

Latrobe Valley Regional REHABILITATION STRATEGY

Preliminary Land Use Vision Consultation

How will land use and the landscape change when the Latrobe Valley's three brown coal mines close in the years to come?

BACKGROUND

The Victorian Government, Latrobe Valley community, mine operators and other stakeholders are working together to develop a multi-generational land use vision for the Latrobe Valley. The Vision will help inform the development of the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy (LVRRS).

The Vision considers land use and associated economic and social opportunities that could be created over time when the mines close and are rehabilitated.

For example, opportunities may also emerge for renewable energy and agricultural activities. If filling the mine voids with water was determined to be essential to achieve a safe, stable and sustainable landform for rehabilitation, then water-based uses and activities might be possible.

The draft Preliminary Land Use Vision has been developed based on key land use themes. These themes include tourism, energy and service industries and were highlighted in conversations and workshops in 2018 and 2019 with local community members and other stakeholders, including the Latrobe Valley mine operators and government agencies.

A social history study, which captures and celebrates the Latrobe Valley's heritage, provides additional context for the Vision.

The draft Preliminary Land Use Vision is informing and assisting the development of the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy.

THE VISION FOR THE LATROBE VALLEY

As a result of stakeholder conversations to date a Preliminary Vision Statement for the Latrobe Valley has been developed.

This Vision Statement articulates how, drawing from the consultation to date, stakeholders would like the Latrobe Valley to be in several decades' time when potentially each of the region's three mines may have ceased operating and may even be coming to the end of rehabilitation activities.

It is 2080, and the Latrobe Valley has transitioned into a new kind of sustainable, productive, prosperous and liveable regional city, in concert with a green and attractive rural hinterland. This transition has been achieved through strategic advancement across a range of economic and social drivers.

The Latrobe Valley is nationally and internationally recognised as a unique and distinctive place, characterised by vibrant, dynamic and welcoming towns, set in a picturesque and inviting landscape environment, with strong connections to Melbourne and the Gippsland region.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

Supporting the realisation of this Vision are eight desired outcomes for the Latrobe Valley. These desired outcomes would see the Latrobe Valley become:

- A great brand
- A highly liveable place
- A great place for business and to work
- A key part of Victoria's food bowl
- A great place to visit, eat and drink
- A continued major contributor to Victoria's energy production and transmission
- A regional service hub
- An educational attractor.

LAND USE THEMES

Supporting the realisation of this Vision and the desired outcomes, is the identification of potential land use opportunities across four themes.

The themes have been developed drawing on existing regional land use plans, including the *Gippsland Regional Growth Plan*, Latrobe City Council's *Live Work Latrobe* and from the feedback provided by key stakeholders, including the local community, through forums and briefings in 2018 and 2019.

Theme 1 - Tourism, liveability, recreation

This theme includes consideration of how the region's natural assets, environment and landscape might promote tourism opportunities for those outside of the region, while also attracting new permanent residents to live in the Latrobe Valley.

It identifies six essential components that would be critical to seeing these opportunities fully realised including biodiversity connections, a creative arts hub and a network of tourism-based facilities.

Theme 2 – Industry, business and commerce

This theme focusses on ensuring that land use plans are able to contribute to economic development, job creation and investment attraction within the Latrobe Valley. It identifies the region's real estate offering, transport and digital connectivity as critical to realising these opportunities.

Theme 3 – Agriculture, energy and water

This theme identifies the opportunities for the Latrobe Valley to capitalise on opportunities within the agriculture, energy and water sectors.

The Latrobe Valley has had a long history of energy generation, and this theme identifies how this may be able to continue through best use of resources and through ensuring that energy production and infrastructure assets are maximised.

It also acknowledges the role of the Latrobe Valley as an agricultural hub and supports intensive agriculture that could see advanced food production.

Theme 4 – Services, education and training

This theme identifies how planning for the spatial allocation of needed education and training could support the region across multiple sectors. Strong links and proximity between business and industry and education providers, as well as unique education opportunities and research and development partnerships, will be important to the realisation of this vision.

CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES

The draft Preliminary Land Use Vision identifies constraints and challenges to developing opportunities for land use at the Latrobe Valley's brown coal mining sites and surrounding areas. These include:

- timing of mine closures and knowledge gaps around the rehabilitation period for each mine
- planning for very long time frames of over 50 years is challenging given unknown aspects of future communities and the environment
- using the Latrobe Valley water and geotechnical study findings to refine the land use options
- assessing land development constraints which are particular to the Latrobe Valley
- working with unknowns associated with climate change as this has implications for water availability; resource priorities; the demand for infrastructure and development
- changes in land ownership that may occur as the mines are being closed or rehabilitated.

CAPTURING COMMUNITY VIEWS TO DATE

The draft Preliminary Land Use Vision reflects the views provided by the local community and other key stakeholders at forums held in 2018 and 2019. A summary of these forums is provided below.

Community/ stakeholder	Location	Date	Attendance
Public consultation	Morwell	24 May 2018	4
Council and government stakeholders	Morwell	14 June 2018	12
Public consultation	Moe	6 August 2018	8
Public consultation	Traralgon	13 August 2018	9
Public consultation	Morwell	14 August 2018	16
Industry and government stakeholders	Morwell	14 August 2018	18
Workshop – secondary school students	Traralgon Secondary College	20 September 2018	8 x Year 10 students
Stakeholder workshops (2) including council, government department and planning officers	Morwell	21 and 28 February 2019	1) 4 2) 7

SEEKING YOUR INPUT

We want to hear your views about the draft Latrobe Valley Preliminary Land Use Vision.

The draft Preliminary Land Use Vision can be viewed at engage.vic.gov.au.

Submissions can be made:

- online at engage.vic.gov.au
- via email to planning.implementation@delwp.vic.gov.au
- by post to **Planning Implementation**
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