

Relinquishment Readiness Scorecard

Phase 4: seven criteria, each with its threshold and the evidence required, scored Met, Partially Met or Not Met. It exists to stop relinquishment being announced rather than earned.

From Legacy Grievances and Historical Claims: A Guide to Post-Operational Dispute Resolution by Thomas Gaultier

Relinquishment should never be a unilateral corporate decision. It is a negotiated outcome that requires validation from the community, the regulator, and the incoming custodian. This scorecard provides a structured assessment of whether a site has met the conditions for relinquishment. See Chapters 6 and 8 for the underlying frameworks.

Scoring: Each criterion should be assessed on a three-point scale. “Met” indicates the threshold has been fully achieved with supporting evidence. “Partially met” indicates progress toward the threshold with identified gaps. “Not met” indicates the threshold has not been achieved. Relinquishment should not proceed until all criteria are assessed as “Met.”

Criterion	Threshold	Evidence Required
Ecological restoration	Pre-mining ecological productivity levels achieved, or alternative land use standard agreed with community and regulator	Independent ecological assessment; minimum 5 years of monitoring data demonstrating stability
Contamination management	All active contamination sources contained or remediated; no uncontrolled releases; water quality meets agreed standards	Environmental monitoring data; independent verification; community-led monitoring results consistent with corporate data
Community grievance resolution	All claims identified in Phase 1 addressed through the Phase 2 engagement process; no outstanding disputes	Signed settlement agreements; community validation statement; independent verification of compliance with settlement terms
Perpetual care plan operational	Funded, governed, and tested perpetual care plan operational for a minimum of 5 years before relinquishment	Trust deed, financial statements, annual reports, community oversight board minutes, simulation exercise records
Information archive secured	Complete site records, treatment protocols, and community agreements archived in durable format with identified legal custodian	Archive catalogue; custodian appointment; access protocol verified
Successor custodian identified and resourced	Government agency, trust body, or other entity has accepted custodial responsibility and has the capacity to discharge it	Custodial agreement; capacity assessment; funding verification

Community validation	The affected community has been consulted on the proposed relinquishment and has provided informed consent, documented through a process consistent with FPIC principles	Community meeting records; consent documentation; independent facilitator's report confirming the process was genuine and inclusive
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