

Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Advisory Committee

Meeting 05 Minutes (with confidential information redacted)

MEETING #05 MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 04 OCTOBER AND THURSDAY 05 OCTOBER 2017

GREAT OCEAN ROAD RESORT

105 GREAT OCEAN ROAD, ANGLESEA VIC 3230

ATTENDEES

Susan Lloyd (Chairperson), Latrobe Valley Community

Roland Davies, Latrobe Valley Community

James Faithful, Latrobe Valley Mine Operators (ENGIE Hazelwood)

Sarah Gilbert, Latrobe Valley Mine Operators (AGL Loy Yang)

Phil Stone, Latrobe City Council (Council officer)

Nicole Griffin, Gippsland Water

Terry Flynn, Southern Rural Water

Tim Delany, Gippsland Trades and Labour Council

Jane Burton, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR)

Dr Grace Mitchell, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)

Brett Millsom (Secretariat), Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR)

APOLOGIES

Luke Wilson, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR)

Ron Mether, Latrobe Valley Mine Operators (EnergyAustralia Yallourn)

Cr Graeme Middlemiss, Latrobe City Council (Councillor)

Joanne Brunt, Aboriginal community representative

Alan Freitag, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)

GUESTS

Professor Rae Mackay, Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner

Cr Margot Smith, Surf Coast Shire Council

Keith Baillie, Chief Executive Officer, Surf Coast Shire Council

Rowan Mackenzie, Environment Manager, Surf Coast Shire Council

Lisa Opray, Senior Policy Advisor, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)

Raylene Fordham, Executive Officer, Business and Tourism Anglesea

Christine Forster, Anglesea community member and member of ANGAIR

John Osborne, Director Asset Planning and Management, Eastern Australia, Alcoa of Australia

Warren Sharp, Site Asset Manager Point Henry and Anglesea, Alcoa of Australia

Chris Rolland, Mine Rehabilitation Supervisor, Alcoa of Australia

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Agenda Item	Minutes
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1 **Introduction from the Chair and Committee administration**

Agenda Item 1.1 – Minutes from last meeting and actions arising

- Minutes from the previous meeting of the Committee (Meeting #04) were noted.
- Apologies for Luke Wilson, Joanne Brunt, Ron Mether, Alan Freitag, Cr Graeme Middlemiss and Luke Wilson were noted.

Agenda Item 1.2 – Project Status update

Delivered by: Jane Burton, Acting Executive Director Low Emission Resources, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR).

- Since the last Committee meeting several briefings to key stakeholders on the LVRRS Project have occurred including the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC), Latrobe City Council, Gippsland Water Board and Executive, Environment Victoria and the Yallourn Environment Review Committee.
- Drafting of regional receptors and scenarios report has commenced.
- Market research into community attitudes to mine rehabilitation is underway.
- Work underway preparing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Advisory Committee, the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner and the Chief Executive Officer of the Latrobe Valley Authority.
- Briefings to Southern Rural Water and West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority planned in coming weeks in addition to a further briefing to GLaWAC.
- Public information sessions in the Latrobe Valley currently being organised for the LVRRS.

2 **Round-the-table updates**

Susan Lloyd (Chairperson), Latrobe Valley community

- Attended the ENGIE briefing 20 September 2017 – session was well attended.
- It was requested that the December meeting be rescheduled. The Committee secretariat will liaise with members regarding a new date.
- The community would like to have a much better understanding of who all the players are in the Latrobe Valley undertaking community engagement activities – i.e. what are their roles and responsibilities?
- Need to start thinking about 2018 meeting dates.
- 3 – 7 September 2018, International Mine Closure conference happening in Leipzig in Germany.
- 10 – 14 September 2018, International Mine Water Association's 11th International Conference on Acid Rock Drainage in South Africa.

Roland Davies, Latrobe Valley community

- The Gippsland Regional Partnership's Regional Assembly was held in Sale on 16th August 2017. It was noted that there was limited interest in mine fires and mine rehabilitation potentially due to the geographic location of the event.
- Issues with land security and land access were noted at the Assembly.
- Issues of asbestos at Hazelwood noted. It is assumed that Hazelwood will need to find a location for a dedicated asbestos cell on site. James Faithful noted that there is 1000m³ of asbestos on site and ENGIE is currently working with the Environment Protection Authority to reclassify an existing ash pond as an asbestos dump.

Nicole Griffin, Gippsland Water

- Gippsland Water has recently submitted its pricing submission for the next five years which is currently sitting with the regulator for approval.

Phil Stone, Latrobe City Council (Council Officer)

- Recent resolution from Council requesting a report to understand market interest in accessing brown coal at Hazelwood.
- Noted that the Hazelwood Power Station is now being considered for listing on the Victorian Heritage Register.
- Latrobe City Council is currently advocating for a dedicated Latrobe Valley Brown Coal Royalties Fund.

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James Faithful, Latrobe Valley mine operators (ENGIE)

- ENGIE's most recent community engagement session held on 20 September 2017.
- Four key areas of interest to the community were identified: mine fires, the Hazelwood Cooling Pond, the Hazelwood Power Station and mine rehabilitation.
- It was very clear that people have moved on from the 2014 Hazelwood Mine Fire.
- Further public consultation sessions are scheduled for October. Focus group style format to further explore issues relating to mine rehabilitation.
- It was noted that it would be valuable for any members of the Committee that wish to come along and are available to do so.

Terry Flynn, Southern Rural Water

- Southern Rural Water has been in discussions with DELWP regarding access to further groundwater allocations.

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

- AGL is currently submitting an application to the Environment Protection Authority to use ash in an artificial topsoil trial.

Jane Burton, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR)

- Several new starters in the Low Emission Resources Branch – Ayesha Dow has joined the team as a trainee and Adam Dinelli has joined the team as the Project Officer, Engagement.

Professor Rae Mackay, Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner

- Development of the Commissioner's website currently underway and is due to go live at the end of October.
- The Commissioner's Office is currently located upstairs at 55 Grey Street in Traralgon and will be there until at least the end of January 2018.
- Operating budget for the next five years of the Commissioner's Office has been submitted.
- Currently undertaking a significant amount of engagement on a one-on-one basis.
- Currently planning a number of forums.

3 The closure of the Anglesea Mine and Power Station: A Local Government Perspective

Delivered by: Rowan Mackenzie, Environment Manager, Keith Baillie, Chief Executive Officer and Cr Margot Brown, Surf Coast Shire Council

The presentation provided Committee members with an overview of the Surf Coast Shire Council Local Government Area and the role of the Council in the closure and rehabilitation of the Anglesea Mine.

- The permanent population of the Surf Coast municipality has grown from 20,872 in 2001 to 29,346 in 2016.
- Permanent population of Anglesea is 2,680.
- The Surf Coast Shire growing at a rate of approximately three per cent per year.
- The visitor economy is central to where the Shire is going.
- Cr Smith noted that many people in Anglesea would not know that there is a power station in Anglesea.
- The Surf Coast economy achieved \$1b milestone in 2015/16.
- Given the size of the overall economy of the municipality the economic implications of closure of Alcoa's Coal Mine and Power Station have been modest.
- Construction industry locally has absorbed a lot of the impacts of the closure of Alcoa's Mine and Power Station.
- It was if asked if there's been a spike in tourism and people seeking to move there since the closure of Alcoa's Anglesea site by capitalising on the 'clean, green' image. Cr Smith noted that while there is limited hard evidence to support this, it would appear anecdotally that there has been an increase.
- Cr Smith noted that there was a significant community campaign to close the Anglesea Mine and Power Station.
- It was asked if there was support for Alcoa to remain in Anglesea. It was noted that there was support and recognition of Alcoa's contribution to the Anglesea community.
- It was asked how community voices regarding mine rehabilitation have been captured. Cr Smith noted that the community needed the Surf Coast Shire to be involved and to be at the table. The fact that the community has been able to have a voice and be involved in workshops has been empowering for them.
- It was noted that involving the community is powerful but to ensure community expectations are appropriately managed.

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- Defining the roles and responsibilities of all parties involved is very important.
 - The Surf Coast Shire is confident that the Anglesea Futures project has allowed the community to have a say.
 - The Surf Coast Shire can't afford for rehabilitated mine to offer localized benefit only - it needs to be more than that.
 - There's some interesting things that could occur on the site that might be seen as an inconvenience to the people wanting to see a rehabilitation plan prepared.
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4 Presentation on the Anglesea Futures Project and the role of the Victorian Government

Delivered by: Lisa Opray, Senior Policy Advisor, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)

The presentation provided Committee members with an overview of the Victorian Government-led Anglesea Futures Project.

- The closure of Anglesea Coal Mine and Power Station in August 2015 brought with it uncertainty about the future of the area for the local community.
 - In line with DELWP's commitment to putting the community at the centre, DELWP designed an adaptive and collaborative whole of government approach to engaging with stakeholders and the community by bringing council and other government agencies to the sessions including Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Parks Victoria, Barwon Water, and the Environment Protection Authority to demonstrate a one State Government approach to the community. DELWP called this the *Anglesea Futures Community Conversations*.
 - The purpose of community conversations was to listen to the different views from members of the community and make it easier for the community to have discussions with the various arms of government involved in the closure and rehabilitation of the power station and mine.
 - The sessions have been designed to ensure participation techniques are suitable to meet the requirements and expectations of the variety of individuals and community members to enable maximum information sharing, discussion and community involvement about issues that are important to the community. DELWP has been responsive to feedback from the community and partners, and has tailored the format of the discussions to meet the need of individuals and the community. For example, running consultation sessions at night, on weekends, or during school holidays.
 - To raise awareness of the community conversation sessions, the Department used letterbox drops, advertisements in local newspapers, social media etc.
 - The community's knowledge and understanding of issues increased as sessions were delivered. The community members were then able to self-moderate, dispel myths and correct information amongst themselves.
 - During the process some of the biggest critics of Anglesea Futures in 2015 switched to being some of the biggest advocates of the process.
 - The focus of community conversations in 2017 has been centered around future land use planning.
 - The final Land Use Plan for the rehabilitated mine is proposed for release in 2018.
 - Key learnings from the Anglesea Futures Community Conversations:
 - Learn how the community works. Learn who the community leaders are, and what groups there are within the community.
 - Ensure your engagement program is open and transparent. This builds credibility, diffuses tensions, builds trust, and demonstrates mutual respect.
 - Commit to the engagement program. This is a journey you need to take with the community, as it's an investment in staff time.
 - Consistency in staff. This is essential for building trust. It isn't just a work commitment, but also a personal commitment so having the right staff at the start is essential.
 - Take notice of your critics and allies. Work hard to understand your critics as many of ours (DELWP's) have become our greatest allies.
 - Alcoa runs its own engagement program on the alternate month to Anglesea Futures.
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5 Presentation on community and stakeholder engagement program for the closure and rehabilitation of the Anglesea Mine: A community perspective

Delivered by: Raylene Fordham, Executive Officer, Business and Tourism Anglesea and Christine Forster, ANGAIR.

The presentation provided Committee members with an overview of the community and stakeholder engagement program for the closure of Alcoa's Anglesea Coal Mine and Power Station from the perspective of local community members who had

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participated in the process.

- It was noted that the engagement program for Anglesea has been well managed.
- Technical information associated with the closure and rehabilitation has been clearly presented.
- It was noted that there has been an ongoing issue with acid events in the river but these are unrelated to mining activity.
- The Alcoa Community Consultation Network has been going for some time.
- New people came onto the Community Consultation Network that were really pushing for the power station to close.
- Attacking Alcoa did fracture the community. Alcoa was a big supporter of a number of groups/initiatives/etc. in the Anglesea community.
- A core group of local people got together in June 2015 to discuss how they felt disempowered and they wanted to have some influence in what happened in the future of the town.
- The community wanted to have ownership of the process regarding closure and rehabilitation of the mine and power station.
- Alcoa has been very active in its engagement and its information sharing.
- Anglesea has lost an economy in the region but the community needs to consider how it can 'strive, thrive and survive'
- The Anglesea community is right on the precipice of the next stage and discussions need to be had regarding what the community is going to accept.
- Cooperation between the number of agencies involved (DELWP, Alcoa, Catchment Management Authorities, etc.) has worked well.
- Land use planning engagement process has worked quite well. Land is currently zoned Special Use and permits mining only.
- Getting the land zoning right is critical to ensuring the overall success of the closure and rehabilitation process.
- Alcoa hasn't yet been able to say what it intends to do with the freehold land.
- Alcoa's early release of 6,500 hectares of leased land back to the State Government was important and helped to build trust within the community.
- It is important to manage those that have a very strong opinion.
- Make sure there is always somebody who is willing to stand up to put a stop to aggressiveness/bad behavior.
- The type of facilitation is very important. It needs to be sensitive to the community.
- It was noted that it took a long time for people to understand timeframes involved with the rehabilitation of the mine.
- It was asked how the community would have gone if the question of timeframes had been discussed/raised earlier. It was noted that there have been some people drop off because of the long timeframes involved.
- Community has been talking about a 'legacy opportunity' – i.e. this is your opportunity to have an influence in leaving a lasting legacy for your children and your children's children.
- It was noted that there's less buy-in from the holidaymakers, however there's still a 'fair level' of buy-in from the community overall.
- The ways for people to contribute to the process have been varied. This has been very important, particularly given large number of holidaymakers.
- It was asked if there had been any engagement with school-aged children to inform them of what is going on in the local community so they can understand the changes? It was noted that there has been some engagement with school camp sites but it certainly does present an opportunity.
- If you don't involve yourself within the community, you won't be able to engage with the community.

6 Presentation on Alcoa Anglesea closure and mine rehabilitation

Delivered by: Warren Sharp, Point Henry and Anglesea Site Asset Manager, Alcoa of Australia

The presentation provided Committee members with overview of the work being undertaken by Anglesea to plan for the rehabilitation of the Anglesea Mine.

- Alcoa has had a Community Consultation Network in Anglesea since 2001.
- Alcoa's Anglesea operations commenced in 1969 and closed on 31 August 2015, impacting 82 employees.
- Alcoa owns 143 hectares of freehold land in Anglesea and leases 787 hectares from the State Government.
- In February 2017, Alcoa handed back 6,510 hectares of leased area to the State.
- Alcoa's draft rehabilitation and closure plan has been submitted to Earth Resources Regulation within the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources.

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- The deepest point of the mine is approximately RL-45.
 - Closest resident to the mine is approximately 200m.
 - Without having done the numbers in detail, Alcoa estimates a workforce of approximately 25 to manage the earthworks associated with closure and rehabilitation process and this will be mostly contractors.
 - It was asked if there is a requirement to engage local contractors? There's no mandated requirement but Alcoa is always looking locally if it can find someone with the skills and experience required.
 - While operational there was in the order of 20 contractors, not all of which were full time.
 - The development of the rehabilitation and closure plan has been informed by extensive community and stakeholder engagement, detailed technical studies and independent peer reviews.
 - Proposed fill level of the mine is RL+7. Total capacity if filled to this level is 16 approximately gigalitres.
 - Alcoa hosts meetings with the local community every two months. Meetings have provided an opportunity to socialize concepts as they come up.
 - Alcoa also ran a process in 2016 with the local community to develop a set of guiding principles for rehabilitation and closure planning.

7 Other business and next meeting

Next meeting scheduled for 14 December 2017 to be held in Traralgon.
