

Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Advisory Committee

MEETING #17 MINUTES (WITH CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION REDACTED)

THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER 2019

THE COURTHOUSE, 72 SMITH STREET WARRAGUL, VICTORIA
3820

ATTENDEES

Ms Susan Lloyd (Chairperson), Latrobe Valley community
Mr Roland Davies, Latrobe Valley community
Mr Ron Mether, Latrobe Valley mine operators (EnergyAustralia Yallourn)
Mr James Faithful, Latrobe Valley mine operators (ENGIE Hazelwood)
Ms Sarah Gilbert, Latrobe Valley mine operators (AGL Loy Yang)
Ms Gail Gatt, Latrobe City Council
Cr Graeme Middlemiss, Latrobe City Council
Mr Terry Flynn, Southern Rural Water
Ms Jane Burton, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions
Mr Anthony Feigl, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions
Ms Anna May, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Mr Brett Millsom (secretariat), Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

APOLOGIES

Mr Trevor Williams, Gippsland Trades and Labour Council
Mr Troy McDonald, Aboriginal community
Mr Alan Freitag, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Emeritus Professor Rae Mackay (observer), Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner

GUESTS

Mr Tony Hicks, General Manager Loy Yang B, Alinta Energy
Ms Lisa Lowe, Senior Manager, Latrobe Valley Regional Water Study, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Ms Ann Kirwan, Program Manager, Land Use Strategy, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Mr Mick Maguire, The Primary Agency
Ms Aimi Johnson, Senior Engagement Specialist, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

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Agenda Item	Minutes
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1 Introduction from the Chairperson and Committee administration

- The Chairperson noted apologies for Trevor Williams, Troy McDonald, Alan Freitag and Rae Mackay.
- Minutes from the previous Committee meeting (Meeting #16) were noted.

Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy (LVRRS) Project Status update

Delivered by: Anthony Feigl, Acting Director Coal Resources Victoria, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

- The *Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy (LVRRS) Overview* is currently available for consultation on engage.vic.gov.au. It includes a summary of the findings of the technical studies undertaken to date and the key principles that will underpin the development of the final Strategy.
- The Project Team is currently briefing key stakeholders on the *LVRRS Overview* and seeking their feedback on it, specifically, the key principles that will be included in the final LVRRS.

2 Update on water access for mine rehabilitation

Delivered by: Lisa Lowe, Senior Manager, Latrobe Valley Regional Water Study, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

This presentation provided an update on the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's (DELWP) policy work considering water access for mine rehabilitation and the draft principles that will underpin this. Committee members have the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft principles on water access for mine rehabilitation.

- A draft position on water access for mine rehabilitation has now been developed. DELWP is currently undertaking targeted stakeholder consultation on this position.
- Once feedback has been assessed, the final position on water access for mine rehabilitation will be prepared (due early 2020) and incorporated into the final LVRRS.
- General feedback from water-interested stakeholders to date regarding water access for mine rehabilitation includes a desire:
 - to ensure that water access arrangements for mine rehabilitation don't impact water availability for other productive uses, including the Gippsland Lakes;
 - for future growth in water-dependent economic opportunities to not be limited by allocating too much water to mine rehabilitation; and
 - for pit lakes not to be created at the expense of the Gippsland Lakes system, and consideration of water for food and fibre production purposes as holding a higher priority than utilising water for mine rehabilitation.
- The LVRRS will set out the principles and policies that will apply to decisions concerning water access for mine rehabilitation as well as the pathways for water access and the conditions that will protect water availability and security for existing and future water users and the environment.

3 Mine rehabilitation focus groups

Delivered by: Mick Maguire, The Primary Agency

The Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions has recently engaged an independent facilitator to deliver six focus groups across Moe, Morwell, Traralgon, Churchill and Sale exploring the issue of mine rehabilitation. The purpose of these focus groups was to explore the issue of mine rehabilitation with an audience that has not previously engaged with this issue and has a low level of knowledge regarding mine rehabilitation. This presentation provided an update on some of the key findings and themes to emerge through these focus groups.

- The purpose of the focus groups was to reach an audience in the Latrobe Valley that hadn't previously had any involvement with the issue of mine rehabilitation.
- Focus group demographic profiles:
 - There was an average of nine attendees per session.
 - There were more females than males in each of the sessions.
 - The ages represented in the focus groups ranged from early 20s to mid-70s.

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- Each discussion went for between 70 and 90 minutes.
- A report of focus group findings will be made available in early 2020.

4 **Latrobe Valley Preliminary Land Use Vision – feedback from engage.vic**

Delivered by: Ann Kirwan, Program Manager, Land Use Strategy, Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning

Feedback on the draft *Latrobe Valley Preliminary Land Use Vision* closed on 4 November 2019 after an approximately month-long consultation period on engage.vic.gov.au. Work is now underway to assess and analyse the feedback and submissions received. This presentation provided an update on the key themes to emerge through this consultation process.

- The draft *Latrobe Valley Preliminary Land Use Vision* (the Vision) was made available for public comment through engage.vic.gov.au between 2 October 2019 and 4 November 2019.
- A total of 79 submissions were received in response to the Vision, with 15 respondents providing longer written statements.
- There was a fairly even split of responses from postcodes within the Latrobe Valley and outside of it
- The Vision provides four key theme areas and asks respondents if they support this particular theme area.
- Each theme generally had a high level of support from respondents (between 60 and 65 per cent answered 'yes' to the question 'do you support this Vision?').
- DELWP is currently working to prepare a report of feedback and comments that consolidates the responses received in the Vision.
- The findings of the technical studies will also be integrated with the Vision to identify and analyse any issues which might arise (i.e. do the technical study findings impose any sorts of limitations/issues that will impact on the realisation of each Vision).

5 **Communications and engagement to support the final Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy**

Delivered by: Aimi Johnson, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

Appropriate communications and engagement activities will be critical to the successful release of the LVRRS in June 2020. This presentation provided a summary of the approach to communications and engagement to be adopted in 2020 to support the release of the LVRRS.

- The LVRRS has a complex stakeholder environment. There's a number of stakeholders often with quite different and sometimes competing views - we've seen this come through in our consultation to date.
- The aim of stakeholder engagement activities for Stage Four of the LVRRS is to 'release a draft of the Strategy for consultation that reflects community and key stakeholder views'.
- The objective of the engagement for Stage Four of the LVRRS is to 'ensure the Strategy contains no surprises and reflects the outcomes of the engagement process.
- The *LVRRS Overview* is open for consultation until 17 January 2020.
- The Project Team will then commence analysis of the submissions and feedback received and then prepare a report of feedback to inform the final LVRRS. These reports will include a report of feedback on the *LVRRS Overview*, a report of feedback from the focus groups undertaken in late 2019 and a report of feedback on the draft *Latrobe Valley Preliminary Land Use Vision* and water access for mine rehabilitation principles.
- The Project Team will also work to integrate and consolidate the key feedback received across these workstreams into one comprehensive report.
- Once the feedback has been received, considered and as appropriate, addressed, the Project Team will return to key stakeholders from which feedback was sought and look to explain how their feedback has been considered and addressed.
- Feedback will also be used to inform the preparation of communications collateral to support the release of the final LVRRS.
- Once the LVRRS has been considered by government, there will be further stakeholder briefings to prepare stakeholders for its release in June 2020.
- Given the feedback from Mick's focus groups, members noted the need for visual information to help in explaining the LVRRS and ensuring this is understood by the community.

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Round the table updates

Susan Lloyd, Latrobe Valley community (Chairperson)

- Thanked the Committee for all its input over the last 12 months.
- Noted that dates for Committee meetings in 2020 will be circulated by the Secretariat.

Roland Davies, Latrobe Valley community

- Asbestos removal at the Morwell Power Station is due to be completed by Christmas.
- All asbestos was trucked to a facility in Melbourne.
- The Great Latrobe Park is continually promoting the need for the final mine sites to be visually attractive and useful. This came through again at the LVRRS Project Team community information session in late October 2019 and the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner's session in late November 2019. This is a message that's starting to be adopted more broadly within the community.

Ron Mether, Latrobe Valley mine operators (EnergyAustralia Yallourn)

- Truck and shovel operations for 2019/20 have commenced at Yallourn. These operations were slower to commence this year because of the wet winter.
- Fire season preparations are now well underway and on track.
- EnergyAustralia Yallourn's overburden dump is swinging around to nearly buttressing Latrobe Road.
- The Yallourn Mine has been providing clay to Latrobe City Council for capping its tip facilities.
- EnergyAustralia is continuing to work with Latrobe City Council on the relocation of the Clay Target Club.
- EnergyAustralia is disappointed with Latrobe City Council for not supporting Yallourn getting access to water for mine rehabilitation.

James Faithful, Latrobe Valley mine operators (ENGIE Hazelwood)

- ENGIE's Rehabilitation and Closure Plan and Work Plan note that ENGIE is committed to the full pit lake as its preferred rehabilitation option.
- Earthworks already completed and scheduled to be undertaken support the full pit lake final landform, while acknowledging the need for adaptation in the future is required.
- Hazelwood's Rehabilitation and Closure Plan seeks approval to deliver stage one of the full pit lake option. The road to a full pit lake is to start with a partial pit lake.
- The Rehabilitation and Closure Plan proposes that stage one will be completed in three to six years starting from 2021.
- This provides ENGIE with the opportunity to undertake further work during stage one to address and resolve outstanding technical issues.
- There are currently over 120 earthworks contractors on site reprofiling batters immediately opposite Morwell.
- All crusher houses have now been removed from site.
- Community engagement and fire management activities ongoing.

Sarah Gilbert, Latrobe Valley mine operators (AGL Loy Yang)

- AGL is currently preparing a response to the LVRRS Overview. Paul Barrand and Jon Missen have met with the team regarding this.
- Working with the other Latrobe Valley mine operators on the 10 year research strategy as part of the Integrated Mines Research Group.
- AGL is also working on predictive tools for ground movement.
- Paul Barrand has taken a secondment for 12 months as the Manager Renewables.

Gail Gatt, Latrobe City Council (Council Officer)

- Latrobe City Council provided a submission to the draft *Latrobe Valley Preliminary Land Use Vision*. This has been circulated to Committee members.
- Latrobe City Council has written to relevant Ministers requesting an Environmental Effects Statement for the full pit lake rehabilitation option.

Graeme Middlemiss, Latrobe City Council (Councillor)

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- Heartened by the announcement this week that ENGIE is open to a discussion around the idea of a partial pit lake.

Terry Flynn, Southern Rural Water

- Blue Rock is currently at 98 per cent full. Glenmaggie is at about 74 per cent full.

Tony Hicks, Alinta Energy

- The shape of the generation market is changing with prices actually getting to negative into the middle of the day due to large penetration of renewables.
- Working towards major upgrade on second unit.
- The view of Alinta is that when you buy a business, you buy a business until the end. Alinta's view is that the water entitlements should extend for the full life of the business, including to support rehabilitation activities once mining operations cease.
- Seems like we all accept that the final landform for each of the mines is going to be some form of pit lake, yet we don't seem to be telling community that. We need to manage that expectation.

Jane Burton, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

- Thanks to the Committee for their feedback throughout the year – it's a large time commitment.
- Kawasaki Heavy Industries launched the first ever hydrogen carrier ship at the Port of Kobe in Japan yesterday (Wednesday 11 December 2019).
- CarbonNet has commenced drilling activities at Golden Beach.

Anthony Feigl, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

- Working to meet individually with each of the organisations represented around the room to seek their feedback on the *LVRRS Overview*.

Anna May, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

- DELWP will be arranging one-on-one meetings to seek feedback on the draft water policy position.
 - Sustainable Water Strategies for the Central and Gippsland Regions have kicked off. Consultative Committees are likely to commence around March next year.
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7 Other business and next meeting

- Next meeting scheduled for Thursday 13 February 2020
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