation (Auth), exploration licence (EL), exploration (prospecting) licence (EPL), exploration (mineral owner) licences (E(MO)L).
MEG	Mining, Exploration and Geoscience.
Mining lease	Mining lease means a mining lease granted under Part 5 of the Mining Act and includes a consolidated mining lease.
Mineral Group	Mineral Group as defined in Schedule 2 of the Mining Regulation 2016.
Personal information	Personal information means information or an opinion (including information or an opinion forming part of a database and whether recorded in a material form) about an individual whose identity is apparent or can reasonably be ascertained from the information or opinion (Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act, 1998).

Abbreviation	Description
Published list of reports	The list of reports that have been lodged for more than 5 years. This list will be published on the MEG webpage in accordance with the dates in this document.
TMS	Titles Management System

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© State of New South Wales through Regional NSW 2024. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (March 2024). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Regional NSW or the user's independent adviser.