



Mining regulations

Mining companies will be required to fully abide by strict new government regulations that protect valuable agricultural land (“Miners given way to contest ‘sensitive’ land declarations”, April 22).

When the government’s strategic regional land use policy was released in September last year, a number of maps were produced showing areas of strategic agricultural land on which the new independent “gateway” mechanism would apply.

These maps were produced at a regional scale only, and accompanying documents flagged the mapping would need to be verified at a site-specific level to ensure the policy is applied appropriately for each individual proposal.

The protocol that has now been released simply provides the technical details necessary to carry out this site-specific verification. It neither weakens the government’s strict regulations nor releases mining companies from their obligations under the policy.

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