

Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Advisory Committee Minutes *(with confidential information redacted)*

Meeting No: 01
Date: Wednesday 01 March 2017
Location: Premiere Function Centre, 29 Grey Street Traralgon.

Attendees

Susan Lloyd (Chairperson)	Latrobe Valley community representative
Roland Davies	Latrobe Valley community representative
James Faithful	ENGIE Hazelwood
Sarah Gilbert	AGL Loy Yang
Ron Mether	EnergyAustralia Yallourn
Graeme Middlemiss	Latrobe City Council
Nicole Griffin	Gippsland Water
Terry Flynn	Southern Rural Water
Phil Stone	Latrobe City Council
Tim Delany	Gippsland Trades and Labour Council
Jane Burton	Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR)
Alan Freitag	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)
Grace Mitchell	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)

Apologies

Luke Wilson	Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR)
Joanne Brunt	Aboriginal community representative

Guests

Anthony Feigl	Senior Project Manager, Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy, DEDJTR
Paul Lloyd	Manager, Latrobe Valley Regional Water Study, DELWP
Duncan Pendrigh	Director Statutory Authorisations, Earth Resources Regulation, DEDJTR
Natalia Southern	Deputy Secretary, Resources, DEDJTR
Ella Walker	Senior Advisor, Office of the Deputy Secretary, Resources, DEDJTR (Acting Secretariat)
The Hon Wade Noonan MP	Minister for Resources
Andrew Nelson	Senior Media Advisor, Office of the Hon. Wade Noonan MP
Fiona Ward	Senior Advisor, Employment, Office of the Hon. Wade Noonan MP

Discussion points and decisions

Agenda item

Description

- 1 Introduction from the Chairperson**
The Chairperson welcomed members to the first formal meeting of the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Advisory Committee.
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- 2 Port Augusta fly ash issues**
The Committee discussed events from earlier this year relating to the fly ash issues at the Northern Power Station at Port Augusta.
- In late December 2016, approximately 60mm of rain flooded parts of Port Augusta.
 - On 30 December 2016 Flinders Power (operator of the Northern Power Station) advised the South Australian Environment Protection Authority (EPA) that rainfall had created pooling and ponding on the ash dam surface, and had likely impacted the effectiveness of the dust suppressant.
 - Subsequent to this, strong southerly winds caused dust from the ash dam to blow over the Port Augusta township.

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- In early 2017, residents in Port Augusta started to complain of breathing problems, red eyes, asthma attacks and urgent trips to the hospital as a result of dust from the ash dam at the closed Northern Power Station that had begun to hover over the South Australian town.
- The EPA issued a formal notice to the company requiring it to stop ash dust blowing over the city.
- Flinders Power was also required to ramp up dust monitoring to daily rather than one day in every six.
- In response to the incident, Flinders Power reapplied the dust suppressant on the site from 4 January 2017. It also commenced a six month, long-term capping solution to prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future.

As a result of discussion of this matter, the Committee sought clarification regarding the geographic scope of the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy Project and whether the project is examining simply the mine voids or the entire mining licence area. Further clarification will be provided at the next meeting

Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy (LVRRS) Project Plan Overview

Delivered by: Anthony Feigl, Senior Project Manager, LVRRS, DEDJTR and Paul Lloyd, Manager Latrobe Valley Regional Water Study, DELWP.

- The Project Plan for the LVRRS is almost finalised, being at the final stage of peer review.
- The LVRRS will examine some of the key knowledge gaps relating to mine rehabilitation as highlighted by the Board of Inquiry in Volume IV of the Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry 2015/16 Report.
- The LVRRS will assess the feasibility of pit lakes over different timeframes and scenarios and examine the risks associated with the pit lake rehabilitation option on a regional scale.
- The Strategy will also examine the potential impacts on valued regional receptors such as highways, rivers, major infrastructure, etc. associated with the pit lake rehabilitation option.
- The Committee noted the importance of community involvement during the preparation of the LVRRS.
- It was noted that the community does not want to be simply consulted at the end but wants to be taken on the journey during the preparation of the Strategy.
- The Committee was advised that an overarching stakeholder engagement strategy for the life of the LVRRS project has been prepared. Further information will be provided regarding the approach to community engagement at the next meeting.
- The need for the Committee to be cognisant of the range of engagement activities being undertaken in the Latrobe Valley at the moment was also highlighted.
- It was noted that there are three purposes for the consultation to be undertaken as part of the preparation of the LVRRS:
 1. getting community and/or stakeholder input
 2. getting information from community and/or key stakeholders
 3. to test the Strategy as it's developed.

Discussion with the Minister for Resources, the Hon. Wade Noonan MP

At its first formal meeting, the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Advisory Committee met with the Minister for Resources, the Hon. Wade Noonan MP.

- The Minister provided the Committee with information about the worker transfer scheme announced earlier that morning to support Hazelwood workers.
- In-principle agreement has been reached with AGL Loy Yang to support Hazelwood workers.
- Under the agreement, early retirement packages would be offered to create vacancies for workers displaced by the closure of Hazelwood.
- The Minister for Resources noted that he is very pleased that Susan Lloyd will serve as Chairperson of the Committee as well as noting the collective expertise and experience across Committee membership.

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- The Minister also noted that this is very valuable work that will last a long period of time and there's a need to fill knowledge gaps and engage with the community.
- The appointment of a Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner will become central to the work being undertaken regarding mine rehabilitation in the Latrobe Valley.
- The Minister expressed his confidence that ENGIE will fulfil its obligations in the Latrobe Valley, and that ENGIE has announced very publicly its intentions to meet all of these obligations.

The Chairperson thanked the Minister for making the time to meet with the Committee as part of his visit to the Latrobe Valley.

Presentation re. the role of Earth Resources Regulation in mine rehabilitation

Delivered by: Duncan Pendrigh, Director Statutory Authorisations, Earth Resources Regulation, DEDJTR

The preparation of the LVRRS will examine the knowledge gaps associated with the pit lake rehabilitation option as highlighted by the Hazelwood Mine Fire Board of Inquiry.

At the same time as this regional-scale work is being undertaken, ENGIE is commencing planning for final closure and rehabilitation of the Hazelwood Mine.

While this is a separate process, the Committee received a presentation from the Victorian Government's Earth Resources Regulator to inform them of the work being undertaken to support closure and rehabilitation planning for the Hazelwood Mine.

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- ENGIE has recently submitted its Workplan Variation to Earth Resources Regulation (ERR).
 - ERR considered that ENGIE's existing work plan was unfit for purpose after the announcement that it would close the Hazelwood Mine and Power Station at the end of March 2017.
 - ENGIE's Workplan Variation was submitted to ERR on 28 February 2017. The Workplan Variation will extend until a closure plan is prepared which could take between three and four years.
 - ERR's Technical Team has started work on assessing the Workplan Variation from 1 March 2017.
 - Once ERR has reviewed the Workplan Variation it will be referred to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).
 - ERR is also developing a set of mine closure guidelines. These are currently out for comment with a targeted group of stakeholders and will be completed next month once comments are received.
 - It was noted that ENGIE's Workplan may be changed in future to take into account findings of the LVRRS.

Round the table updates

Susan Lloyd, (Chairperson) Latrobe Valley Community

- No update provided.

Roland Davies, Latrobe Valley Community

- The community orientated representatives are planning to meet external to the formal meetings to discuss pathways to the community to ensure that they have the opportunity to provide input, and understand what is being considered in the forum.

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Cr Graeme Middlemiss, Latrobe City Council

- Cr Middlemiss noted the importance of community input into the development of the LVRRS. Is seeking further clarification regarding the pathway for stakeholder (in particular Latrobe City Council's) input to the Strategy development.

Nicole Griffin, Gippsland Water

- As an authority, Gippsland Water has obligations under the *Water Act 1989*. With the closure of ENGIE, they will lose a considerable revenue stream.
- Gippsland Water is currently preparing its Pricing Submission for the Essential Services Commission.

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

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- AGL submitted its Workplan Variation in December 2016.
- AGL received comments from the Department and is currently considering them.
- AGL is looking to expand the scope of the Environment Review Committee to include broader issues of interest to the community.
- Relocation of the TS4 stacker into the base of the mine will commence in mid-March. Communications have been distributed regarding significant disruptions, including Highway closure.

Ron Mether, Latrobe Valley mine operators (EnergyAustralia Yallourn)

- EnergyAustralia has an outstanding Workplan Variation that needs to be closed out.
- Along with the other two mines, EnergyAustralia contributed to the development of the Integrated Mine Research Plan as per Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry recommendation to the mines to develop a collective 10 year research plan.
- Extensive rehabilitation has been undertaken at Yallourn and some is very visible to the public, good public feedback is being received. Yallourn mine (during SECV times) rehabilitated the old Yallourn North extension open cut. It's an example of a rehabilitated mine with a lake that could assist in demystifying the mine lake proposals if public access was allowed.

Tim Delany, Gippsland Trades and Labour Council

- There are 30 unions affiliated with the Gippsland Trades and Labour Council.
- Long background of unions being active in Latrobe Valley.
- GTLC would like to see a rehabilitation program that includes real and meaningful jobs with safe practices (rather than consultants popping in).

Alan Freitag, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

- Working with the three Latrobe Valley Councils (Baw Baw, Wellington and Latrobe City) to help them streamline their land use processes and statutory planning to ensure coordination.

James Faithful, Latrobe Valley mine operators (ENGIE Hazelwood)

- Provided an overview of the Hazelwood Workplan Variation submitted to ERR the day before (28 February 2017)
- ENGIE is considering 1/3 or full pit lake.
- Noted the importance of the LVRRS and the three mines working together, particularly to ensure no double ups in work being undertaken as part of LVRRS and the Integrated Mines Research Group.
- Rehabilitation at Hazelwood has been broken into areas and zones.
- ENGIE's first community consultation will be in Morwell on 15 March 2017.

Grace Mitchell, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

- No update provided.

Terry Flynn, Southern Rural Water

- Assessing AGL and ENGIE's Workplan Variations. Southern Rural Water liaising with DEDJTR regarding response.

Phil Stone, Latrobe City Council

- Currently trying to understand how can Latrobe City Council add value to LVRRS by providing advice to government and making sure community consultation is broad but doesn't exhaust community.

Natalia Southern, Deputy Secretary Resources (Guest)

- Bond policy work in progress.
- AECOM working to determine rehabilitation liabilities of the three mines.
- Recruitment for the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner underway.

Jane Burton, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources

- No update provided.

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Next steps and meeting close

- Next meeting Thursday 6 April 2017.
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