ABSTRACT
This paper examines the adequacy of both the regulatory regime and reporting practices of water reporting of Australian mine sites in the context of the Macquarie and Lachlan catchments of New South Wales. The water disclosure requirements placed on the mining industry via Australian legislation are compared to the suggested water reporting indicators of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and Water Accounting Framework for the Minerals Industry (WAFMI) and the reporting practices of nine mining operations are reviewed. It is found that while legislation places very little direct reporting requirements on mining companies, the web-based disclosure requirements of development consent conditions are quite significant. This study suggests that government regulations may mean that substantial sustainability information is publicly available, but may not be contained within corporate sustainability reports.

Keywords: mining, water, disclosure