

## Enduring value

The Australian minerals industry, operates under a framework for sustainable development called 'Enduring Value'.

This framework has the objective of providing a guide that mining companies can follow which assists in improving the management of environmental issues.

## Teacher Background Notes

Mining is the extraction of valuable minerals or other geological materials from the earth – well below the valuable soil layer. The term also includes the removal of soil. Materials recovered from the earth by mining include metals, iron, uranium, coal, diamonds, limestone, oil shale. Modern mining processes involve prospecting for ore bodies, analysis of the profit potential of a proposed mine, extraction of the desired materials and finally reclamation of the land to prepare it for other uses once the mine is closed.

Except for oil, Australia has large deposits of most minerals and fossil fuels. We have the world's largest known economically viable resources of bauxite, iron ore, lead, zinc, silver, uranium, industrial diamonds and mineral sands. There are many methods of mining, dependent on where and how a coal or mineral deposit is found. Some substances are mined relatively economically because they can be found at or near the earth's surface. Some minerals are found as a compact mass, while others are widely scattered. Other mined materials are found far beneath the surface and removed by tunnelling deep underground.

## In this lesson, students will:

1. Investigate the principles and main ideas behind the document 'Enduring Value.'
2. Assess the value of these main ideas and evaluate their contribution to sustainable practices.

## Lesson-level Content Descriptions

### Lesson Outcomes

Students may be able to:

- Analyse a document and identify the main ideas
- Assess the value of these ideas in relation to sustainable practices.

### Preparation List

Enduring Value document link [http://www.minerals.org.au/enduringvalue/enduring\\_value/index.html](http://www.minerals.org.au/enduringvalue/enduring_value/index.html)

### Activity Sequence

1. In their workbooks/laptops, students: Use a dictionary to define the terms 'enduring' and 'value' and record definitions
2. In their workbooks/laptops, students: Compare these definitions with the following definition of 'sustainable development'

*Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.*

(Our Common Future, Brundtland 1987)

and list the ideas that these definitions have in common.



3. As a class students discuss then record, some ways in which a mining company could demonstrate that it is responsible in:
- The local community in which it is working.
  - The local environment in which it is working.
  - The local economy in which it is working.
4. In their workbooks/laptops, students copy the following main ideas from 'Enduring Value' and under each one, explain why they think it is important for a mining company to adopt this practice.
- Uphold fundamental human rights and respect cultures and values in dealing with employees and others who are affected by our (mining) activities.
  - Seek continual improvement of our environmental performance.
  - Contribute to conservation of biodiversity and .....land use planning.
  - Encourage responsible use, re-use, recycling and disposal of our (mining) products.
  - Contribute to the social and economic development of the communities in which we operate.

