



**Latrobe Valley
Mine Rehabilitation
Commissioner**

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 14 November 2019

Community forum to focus on mine rehab learnings

A discussion and reflection on what we have learnt about mine rehabilitation planning for the Latrobe Valley's three brown coal mines will be the focus of the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner's next public forum to be held on Wednesday 27 November in Morwell.

The recent release of the findings of the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy (LVRRS) studies have confirmed those of the 2015-16 Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry, that the landform with the safest, most stable and most sustainable outcome for each of the three coal mines is a full pit lake.

The studies also determined that the most viable option for sourcing water for mine rehabilitation is surface water from the Latrobe River system, which is licensed or contracted to the power stations for power generation, and groundwater which is licensed for depressurisation of the mines.

The Commissioner is hosting a discussion focusing on the reflections and perspectives of the three mine operators on their work and the LVRRS studies, as well as looking deeper into the issues of water for rehabilitation and the risks it mitigates.

Professor Rae Mackay, as Commissioner, provides independent advice and recommendations on mine rehabilitation planning to the LVRRS Project Team which is comprised of the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP); as well as the Minister for Resources, and the three mine owners AGL, ENGIE and EnergyAustralia.

"Making sure that the coal mines will be safe, stable, sustainable, non-polluting, visually attractive and economically valuable is a key goal for rehabilitation, and the most viable way to stabilise the mines is with water," Professor Mackay said.

"Full pit lakes enable less maintenance, which means there is no ongoing groundwater dewatering or draining of batters. They also provide the best coverage of coal to prevent fires and enable the widest variety of future land uses surrounding the void," he continued.

"The mine owners are responsible for mine land rehabilitation and will make their decisions about the final landform based on the conditions that will be imposed by the LVRRS. Engagement with the community on the Strategy and the final rehabilitation plans is an important ongoing action for all stakeholders," Professor Mackay concluded.

Community members are invited to attend the Commissioner's public forum on **Wednesday 27 November from 5.30pm at the Italian Australian Club, Princes Highway, Morwell**. A light supper will be provided. RSVP is preferred by calling 1800 571 966, email to commissioner@lvmrc.vic.gov.au, or by visiting lvmrc.vic.gov.au/events.

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For more information, please contact:

**Mary Mathew
Engagement Officer
Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner
1800 571 966 | 0436 816 856**

