

Media Release

The Hon Jaclyn Symes MLC

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Minister for Regional Development

Minister for Agriculture

Minister for Resources



Friday, 26 June 2020

EXPERT ADVICE FOR LATROBE VALLEY MINE REHAB

The rehabilitation of the Latrobe Valley's brown coal mines will be steered by experts and locals through the creation of a new authority and a strategy to guide rehabilitation planning and works over the coming decades.

Minister for Resources Jaclyn Symes today launched the Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority and the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy (LVRRS) in Morwell.

The new body will ensure locals continue to be informed and involved in mine rehabilitation. It will oversee the implementation of the LVRRS and contribute to safe, stable and sustainable rehabilitation solutions.

The new authority will be based at the Latrobe Valley GovHub and be part of the 300-strong workforce residing at the new site when completed later this year. The Authority replaces the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner from 30 June.

The Commissioner, Emeritus Professor Rae Mackay, has been appointed chairperson of the authority's board. Professor Mackay will be supported by experienced board director Ms Christine Trotman, who will serve as deputy chairperson.

Latrobe Valley locals Mr Ian Nethercote and Mr Ian Gibson have also been appointed to the board, as have former members of the Technical Review Board Ms Corinne Unger and governance professional Ms Claire Miller. All positions are three-year appointments.

The LVRRS provides a blueprint to progress planning for rehabilitation of the region's coal mines, based on learnings from geotechnical and water studies. It sets out actions to address issues around mine safety and stability, providing mine licensees with further clarity on the available rehabilitation options.

Rehabilitation planning must consider a drying climate and alternative options to relying only on water from the Latrobe River system, protecting existing water entitlement rights of existing users including farmers, communities and the environment.

The strategy has been informed by extensive engagement with the community, stakeholders and the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Advisory Committee over four years. For more information, visit earthresources.vic.gov.au.

Quote attributable to Minister for Resources Jaclyn Symes

"It's important that the community is involved in planning for the rehabilitation of Latrobe Valley's coal mines and has confidence in the process – I expect the Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority will deliver this."

Quote attributable to Minister for Water Lisa Neville

"Under the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy, the entitlements and rights of existing water users – including farmers, communities and the environment – will be fully protected during any rehabilitation process."

Quote attributable to Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing

"We now know a lot more about mine rehabilitation than we did four years ago, thanks to the technical studies and valuable local knowledge helping inform the Rehabilitation Strategy."

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