

Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Advisory Committee

MEETING #21 MINUTES (WITH CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION REDACTED)

THURSDAY 11 JUNE 2020

VIDEOCONFERENCE VIA WEBEX

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

Emeritus Professor Rae Mackay (observer), Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner

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

GUESTS

The Hon. Jaclyn Symes MP, Minister for Resources

Ms Grace de la Lande, Office of the Hon. Jaclyn Symes MP

Mr Tony Hicks, Loy Yang B

Mr Chris Wood, Gippsland Water

Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Advisory Committee

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Agenda Item	Minutes
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1 Introduction from the Chairperson and Committee administration

- The Chairperson noted apologies from Trevor Williams and Alan Freitag
- Minutes from the previous Committee meeting (Meeting #20) were noted.
- The Chairperson noted that members have been provided with a copy of the Committee's Annual Report. Feedback on the Annual Report should be provided to the Secretariat within one week of this meeting.

2 Meeting with the Minister for Resources

Guest: The Hon. Jaclyn Symes MP, Minister for Resources

Victorian Minister for Resources, the Hon. Jaclyn Symes MP joined the meeting to discuss the Committee's views on the final Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy (LVRRS).

3 Preparing for the implementation of the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy

Delivered by: Anthony Feigl, Acting Director Coal Resources Victoria, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions and Anna May, Director Water Resource Assessment and Planning, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Work is underway to support the transition of the LVRRS from delivery to implementation. This presentation provided an overview of the current planning for the Strategy's transition to implementation.

- The LVRRS will transition from delivery to implementation between June and August 2020 with implementation commencing from September 2020.
- The following outcomes are sought from the transition stage:
 - Clear definition of the implementation stage, including objectives, desired outcomes, scope and exclusions, constraints and interfaces
 - Identification of keys risks and mitigations
 - An implementation plan developed, including an engagement plan and schedule of major projects
 - 'No regrets' work on implementation stage actions underway
 - Progressive and ongoing release of LVRRS technical reports.
- The LVRRS implementation stage will contribute to the following outcomes:
 - Mine licensees will have further clarity on the options available for mine rehabilitation, to inform the preparation of Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plans, including:
 - how to assess water availability from the Latrobe River system;
 - the feasibility of alternative water sources; and
 - the feasibility of alternative rehabilitation options.
 - Community and stakeholders continue to be engaged, and Traditional Owner involvement supported, during planning for mine rehabilitation.
 - Government, industry and community continue to work together to ensure positive, post-mining outcomes for the Latrobe Valley.
 - The Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority (MLRA) is responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the LVRRS as defined in the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*.
- The following outcomes are sought from the review stage:
 - Agreement across key internal and external stakeholders on the review scope and process
 - Relevant knowledge and lessons captured
 - Key stakeholders consulted on updates to be made to the LVRRS
 - An updated LVRRS by June 2023 that provides improved guidance to mine licensees, government, community and other key stakeholders on issues that need to be considered in planning for and undertaking rehabilitation of the Latrobe Valley's brown coal mines.
- It was noted that implementation of the LVRRS needs to provide clarity in terms of water sources and options for rehabilitation, noting there is still a high level of uncertainty regarding this. Further clarity is also needed regarding what it is that the community is intending to or hoping to use the rehabilitated mines for.

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4 The Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Advisory Committee – priorities for the next six months

The Minister for Resources has approved a six-month extension to the terms of appointment for Committee members (subject to completion of appropriate paperwork). This session provided an opportunity for the Committee to discuss its key priorities and areas of focus for the next six months. A workshop will be organised with the board members of the new Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority and the Committee in July/August to help provide a broad perspective on the range of issues that have been considered over the last several years.

5 Round the table updates

Tony Hicks, Loy Yang B

- Noted there's been several media articles in recent weeks with comments from environmental groups about ash pond rehabilitation.
- Loy Yang B is pushing ahead with its major 45-day outage planned for September 2020.

Ron Mether, Latrobe Valley mine operators (EnergyAustralia Yallourn)

- COVID-19 management taking up a significant amount of time at Yallourn.
- Yallourn is still progressing with plans for its major outage.
- Ron noted there is concern within EnergyAustralia regarding the option of the dry void needing to be explored at Yallourn.
- EnergyAustralia is highly in favour of exploring the use of Yallourn as a water harvesting and flood mitigation source.

James Faithful, Latrobe Valley mine operators (ENGIE)

- Demolition of the eight Hazelwood chimneys has been completed.
- ENGIE is currently planning from demolition of the bucket-wheel excavators and boilers.
- Site rehabilitation work is ongoing, including reprofiling of batters.
- A large amount of work has also been completed regarding flooding infrastructure.
- ENGIE is currently engaging with the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions on its rehab and closure plan with a view to filling to commencing at the end of this year (pending government approvals).

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

- The high-level principles in the LVRRS reflect AGL's feedback, however AGL was surprised at the addition of water usage for mine rehabilitation not exceeding current net usage rather than entitlement allocations.
- Rehabilitation works for the 2019/20 financial year are almost 100 per cent complete.

Gail Gatt, Latrobe City Council (Council Officer)

- Latrobe City Council has a special Council meeting scheduled for Monday night (15 June 2020) to review its budget in response to COVID-19.
- Noted some of the high-level principles in the LVRRS have responded to Council's earlier feedback.
- Latrobe City Council's view is that further work is needed regarding community consultation on declared mine rehabilitation plans, thus why council is pushing for Environmental Effects Statement process.

Graeme Middlemiss, Latrobe City Council (Councillor)

- Supports the idea of a workshop to determine the Committee's role for the next six months in supporting the Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority Board.
- Doesn't believe that a factsheet that says how many times we've consulted with the community will appease those community members that feel as though they haven't been consulted

Terry Flynn, Southern Rural Water

- Southern Rural Water executives have recently met with DELWP to discuss what it would like the Sustainable Water Strategy to consider.
- Recently received \$10 million funding for Macalister Irrigation District modernisation.

Roland Davies, Latrobe Valley Community (Chairperson)

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- Latrobe Magnesium is proceeding with a project to extract magnesium from flyash. Once the magnesium has been extracted it's important to remember that there's still something that needs to be done with the ash afterwards.

Rae Mackay, Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner

- Hosted the first in a series of three webinars yesterday (Wednesday 10 June 2020) which was very successful with more than 80 attendees.
- Work has is underway to ensure a seamless transition from the office of the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner to the new Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority.

Jane Burton, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

- Noted the huge amount of work to deliver the LVRRS and establish the Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority.

Anthony Feigl, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

- Currently working through a number of stakeholder briefings to advise stakeholders how their feedback has been considered as part of the LVRRS.
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4 Other business and next meeting

- Next meeting scheduled for Thursday 13 August 2020
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