

## ADVISORY NOTE

# **CONSTRUCTION AND RESTORATION OF COSTEANS AND BULK SAMPLE PITS**

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***This advisory note outlines methods for the construction and rehabilitation of exploration costeans and bulk sample pits.***

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## INTRODUCTION

Explorers are required under the *Mining Management Act 2001* to rehabilitate areas impacted by their activities. The main goal in environmental management of exploration activities is to minimise or prevent unnecessary impacts and rehabilitate sites where disturbances have been made.

Costeans and bulk sample pits should be excavated with a minimum of disturbance to the environment and be rehabilitated in such a way as to promote revegetation and prevent erosion.

## REQUIREMENTS

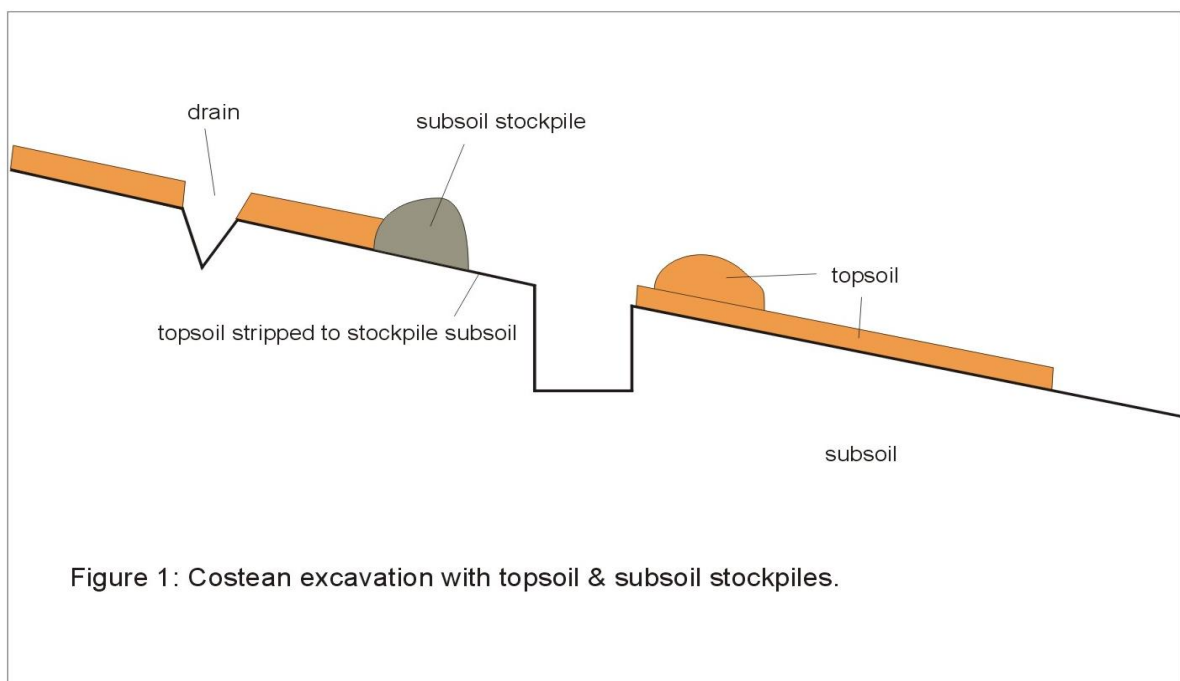
### 1. Costeans

- Locate costeans to minimise vegetation clearance and avoid large trees.
- Use appropriate equipment such as backhoes and excavators. The use of bulldozers will not be supported.
- Excavation of costeans in steep terrain is discouraged. Internal bunding may be required on sloping ground to minimise erosion within the costean.
- Topsoil and subsoil should be stockpiled separately on either side of the costean (figure 1).
- Costeans should have a slope at either end to allow the escape of native fauna and stock.
- Suitable drainage structures should be put in place to minimise surface flow into the costean and help prevent erosion.
- Costeans should be backfilled with the stockpiled subsoil and topsoil as soon as sampling/mapping has been completed and before the onset of the next wet season.
- For safety purposes avoid deep narrow trenches. If necessary cut back the sides of the excavation to 45 degrees or shore up with suitable supports.

### 2. Bulk Sample Pits

- Stockpile topsoil and subsoil separately for later rehabilitation if not required for sampling purposes.

- At least one side of the pit should have a slope to allow the escape of native fauna and stock.
- At the time of rehabilitation the pit should be backfilled as fully as possible with stockpiled subsoil and rock. Sides should be battered and re-contoured and the stockpiled topsoil respread to aid revegetation.
- On sloping ground, drainage structures may need to be established to control erosion.



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**For further information or advice on this subject please contact**

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