

## ***Interactive comment on “Microbial Biobanking Cyanobacteria-rich topsoil facilitates mine rehabilitation” by Wendy Williams et al.***

**Wendy Williams et al.**

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We would like to thank Reviewer 2 for their appreciation of this manuscript and helpful comments to improve its quality. R2: It would be worth adding information on the distribution of temperature and rainfall Response: We have now included the Bureau of Meteorology graphs for temperature, rainfall and evaporation (as this is extreme) for Nullarbor, the nearest recording station with records commencing (with some short breaks in data) from 1888. In case the editor would prefer it as supplementary material we have added a brief climatic description in site background. R2: No reference concerning the major soil types and surface as they could influence rehabilitation of biocrusts Response: We have now included a key reference to the history and nature of the soils from J-A (Hou and Warland, 2005) and incorporated a section in the

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revised discussion that focuses on the role of the soil elements investigated in rehabilitation especially in terms of biocrusts. It should be noted at the stage of our research that the first rehabilitation site had not commenced thus we were investigating the natural soil environment of the biocrusts (undisturbed) compared to stockpiles of topsoil which were due to be used in the near future (and subsequently a few hectares have undergone rehabilitation).

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