

# Event Report & Survey Results



**Latrobe Valley  
Mine Rehabilitation  
Commissioner**

## Overseeing Our Future – Community Q&A on Mine Rehabilitation Survey

### Overview

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On 13 December 2017, the Office of the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner hosted the Overseeing Our Future - Community Q&A on Mine Rehabilitation event in Morwell. The objectives of the event were to identify the stakeholders with responsibility for rehabilitation and closure and their part in the planning for and implementation of rehabilitation.

The facilitated event was constructed around a panel of eight representatives from key stakeholder organisations. Feedback strongly indicates the event was well received and the meeting went smoothly with strong attendance from the community.

The summary details for the event are provided below, including the results from the follow up questionnaire.

### Panel Representatives

- Anthony Feigl – Acting Director, Coal Resources Victoria (LVRRS)
- James Faithful – Technical Services Manager - Mine, ENGIE Hazelwood
- Karen Sonnekus – Acting Regional Manager - Gippsland, Earth Resources Regulation
- Paul Barrand – Infrastructure, Civil & Environmental Manager, AGL Loy Yang
- Phil Stone – General Manager City Development, Latrobe City Council
- Rae Mackay – Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner
- Ron Mether – Mining Manager, Energy Australia Yallourn
- Stephen Lansdell – Regional Manager - Gippsland, Environment Protection Authority
- Facilitator: Sophie Morell – Business Manager, Office of the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner

### Pre-event activity

The community were invited to attend using different channels of communication. These consisted of:

- Event pamphlets provided at community engagements
- Email invitation using Eventbrite.com.au
- Advertising in the Latrobe Valley Express (4 x consecutive issue adverts)
- Latrobe City Council Community Events page
- Latrobe Valley Authority Events page
- Radio interview with the Commissioner during the 'For Your Information' hour on Gippsland FM
- Social media posting
- Word of mouth

### Event Statistics

- 186 e-invites issued via Eventbrite
- 48 RSVP
- 76 attendees excluding panel members
- 72 event surveys issued via Survey Monkey
- 4 event postal surveys issued
- 31 event surveys completed online
- 0 postal surveys returned
- 5 completed Share Your Idea's cards

## Questions Asked & Addressed

– responses to these questions can be located on the LVMRC website in the FAQ.

NB. These questions have been reworded from the original oral questions and in some cases combined to improve readability, hopefully without altering the sense of the questions.

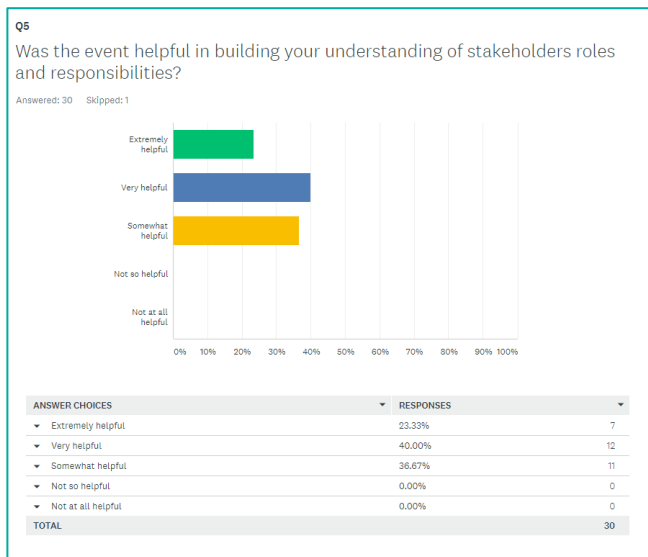
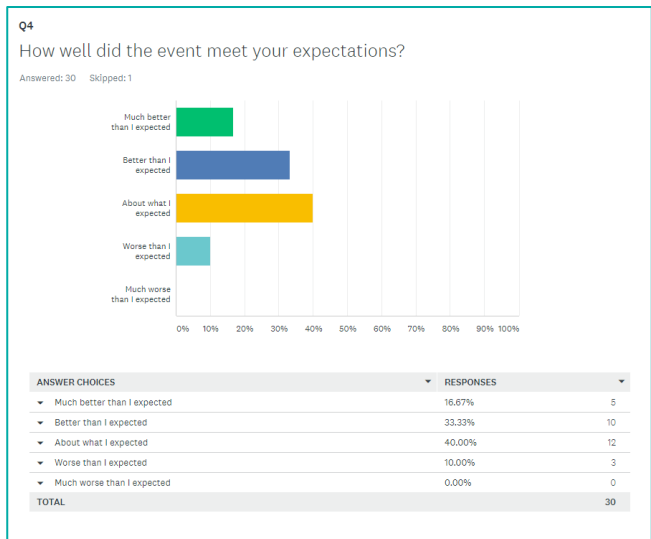
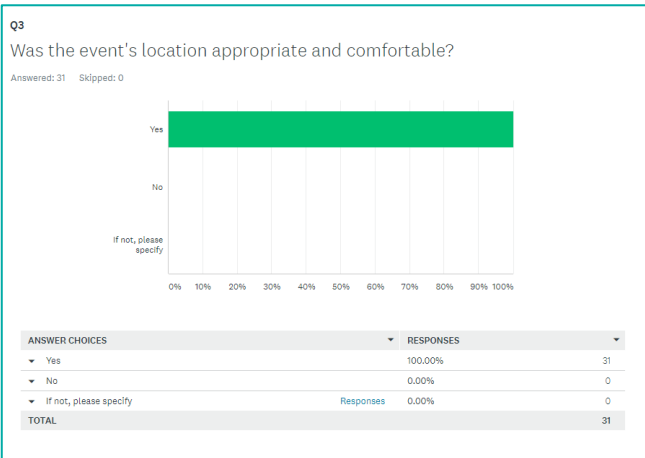
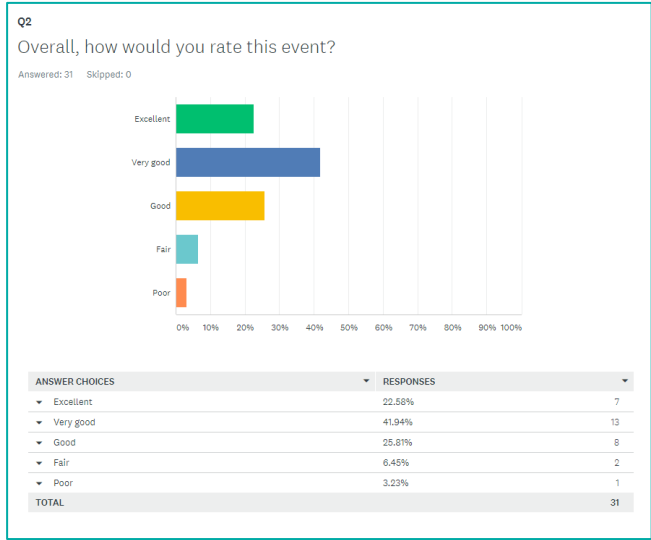
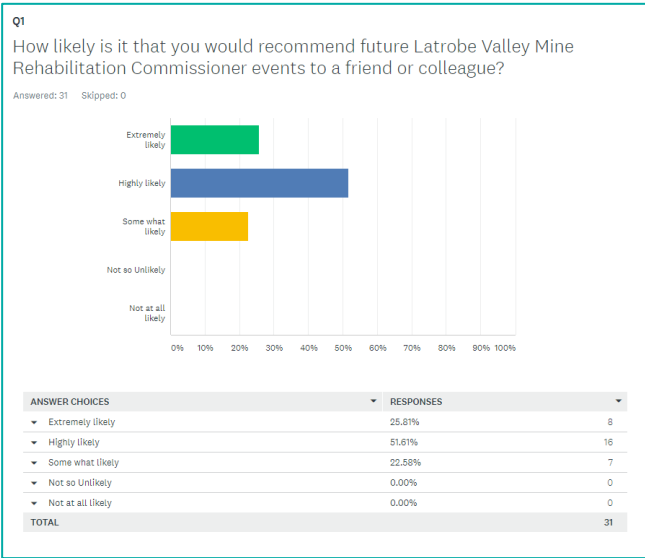
- Which government authorities deal with stability and ground control in a regulatory sense?
- Does the EPA play a role in contributing to and regulating mine rehabilitation and closure?
- What are the timelines for rehabilitation and closure of the mined areas? What is the time scale that we are talking about?
- It seems that a lot of work is going into figuring out how the mines can be filled with water. We heard at the enquiry two years ago that filling them with water was the best solution or the least bad solution. Given this background, when was the community asked whether they want three lakes of uncertain water quality added to the area?
- Is there an opportunity to do something positive in terms of land use with a dry mine? We know that one of the disadvantages of maintaining a dry pit is it needs ongoing pumping and stability management, but we know that lakes would require ongoing monitoring and maintenance as well. So why isn't there effort going into examining alternatives to filling them with water?
- There seems to be a lot of momentum towards assessing and implementing three lakes. Is it a foregone conclusion that this is what's going to happen? Where on the spectrum of consultation are we? Will there be three lakes and community consultation solely around the lakes option; or is it still possible to offer ideas to DEDJTR and to others so that there is a genuine conversation about doing something else with the 100 square kilometres of land?
- Filling Yallourn mine with water is being presented as the cheapest for management and that Yallourn would take 80 years to fill naturally, and six if water is available from other water licenses. Given this demand for water, is there an impact on the water rates of ordinary residents in the Latrobe Valley arising from the creation of these lakes?
- My question is to the mine managers. Is there going to be a dedicated website to allow people to actually suggest projects that they think are good, not just for the pit mine but for all the area around that? Are we going to have some sort of suggestion website where people are able to submit options they think should be developed on the mine areas, so everybody in the community can see them and judge for themselves whether they are good, bad or ugly?
- How do we vary the mine licences so that when we put in a Great Latrobe Park we can vary the vegetation? Because right now the mining licenses all say that you've got to return the rehabilitated land to pasture, agricultural land.
- What will the water quality of the new lake be in the future and will there be public access to the lake?
- If Hazelwood mine is flooded, what impact will that have on Wallace Street?
- You said there's a fair bit of ground movement survey work being done, which those of us who live in Morwell are aware of because we see the surveyors doing their work. Is there somewhere where the public can view the survey results? Some 20-odd years ago the SEC used to publish survey data regularly. The data would be published in The Express, so we could see how much the block from Commercial Road to Wallace Street had stretched or sunk. Is there a public display of the recent data?
- [Commissioner] you claim that the ongoing maintenance for a dry hole will be the most expensive and a full water filled pit the least expensive. Can you please validate this claim, to demonstrate that there's some rigor associated with the cost differences indicated? [I'll qualify that I believe that you're probably right, that the wet hole proposals are probably going to be the best. But quite clearly there are people in the community who are interested in at least having dry holes considered. Putting these figures on your website would allow everyone to see this information.



## Survey Results

A total of 10 questions were asked of the attendees regarding their views and learnings of the Overseeing Our Future – Community Q&A event and suggestions for future community engagements.

Listed below are the results from the survey, compiled over a 3-week period (12/01-31/01/2018).



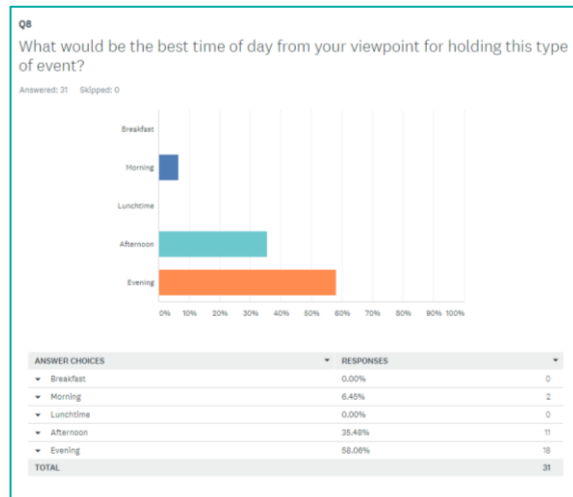
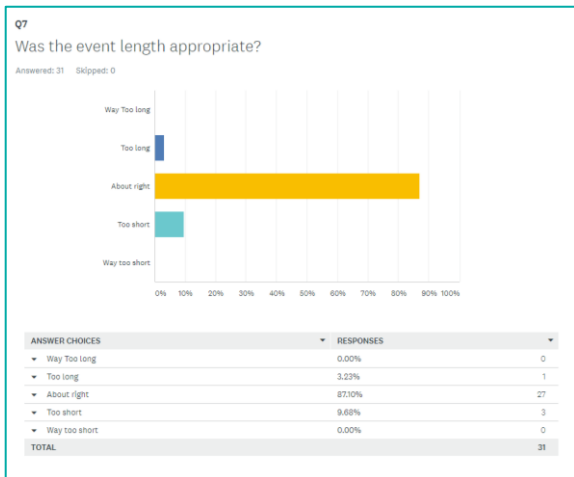
## Q6 – What future mine rehabilitation conversations would you like to see facilitated by the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner?

Answered: 29 Skipped: 2

### Responses:

- 'For the Commissioner, & others participating in the Rehabilitation Planning Process, to attain some degree of credibility it is long overdue for the "back of the envelope" figures repeatedly spoken of by the Commissioner & his associates, at least, to be publicly disseminated to clearly, transparently & unambiguously indicate why a "dry hole" option is not being publicly considered for 1 or more of the 3 largest open cuts.' - 1/30/2018 5:12 PM
- 'Discussion of different end land uses and what the community wants the mines to become.' - 1/30/2018 12:56 PM
- 'The mine representatives were somewhat on edge, and gave me the impression of holding back in some areas.' - 1/28/2018 1:22 PM
- 'Technical aspects associated with options to flood pits - Long term water quality' - 1/28/2018 9:58 AM
- 'Development of true mine rehabilitation well ahead of closure - landuses, setting goals, monitoring progress. More in line with the miner's commitment prior to getting approval.' - 1/25/2018 4:35 PM
- 'I think the definition of post-rehabilitation stability is still very subjective and even vague. What I realised from the previous event is both the stakeholders and public talk and discuss the stability. However, they are not necessarily talking about the same thing, as each has a different mental picture of it. To approach the event objectives more efficiently, I think a precise definition of what we should consider as the post-rehabilitation stability needs to be discussed, understood and accepted by both stakeholders and public.' - 1/24/2018 4:17 PM
- 'Talk of the risks involved with different solutions to "the pit problem".' - 1/24/2018 10:47 AM
- 'I would like to see the Environmental side of the rehab discussed also, not just a safe stable sustainable mine landscape.' - 1/24/2018 10:41 AM
- 'Discussion & analysis of water allocation possibilities to achieve desired mine rehabilitation outcomes' - 1/24/2018 10:38 AM
- 'Community Impact' - 1/23/2018 3:12 PM
- 'A clear articulation of the roles and responsibilities of the various private and public organizations with input to designing and delivering mine rehabilitation.' - 1/19/2018 9:20 AM
- 'More detail on water availability and beneficial uses of the lakes to the public' - 1/15/2018 3:08 PM
- 'A private conversation between Engie management and the Great Latrobe Park presenter team so we can understand why they are, so far, unable to accommodate the Latrobe Valley Community's desire to create the Great Latrobe Park.' - 1/15/2018 12:06 PM
- 'Rehabilitation involving revegetation and reinstatement of natural ecosystems.' - 1/15/2018 8:28 AM
- 'I would like to see a continued education on the complexity of the problem so that expectations are measured and outcomes better understood as time goes by, basically seek to reduce the politics that are currently present.' - 1/15/2018 3:19 AM
- 'Would like to see continued consultation.' - 1/13/2018 3:01 PM
- 'More information about the potential public use of the possible pit lakes. Will they be a community asset that can be leveraged? Is the future of Hazelwood pondage within the scope of the Commissioner's responsibility?' - 1/12/2018 9:23 PM
- 'The effects on the population of the Latrobe Valley not the financial effect on the mine/open cut owners' - 1/12/2018 7:43 PM
- 'Earlier notification of EVENT' - 1/12/2018 7:30 PM
- 'I will continue monthly meetings with Commissioner' - 1/12/2018 7:19 PM
- 'A session on future rehabilitation options. That is a session that allows the range of speculative and imaginative issues to be explored. This might form the basis for some free range speculation. The constraint to what can be delivered realistically is good, but I would also like to see the community offered a chance to imagine and aspire.' - 1/12/2018 6:34 PM
- 'As this is a long term project, I would like to see public reporting at the same venue as milestones are reached.' - 1/12/2018 3:56 PM
- 'It was not clear who the stakeholders were in terms of community and non-mining company. It would be valuable to hear from them also in the future. Yes it was very valuable to have all Government and Energy Companies on the stage. And questions from individuals provided some insights into diff perspectives. So the opportunity exists to have those groups present what they want to see and how they want to be engaged' - 1/12/2018 2:48 PM
- 'Something targeted towards a younger audience. There seems to be a case of the usual suspects attending these community events. It would be great to better educate and involve the younger generation.' - 1/12/2018 2:14 PM

- 'Impacts on the environment from the proposed 3 lake pit options. There was no one on the panel from DELWP water group or biodiversity in regard to the environmental cost of this proposal as compared to the engineering cost or liability.' - 1/12/2018 1:22 PM
- 'More on the revegetation of the region and the 3 mines closing' - 1/12/2018 1:08 PM
- 'What sort of ideas come in about what the mines could be used for in the future - and how whoever is suggesting it is going to pay for it.' - 1/12/2018 12:25 PM
- 'Land use surrounding the voids' - 1/12/2018 12:21 PM
- 'Other options for progressive rehab and alternate uses' - 1/12/2018 11:48 AM



### Q9 – What other ways would you like to be able to contribute to the conversation on mine rehabilitation?

Answered: 21 Skipped: 10

#### Responses:

- 'Regularly participate in the process.' - 1/30/2018 5:12 PM
- 'Having input well ahead of closure - not as we have with Hazelwood - it is almost too late to have meaningful input into the rehabilitation of this mine.' - 1/25/2018 4:35 PM
- 'More discussion on the environmental side of things is required. So far we have only heard of the physical mine rehab.' - 1/24/2018 10:41 AM
- 'None.' - 1/23/2018 3:12 PM
- 'Can the Great Latrobe Park team access the technical 3D imagery of the mine areas available at the Community Consultation meetings held in Moe, Morwell and Traralgon? And, engage directly with the Tech people to better understand the mines.' - 1/15/2018 12:06 PM
- 'More information on actual rehabilitation plan.' - 1/15/2018 8:28 AM
- 'Information fliers, similar meetings to the last on and in the late afternoon or early evening.' - 1/15/2018 3:19 AM
- 'Hear what other countries are doing, during my break I was in Shepparton & my friend's sister-in-law is in Europe having an input into mine rehabilitation; would be good to get her input' - 1/13/2018 3:01 PM
- 'Respond to a discussion blog' - 1/12/2018 9:23 PM
- 'More information, more frequently, in newspapers and letterboxes' - 1/12/2018 7:43 PM
- 'Bring along technical experts as it's too easy for managers to avoid technical questions. This was evident in some of the answers given. It appears very disingenuous.' - 1/12/2018 7:30 PM
- 'Through other info sessions' - 1/12/2018 7:19 PM
- 'Possibly questionnaires.' - 1/12/2018 3:56 PM
- 'Research - social science - community aspects of research development' - 1/12/2018 2:48 PM
- 'These community forums are a good way to do so, as long as there are mechanisms to provide written communication/inputs' - 1/12/2018 2:14 PM
- 'I feel like the process is still in the information giving stage and we are being consulted but not listened too. I would like to see how ideas and thoughts from the community have been incorporated into the process.' - 1/12/2018 1:22 PM
- 'Feedback on the questions / conversations that have been asked on the LVMRC. Particularly online input.' - 1/12/2018 1:20 PM


- 'Product information kits on revegetation products' - 1/12/2018 1:08 PM
- 'Like this or more of the meetings we have seen' - 1/12/2018 12:25 PM
- 'N/A' - 1/12/2018 12:21 PM
- 'Discussion of uses of whole of site possibilities rather than just pit design' - 1/12/2018 11:48 AM

## Q10 – Is there anything else you'd like to share about the event?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 12

### Responses:

- 'Ideally "talking heads" should answer questions put to them directly, not obfuscate & avoid direct answers with weak justifications. If the current State Government have instructed you to deliver "wet hole" options only then just come out & say you are acting this way under the Governments instructions.' - 1/30/2018 5:12 PM
- 'I gained the impression that it is "already decided (done & dusted)", and people input was unlikely to change their plans.' - 1/28/2018 1:22 PM
- 'Felt it was more like the owners wanting to be seen to be undertaking consultation but their minds are already made up on what they will commit - community expectations are secondary.' - 1/25/2018 4:35 PM
- 'The event was good, but I was disappointed that there was no representative from DELWP etc in regards to the environment. The EPA was represented but seemed only to be there for the physical mine rehab and didn't really mention environmental rehab or any form of legal or corporate responsibilities in this regard.' - 1/24/2018 10:41 AM
- 'The facilitator did an exceptional job, making it a genuine experience by addressing as many people as she could by first name during the Q&A session. That level of personal delivery is hard to come by! Well done on an exceptional session.' - 1/23/2018 3:12 PM
- 'Very well chaired and managed to time.' - 1/15/2018 3:08 PM
- 'Good to eyeball the people from the various Government departments. They are valuable and knowledgeable but often invisible.' - 1/15/2018 12:06 PM
- 'No, keep up the good work' - 1/15/2018 3:19 AM
- 'I would like to see a little more structure in the process, e.g. some future milestones announced and then public conversations appropriate to them. One of the outcomes from the first session was that most of us started to see the issues as far more complex than we had envisaged. I think it would be wonderful if the Commissioner is able to achieve some public consensus on some key rehabilitation questions (and that's not likely give the current levels of public uncertainty). Hence I would like to see these sessions drawing the public into the decision-making process. To do that I think the processes have to be transparent, and parties need to be prepared to provide a joint discussion paper in advance to specifically direct the resolution of those questions.' - 1/13/2018 9:14 PM
- 'not really' - 1/13/2018 3:01 PM
- 'I felt that the option of filling of the mines or part filling with water was being pushed as it was cheaper and more short term for the operators' - 1/12/2018 7:43 PM
- 'While it was said that the mine water quality from Yallourn mine, there was no complementary documentary provided. In fact material from ENGIE was in opposition to the statements made by Yallourn representatives.' - 1/12/2018 7:30 PM
- 'It was great to have all the stakeholders involved - 1/12/2018 7:19 PM
- 'Food was very unhealthy greasy deep fried stuff. It would be great if far healthier food could be prepared to accompany such events.' - 1/12/2018 2:48 PM
- 'I think it is evident that there are certain sectors of the community that are quite invested in what mine rehabilitation means for them in a regional sense and to how it will impact on them personally in terms of appropriate land uses, etc. As previously mentioned, though, we run the risk of getting similar or the same points of view from the same members of the community and it would be great perhaps to have more targeted advertising to promote more events to younger generations and get their engagement.' - 1/12/2018 2:14 PM
- 'A very well organised event having so many stakeholders available for questions.' - 1/12/2018 1:08 PM
- 'No' - 1/12/2018 12:25 PM
- 'There was a slight feeling of fait accompli about the rehabilitation agenda. I am concerned there is no plan B.' - 1/12/2018 12:21 PM
- 'Well done!' - 1/12/2018 11:48 AM



### Overseeing Our Future


We are keen to hear your ideas about the future landscape for Latrobe Valley's rehabilitated mines and surrounding area.

My idea is:

I have listen to all the conversations today - one thing/issue that comes out of all that has been said - the community should not foot the bill for anything projects/initiatives that are progressed with the mine's final destinations  
 How all this will be managed by what money?  
 NOT THE Latrobe Valley residents

Also Groundwater water should be at any meetings

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### Overseeing Our Future

We are keen to hear your ideas about the future landscape for Latrobe Valley's rehabilitated mines and surrounding area.

My idea is:

- Landform dictates land use so decisions made now will impact on future use
- What's the long term environmental cost/risk in \$'s in regard to using water to fill the pits? If its cheaper than maintaining dry pits is that because the true cost to the environment isn't or can't be costed?
- There is yet to be any messages coming from the water authorities/CMA | DELWP in regard to where the water is coming from do they have concerns & what are the risks they perceive from full lake options. Where is that conversation?

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My idea is:

Talking about honesty there were several selective answers to the questions especially when the HMF1 alerted to the dangers to 6 homes affected by the Hazelwood mine.  
 The something that has never been discussed with the community was the statement from Jacobs report.  
 "It's not a matter of if the homes slip into the mine but when"  
 ~ What collateral damage are the community willing to accept?

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### Overseeing Our Future

We are keen to hear your ideas about the future landscape for Latrobe Valley's rehabilitated mines and surrounding area.

My idea is: question is :-

- there is lots of discussion on why filling a mine void will be more able to be handed over without maintaining in perpetuity. Surely a lake formed in a highly modified landscape would also have its own issues of maintaining it to be a safe, stable and sustainable rehabilitated site into the future

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We are keen to hear your ideas about the future landscape for Latrobe Valley's rehabilitated mines and surrounding area.

My idea is:

FLOATING SOLAR ON MINE PITS  
SOLAR FARMS ON SLOPES  
POTENTIAL FOR CONCENTRATED SOLAR  
HYDRO ELECTRIC - PUMPED  
EDBM PROJECT



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