



Latrobe Valley
Mine Rehabilitation
Commissioner

LATROBE VALLEY MINE REHABILITATION COMMISSIONER

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

The Latrobe Valley Mine
Rehabilitation Commissioner
is an independent officer,
appointed by the Governor
in Council on the recommendation
of the Minister for Resources.

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Commissioner's foreword

The Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner's role was established in 2017 to provide independent assurance to the community that Victorian public sector bodies and the Latrobe Valley mine licensees ENGIE, EnergyAustralia and AGL, are planning effectively for the rehabilitation of the three Latrobe Valley brown coal mines Hazelwood, Yallourn and Loy Yang, and to promote community and stakeholder participation in the planning processes.

Over the last 12 months, my team and I have worked hard to provide assurance to the public and the Minister for Resources that Latrobe Valley mine rehabilitation planning is being undertaken effectively. I have expanded my community engagement activities to include more frequent face-to-face events, to ensure that anyone interested in the rehabilitation of the Latrobe Valley brown coal mines can discuss their views with me. I have also increased my online presence and social media engagement to progress further the ongoing conversations with the Latrobe Valley community on mine rehabilitation issues and plans.

Since the tabling of my last Annual Report, the Latrobe Valley mine licensees and public sector bodies have all made significant progress in mine rehabilitation planning. In November 2018, I published the *Latrobe Valley Rehabilitation Monitoring Framework 2018-20*, which sets out my framework for monitoring and evaluation of rehabilitation planning activities. I have been implementing this framework throughout 2019, to ensure that mine rehabilitation planning is occurring effectively.

In accordance with section 84AZH of the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990 (Vic)*, I am pleased to present the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner's Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2019.

Emeritus Professor Rae Mackay

Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation
Commissioner

October 2019

About the Commissioner

The Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner (the Commissioner) is an independent officer, appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Minister for Resources.

From 1 July – 30 October 2018, the Minister for Resources was the Hon. Tim Pallas MP. Between 29 November – 13 December 2018, the Hon. Tim Pallas served as Acting Minister for Resources. Since 13 December 2018, the Hon. Jaclyn Symes has been the Minister for Resources.

The Commissioner provides independent advice and recommendations directly to the Minister for Resources and mine licensees ENGIE, EnergyAustralia and AGL concerning mine rehabilitation for the three Latrobe Valley brown coal mines – Hazelwood, Yallourn and Loy Yang – as well as each mine’s rehabilitation and closure plans.

The Commissioner also provides advice to the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy (LVRRS), which is being prepared by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) in response to the 2015-16 Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry. The LVRRS seeks to set a safe, stable and sustainable landform for the Latrobe Valley brown coal mine voids and surrounding areas and will guide regional planning for mine rehabilitation in the Latrobe Valley. It is due to be completed by 30 June 2020.

The Commissioner works in partnership with the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Advisory Committee (LVMRAC) and closely with other stakeholders, including providing an education and information conduit for the Latrobe Valley community.

The LVMRAC comprises representation from a broad range of stakeholder groups with an interest in mine rehabilitation in the Latrobe Valley. It plays a key role in community engagement and acts as a conduit to broader stakeholder engagement during the life of the LVRRS.

Current appointment

The current Commissioner is Emeritus Professor Rae Mackay. Professor Mackay was appointed as Commissioner in June 2017. He was previously the Director of the Geotechnical and Hydrogeological Engineering Research Group (GHERG) at the Gippsland Campus of Federation University, formerly Monash University, working extensively with research staff and students on aspects of stability of the Latrobe Valley mines. GHERG works closely with government and industry to further improve the safety and long-term sustainability of the Latrobe Valley brown coal mines focusing on key issues including slope stability, groundwater impacts, and environmental rehabilitation of the sites. As the Director of GHERG, he was also a member of the Victorian Government’s Technical Review Board from 2011 to 2017, which had oversight of stability issues for all mines and quarries in Victoria with emphasis on the Latrobe Valley brown coal mines.

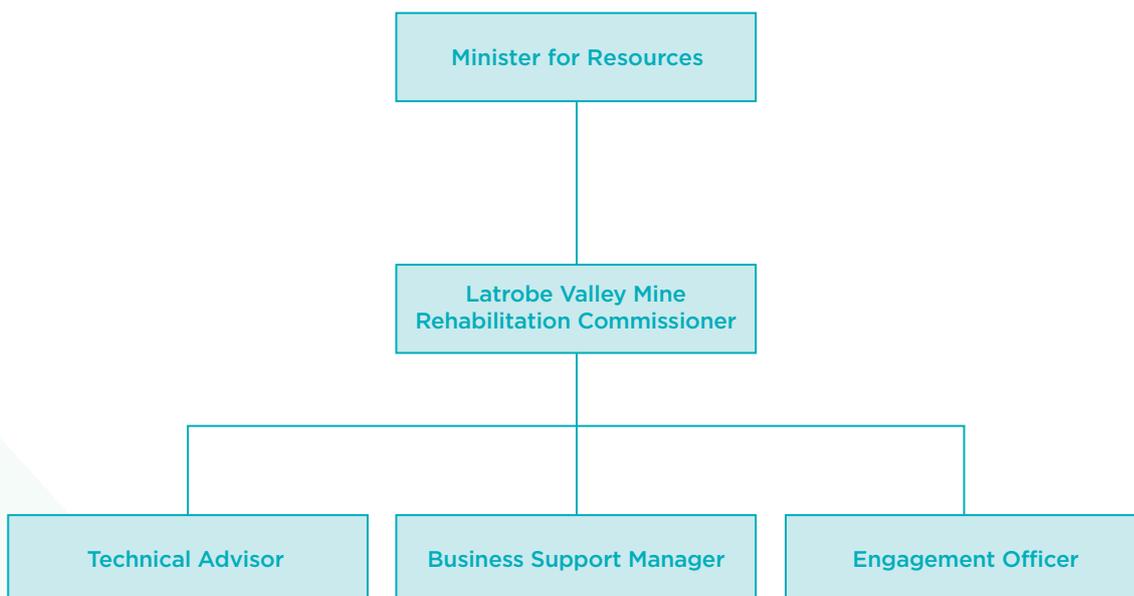
Establishment

The statutory office of the Commissioner was established in 2017 by the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Amendment (Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner) Bill 2017*. With the passage of the Bill, the Commissioner's appointment, functions and powers are governed by Part 7A of the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990 (Vic)* (the Act).

Workforce and office

The Commissioner has a team of three staff – a Technical Advisor, a Business Support Manager and an Engagement Officer – to assist him in carrying out his role and functions. In August 2018, the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner (LVMRC) and his team moved to a permanent office space at Suite 5, 55 Grey Street, Traralgon. An intern undertaking a Diploma in Community Development at Victoria University has also worked part-time in the office on expanding community engagement for the last three months of the reporting period.

Organisational structure as at 30 June 2019



Workforce data

As at 30 June 2019

Classification	Ongoing		Fixed Term	
	Employees (head count)	Employees (FTE)	Employees (head count)	Employees (FTE)
VPS-1			1	0.4
VPS-2				
VPS-3			1	1
VPS-4				
VPS-5			1	1
VPS-6			1	1
Commissioner			1	1
Total			5	4.4

Objectives of the Commissioner

Under s84AE of the Act, the Commissioner's objectives are:

- to provide assurance to the Victorian community that public sector bodies and the Latrobe Valley mine licensees are planning for the rehabilitation of coal mine land, and implementing the regional rehabilitation strategy;
- to promote the participation of the community and stakeholders from the Latrobe Valley region in the development and implementation of the regional rehabilitation strategy; and
- to promote the effective and consistent rehabilitation of coal mine land in accordance with the regional rehabilitation strategy.

Powers and functions of the Commissioner

The Commissioner's powers are defined by s84AL of the Act. These include:

- developing and maintaining a framework for the monitoring of rehabilitation planning activities;
- carrying out strategic audits of Latrobe Valley mine licensees and public sector bodies in relation to rehabilitation planning activities;
- monitoring and evaluating rehabilitation planning activities in accordance with the framework;
- reviewing research plans in relation to the rehabilitation of coal mine land prepared by Latrobe Valley mine licensees;
- coordinating rehabilitation planning activities; and
- engaging with and conducting meetings between relevant groups and persons.

The Commissioner's powers also include providing information and education to the Victorian community about brown coal mine land rehabilitation and the regional rehabilitation strategy, carrying out investigations on the referral of the Minister, and providing advice and recommendations to the Minister on matters related to the exercise of the Commissioner's powers and functions.

The Act grants the Commissioner all powers necessary or convenient to perform these functions.

In performing the Commissioner's functions, the Commissioner must have regard to the objectives of the Commissioner, the development of the regional rehabilitation strategy and the regulatory framework.

Rehabilitation of mine land

Normally, rehabilitation is considered for each mine on an individual basis. However, the closeness of the three Latrobe Valley brown coal mines and their size relative to the surrounding landscape means that their collective impacts on the environment and on future socio-economic development of the region must be considered together. The preparation of a regional rehabilitation strategy provides the framework for assessing the combined plans for the three mines and for coordinating responses to the collective impacts.

An overarching goal for the Commissioner's program of work is to provide independent assurance to the Minister, the mine licensees and the community of the effective development of the regional rehabilitation strategy.

STRATEGY

The strategy will define the goals to be achieved for the rehabilitation of the three Latrobe Valley brown coal mines. These goals will be high-level rather than prescriptive, but will provide clear direction to the mine licensees, the community and Victorian government on:

- acceptable approaches to rehabilitation;
- expected outcomes from the rehabilitation in terms of the limits to be placed on any impacts arising from rehabilitation;
- the opportunities for future beneficial use of the land and water bodies that may be developed through rehabilitation;
- coordination of rehabilitation and the oversight of the rehabilitation processes;
- the approach to managing long term monitoring, maintenance and reporting of rehabilitation outcomes; and
- the financial and organisational provisions required to support effective rehabilitation and management of any long-term liabilities arising from the rehabilitation.

The Victorian government has embedded in its legislation three principles for mine land rehabilitation. These are that the rehabilitated landform and land use must be:

- a. Safe
- b. Stable
- c. Sustainable

These have provided a clear focus for all community conversations involving the Commissioner in relation to mine rehabilitation. During 2018-19, the Commissioner adopted three further principles arising from community proposals to expand the rehabilitation conversation. These are that the rehabilitated landform and land developments should be:

- d. Non-polluting
- e. Visually attractive
- f. Useful and productive

SAFE

The final landform should present the lowest reasonably achievable risk to public health and safety and the environment, both within and beyond the mine boundaries. A range of possible hazards need to be addressed including fire, dust, contamination of air, soil and water, and detrimental or uncontrolled water flows or the development of weak or dangerous ground. Controls necessary to maintain safe conditions should be in place with appropriate actions, such as monitoring.

STABLE

Future ground movements of the final landform should be minimised as far as reasonably practicable and those movements that will occur should be understood, predictable and controlled. Controls necessary to maintain stability within and beyond the mine boundary should be in place with appropriate monitoring. The risks of rapid, adverse ground movements leading to damage to infrastructure, property, or the environment should be as low as reasonably achievable. Any risk to human life should be identified and addressed.

SUSTAINABLE

The final landform, including any water bodies, should be feasible from long-term stability, environmental, social and economic perspectives, and capable of beneficial use. The ongoing management, monitoring and maintenance of the landforms including any water bodies should be well defined and the appropriate financial and regulatory provisions for these activities in place.

NON-POLLUTING

The final landform should not result in any air, land or water contamination that is greater than an equivalent natural system. As far as reasonably practical, the landform and associated land uses should not adversely impact adjacent land or water bodies.

VISUALLY ATTRACTIVE

'Visually attractive' relates to a landscape that is visually pleasing and is a source of pride for the community. In conversations with residents and the Latrobe City Council, it is clear that 'visually attractive' is a key outcome desired by the community.

USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE

The final landform and future land uses should be useful and productive for the Latrobe Valley community. They should contribute to the social and economic wellbeing of the region. Preventing productive future uses and offering limiting access should be avoided. While the final land use will depend to a large degree on the characteristics of the final landform, it should hold some benefit to the community. Benefits could include use as a recreational space, site for renewable power generation, agriculture or aquaculture.

Achievements and key initiatives



An information session with members of the Gippsland Multicultural Services Inc.

Community outreach

COMMUNITY GROUP ENGAGEMENT

During 2018-19, the LVMRC team expanded its community group outreach and engagement program. Around 80 community groups were identified and contacted to explore opportunities for knowledge sharing.

This has seen the Commissioner and his team deliver presentations and attend meetings of local community groups, to have discussions and answer questions on mine rehabilitation issues. These included the Latrobe Valley Sustainability Group, Newborough Mens' Shed, Rotary Club of Moe, Morwell Mens' Shed, Latrobe Young Professionals, Inner Wheel Club of Moe, and Gippsland Multicultural Services Inc.

A key goal for this community outreach has been to expand communications and conversations to include community members who would not normally engage with rehabilitation as part of their usual activities. The response has been very positive.

Community group engagement has proven an effective way to get the community involved in mine rehabilitation discussions. People involved in local community groups are typically active and engaged members of the community, and often welcome the chance to learn about mine rehabilitation and its future benefits.

In addition to community meetings, the LVMRC set up an information display at the Traralgon, Morwell and Moe libraries from May to June. The display featured factsheets, a short video, and an iPad kiosk allowing viewers to provide feedback on the display and subscribe to our newsletter using the online platform SurveyMonkey. Feedback from the survey proved positive and provided another avenue for members of the community to interact with the LVMRC.



Our display at the Morwell library.

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

In February 2019, the Commissioner established a social media presence on Facebook: [facebook.com/lvminerehab](https://www.facebook.com/lvminerehab), providing an avenue for further online engagement in addition to the LVMRC website: lvmrc.vic.gov.au. The Facebook page aims to improve the quality and reach of LVMRC engagement and communications with the Latrobe Valley community and other key stakeholders, as well as increase engagement with segments of the community that have been under-represented in conversations on Latrobe Valley mine rehabilitation, including younger people and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities.

The LVMRC Facebook page has proven an effective way of informing the community about mine rehabilitation issues as well as for advertising upcoming engagement events such as community group meetings and information display locations. The Commissioner's Facebook presence was also used to advertise the June 2019 community forum, which had the highest attendance for any LVMRC event to date.

Promoting better practice

University-based research projects on the Latrobe Valley mines are an important means of ensuring that a comprehensive knowledge base underpins rehabilitation decision-making.

The Commissioner has continued to interact with Monash and Federation universities throughout 2018-19 to promote research in areas directly applicable to rehabilitation of the Latrobe Valley mines. Coordination and promotion of research particularly in relation to the program of activities being undertaken by the Integrated Mines Research Group (IMRG), a recommendation of the 2015-16 Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry, is a requirement under the Commissioner's Statute.

The Commissioner's existing ties with the academic community has allowed him the opportunity to promote education and research on mine rehabilitation at the tertiary level. The Commissioner has conducted lectures and seminars at Federation University and Monash University.

In August 2018, the Commissioner ran a series of seminars and secondary school programs in collaboration with Gippsland Tech School as part of National Science Week.

The LVMRC team has begun working with the Broadening Horizons program on developing a mine rehabilitation educational package to integrate with Latrobe Valley school curricula from Grade 5 to Year 8. The Broadening Horizons program is funded by the Latrobe Valley Authority and Regional Development Victoria and connects schools to work with industry to develop 'real world' projects for students to work on.

Working with stakeholders

Effective and productive engagement with stakeholders is critical to the Commissioner's functions, particularly when exercising his review and oversight role.

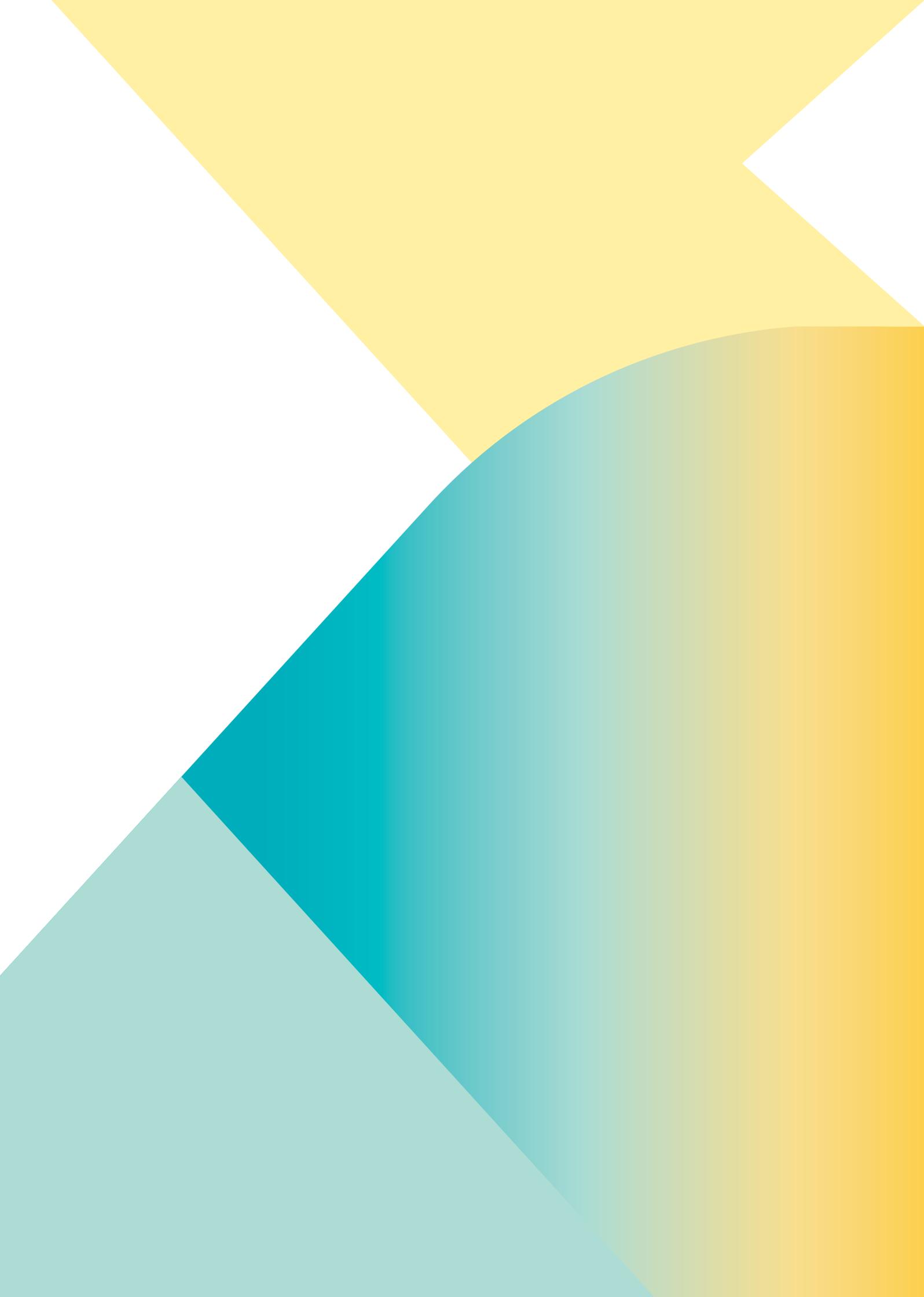
The relationship between the Commissioner and the LVRRS team is a key enabler to ensuring that the Commissioner can fulfil his function of providing advice and recommendations to the Minister concerning the strategy.

Throughout 2018-19, the Commissioner and his team have regularly met LVRRS project members to discuss all aspects of the strategy's development. The Commissioner and Technical Advisor have attended workshops and meetings with LVRRS technical specialists and have provided comment and recommendations on interim and draft findings on each of the major project components: geotechnical studies, water studies and future land use visions.

The Commissioner and LVMRC team have continued to build on established relationships with the three Latrobe Valley mine licensees. Regular meetings with key personnel at each mine ensure that the Commissioner is kept up to date on the progression of rehabilitation plans, as well as the progress and outcomes of mine-specific investigations.

Detailed discussions have taken place over the year with the rehabilitation planning staff at Hazelwood mine on closure objectives and criteria and appropriate approaches to the development of these in order to relinquish the mining licence at the end of the rehabilitation closure and monitoring period.

As part of the Commissioner's role to promote and coordinate research, he has attended IMRG bi-monthly meetings throughout the year and has provided information on the possible future directions for the research program of the IMRG to be considered as part of its three-yearly review of its program due for completion in late 2019. In addition to contributing to the direction of the research program of the IMRG, the Commissioner has also had oversight of the work of GHERG's research program and, in particular, the Victorian government-funded Batter Stability Project, which is due to report its findings in 2020.





Report on performance of functions and exercise of powers

Under section 84AZH of the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990 (Vic)*, the Commissioner must make an annual report to the Minister for Resources on the performance of the Commissioner's functions and the exercise of the Commissioner's powers.

The following details the Commissioner's performance of functions and exercise of powers from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.

DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A FRAMEWORK FOR THE MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF REHABILITATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

The *Latrobe Valley Rehabilitation Monitoring Framework 2018-20* was prepared based on the Commissioner's first year's activities, in consultation with the relevant organisations concerned with Latrobe Valley brown coal mine rehabilitation.

Rehabilitation planning for the three brown coal mines encompasses a broad range of actions that are subject to oversight. These actions include the work of the LVRRS project, the individual planning by the mine licensees, the collective research program of the three mine licensees under the auspices of the IMRG, and the deliberations of public-sector bodies including the regulators Earth Resources Regulation (ERR) and Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA), and the planning and development departments (DJPR and DELWP) that have a stake in the outcomes of rehabilitation of the mines.

The rehabilitation monitoring and evaluation framework has been constructed around these four key groups' activities. Each key group is assigned a hierarchy of activities, outputs and outcomes leading to a required goal. While the framework identifies activities that will take place in future years, it has been designed specifically to be most relevant for the period up to the end of June 2020. The application of the framework at the end of this period will depend on the Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority plans. If it is to continue to be useful beyond the publication of the LVRRS, it will need review and revision to reflect the content of the Strategy.

The *Latrobe Valley Rehabilitation Monitoring Framework 2018-20* was published in November 2018. It is available online at lvrrc.vic.gov.au/monitoring-framework. A hard copy version of the framework is available from the Commissioner's office.

CARRY OUT STRATEGIC AUDITS OF PUBLIC SECTOR BODIES AND LATROBE VALLEY MINE LICENSEES IN RELATION TO REHABILITATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

The Commissioner did not commence any audits in 2018-19, reflecting both the significant program of ongoing technical reviews but also reflecting the compressed timescales for many of the actions being undertaken under the LVRRS and the major stakeholder programs. Introducing an audit process for the major stakeholders this year would have delivered an audit report that was out of date before it was complete.

MONITOR AND EVALUATE REHABILITATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FRAMEWORK

Since the commencement of the *Latrobe Valley Rehabilitation Monitoring Framework 2018-20* in November 2018, the Commissioner has conducted all monitoring and evaluation of rehabilitation planning in accordance with the framework.

REVIEW ANY RESEARCH PLAN IN RELATION TO THE REHABILITATION OF COAL MINE LAND PREPARED BY A LATROBE VALLEY MINE LICENSEE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS, IF ANY, FOLLOWING A REVIEW TO THE RELEVANT LATROBE VALLEY MINE LICENSEE

The research plans of the Latrobe Valley mine licensees are focussed through the 10-year research plans of the IMRG. Through the bi-monthly IMRG coordination meetings, the Commissioner has been kept apprised of the ongoing activities. This overview of research is further enhanced through direct oversight of programs of research being undertaken as part of the IMRG, including the Batter Stability Project and related research at Federation University. The IMRG 10-year plan is due for a review and update in late 2019. The Commissioner has identified several potential research needs that should be considered as part of this review and has identified potential lead organisations to oversee the work as well as timing of the research. The set of potential research needs has been forwarded to the IMRG for their evaluation and incorporation in their forward plans. The Commissioner has also encouraged LVRRS project staff to identify future research projects that will need to be addressed following the presentation of the strategy that will be needed to support the strategy's implementation.

COORDINATE REHABILITATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Coordination has been achieved through close engagement with and oversight of the major activities of the mine licensees, the IMRG, the LVRRS project and public sector bodies.

ENGAGE WITH THE VICTORIAN COMMUNITY, OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, PUBLIC SECTOR BODIES AND THE LATROBE VALLEY MINE LICENSEES IN RELATION TO THE REHABILITATION OF COAL MINE LAND

Engagement with relevant public sector bodies, the Latrobe Valley mine licensees and other stakeholders has occurred regularly throughout the year.

The LVMRC team has worked to ensure that anyone with an interest in the rehabilitation of the Latrobe Valley mines is able to meet with the Commissioner.

During 2018-19, the LVMRC office significantly increased its community engagement and education activities. In January 2019, the LVMRC recruited a full-time Engagement Officer. A part-time (0.4FTE) Intern to support the actions of the Engagement Officer was also employed in the final quarter of the year. This has enabled the office to put greater emphasis and time into community outreach, resulting in an increase in the number and frequency of community and stakeholder engagement meetings, and higher quality engagement with the community on mine rehabilitation issues. It has allowed the LVMRC to connect with the many community groups that represent the diverse interests of the region to broaden the conversations with the community on mine rehabilitation and future development post mine relinquishment.

Information on rehabilitation planning is provided through information packs and online communications through Facebook and the Commissioner's website, as well as an electronic mail list (see *Achievements and key initiatives*).



The Commissioner and Technical Advisor visited several brown coal rehabilitation projects including Lake Markkleeberg in Leipzig, Germany while attending the 2018 International Conference on Mine Closure.

CONDUCT AND SUPPORT MEETINGS BETWEEN THE VICTORIAN COMMUNITY, OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, PUBLIC SECTOR BODIES AND THE LATROBE VALLEY MINE LICENSEES IN RELATION TO REHABILITATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES THAT PROMOTE COMMUNICATION AND THE RESOLUTION OF ISSUES

The Commissioner has facilitated meetings between the community, other stakeholders, public sector bodies and the Latrobe Valley mine licensees primarily through biannual public forums.

The Commissioner continued his commitment to holding two public forums each year, with the forums for 2018-19 held in December 2018 and June 2019.

The December 2018 forum provided the community with an overview of the *Latrobe Valley Rehabilitation Monitoring Framework 2018-20* and included a presentation on rehabilitation lessons learned from a study tour of Germany's brown coal mines as part of the Mine Closure conference in Leipzig in September 2018. The LVMRC team is frequently asked for successful mine rehabilitation examples from other jurisdictions. This international conference was significant, as it was held on the location of several brown coal rehabilitation projects.

The Commissioner and Technical Advisor saw firsthand successful brown coal rehabilitation projects based on pit lake landforms, how community engagement is incorporated into rehabilitation plans, as well as learned about the specific issues of mined land relinquishment. The conference brought together experts from around the world.

The presentations at the December 2018 forum were well received and enabled the LVMRC team to further the conversation about what successful rehabilitation looks like, and what it can mean for former mining communities. Information from the conference and the field visits around Leipzig and Cologne have been used in conversations with the Latrobe Valley community.



The June 2019 forum featured presentations and a plenary session with representatives from EPA, WorkSafe Victoria and ERR.

The June 2019 forum focused on the role that government regulators play in mine rehabilitation, and featured representatives from EPA, WorkSafe Victoria and ERR within DJPR. A total of 93 audience members attended, along with 15 staff from LVMRC, Coal Resources Victoria, EPA, ERR, and WorkSafe. This is the highest attendance the LVMRC has had for a community forum, demonstrating that the Commissioner's increased efforts on community engagement activities has encouraged strong interest from the community.

The Commissioner and his Technical Advisor have contributed to stakeholder discussions over the year around the proposed location and construction timing of the Traralgon bypass and have considered the possible implications for rehabilitation planning at Loy Yang mine.

PROVIDE ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MINISTER IN RELATION TO:

- **THE POSSIBLE CHANGES TO THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK;**
- **THE OUTCOMES OF ANY ENGAGEMENT BY THE COMMISSIONER WITH THE VICTORIAN COMMUNITY OR STAKEHOLDERS;**
- **THE PLANNING FOR THE MONITORING, AND COMPLETION, OF THE REHABILITATION OF COAL MINE LAND;**
- **THE PLANNING FOR THE MONITORING AND MAINTENANCE OF COAL MINE LAND THAT HAS BEEN REHABILITATED;**
- **THE REGIONAL REHABILITATION STRATEGY; AND**
- **THE REHABILITATION PLANS OF THE LATROBE VALLEY MINE LICENSEES.**

Throughout 2018-19, the Commissioner has provided regular advice to the Minister for Resources on all aspects of mine rehabilitation planning and regulation. Advice has been provided directly to the Minister in written briefings, as well as through input into departmental submissions to the Minister.

In December 2018, the Commissioner provided an assessment to the Minister of the rehabilitation and closure planning and community engagement components of the Work Plan Variation submitted by EnergyAustralia for Yallourn mine to ERR.

Further, in April 2019, the Commissioner submitted his assessment to the Minister of the impacts on rehabilitation planning of an addendum to the Hazelwood Work Plan Variation submitted by ENGIE to ERR.

The Commissioner is a statutory referral authority for all work plan variations submitted by the three Latrobe Valley mine licensees.

PROVIDE INFORMATION AND EDUCATION TO THE VICTORIAN COMMUNITY ABOUT THE PLANNING FOR THE REHABILITATION OF COAL MINE LAND AND THE REGIONAL REHABILITATION STRATEGY

Community education is a critical aspect of the Commissioner's role. In addition to meeting with a range of community groups, the LVMRC office began publishing a quarterly newsletter with the first edition distributed in February 2019. The newsletter features information on the Commissioner's activities, as well as articles on key mine rehabilitation concepts. It is published online through email and the LVMRC website, while hard copy versions are distributed at stakeholder and community engagement meetings and events.

The LVMRC website continues to be an effective means of providing the community with more detailed mine rehabilitation information. The website features copies of LVMRC reports and newsletters and the newly developed factsheets, allowing the public easy access to the information we create.

It has proven an effective way of enabling access to mine rehabilitation information – for example, the *Latrobe Valley Rehabilitation and Monitoring Framework* has been downloaded almost 200 times since its release in November 2018.

Since the start of 2019, the LVMRC team has been handing out information packs to members of the public at community events. The packs are intended to provide people with background information on key mine rehabilitation concepts and the role of the Commissioner, as well as contact details for any follow-up questions. Each pack contains around eight factsheets and infographics, a copy of the latest LVMRC newsletter and office contact details. The packs have proven popular at community engagement events and enable people who attend to share information with their friends and families.

CARRY OUT INVESTIGATIONS ON THE REFERRAL OF THE MINISTER UNDER DIVISION 4; AND PROVIDE ADVICE, REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MINISTER ON MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMISSIONER UNDER DIVISION 4

The Minister for Resources did not refer any matters to the Commissioner for investigation under Division 4 of the Act during 2018-19.

PROVIDE ADVICE, RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS TO THE MINISTER ON THE EXERCISE OF THE COMMISSIONER'S FUNCTIONS

Throughout 2018-19, the Commissioner provided advice to the Minister for Resources on the exercise of his functions.

Glossary

DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
DJPR	Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions
ERR	Earth Resources Regulation Earth Resources Regulation is part of the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Region's Resources division. It regulates mines and quarries under the <i>Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990</i> and petroleum activities under the <i>Petroleum Act 1998</i> .
EPA	Environment Protection Authority Victoria
GHERG	Geotechnical and Hydrogeological Engineering Research Group The Geotechnical and Hydrogeological Engineering Research Group is a Victorian-government funded group within the School of Science, Engineering and Information Technology at Federation University Gippsland. GHERG focuses on the key issues affecting brown coal mines in the Latrobe Valley, including slope stability, groundwater impacts, environmental rehabilitation and the long-term sustainability of mine sites.
IMRG	Integrated Mines Research Group The Integrated Mine Research Group was established in July 2016 by the three Latrobe Valley mine licensees - ENGIE, EnergyAustralia and AGL. It is a mine-operator led initiative to collectively undertake studies and research to improve knowledge of rehabilitation and closure planning and to examine the technical basis for alternative rehabilitation options.

LVMRAC**Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation
Advisory Committee**

The Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Advisory Committee was established in response to the 2015-16 Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry. The committee comprises representation from a broad range of stakeholder groups with an interest in mine rehabilitation in the Latrobe Valley. It plays a key role in community engagement and acts as a conduit to broader stakeholder engagement during the life of the LVRRS. The committee also provides advice directly to the Minister for Resources regarding the development of the LVRRS.

LVMRC**Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation
Commissioner**

LVRRS**Latrobe Valley Regional
Rehabilitation Strategy**

The Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy is being prepared by DELWP and DJPR in response to the 2015-16 Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry.

The LVRRS seeks to set a safe, stable and sustainable landform for the Latrobe Valley brown coal mine voids and surrounding areas and will guide regional planning for mine rehabilitation in the Latrobe Valley.

The Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner provides independent advice and recommendations to the LVRRS and the Minister for Resources on the development of the strategy, which is due to be completed by 30 June 2020.



**Authorised and published by
the Victorian Government.**

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