

Submission 3

1. What is your level of knowledge of mine rehabilitation in general?

Have a strong technical knowledge.

2. What is important to you when you think about the rehabilitation of the Latrobe Valley coal mines?

Long term benefits to the local community, Gippsland region and the State of Victoria.

3. What do you feel are the most important things Government can do as part of the planning, rehabilitation, and post-rehabilitation stages of the Latrobe Valley coal mines?

Encourage and facilitate the development a range of potential options rather than being, as is currently apparent, locked into a single option that is dependent on a number of as yet untested assumptions.

4. What do you feel are the most important things the coal mine operators can do as part of the planning, rehabilitation, and post-rehabilitation stages of the Latrobe Valley coal mines?

Be genuinely open to community input and place long term community welfare above short term expediency and cost minimisation.

5. What do you feel are the most important things community and stakeholders can contribute as part of the planning, rehabilitation, and post-rehabilitation stages of the Latrobe Valley coal mines?

Provide intelligent, informed and practical suggestions concerning not just the rehabilitation of the mine voids but also their repurposing.

6. How would you like to be engaged in the rehabilitation process for the Latrobe Valley Brown Coal mines?

Ongoing open dialogue.

7. Overall, do the principles outlined in Section 4 of the LVRRS Overview meet your expectations (considering the important issues you identified above)?

Agree.

8. Are there any changes you would suggest to the proposed principles outlined in Section 4 of the LVRRS Overview? If so, please provide a short explanation as to why you have suggested these changes.

No. Principles as such are fine and necessary as a contextual starting point, but need to be genuinely honoured and stringently adhered to in order to have any real meaning.

9. Are there any specific elements of the LVRRS Overview that were not clear, or need further information to be provided in the LVRRS?

It is unclear how the strategy fits with what has become a much repeated mantra from both the Commissioner for Mine rehabilitation and the operators of both Hazelwood and Yallourn Mines that full pit lakes are the "only" viable option for the future. This attitude predates the recently completed technical studies and therefore seems premature. The focus on rehabilitation also needs to be broadened to encompass future mine void repurposing with a range of potential options and a stronger focus on environmental impacts on the region.

10. Do you have any further comments on the LVRRS Overview?

Good work so far but let us not be subjugated to commercial expedience at the cost of future community benefit and amenity. The seeds of this syndrome have already been sown by the office of the Commissioner for Rehabilitation being seemingly in lockstep with the views of the mine operators. This does not provide much reassurance of full objectivity and independence.

Stakeholder group

Community member

Postcode

3825

Age Group

70-74

Gender

Male