



**Greg Overton**

Senior Environmental Supervisor, Cristal Mining Australia Ltd.

Greg has a background in agriculture and has 20 years' experience in environmental restoration firstly with AMC Mineral Sands and then Cable Sands (Now Cristal Mining).

In that time Greg has been involved in eight different mine sites from Waroona to Jangardup on the South Coast that have been rehabilitated and five of the sites have been relinquished. Currently Cristal is operating at Wonnerup 5km north of Busselton.

## From Blue Gum Monoculture to Biodiverse Wetland (with some mining in between)

The Gwindinup North Mineral Sands project is located on 240 hectares of freehold agricultural land just south of Boyanup that was artificially drained and planted extensively with blue gums. The land was cleared and mined for mineral sands between 2007 and 2012. Land rehabilitation was progressively undertaken each year from 2010 and was completed in 2017.

Rehabilitation included approximately 65 hectares of native vegetation in a recreated wetland zone traversing the center of the site and an additional 9 hectares of upland vegetation adjacent. The rehabilitation established an ecological link between the wetland and upland areas of the site, where remnant vegetation was retained.

The key to the success of the program was the planning and effort put into the creation of a post-mining soil profile that would create the hydrology required to support the wetland ecology. The deliberate location and construction of the subsoil clay lens was pivotal in the creation of the wetland.

Rehabilitation monitoring has been undertaken since 2013 and will continue until completion criteria have been met in approximately 2019. Commitment to ongoing management and monitoring is critical. You can't just plant/seed and walk away.