INFORMATION SHEET

Met mast decommissioning options

When a met mast reaches the end of its design life, ART offers two main decommissioning methods, tailored to site conditions and project priorities.

Reverse installation (Derrick Pole Method)

The met mast is carefully dismantled section by section using a derrick pole system. This controlled approach is more labour-intensive and therefore more costly, but allows for components and materials to be salvaged, refurbished and reused where suitable, such as mast sections and instruments (allowing post-calibration). This approach also supports business sustainability goals and recycling initiatives.

Reverse installation is best suited to sites with limited clearance or where sustainability and asset recovery are a priority. It is only appropriate for masts that are well-maintained and have climbing records confirming they are safe to access.

Cut and drop

In this faster and more cost-effective option, where guy wires are released in a controlled sequence, and the mast is felled to the ground. This method requires a larger exclusion zone and generally results in the scrapping of the met mast and all components. No climbing is required, making this option suitable for degraded masts.

Choosing the right method

The decision between reverse installation and cut and drop depends on factors such as safety requirements, site environment (for example, operating wind farms or densely forested areas), and whether cost, time, or sustainability is the key driver. ART works closely with clients to assess conditions and deliver the safest and most suitable outcome.

For both methods, ART provides a licensed demolition expert and seeks approval for all relevant permits required in all states (except the Northern Territory and Tasmania). ART supplies and manages all equipment, including excavator, as well as ensuring compliance with regulatory obligations.

Mast anchor removal

In addition to met mast decommissioning, ART offers solutions for removal of the mast anchors:

ART's standard practice (and the most cost-effective approach) is to cut anchor bar/rod 400 mm – 1 m below ground level and leave the anchors in the ground (approximately 1.5 – 2 m below ground). The surrounding soil is used to backfill and compact the excavations, and the area is left to self-seed (please note that re-seed or extra vegetation management activities are not permitted).

Alternatively, ART can fully remove and dispose of the buried anchors. This requires deeper excavation and additional backfilling (imported back-fill may be required), as well as disposal costs, making it a significantly more expensive approach.

All non-usable steel parts and excavated concrete are also recycled locally to support environmental targets. Soil and/or imported material is used to backfill and compact the excavations, and the area is left to self-seed. Re-seed or extra vegetation management activities can also be provided if required.

Contact ART

Contact ART today about your met mast decommissioning options.

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