Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy

Land Use Planning

The Victorian Government is developing the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy (LVRRS) as part of its response to the Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry.

The Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry in Volume IV of its 2015/16 report found that, with the current knowledge available, some form of pit lake is the most viable rehabilitation option for the Latrobe Valley coal mines. However, there are significant knowledge gaps that need to be addressed to test the feasibility of the pit lake options. These knowledge gaps will be addressed through the technical studies being completed by the Victorian Government as part of the preparation of the LVRRS.

LAND USE PLANNING IN THE LATROBE VALLEY

WHAT WILL THE REHABILITATED MINE VOIDS BE USED FOR?

How the land ends up being used will ultimately depend on the most feasible rehabilitation options chosen: a pit lake, a partial pit lake or an alternative solution.

Future options for the land will have to take into account the complex geography of the mine sites and the broader region, with decision making to be informed by the findings of the geotechnical and water studies.

Input from the community and key stakeholders, including the mine operators, will also be sought in developing a preferred future vision for the sites.

WILL THE FINAL LANDFORM BE SUITABLE FOR RECREATIONAL USE?

The mines are all located on privately held land and the potential for recreational uses associated with the rehabilitated mines will depend on the intentions of the land owners (in this case, the mine owners), how the sites are rehabilitated and the land zoning in the future.

The social and economic effects of any rehabilitation option will be considered to ensure the best possible rehabilitation outcomes for the Latrobe Valley community.

WILL ALL THREE COAL MINE VOIDS BE REHABILITATED THE SAME WAY?

The LVRRS will investigate the potential regional impacts, and therefore the feasibility, of various pit lake rehabilitation options at each mine site.

The potential regional impacts have not yet been determined and therefore whether or not all three mines will be rehabilitated in the same way (including land use options) is not yet known.

The social, environmental and economic costs associated with the pit lake options will however be an important decision making point for the Victorian Government in determining the final possible land uses to achieve the most beneficial use for the community.

CONTACT US

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