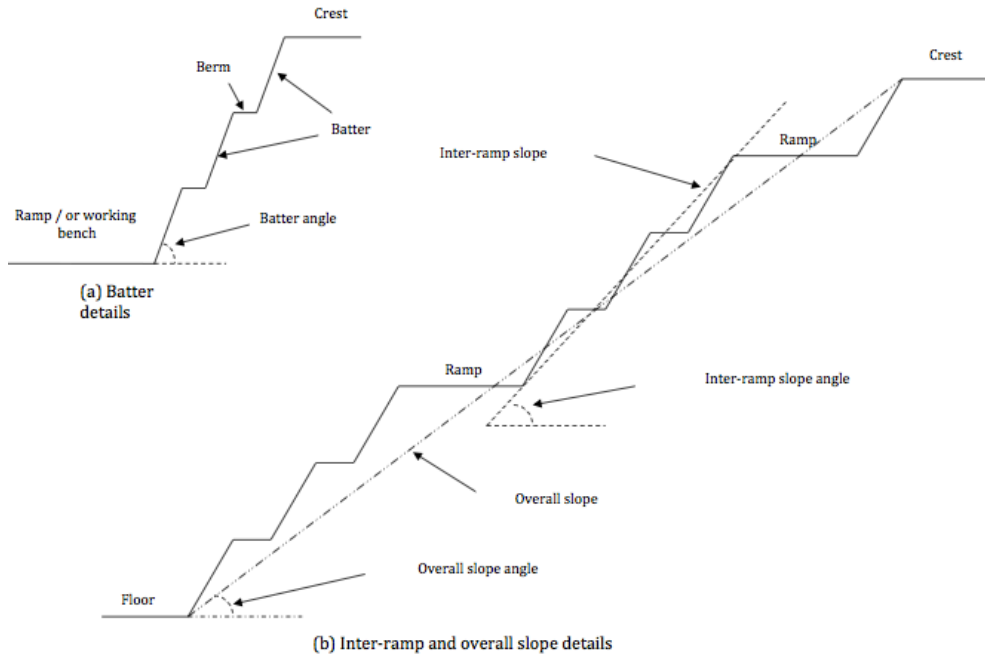


- Shape

- 



- Bench

- Heights are typically around 15m
- Should be wide enough to accommodate the turning radius of the largest haul truck plus the width of the safety berm
- Depending on the chosen pushback geometry and size of the equipment, the working bench can be anywhere from 30m to several hundred metres

- Windrow/Berm

- Typically between 3 and 5m

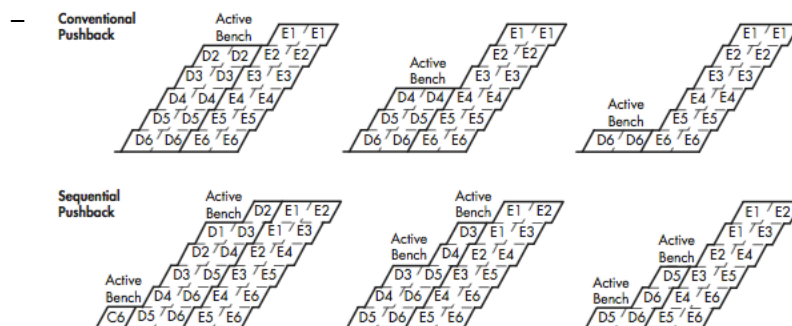
- Pit expansion

- Performed through consecutive pushbacks or cutbacks

- Pushbacks aim at maximising the financial return from the mine and take in to account

- Grade
- Cost of development, mining, processing and marketing
- Ore body geometry
- Geotechnical consideration
- Geology

- Pushbacks are either conventional or sequential



- Stripping ratio / Pit limit

- Economic estimation of the maximum stripping ratio

$$Sr_{max} = \frac{\text{value of ore} - \text{production cost}}{\text{stripping cost}}$$

- Maximum stripping ratio

$$Sr_{max} = \frac{\text{volume of overburden}}{\text{weight of ore at the economic pit limit}}$$