

Latrobe Valley Regional REHABILITATION STRATEGY OVERVIEW

Land Use Planning

The Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy (LVRRS) has included the consideration of land use opportunities associated with the rehabilitation of the three coal mines and surrounding land.

PRELIMINARY LAND USE VISION

A report on a strategic land use vision for the mines and the area in the vicinity of the mines (the draft Preliminary Land Use Vision - PLUV) was prepared for community and stakeholder feedback in 2019. The Preliminary Land Use Vision identifies opportunities for land use change based on the following four themes:

- Tourism, Liveability, Recreation
- Industry, Business, Commerce
- Agriculture, Energy, Water
- Services, Education, Training

The Preliminary Land Use Vision was tested with the community and stakeholders in 2019 through a public submission process. All the themes were supported by a majority of respondents. Several submitters raised concerns about regional environmental impacts. Others noted the importance of energy generation, agriculture and recreational opportunities in the Valley.

The Preliminary Land Use Vision and a consultation report summarising feedback provided are available on the DELWP Planning website at: planning.vic.gov.au/LVRRS#documents.

LATROBE VALLEY REGIONAL REHABILITATION STRATEGY

The Preliminary Land Use Vision has helped inform the final LVRRS. The LVRRS takes into consideration numerous technical reports across a range of disciplines including the land use report and feedback provided during consultation.

The overall Vision for the LVRRS is that the Latrobe Valley coal mines and adjacent land are transformed to be safe, stable and sustainable landforms which support the next beneficial use.

The LVRRS seeks a range of outcomes, including that:

- People, land, environment and infrastructure are protected
- Land is returned to a safe, stable and sustainable landform
- Aboriginal values are protected
- Community have been engaged, and their aspirations inform the transformation
- Long term benefits and future opportunities to the community are optimised
- An integrated approach to rehabilitation and regional resource management is adopted.

Opportunities for a broad range of land uses to follow the rehabilitation of the mines remain open. The consideration of alternative water sources and the identification of final rehabilitated mine landforms are not yet sufficiently resolved to identify site specific land use responses.

The LVRRS has investigated the feasibility of the pit lake rehabilitation options of the mine voids in the regional context. The LVRRS will provide for the consideration of alternative rehabilitation options as part of its implementation. The implementation of the Strategy will provide mine licensees with further clarity on the options available for mine rehabilitation.

The LVRRS acknowledges that a drying climate poses significant risk to water-based rehabilitation approaches, as local water sources may not be available in the volumes required and at the times needed. Mine rehabilitation must plan for a drying climate and we will need to consider alternative options that do not rely on water from the Latrobe River system. The strategy sets out actions for the government to work with the Latrobe Valley mine operators and other stakeholders, to further explore alternative water options, such as recycled water or desalinated water.

The final landform could include water bodies, partial filled voids or dry void options. The land uses possible with different ways of managing the void are at this point still flexible. The land use options considered within the Preliminary Land Use Vision provide a framework for further discussions about land use opportunities.

WHAT IS THE FUTURE LAND USE FOR THE REHABILITATED MINE SITES?

The Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy is not prescriptive. Land use opportunities for the rehabilitated mine sites remain open.

The LVRRS provides a blueprint to progress mine rehabilitation planning and activities and achieve safe, stable and sustainable landforms that support the next land use. Protection of people, land, and infrastructure will be an essential part of the rehabilitation planning. Land, soil and water conditions will need to be suitable over the long term for their intended uses.

Water use across the Valley and along the river system will influence the future land uses. The LVRRS seeks to ensure that existing water users and the environment are not adversely affected. The Latrobe River system currently supports a range of uses including urban water supply, industry, agriculture and natural systems. The Preliminary Land Use Vision identified opportunities which could exist post-rehabilitation and provide greater economic diversity in the Valley and region.

The implementation of the LVRRS, consideration of alternatives and the assessment of Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plans will allow for development of final land use frameworks.

As the LVRRS is implemented, changes to state and local planning policy contained in planning schemes may be required. The progressive closure of mines may require new provisions different to the current provisions which provide for power generation and active mining.

Government has worked with Latrobe City Council and other stakeholders in developing the LVRRS. The strategy will inform planning and decision-making on strategic land use directions and guide more detailed precinct and site planning as the LVRRS is implemented.

Some of the land use outcomes which have been identified in the Preliminary Land Use Vision may not be feasible under all rehabilitation options or may only become feasible at later stages of the rehabilitation. Consideration of risks and hazards associated with land stability and fire risk will be part of the assessment of alternative rehabilitation options to ensure proposed beneficial land uses can be realised.

CONTACT US

For further information, you can find a copy of the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy and related factsheets online at earthresources.vic.gov.au/lvrrs or by contacting the LVRRS Project Team via email at lvrrs@ecodev.vic.gov.au or on **(03) 5184 2000**.