

Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Advisory Committee

Meeting 06 Minutes (with confidential information redacted)

MEETING #06 MINUTES

THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER 2017

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)

Ron Mether, Latrobe Valley Mine Operators (EnergyAustralia Yallourn)

Cr Graeme Middlemiss, Latrobe City Council

Phil Stone, Latrobe City Council

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)

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

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

APOLOGIES

Joanne Brunt, Aboriginal community representative

GUESTS

Professor Rae Mackay, Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner

Anthony Feigl, Acting Director, Coal Resources Victoria, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR)

Beiha-Malen Yanez, Acting Senior Project Manager, Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR)

Andrew Tingay, Strategy and Policy Advisor, Economics and Advisory Services, Jacobs

Greg Hoxley, Principal Hydrogeologist and Technical Director, Infrastructure and Environment, Jacobs

Jim Galvin, Chairperson, Technical Review Board

Corinne Unger, Member, Technical Review Board

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Agenda Item	Minutes
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1 Update on Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy (LVRRS) scenarios and receptors work

Delivered by: Andrew Tingay, Strategy and Policy Advisor and Greg Hoxley, Principal Hydrogeologist and Technical Director, Jacobs.

Jacobs provided the Advisory Committee with an update on the work being undertaken to identify valued regional receptors and develop rehabilitation scenarios for consideration as part of the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy (LVRRS).

- Jacobs has been contracted by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) to deliver several key pieces of work in relation to the LVRRS including:
 - Identify valued regional receptors and thresholds and metrics for those receptors
 - Develop regional rehabilitation scenarios.
- Some of the key questions and issues that came through the scenario development workshops included:
 - water fill levels of the mine voids in the pit lake scenarios
 - pit lake connectivity
 - access and use of the void and surrounding landform (particularly, what uses are excluded)
 - timing of filling and rate of fill
 - batter and pit wall form.
- Several scenarios have been developed for testing as part of the LVRRS. These vary from three low water level pit lakes to three full pit lakes, with a combination of low and high water fill levels across the three Latrobe Valley coal mines also to be tested.
- The LVRRS will qualitatively assess biophysical impacts on all recognised regional receptors and quantitatively assess biophysical impacts on recognised regional receptors with the potential to be materially impacted.
- It was asked how potential evolutions/developments that are anticipated but not yet confirmed, say for example the Traralgon Bypass, are being captured. Jacobs advised that if these evolutions/developments are approved but not yet in train they will be taken into account.
- Is there is enough water to be able to deliver both the three low level pit lakes and the three high level pit lake scenarios? For the low level scenarios, according to Jacobs, approximately 1,300 GL of water would be required while for the high level scenarios that number is close to 3,000 GL. This is a key question that the LVRRS is seeking to address. Dr Grace Mitchell advised that regarding this it is important to consider not only volumes required but rates of fill as well. The rate of fill is an important variable in looking at water availability across the catchment.
- The maximum fill option ought to be on the table and the discussion had regarding tradeoffs that would be required to achieve this option.

2 Overview and learnings rom the Technical Review Board (TRB)

Delivered by: Jim Galvin, Chairperson and Corinne Unger, Member, Technical Review Board.

- The Latrobe Valley coal mines are considered large scale not only by Australian standards but by international standards.
- The Latrobe Valley's brown coal resource also has some unique properties – for example, as batters are flattened, geotechnical stability decreases.
- The TRB identified seven batters that it was concerned about in the Latrobe Valley mines. Since these batters were identified, a number have gone on to experience significant movement.
- The Latrobe Valley coal mines are facing a number of legacy issues.
- The Latrobe Valley coal mine operators were receptive to the work of the Technical Review Board when it was first established, however there was a lack of collaboration (which has since changed) between the operators at the time as they were seen as competitors.
- The current term of the TRB is due to expire at the end of December 2017.
- It's important to remember that stakeholders won't always be satisfied.
- There will be a much greater demand for mine closure expertise both within Australia and globally – connecting the Latrobe Valley with this network of knowledge, through conferences etc. is important.

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- Defining the stages of mine closure is also important and this is something that a number of other jurisdictions both within Australia and internationally are grappling with.
- There needs to be greater integration across relevant government agencies. Regulatory frameworks need to address asset closure holistically.
- Independent assessment and technical rigor of studies that inform mine rehabilitation planning and modelling are incredibly important in building confidence and trust amongst all stakeholders and stakeholder groups.
- To be in a position where you can potentially sell the land you need to have the evidence to support that the completion criteria for all objectives and domains have been achieved.
- Mine rehabilitation in the Latrobe Valley is moving from a period of the conceptual rehabilitation concepts to detailed rehabilitation and closure planning.
- The TRB has been involved in providing advice on rehabilitation and closure plans for the Latrobe Valley brown coal mines.
- The TRB's advice on urban growth boundaries was sought. It was noted that this is something that's been dealt with on a number of occasions. There's always been competing interests between urban development and mine boundaries. New South Wales has set up a statutory Mine Subsidence Board (recently renamed Subsidence Advisory NSW) to provide advice on subsidence matters. This has recently been shifted to a user pays basis.
- Australia (New South Wales in particular) is seen as an international leader in structural design to tolerate mining-induced ground movements, particularly in regards to building infrastructure to withstand and have a level of tolerance to ground movement.
- Regarding stabilisation of the Princes Freeway near the Hazelwood Mine, it is Jim Galvin's view that there are only really two options – either buttressing the batters with lots of earth or flooding the mine. If you don't use water you're going to need to use bigger buttresses.

3 Committee administration

Minutes from last meeting and actions arising

- Minutes from the previous meeting of the Committee (Meeting #05) were noted.
- Apology for Joanne Brunt was noted.

Project Status update

Delivered by: Anthony Feigl, Acting Director Coal Resources Victoria, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR).

- The LVRRS is now at the end of Stage Two with all actions except one completed.

Completed Actions

- The following Stage Two actions within the *Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry: Victorian Government Implementation Plan June 2016* have now been completed:
 - **Action 185** - Review current mine rehabilitation strategies, in consultation with DELWP and EPA, to identify water requirements for mine closure and restoration strategies.
 - **Action 186** - Establish the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner as a statutory appointment under the MR(SD) Act.
 - **Action 187** - Review of existing Latrobe Valley coal mine and power station water entitlements and water licensing (groundwater and surface waters).
 - **Action 188** - Report on existing water use, water availability, aquatic ecosystems and water quality to provide baseline data and inform the works program.
 - **Action 189** - Brief the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner, upon commencement, on the work program delivered to date, the forecast work program and the engagement approach.
 - **Action 190** - Conduct annual progress review and produce a report.

Actions in progress

- **Action 191** - Assess possible impacts on water availability due to climate change and climate variability (not including possible additional water demand for mine closures) to be used in the modelling on water availability and potential

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impacts is due in December 2017. A draft has been completed and the action is on track for delivery by the due date.

- **Action 192** - Review Stage 2 Project outputs and confirm Stage 3 work plan, including technical peer review is also due in December 2017. Some minor refinements to the project have been identified, particularly to the scoping work for the stage three modelling.
- The LVRRS Project Team has had three sessions to date with Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) regarding cultural issues relevant to the LVRRS.

Proposed Meeting dates for 2017

- The following meeting dates are proposed for 2018:
 - Thursday 8 February 2018
 - Thursday 12 April 2018
 - Thursday 14 June 2018
 - Thursday 9 August 2018
 - Thursday 11 October 2018
 - Thursday 13 December 2018

Update from the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner

- The Commissioner is undertaking approximately 20 engagements per month with various stakeholders including community groups, the Latrobe Valley mine operators, Members of Parliament, etc.
- Last night (Wednesday 13 December 2017), the Commissioner and his office hosted the *Overseeing our Future* mine rehabilitation panel discussion, outlining the roles and responsibilities regarding mine rehabilitation in the Latrobe Valley. The event attracted a large number of attendees (approximately 80).
- The Commissioner is also making regular appearances on Gippsland FM.
- Workplan variations are currently being put forward by each of the Latrobe Valley mines and the Commissioner is involved in providing advice on each of these documents.
- The Government is currently looking at establishment of Mine Rehabilitation Statutory Authority as per the recommendations of the Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry. The Commissioner has been providing significant input to this.
- The Commissioner's website went live yesterday – www.lvmrc.vic.gov.au.
- The Commissioner noted that the community is getting worn out by having the "same old conversations".

4 Round-the-table updates

Susan Lloyd (Chairperson), Latrobe Valley community

- Noted the need to get back to community members who attended LVRRS information days. A Q&A document outlining the key questions asked during information days and responses will be prepared and circulated to attendees.
- Undertaking planning for review of the Committee membership.

Cr Graeme Middlemiss, Latrobe City Council

- Representatives from the Great Latrobe Park Project recently presented to Council.

Roland Davies, Latrobe Valley community

- Advised that it is important that key questions that came out of the LVRRS information days are addressed. A Q&A document outlining the key questions asked during information days and responses will be prepared and circulated to attendees.
- Noted that it would be interesting to better understand the Government's position regarding expert support to the Department on the LVRRS Project.

Phil Stone, Latrobe City Council

- Representatives from the Great Latrobe Park Project recently presented to Council. The project appears to have amalgamated a large number of ideas from mine and quarry rehabilitation examples around the world and turned them into a precinct concept.

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James Faithful, Latrobe Valley mine operators (ENGIE)

- ENGIE is continuing its rehabilitation planning work.
- Workplan Variation has almost been signed off.
- A range of technical studies have recently been completed to inform Hazelwood rehabilitation planning and these are being fed into the Integrated Mines Research Group (IMRG).
- Large amount of work in community engagement has also been undertaken.

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

- Engineering company Aurecon is trying to get its engineers to think more creatively as part of an internal professional development program. As part of this it has tasked several teams of engineers across the world with developing a range of alternative mine rehabilitation concepts for the Latrobe Valley.

Tim Delany, Gippsland Trades and Labour Council

- The Gippsland Trades and Labour Council is keen to see what a workforce plan for mine rehabilitation plan might look like, particularly who might be responsible for payment of this workforce. Representatives from the Latrobe Valley mine operators noted that it's important not to raise expectations regarding the jobs that might be created in regards to mine rehabilitation. Compared to job numbers associated with an operating mine and power station, rehabilitation work numbers are comparatively low, and skillsets are often quite specialist.
- The 'LVRRS' is a mouthful. One key learning from the Anglesea meeting was that simplicity of name helped – i.e. 'Anglesea Futures'. Suggested focusing in the new year on how we might be able to more simply express the work being undertaken to prepare the LVRRS.

Ron Mether, EnergyAustralia

- EnergyAustralia also currently working through workplan variation process.

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

- AGL has recently received approval from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to use ash in a topsoil trial.
- AGL is hosting a pop up stand in the Traralgon Plaza today (14 December 2017).

5 Other business and next meeting

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday 8 February 2018 in Traralgon.
