

DMQTWB 08 - Evidence from: The Mining Remediation Authority

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith | Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

Bil Tomenni Mwyngloddiau a Chwareli Nas Defnyddir (Cymru) | Disused Mine and Quarry Tips (Wales) Bill

1. What are your views on the general principles of the Bill, and is there a need for legislation to deliver the stated policy intention?

The Mining Remediation Authority support the Bill and the general principles contained therein. We agree that there is a need to introduce new legislation to provide a modern and consistent framework for managing the legacy of disused coal (and other) tips and quarries in Wales.

2. What are your views on the Bill's provisions (set out according to Parts below), in particular are they workable and will they deliver the stated policy intention?

- Part 1 - The Disused Tips Authority for Wales (sections 1 to 5 and Schedule 1)**

Section 1 – 5 No comment.

- Part 2 - Assessment, registration and monitoring of disused tips (sections 6 to 32 and Schedule 2)**

Section 10 – Would be clearer if the manner and minimum frequency of inspections were specified.

Section 12 – Would be clearer if the details of a preliminary assessment were specified.

Section 15 – Would be clearer if the details of a full assessment were specified, and whether this includes ground investigation, soil testing and slope stability analysis.

- **Part 3 - Dealing with tip instability and threats to tip stability (sections 33 to 54 and Schedule 3)**

No comments.

- **Part 4 - Supplementary (sections 55 to 70)**

Section 55 (1) (e) - This should be amended to “the Coal Authority or Mining Remediation Authority”.

- **Part 5 - General (sections 71 to 88)**

No comments.

3. What are the potential barriers to the implementation of the Bill’s provisions and how does the Bill take account of them?

Lack of knowledge by private landowners.

4. How appropriate are the powers in the Bill for Welsh Ministers to make subordinate legislation (as set out in Chapter 5 of Part 1 of the Explanatory Memorandum)

No comments.

5. Are any unintended consequences likely to arise from the Bill?

1. Potential for conflict of interest with existing Quarry Regulations with regard to definition of abandoned tip / quarry.
2. Potential for loss of staff by expert bodies currently undertaking this work.
3. Conversely, recruitment of staff for these roles may be difficult based on Mining Remediation Authority experience.

6. What are your views on the Welsh Government's assessment of the financial implications of the Bill as set out in Part 2 of the Explanatory Memorandum?

No comments.

7. Are there any other issues that you would like to raise about the Bill and the accompanying Explanatory Memorandum or any related matters?

No comments.