

17 January 2019

LVRRS Project Team
Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions
By email: lvrrs@ecodev.vic.gov.au

Dear LVRRS Project Team,



VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL
HERITAGE COUNCIL

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Heritage Council

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Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council's submission on the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy (LVRRS)

The Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council ("**Council**") is a statutory body established under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* ("**the Act**"). The Council comprises solely of Traditional Owners with its key responsibilities including to appoint Registered Aboriginal Parties ("**RAPs**") and promote awareness of Aboriginal cultural heritage. RAPs are Traditional Owner organisations that hold decision-making responsibilities under the Act for the protection, management and preservation of Aboriginal cultural heritage in their appointed areas.

Council welcomes the opportunity to provide the following brief endorsement of the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy Overview ("**the Overview**") prepared by the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions ("**DJPR**"). We understand that the Strategy has been developed in extensive consultation with the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation ("**GLAWAC**"), the RAP for the Latrobe Valley region. We understand that this consultation has included, inter alia, GLAWAC engaging with mine operators and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning ("**DELWP**") staff about rehabilitation plans for all sites; GLAWAC engaging with water experts in DELWP about Gunaikurnai views on water use and management; and GLAWAC ensuring that the Strategy incorporates acknowledgement of cultural heritage and the importance of the area to the Gunaikurnai people. The Overview refers to this consultation with Traditional Owners on Page 9. Council appreciates and fully endorses the active engagement with GLAWAC in the planning process.

Council also endorses a strong partnership between the parties as the LVRRS advances through its next stages. We understand that priorities for GLAWAC going forward include the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage, the management of resources such as water on Gunaikurnai land, and involvement in the planning for the future management of the land parcels in the area. You have referred to the objectives of incorporating Traditional Owners in the preparation of rehabilitation plans on Pages 10 and 11 of the Overview. Council hopes that the strong relationship that has developed can continue to grow and supports the continued consultation of GLAWAC by DJPR and DELWP.

Yours sincerely,

Rodney Carter
Chairperson
Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council