

## Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Advisory Committee

### MEETING #08 MINUTES (With confidential information redacted)

THURSDAY 28 JUNE 2018

YALLOURN LEARNING CENTRE, EASTERN ROAD, YALLOURN  
VIC 3825

#### ATTENDEES

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**Ms Susan Lloyd (Chairperson)**, Latrobe Valley Community

**Mr Roland Davies**, Latrobe Valley Community

**Mr James Faithful**, Latrobe Valley Mine Operators (ENGIE Hazelwood)

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

**Mr Ron Mether**, Latrobe Valley Mine Operators (EnergyAustralia Yallourn)

**Cr Graeme Middlemiss**, Latrobe City Council

**Mr Terry Flynn**, Southern Rural Water

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

**Mr Angelo Saridis**, Gippsland Water (new member awaiting confirmation of appointment)

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

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

#### APOLOGIES

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

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

#### GUESTS

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**Ms Ann Kirwan**, Program Manager, Land Use Strategy, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)

**Dr Jessica Reeves**, Lecturer, Faculty of Science and Technology, Federation University Gippsland Campus.

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Agenda Item	Minutes
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**1 Mine Rehabilitation and the Gippsland Lakes**

*Delivered by: Dr Jessica Reeves, Senior Lecturer in Environmental Science, Faculty of Science and Technology, Federation University.*

Dr Jessica Reeves lectures in the Faculty of Science and Technology at Federation University's Gippsland Campus. She has a keen interest in the impacts of mine rehabilitation on the Gippsland Lakes and presented at Federation University's Environmental, Planning and Community Perspectives on Post Mining Land Use forum in early June. A summary of the presentation is provided below.

- Dr Reeves has recently moved to Gippsland and reflected on the fact that she has the luxury of being able to observe things with a fresh perspective.
- According to Dr Reeves, local community members are not aware of what the parameters are when it comes to rehabilitation.
- Those working on mine rehabilitation know where the knowledge gaps are, however the broader community is not aware of these, nor do they necessarily understand who is responsible for what – i.e. who is responsible for undertaking mine rehabilitation, regulating mine rehabilitation, land use planning work, etc.
- The Latrobe Valley has a limited population (much smaller in comparison to the German areas that are often cited as best-practice examples of mine rehabilitation).
- There's a finite budget available for mine rehabilitation activities and people need to understand what's possible and realistically achievable.
- Work also needs to be done to increase the understanding that mine rehabilitation, and the planning for it, is long-term. These are large, complex projects.
- It was also noted that there needs to be a move away from the perception that we ought to return the land to what was there before. Instead we should be asking, is there a way we can do better than what was there before?
- In terms of community engagement, it was noted that organisations ought to start going to where the people are rather than expecting them to come to you.
- It's worth noting that given the size and scale of the Latrobe Valley's brown coal mines, you can still fill the mines with water to create a pit lake, while allowing many of the other amenity and recreation ideas that have been proposed such as eco-tourism, parks and recreation, biospheres, botanic gardens, etc. to occur on the land surrounding the mine voids, subject to identifying funding sources.
- It's important that engagement is targeted to different demographics – i.e. how you engage primary school students is different to high school students, tertiary students, working adults, etc.
- Mine rehabilitation in the Latrobe Valley presents an opportunity to demonstrate best-practice in community and industry co-design.
- Dr Reeves is also undertaking work examining the concentrations of various metals across the Gippsland Lakes and their levels of flux. Metals being examined include Arsenic (As), Cadmium (Cd), Chromium (Cr), Copper (Cu), Lead (Pb), Mercury (Hg), Nickel (Ni) and Zinc (Zn).

**2 Committee Administration**

**Minutes from the last meeting and action arising**

- The Minutes from the last Committee Meeting (Meeting #7) were noted by the Committee.

**Project status update**

*Delivered by: Jane Burton, Director Coal Resources Victoria, Department of Economic Development, Jobs Transport and Resources.*

- Delivery of all *Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry Victorian Government Implementation Plan June 2016* actions are on track.
- Data sharing agreements with each of the three Latrobe Valley mine operators are now in place.
- The Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner's event on Tuesday night was a great success and well attended.

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- The Project Team has recently undertaken briefings to Victorian Public Sector (VPS) staff in the Latrobe Valley regarding the LVRRS. It's important that there's an awareness amongst VPS staff within the region about the project and what it's seeking to achieve.
- The LVRRS is also listed as one of the regional priorities at tonight's Regional Assembly being hosted by the Gippsland Regional Partnership.

### Discussion regarding the Committee's Annual Report

- The Annual Report will be finalised following Meeting #8, with the Chairperson to provide this to the Minister for Resources.

### DEDJTR Review of Performance and Membership

- DEDJTR, in consultation with the Chairperson, has undertaken a review of the Committee membership. No changes to the Committee's membership are recommended at this time, however the Department will provide the Committee with appropriate support and resourcing to undertake a skills analysis of Committee members as well as consider stakeholder representation on the Committee.

### Update from the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner

- The Commissioner has been busy reviewing reports prepared as part of the LVRRS.
- Tuesday night's one-year anniversary event provided an opportunity for the public to learn more about the work of the Commissioner and the progress of the LVRRS.
- The Commissioner has also commenced planning for events to mark National Science Week. The Commissioner's events are being delivered with the Gippsland Tech School between 3PM-7PM from Monday 13 August to Thursday 16 August 2018.

### 3 Land Use Planning – revised engagement approach

*Delivered by: Ann Kirwan, Program Manager, Land Use Strategy, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).*

- DELWP is undertaking a Land Use Study to inform end uses that are possible for the land surrounding the Latrobe Valley's three brown coal mines. This work will also feed into the preparation of the LVRRS.
- Despite media promotion and advertisements in the *Latrobe Valley Express*, the planned engagement sessions for June attracted only a very small number of attendees. DELWP has revised its engagement approach and will now endeavor to undertake more targeted engagement, going directly to the groups they're seeking input from rather than expecting them to come to a public event.
- There will however be some public sessions. Work is also underway to commission surveys to bolster the public engagement.
- The planning group has also been undertaking shopping centre outreach engagement in May 2018. These sessions were held in Moe, Morwell and Traralgon.
- It was asked if Latrobe City is sitting in on the engagements being undertaken by DELWP. Council has previously been and will continue to be invited to these sessions. Council has previously been and will continue to be invited to these sessions. Council was represented at the May 2018 public session and has also attended a workshop session relating to the development of a "Preliminary Vision". It is hoped that Council officers will continue to be available and attend the upcoming sessions.

### 4 Latrobe City Council position on mine rehabilitation.

*Delivered by: Cr Graeme Middlemiss, Latrobe City Council (followed by Committee discussion)*

At its 4 June 2018 Council Meeting, the Latrobe City Council resolved its position on mine rehabilitation. The Council will lobby for some parts of the mine to be retained for coal winning activities, for ENGIE's landholding to be transferred to the ownership of the State or Federal Government and advocate for community engagement regarding mine rehabilitation.

- The Latrobe City Council's view is that it has not been closely consulted on the issue of final land use. Council is also of the view that the Latrobe Valley community is being over consulted.

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- The Latrobe City Council is yet to be convinced that the pit lake is ultimately the best solution for mine rehabilitation and it wants other solutions to be considered. It does not believe that enough effort is being put into exploring other options such as the Great Latrobe Park.
- Latrobe City Council is still also seeing a strong community desire to retain access to the coal resource.
- Latrobe City envisages a rehabilitated mine site that includes:
  - an equestrian centre
  - land reserved to investigate the possibility to establish a motorsports facility
  - areas for garden, recreation and food production facilities
  - land reserved for future coal winning activities
- It was noted that each of the mine operators has an obligation to deliver a rehabilitation outcome that is safe, stable and sustainable and considering too many options could increase the likelihood of a mine operator entering into a period of care and maintenance once they cease mining to allow for all the options to be considered.
- It was noted that all of the ideas being put forward within the Great Latrobe Park's proposal can be done subject to a funding source. There needs to be awareness of the ongoing risks, responsibility for maintenance and monitoring and the costs associated with various rehabilitation options.
- Yallourn has included the terms 'visually attractive' and 'useful' as put forward by the Great Latrobe Park within its rehabilitation plan.

### 5 Round-the-table updates

#### Angelo Saridis, Gippsland Water

- Gippsland Water is doing a large amount of work to understand the capacity of the Latrobe Water System on the understanding that there will be a significant amount of water required for a pit lake rehabilitation option.
- Gippsland Water believes that there are specific opportunities within existing entitlements to more than double the supply currently under contract.

#### Sarah Gilbert, Latrobe Valley mine operators (AGL)

- AGL has received comments on its risk based workplan and is currently addressing this.
- AGL's Mining Licence for Loy Yang has been extended until 2065. Mining activities are scheduled to continue until 2048 while the Licence will extend through to 2065 to allow for rehabilitation activities to occur.
- AGL hosted its inaugural meeting of its community dialogue group in May 2018.
- The LVRRS data sharing agreement has been executed with AGL.

#### James Faithful, Latrobe Valley mine operators (ENGIE)

- 2x12 operators finished up approximately three weeks ago.
- There's approximately 70 people remaining on site at Hazelwood.
- The Hazelwood Pondage has also been closed due to concerns with the stability of its walls.
- Hazelwood recently received approval for the repurposing of the Hazelwood Ash Pond to allow for asbestos to be disposed of.

#### Ron Mether, Latrobe Valley mine operators (EnergyAustralia)

- EnergyAustralia has also had its mining licence for the Yallourn site extended. The workplan variation that accompanies the extension is due to be submitted today (Thursday 28 June 2018).
- Yallourn has been having conversations with DELWP regarding how it can enhance the biodiversity corridor.
- EnergyAustralia is sending two people to the Mine Closure Conference in Germany in September 2018.

#### Roland Davies, Latrobe Valley community

- The Gippsland Regional Partnership is hosting its annual Regional Assembly in Wonthaggi this evening (Thursday 28 June 2018).
- This year the Regional Assembly is being delivered in a booth format focusing on regional priorities. The priorities for

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the Energy and Resources Working Group (for which Roland serves as Chairperson) are the Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain (HESC) Pilot Project, the CarbonNet Project, the LVRRS, the Star of the South Offshore Windfarm and the Regional Carbon Innovation Centre.

- 210 people have registered to attend the Regional Assembly and a range of Victorian Government Ministers will also be in attendance.

### **Emeritus Professor Rae Mackay, Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner**

- In accordance with the MoU between the between the Committee, the Commissioner and the Latrobe Valley Authority, the Commissioner has had his annual meeting with the Latrobe Valley Authority.

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### **6 An overview of the Yallourn North Extension**

*Delivered by: Ron Mether, Mining Manager, EnergyAustralia Yallourn*

The Committee members were provided with an overview of the Yallourn North Extension site prior to undertaking a site tour.

- Mining at the Yallourn North Extension site commenced in 1955 and concluded in 1989 when the Australian Paper Mill switched its energy supply to gas.
- A total of 9.4 million tonnes of coal was mined during this time, while a coal reserve of 40 million tonnes remains.
- Coal at the Yallourn North Extension Site has a lower moisture content in comparison to Yallourn (52 per cent compared to 65 per cent).
- The total size of the site is 260 hectares.
- The site was rehabilitated between 1990 and 1992.
- Water in the lake was sourced from local run off.

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### **7 Other business and next meeting**

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday 9 August 2018.

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