

## Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Advisory Committee

## MEETING #30 MINUTES (FOR RELEASE)

TUESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2022

COMMUNITY HUB ROOM 2 – LATROBE VALLEY GOV HUB

GROUND FLOOR, 65 CHURCH STREET, MORWELL

**ATTENDEES****Roland Davies (Chairperson)**, Latrobe Valley community**Susan Lloyd (Deputy Chairperson)**, Latrobe Valley community**Ron Mether**, Latrobe Valley Mine operators (EnergyAustralia)**Graeme Middlemiss**, Latrobe City Council**Terry Flynn**, Southern Rural Water**Chris Wood**, Gippsland Water**Anne Murphy**, Gippsland Trades and Labour Council**Jane Burton**, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions**Ian Filby**, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions**OBSERVERS****Tim Ellis**, Latrobe City Council**Daniel Mainville**, Latrobe Valley Mine Operators (Loy Yang B)**Jon Missen**, Latrobe Valley Mine Operators (ENGIE)**Amanda Cooke**, Latrobe Valley Mine Operators (AGL)**Jennifer Brereton**, CEO, Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority**Rae Mackay**, Chairperson, Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority**Rhonda Hastie**, Latrobe Valley Mine Operator (Energy Australia)**APOLOGIES****Alan Freitag**, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning**Daniel Miller**, Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation**Anna May**, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning**GUESTS****Chris McAuley**, Senior Project Manager – Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions**Laura Cronin**, Acting Director, Policy and Legislation, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions**Tira Foran**, Senior Research Scientist, Water Security Program, CSIRO**Lance Wallace**, Energy Australia

## Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Advisory Committee

#	AGENDA ITEM	Presenter
	<p><b>Welcome, Minutes and Actions Arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For previous action requiring feedback on water fill times and future land use, a summary of the response will be provided with the meeting papers and any comment invited as part of the action review</li> </ul> <p><b>MINUTES OF MEETING 29 ACCEPTED</b></p> <p>The action and issues register was updated to reflect discussions in the meeting.</p> <p>GLaWAC have requested an agenda item for next meeting to discuss what is important to TO concerning mine rehabilitation.</p>	Roland Davies (Chairperson)
2	<p><b>Declared Mine Regulations (DMR) Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DMRs in force as of September 2022</li> <li>• Operators required to submit Declared Mine Plans by Oct 2025 with possible two year extension</li> <li>• Anticipate that Draft guidelines will be completed in late 2023</li> <li>• Will include engagement with stakeholders on what needs to be included</li> <li>• Will work with MLRA on guidance and on associated resourcing to inform future budgets</li> </ul> <p>Questions were raised on the tight timing of provision of guidance, the detail required and the time for preparation of the Declared Mine Plans. Mine operators expressed their willingness to be involved in the process to prepare guidelines.</p> <p>DJPR responded that the DMR process recognises that there are milestones in the rehabilitation planning process. A plan could recognize that further work would be undertaken as mine closure approached.</p> <p>A question was raised on the proposed removal of the requirement for the work plans. It was confirmed that removal of work plans is a separate regulatory process. There will be consultation on this prior to any legislation released.</p>	Laura Cronin, DJPR
3	<p><b>LVRRS Review – Update</b></p> <p>A quick summary of the changes to Government portfolios after the recent election. Minister D’Ambrosio is the new Minister for Resources and the Minister for Environment. As of 1 Jan 2023, parts of DJPR including resources will be merged with parts of DELWP (including water and catchments) to form the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA).</p> <p>The <i>Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990</i> requires the LVRRS to be reviewed at least once within three years of release (ie by June 2023). The approach to the review of the LVRRS was discussed with the former Minister for Resources. It recognized that a review did not require a revised Strategy. Current thinking flags a new strategy may be prepared after the release of the review to ensure appropriate engagement on areas where the strategy may require updating. This approach will need to be confirmed with the new Minister.</p> <p>Operators asked if they would they be involved. All stakeholders will be involved in any revised strategy.</p>	Ian Filby, DJPR
4	<p><b>LVMRAC Roundtable reboot – discussion of how to progress</b></p> <p>The “Roundtable” is an engagement event to allow stakeholders, in particular community, to develop a better understanding of mine rehabilitation challenges and opportunities. It has been planned for previously but not occurred. There is a recognition that rehabilitation of the mines is a significant social as well as technical issue, and that a roundtable still has value. It is suggested that an event be planned for in mid to late 2023.</p> <p>There was discussion on the purpose of the Roundtable and what it would look to achieve. There was competing discussion about the opportunity to create valuable expectations for rehabilitation versus creating unreasonable expectations of what could be done. There was concern raised about how to effectively communicate the complexity of rehabilitation. There was a recognition that clear communication on what we do and don’t know is critical – be clear that it is complex and that we don’t know it all.</p> <p>The discussion also flagged the Latrobe Valley Authority work of creating a vision for the Latrobe Valley. It was agreed that the LVMRAC needs to be closer to this process. LVMRAC will make a written request to the LVA to initiate greater engagement</p> <p>Given that there was previous planning for the roundtable, it was requested by members that this be re-circulated.</p> <p>Gippsland Water outlined their recent successful engagement on the pricing review and offered to share an overview of this approach with members.</p>	Roland Davies (Chairperson)
5	<p><b>CRC TiME – introduction to “Collaborative planning for post-mining development in Latrobe Valley” project</b></p> <p>The Collaborative Research Centre for Transitions in Mining Economies (CRC TiME) is a 10 year national research program to better understand opportunities for the rehabilitation of mines and mining regions. Tira Foran, joint program lead provided an overview of the CRC TiME project. Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborative project to be undertaken by Fed Uni, Uni SA and CSIRO</li> <li>• It builds on previous work undertaken by CRC TiME and an AGL funded program completed by Federation University</li> <li>• It is jointly funded by mine operators, Latrobe City Council and the MLRA with in-kind support from other groups including DJPR.</li> <li>• Two stages – Stage 1 (Year 1 - funded): Opportunity for this program to build on LVA, LCC, MLRA, GLaWAC and LVRRS work programs. Will use this information in a structured process of inquiry to inform what a post coal-fired energy production mine rehabilitation landscape may look like. Intention is identify what is feasible (and why) and what is preferable (and why).</li> <li>• Proposing a Stage 2 (Year 2 – partly funded at this time) stratified random selection of stakeholders across different demographics and socio-economic groupings to further test the opportunities identified. Will include a focus on youth.</li> </ul> <p>The LVMRAC committee members asked what involvement the project anticipated from LVMRAC and who the project would report back to.</p> <p>CSIRO flagged that they would welcome involvement from LVMRAC and would be keen to understand how the LVMRAC may wish to participate. Reporting back on the project would initially be to the project partners, with CRC TiME publishing the results on completion.</p>	Tira Foran (CSIRO)

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### # AGENDA ITEM

Presenter

On completion of the presentation, the LVMRAC committee discussed further. Members of the LVMRAC who had committed to the project confirmed they through it was a valuable, independent process to build a community wide understanding of preferred post rehabilitation land uses and values. There was active discussion about how to ensure consistency between "preferred" and "feasible" to ensure unreasonable expectations were not created.

The LVMRAC agreed to discuss further the local Federation University project lead (Dr Jessica Reeves).

### 6 Overview of CRC-TIME Forum – outcomes

CRC TIME is a 10 year national research program to better understand opportunities for the rehabilitation of mines and mining regions. It has been in operation for two years, completing foundation studies bringing together current knowledge and future directions. LVMRAC members Roland Davies and Jane Burton and participant Chris McAuley recently attended a two-day forum held by CRC TIME that reflected on the work done to date and discuss future research opportunities for the coming eight years.

Key points identified by the participating LVMRAC members from the forum were:

- The role of Traditional Owners, through their strength in the spiritual connection to the land, in rehabilitation and establishing values for rehabilitated land.
- Noted the challenges with non-TO having a different connection to land and how to balance these with TO interests.
- The best rehabilitation outcomes are through having a clear vision, strong leadership and consistent advocacy.
- The Collie-community process in WA and its similarity to LVA process here.
- There are opportunities for reuse of materials through rehabilitation
- Victoria required "Safe, Stable, Sustainable" outcomes noting that all other states use "Safe, Stable and Non-polluting" and the differences in approach this can create.
- There are important lessons to be learnt from other states working on the same issues.

Chris McAuley  
(DJPR)

The LVMRAC asked for the link to CRC-TIME to be provided.

It was also requested that an invitation to the Queensland Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner be asked to present at a meeting to give Queensland's experience in mine rehabilitation.

### 7 Operational updates (around the grounds)

#### Energy Australia

- An update on the MRD repairs was provided
  - Leakage from the MRD under a very high flow event caused movement and cracking in the underlying in-situ coal
  - Repairs are completed over a 600m length of the MRD
  - There is continued monitoring of flow events to ensure the repaired MRD is operating as expected
  - EA propose to retain diversions works in place as a contingency
  - Closed out s10 notices for the MRD emergency
- General update
  - Significant overburden removal in Maryvale Field, require truck and shovel to remove overburden that dredger can't reach.
  - 2028 closure – transition team undertaking training

#### Engie Update

- EES – currently process is behind schedule. This has implications for Engie in implementing some rehabilitation activities in a timely way and the degree of external consultation they are able to undertake.
- Continuing with site clean up activities – ash dump, asbestos dump, etc
- Integrating EPA clean up notice and direction requirements into rehabilitation concept.
- Additional work on mine surrounds – drainage from external dumps and how to integrate into main drainage
- Diversions from Morwell River into the mine to support the MD repairs at Yallourn have been activated numerous times mainly to manage two main wet weather events – June and August-September. Currently approximately 80GL within the mine void.
- Continuing to monitor ground movements and groundwater levels in response to filling.

#### MLRA

- Education officer engaged
- Working up a vocabulary for mine rehabilitation.

#### Gippsland Water

- Pricing submission completed
- Looking to access 3.5GL from metro system for Drouin supply system
- Tarrago Reservoir opening up for recreation (no power boats)
- Water availability is high, but there are issues with quality

All

#### LCC

- Noted there is a high work-load associated with planning for Commonwealth Games
- Continuing to look at the whole of region planning requirements incorporating rehabilitation, including land use and future management of flooding

#### AGL

- All 4 generators are operating
- Continue to manage outages on overburden dredge
- Engaging with Rural Roads Victoria and LCC to discuss recent stability monitoring reports for Loy Yang northern batters
- Re-evaluating mine plan for targeted early closure of 2035

#### DJPR

- Update on change of Minister (the Hon Lily D 'Ambrosio) and changes to government departments
  - From 1 January, the resource parts of DJPR will join with environment and climate change in the new Department Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)
  - Pending changes in LVMRAC membership will be resubmitted to new Minister for approval
- LVMRAC Chairperson will write to the new Minister, congratulating her on her appointment, outlining the role of LVMRAC and request prompt approval of revised membership.

#### SRW

- Noted that current EES process for Hazelwood means cannot update groundwater licence.
- Noted TO's wanting to engage on water issues in themes (eg. Rehabilitation) as they look to have a greater say in water management.

### 8 Other business

Secretariat

#### Next meeting date:

- Likely last two weeks of Feb, 2023
- Topics for inclusion:
  - LVRRS Review – update
  - GLaWAC presentation on TO partnership in rehabilitation

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- o Further discussion on CRC-TiME program

