

Consultation report for the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy

# Draft Preliminary Land Use Vision

January 2020

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## 1. Introduction

In October and November 2019, two separate community engagement processes were undertaken to inform the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy, and were designed to gain feedback on:

1. a draft Preliminary Land Use Vision.
2. the potential use of water for mine rehabilitation (the Latrobe Valley Regional Water Study).

This report summarises the key themes that emerged from responses in the consultation process of the draft Preliminary Land Use Vision only. The Latrobe Valley draft Preliminary Land Use Vision consultation results are presented in Section 4.

Note that although these were separate consultation processes, some respondents to the Latrobe Valley Regional Water Study provided feedback that was relevant to the Preliminary Land Use Vision. This feedback has been noted in section 4.7.

### Background

The Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy (LVRRS) is part of the Victorian Government's response to the findings of the Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry, which found that there were significant uncertainties and gaps in knowledge surrounding the closure and rehabilitation of the Latrobe Valley's three brown coal mines.

Following initial consultation with a range of stakeholders through 2018-2019, DELWP Planning has developed a draft Preliminary Land Use Vision, to inform the transformation of the Latrobe Valley. It provides a set of guiding directions for future land use and development, based on achieving positive social, economic and environmental outcomes. The Vision will inform the final LVRRS which is to be released by June 2020.

The Preliminary Land Use Vision report has been progressed within the wider LVRRS project through five key phases:

1. community and stakeholder consultation on the draft Preliminary Land Use Vision
2. consideration and response to submissions made on the Preliminary Land Use Vision
3. identification of new opportunities in response to community and stakeholder consultation
4. testing the Preliminary Land Use Vision informed by the geotechnical and water regional studies
5. contribution to the development of a broader regional land use framework as part of LVRRS to be prepared by the government in 2020.

## 2. Methodology

### Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy Preliminary Land Use Vision

An online survey was available on Engage Victoria from 2 October to 4 November. 79 people responded to the online survey and 15 organisations/individuals provided a longer submission. A summary of the 15 longer submissions received is included as Appendix 1.

This consultation also used interactive mapping for people to provide comments. These comments have been collated and are included as Appendix 2.

The survey contained five multiple choice questions and five open-ended questions as well as three fields for demographic data (age, postcode and organisation). The questionnaire is included as Appendix 3.

Postcode data was used by DELWP to sort the responses, which were then analysed for differences in themes between respondents from the Latrobe Valley and respondents from elsewhere. There were no significant differences between the responses.

Please note that some graphs do not add up to 100 per cent as the total is based on the sample size but not every respondent answered each question.

### 3. Results from Preliminary Land Use Vision consultation

The online survey (included as Appendix 3) for the Preliminary Land Use Vision consists of 10 questions, which refer to the Vision's four themes:

Theme 1: Tourism, Liveability, Recreation

Theme 2: Industry, Business, Commerce

Theme 3: Agriculture, Energy, Water

Theme 4: Services, Education, Training.

Questions 1 through 8 comprised two questions for each of the four themes:

- Do you support this vision? (scale: yes/no/unsure)
- There was then an open-ended question relevant to that theme.

Questions 9 and 10 invite respondents to make additional comments on the overall vision:

- Overall, how do you feel this Vision meets the future land use needs of the Latrobe Valley? (scale: very good/good/average/below average/poor)
- Are there any other comments you would like to make? (open-ended text box).

There were four additional questions asking respondents to provide their postcode, age, email address and organisation.

Please note:

- Respondents did not have to answer every question, so the results must be considered in terms of how many people answered each question. Most respondents answered the multiple-choice questions and the report notes how many people answered each of the open-ended questions.
- A number of respondents made multiple points in the open-ended questions.

### 3.1. About the respondents

#### 3.1.1. Respondents' postcodes

43% of respondents were from Latrobe Valley postcodes and 52% were from other areas in Victoria. Latrobe Valley-based responses did not differ significantly compared to those from other areas of Victoria.

#### 3.1.2. Types of respondents

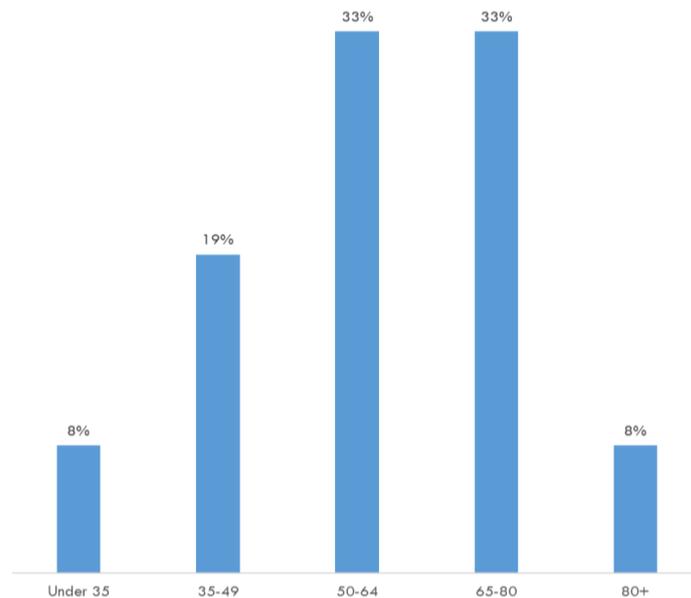
A breakdown of the types of respondents and where they are located is provided in Table 2:

	Organisation	Council	Individual	Total
Latrobe Valley	14	1	19	34
Other	5	2	38	45

Table 2: Type of respondent by location

#### 3.1.3. Respondents' age range

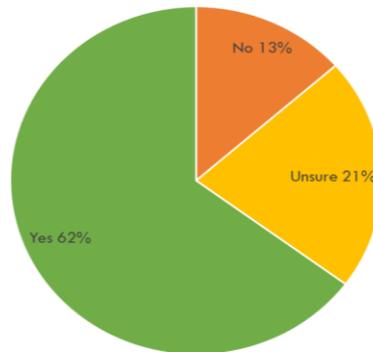
A range of ages were represented, with 66% of respondents aged between 50 and 80 (Graph 1).



Graph 1: Age range of respondents

### 3.2. Responses to Theme 1: Tourism, Liveability, Recreation

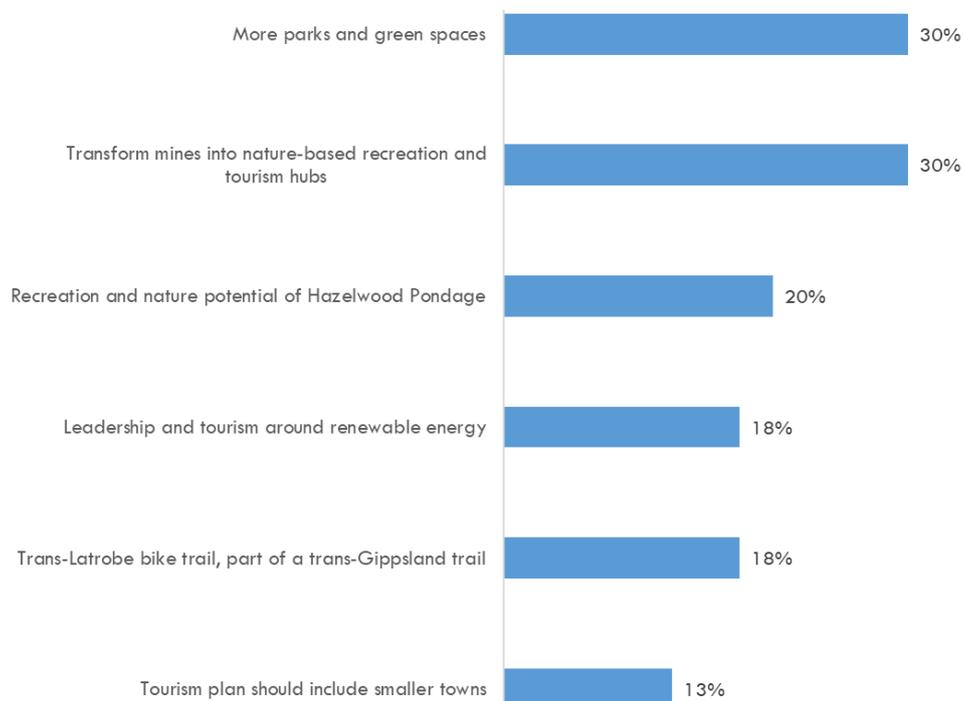
Respondents were asked *Do you support this vision?* 62% of respondents said yes, 13% said no and 21% were unsure (Graph 2).



Graph 2: Responses to the question: *Do you support this vision?*

Respondents were then asked *Do you have any suggestions for tourism, liveability and recreational opportunities in locations across the Latrobe Valley? Please detail below* and were able to provide an open-ended response.

40 people chose to answer this question. The most common themes in the responses are shown in Graph 3.



Graph 3: Responses to the question: *Do you have any suggestions for tourism, liveability and recreational opportunities in locations across the Latrobe Valley?*

- 12 respondents said that more national parks, bio links for wildlife, green spaces and interactive play parks should be developed. They asked for more reforestation, recreational space and camping facilities.
- 12 respondents said that the mines should be transformed into nature-based recreation and tourism hubs, surrounded by forests, wetlands, recreation spaces and parks. Some said that this could be part of the pit lakes proposal if it was safe.
- 8 respondents said that the recreational, community and nature potential of the Hazelwood Pondage should be realised.
- 7 respondents said that there is an urgent need to create leadership and tourism around renewable energy. Studies could research the greenest options for the valley, and the mines and power station sites could be used for renewable energy development.
- 7 respondents advocated for the development of a trans-Latrobe bike trail as part of a trans-Gippsland bike trail (inspired by the Barossa and Yarra Valleys), and that generally there could be more bike and walking paths.
- Respondents said that the tourism plan should also focus on smaller towns, for example, Yinnar, Glengarry, Tyers and Boolarra.

**Respondents said:**

*Reopen the Hazelwood Pondage as a water based recreational and educational site...this site is within walking distance of the townships of Yinnar and Churchill and within bicycling distance of many places...part of it's amenity value as such is that its free to all ....like the riverside (Brisbane) and rock pools (Ozzie beaches) which are places for everyone.*

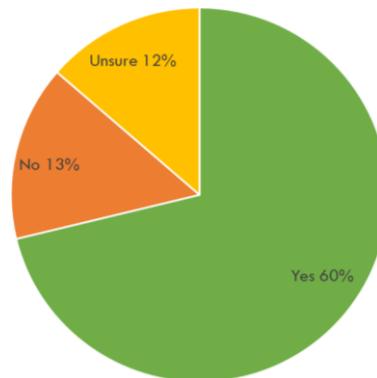
*Re-forestation with a variety of native and appropriate trees for the area must be a priority to create a habitat for wildlife as well as adding positive benefit to both the community and climate issues.*

*....building similar cycling infrastructure to what is available in the Barossa and Yarra Valleys, and showcasing the indigenous heritage, European heritage, and modern influences that have had an impact on this region.*

*Green spaces indicated are few and far between, disconnected and not identified. The plan is very narrowly centered on the Major towns and the immediate small towns such as Yallourn North Hazelwood and Churchill but doesn't take in satellites Yinnar, Boolarra, Glengarry, Tyers!*

### 3.3. Responses to Theme 2: Industry, Business, Commerce

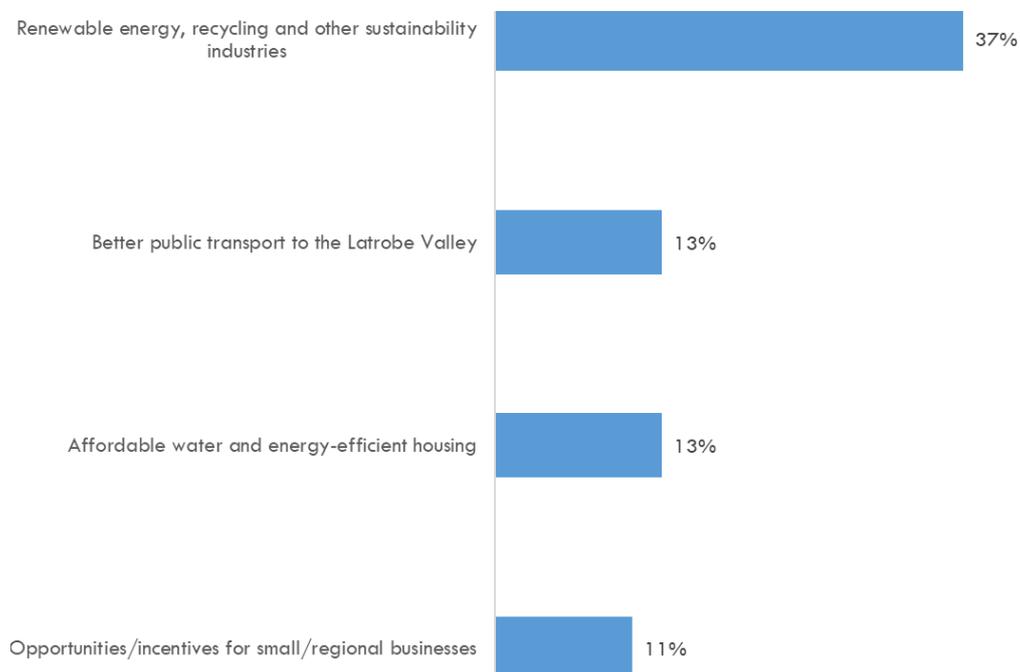
Respondents were asked *Do you support this vision?* 60% of respondents said yes, 13% said no and 12% were unsure (Graph 4).



Graph 4: Responses to the question: *Do you support this vision?*

Respondents were then asked *Are there any other opportunities for business and industry in locations across the Latrobe Valley? Please detail below* and were able to provide an open-ended response.

38 people chose to answer this question. The most common themes in the responses are shown in Graph 5.



Graph 5: Responses to the question: *Are there any other opportunities for business and industry in locations across the Latrobe Valley?*

- 14 respondents said that renewable energy, recycling and other sustainability industries (e.g. hemp fibre and biodegradable products) are essential to providing stable job opportunities as well as jobs in construction.
- 5 respondents said that better public transport is required to, from and within the Latrobe Valley, including a better rail link with Melbourne.
- 5 respondents said it is important to build more affordable water and energy-efficient social housing.
- 4 respondents said it is important to provide more opportunities and incentives for small and regional businesses.
- 4 respondents said that business and industry should be encouraged without negatively affecting smaller towns.

**Respondents said:**

*Ensuring that business parks built in the area focus on both blue-collar jobs, and white-collar jobs, for a strong and diverse economy. In addition to focusing on engineering, the area is surrounded by agricultural industries, so we should not ignore the potential for advancing food sciences, advanced food manufacturing, and even the health sciences.*

*I'd like to see smart thinking we need to shift to Hemp industries Fibre and biodegradable plastic, save Plantations for wood production, not paper! Farming practices that produce sugars for alcohol fired power stations ... renewable provides a more stable economy for the agriculture sector.*

*High speed train. Cut the commute time to metropolitan Melbourne as much as is possible.*

*Do increase public transport between towns. Do bring in opportunities for small businesses. Upgrade street scapes to make the townships more appealing. Do upgrade facilities utilising sustainable methods to make it appealing for progressive investors.*

*More intensive agriculture and horticulture using more water efficient methods and crops requiring less water could be encouraged.*

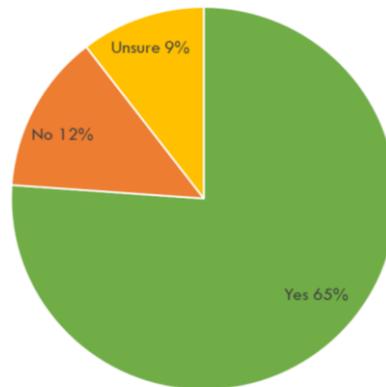
*Business and industry should be encouraged but not at the detriment of the smaller townships.*

*Investigate opportunities for reduced tax rates etc for regional businesses.*

*There is a splendid opportunity to raise the profile of forestry plantations, native forest resources and the timber processing industry. Especially Australian Paper, Heyfield Sawmill and AKD Yarram. There is the opportunity to make the LV the Forestry Hub of Victoria. A green and sustainable industry.*

### 3.4. Responses to Theme 3: Agriculture, Energy, Water

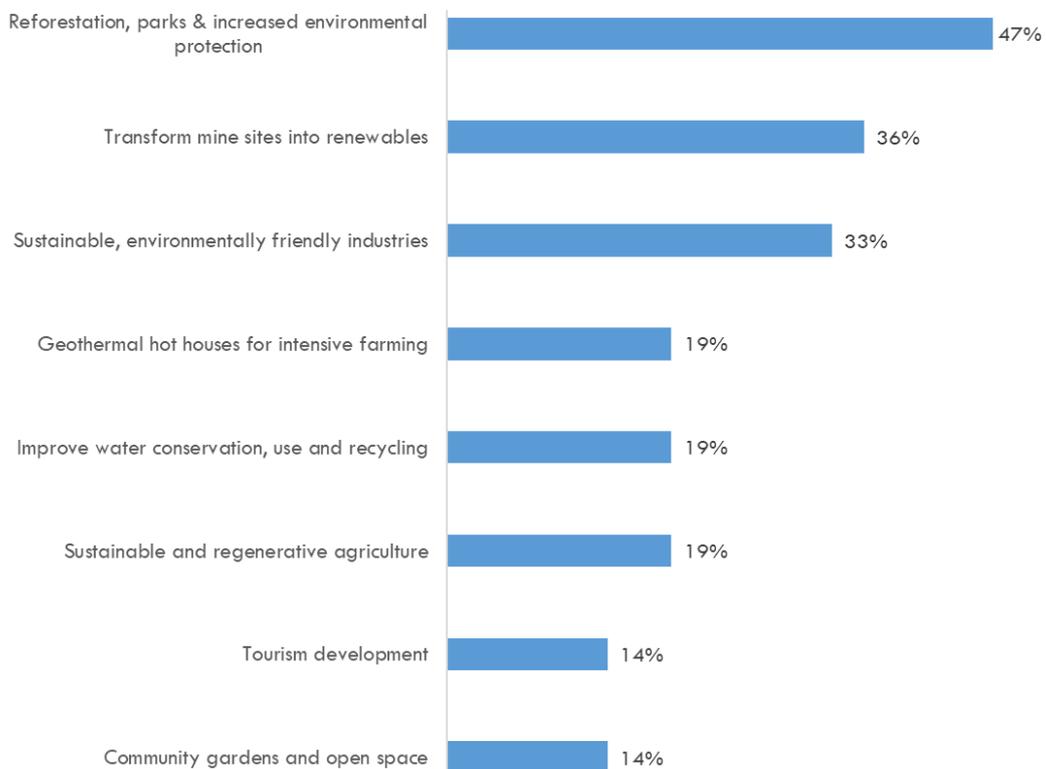
Respondents were asked *Do you support this vision?* 65% of respondents said yes, 12% said no and 9% were unsure (Graph 6).



Graph 6: Responses to the question: *Do you support this vision?*

Respondents were then asked *Are there any other land use opportunities for agriculture, energy and water in locations across the Latrobe Valley? Please detail below* and were able to provide an open-ended response.

36 people chose to answer this question. The most common themes in the responses are shown in Graph 7.



Graph 7: Responses to the question: *Are there other land use opportunities for agriculture, energy and water in locations across the Latrobe Valley?*

- 17 respondents said that there are opportunities for reforestation and creation of more parks including using mine and power station sites as carbon sinks by planting forests and increasing biodiversity and environmental protection for flora and fauna.
- 13 respondents said the mine sites should be transformed into generating renewable energy including wind, solar, hydrogen and geothermal. Offshore wind farms were also suggested.
- 12 respondents said it is important to create sustainable, environmentally friendly industries, such as hemp fibre, biodegradables, alcohol for fuel, and plantation-based forestry.
- 7 respondents suggest establishing geothermal hot houses for intensive farming. Some said that the Hazelwood Pondage could be a good location for this.
- 7 respondents said to improve strategies around water use and recycling, including protecting the aquifers from mine contamination.
- 7 respondents recommend the promotion of sustainable and regenerative agriculture.
- 5 respondents suggest tourism development.
- 5 respondents ask for more community gardens and open space.

**Respondents said:**

*There must be scope for demonstration/educational ventures promoting the use of agricultural regeneration.*

*Support(s) the sustainable use of brown coal as an energy source and (will) continue to support generators, clean coal researchers and government agencies to develop clean coal energy pilot plants and associated research facilities in Latrobe City.*

*Farmers can host solar farms and solar gardens and wind turbines to produce electricity for the grid and it would be very important to keep this area as a base for energy production ... Some farms with the right topography could even host pumped hydro dams on theirs and maybe a neighbour's property.*

*Wherever you can get wind, solar, water, etc. any sort of renewable energy do it as soon as possible.*

*Do create incentives for community gardens and connecting people to their food through educational programs. Do increase the protection of native indigenous wildlife pockets, corridors and biodiversity.*

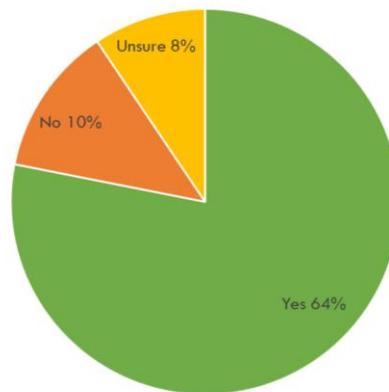
*Close all brown coal plants and associated mines well before 2030 and reafforest the sites with biodiverse native endemic forest to act as carbon sinks, animal habitat and long-term old-growth forest for generations to come.*

*Pilot plant(s) to investigate the use of hydrogen production via electrolysis of water using otherwise curtailed renewable generated electricity, as a storage facility (as opposed to batteries) and thence electricity recovery via fuel cells at times of demand.*

*Use Hazelwood pondage mass area for floating solar and wave power to grow under hot house conditions vegetables, hydroponic.*

### 3.5. Responses to Theme 4: Services, Education, Training

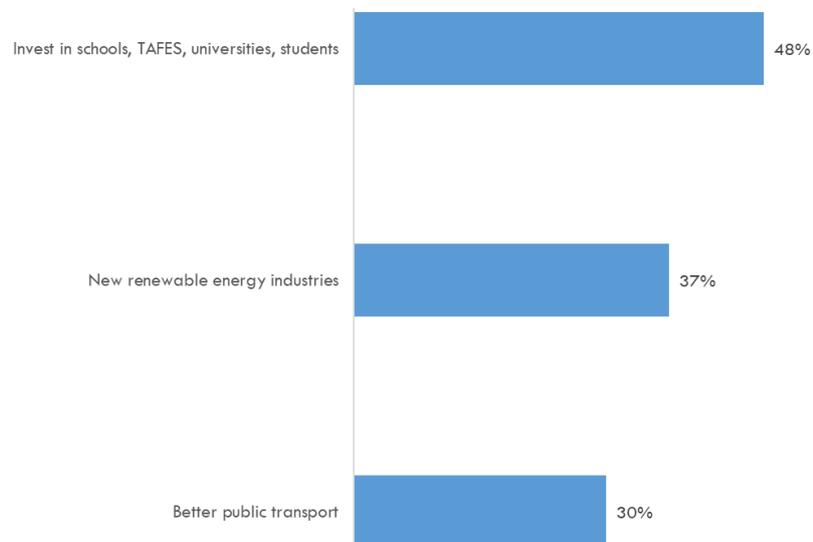
Respondents were asked *Do you support this vision?* 64% of respondents said yes, 10% said no and 8% were unsure (Graph 8).



Graph 8: Responses to the question: *Do you support this vision?*

Respondents were then asked *If there are any other opportunities to improve and provide services, education and training in locations across the Latrobe Valley, please detail below* and were able to provide an open-ended response.

27 people chose to answer this question. The most common themes are shown in Graph 9:



Graph 9: Responses to the question: *If there are any other opportunities to improve and provide services, education and training in locations across the Latrobe Valley, please detail below.*

- 13 respondents said that more investment in schools, TAFES, universities, students is required. Existing schools and colleges need better financial support, investment and improvement. There should be more TAFE opportunities and more assistance for low income people and regional students.

- 10 respondents said that there is a need for new renewable energy industries, and this will bring education and training opportunities.
- 8 respondents asked for better public transport to and from Melbourne and within the Latrobe Valley. Comments were made about improving and expanding bus and rail services.

**Respondents said:**

*Make it a centre of excellence setting up a demonstration centre for all renewable energy technologies.*

*The LV is ideally situated to be a centre of Government services for the Gippsland region and as well as building on the Latrobe Regional Hospital and Fed Uni.*

*Better access to innovative educational practices. Affordable University accommodation. Flexible TAFE options. Increased funding for regional students to study.*

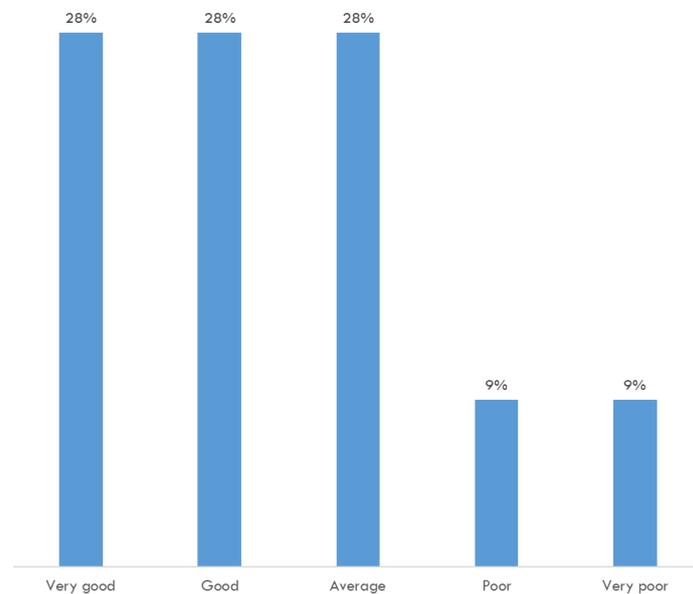
*Light Rail between Morwell and Churchill. Again, there is existing infrastructure that can be extended. A more frequent rail connection from Traralgon to Warragul with stops at Midvalley for the TAFE and Latrobe Regional Hospital.*

*Improve public transport to and from metropolitan areas.*

*Bus services between towns in neighbouring councils need to be improved. If you live in Boolarra there is no other way to get to the closest town of Mirboo North, where most our children go to school, except via Morwell first. This turns a 25-minute trip into a nearly 3-hour commute. These gaps need to be fixed for parents of school children, and workers in neighbouring communities.*

### 3.6. Responses to additional questions

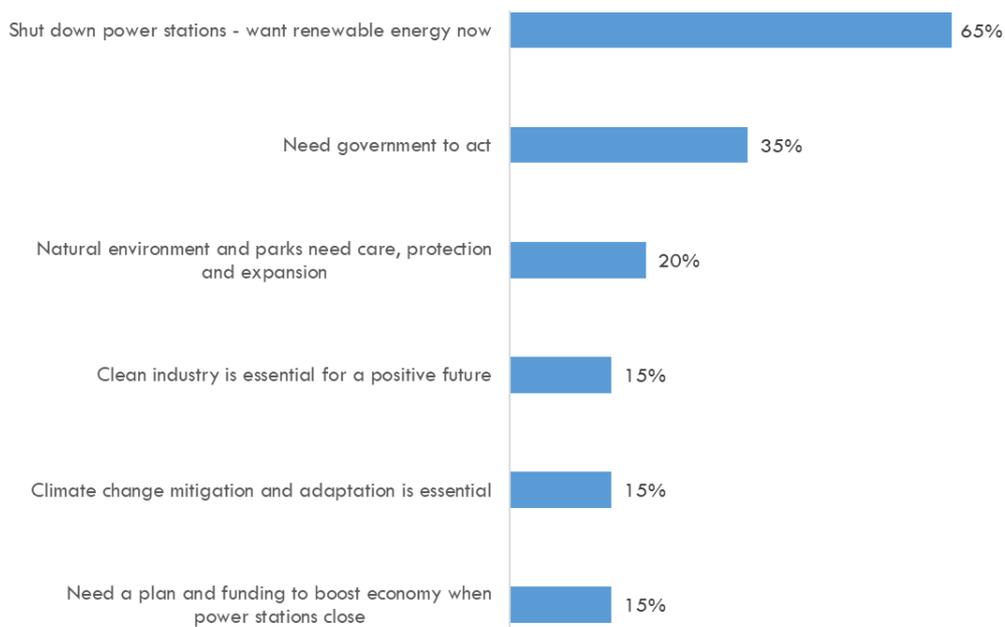
Referring to the whole vision, respondents were asked *Overall, how do you feel this Vision meets the future land use needs of the Latrobe Valley?* 56% of respondents said good or very good, 28% said average and 18% said poor or very poor (Graph 10).



Graph 10: Responses to the question: *Overall, how do you feel this Vision meets the future land use needs of the Latrobe Valley?*

Respondents were then asked *Are there any other comments you would like to make?* and were able to provide an open-ended response.

40 people chose to answer this question. The most common themes are shown in Graph 11.



Graph 11: Responses to the question: *Are there any other comments you would like to make?*

- 26 respondents ask to shut down the power stations now (not in decades) and said that they want action and renewable energy. The power stations affect air quality.
- 14 respondents comment that trust in government is low because they just talk and create strategies but do nothing. They need to act.
- 8 respondents say that the natural environment, wildlife and parks need care, protection and expansion.
- 6 respondents say that clean industry is essential for a positive future and there need to be high standards of environmental stewardship.
- 6 respondents say that climate change mitigation and adaptation is essential.
- 6 respondents say that there needs to be a structured plan and funding to boost economy when power stations close.

#### **Respondents said:**

*It is good that the Govt is thinking ahead as to the best way forward for our area and I am certain that the area has a positive future with the start-up of clean industries.*

*We can do better! A true community led program of action with firm goals would be great!*

*How is the government going to invest in the Latrobe Valley to boost economic development and compensate for the closure of the mines. Not this pie-in-the-sky strategic planning, but actually boosting the local economy. This is one of the most underprivileged areas in Victoria and you are letting them down.*

*I am concerned that air pollution from power stations affects the quality of valley residents' lives significantly, and I believe that a transition for the valley would improve both the health and the economic circumstances of the residents.*

*The last thing we want in the Latrobe Valley is Fracking, Coal Mines and similar. Let's see solar panels (big ones) and turbines (where the wind is good).*

*It is vital that land use planning puts environmental justice at the core, including by thoroughly rehabilitating land and restoring waterways.*

*Plant as many trees and native plants around the mines and any other place in the valley ... in the towns [and] in the CBD.*

*The Vision Statement 2.1 refers to 2080 but much of the discussion document is referenced to today. The vision relies too heavily on continued coal use and associated engineering skills and businesses. As the impacts of climate change are felt more strongly, international pressure is building to reduce GHG emissions more quickly, and to be zero by 2050 which is too late to avoid warming above 1.5 degrees ... A change of culture and a broadening of mindset is required for an economic and energy transition to happen smoothly and quickly.*

## Appendix One: Summary of long responses to the Preliminary Land Use Vision

94 responses were received in response to the consultation for the Preliminary Land Use Vision. 79 of these respondents used the online survey and 15 uploaded longer submissions. Five of the respondents that provided longer submissions stating that an Environmental Effects Statement process should be undertaken. The key points of each of the longer submissions are outlined below.

Jacqui Almack-Onley:

- Proposal to create a tourist precinct based on the dairy and farming industry, targeting both domestic and international tourists.
- Would deliver substantial ongoing employment for over 110 EFT jobs and draw tourists to the region.

Great Latrobe Park:

- The outline of the Great Latrobe Park describes a series of partial pit lakes, surrounded by forests, wetlands and networked pathways connecting a variety of recreation, cultural and sporting options.
- The park would provide employment, regional development, job creation, environmental health, public health and create the foundations for a new economy, post mining.
- Will also provide a range of training and job opportunities.
- The risks of full pit lakes are too great.
- Lake development in the mines needs to encompass fish breeding, wetlands for fish to develop in, wetlands to clean water and lakes to fish in.

Mike Ellis:

- The main causes of pollution are not the coal-fired power stations, the paper mill or any other kind of industrial process. It is due to officially sponsored burn-offs, stubble burning by farmers, coupe burning by the forestry industry, the burning of rubbish on private properties (in country areas) and high use of wood burners in the lower socio-economic strata.
- The first four should all be banned and the use of wood burners should be phased out as soon as possible.

Energy Australia:

- Energy Australia plans to flood the Yallourn mine pit at the close of operations.
- It expects access to water to be central to the remediation.
- The rehabilitation of the sites must allow for new industries to enter.
- Would like access to the full set of LVRRS reports, including water source analysis.
- In the interest of speed and safety, want to use all available water resources to fill mine pits.
- Proposed Yallourn lake will require 4-6 GL per year of top-up water.
- Remaining mine pits should not sit void awaiting water while the first is filled.
- Latrobe Valley could become a centre of excellence in energy and energy efficiency.

Environmental Justice Australia:

- The vision must address how it will comply with legislation that aims to protect the environment and regulate development and land-use.
- The final vision should showcase respect and mutual reciprocity between economic and environmental considerations.
- What impact will LVRRS have on protected species and the Ramsar-listed Gippsland lakes?
- Pit lakes are not a viable or sustainable use of land and water resources.

- Power station operators should be required to prepare rehabilitation plans for mines and ash dumps prior to decommissioning.
- Poor coal ash dump construction poses significant human and environmental safety risks. What is being done? Who is being held responsible?
- The Latrobe Valley community cannot plan without access to the information that supports either DELWP, ER, EPA or the mine operators' intentions.
- The Latrobe Valley community has a right to scrutinise technical documents currently being prepared.
- Variations to the mine operator's current works plans ought to be referred for determination through the Environmental Effects Statement process.

Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC):

- Communicates how mine rehabilitation aligns with the Gunaikurnai Whole of Country Plan to heal, protect and manage country which has been significantly altered since colonisation.
- Seeks that a share of the water held by mining companies be provided to them as water entitlement and recommends the creation of a cultural flow (water entitlement owned by Indigenous nations).
- Requests an ongoing role in the rehabilitation of the coal mines and two funded positions: one in the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Authority to ensure that the Gunaikurnai voice is included and an additional position funded with the GLaWAC organisation to ensure a direct line between the Authority and GLaWAC.

Hazelwood Pondage Action Group:

- Aims to retain Hazelwood Pondage as a community resource for the Latrobe Valley into the future.
- Would like the LVRRS to recognise the importance of retaining Hazelwood Pondage as a significant socio-economic asset that contributes to the goals of the LVRRS Land Use Vision.
- Expresses disappointment that the Draft Preliminary Land Use Vision appears to minimise the issue of retaining the Hazelwood Pondage as an existing and major community asset and ignores calls for the State Government to support retention of the pondage.
- Provides a number of reasons for retaining the pondage.

Latrobe City Business and Tourism Association

- National Whitewater Adventure Park should be in the Vision.
- This is a sustainable tourism investment with positive socio-economic outcomes. Various attachments, including economic impact and feasibility studies, were supplied with the submission to support their case.
- The park will provide good employment opportunities after mines close.

Latrobe City Council:

- Proposed pit lakes have challenges and unknown risks requiring further investigation.
- Mine rehabilitation should not increase land instability risk.
- Resolving the risk of mine fire must be an immediate priority.
- Land use of the power stations/mines should result in a sustainable, usable and visually attractive space.
- The preparation of an Environmental Effects Statement is necessary.
- Supports renewable energy and coal to hydrogen opportunities.
- Proposed pit lakes could impact water security and be wasteful in a drying climate. There are more critical future uses of water.
- Government needs to obtain ownership of mines to ensure desirable rehabilitation.
- A portion of government-raised coal royalties should be diverted to a fund to support the economic transition and mine rehabilitation.

Latrobe Valley Sustainability Group:

- Several concerns about the pit lake proposal, including asking where the water will come from in a drying climate, that the water is needed for food, fibre and forestry and is subject to evaporation and could become stagnant.
- Preferred option is to:
  - create energy through solar and hydrogen
  - use land and water to grow fodder for drought relief
  - use aquifers to maintain pits
  - use extra water to rehabilitate Latrobe River.

Dr Andrea Lindsay:

- Filling coal mining pits with water is not an appropriate mechanism for their rehabilitation. It is not compatible with a flexible, adaptive management approach, and cannot be achieved within a reasonable time frame. It doesn't take into account the highly erodible soils, drying climate, need for river and wetland flushing, and for stabilising pit surfaces quickly.
- Mining companies should not be permitted free access to the waters of the Latrobe River. They should pay the full costs of timely mine rehabilitation to a safe, useful and attractive standard.
- There are other options for more timely rehabilitation.
- Any plans for rehabilitation of the mine pits should fit within a wider consideration of the Latrobe Valley community, and the valley's natural resources.
- High priorities for the mine pits should be given to protecting connected surface water and aquifers, revegetating exposed soil surfaces to stabilise them and produce valuable new land and ecosystems. This could sit reasonably with some modest water storage as small lakes, but not filling the whole open-cut pits with water.

Russell Northe MLA, Member for Morwell:

- A public and comprehensive Environmental Effects Statement is necessary.
- Vision should focus on how to nurture and develop what the region already does well.
- Closing the Hazelwood pondage was disappointing for the community as it was the city's largest tourism drawcard.
- Ongoing protection and/or expansion of national parks is key for tourism and sustainability.
- More investment in sports programs and facilities.
- Many local developers and investors face significant barriers in progressing approved projects.
- Liveability is directly linked to good quality employment access.
- Raises the issue of what happened to the SEA electric car venture?
- Potential to develop and improve public transport.
- A large bike and walking track network would be great for community and tourism.

Tracey Anton, agricultural advocate and farmer:

- Concerned that the decision to flood Hazelwood has been promoted as the only viable option. Does not support full or partial pit lake option or ongoing use of brown coal.
- Does support bio link corridors, ecotourism, agribusiness providing reliable access to clean water.
- Concerns about pit lake option for Hazelwood include:
  - Possible contamination of groundwater and flood issues for surrounding agricultural land which will have health impacts and costs for residents reliant on groundwater and agricultural stock and land.
  - Where will the water come from to maintain the pit lakes?
  - Salinity of the lakes will be an ongoing concern as salts leach from the coal.
  - Cost to the environment and impacts to air, health, ground and surface water.
  - Potential ground movement as this is sited on an active seismic fault line.
  - The community are not properly informed of the risks, economic, legal and social impacts.

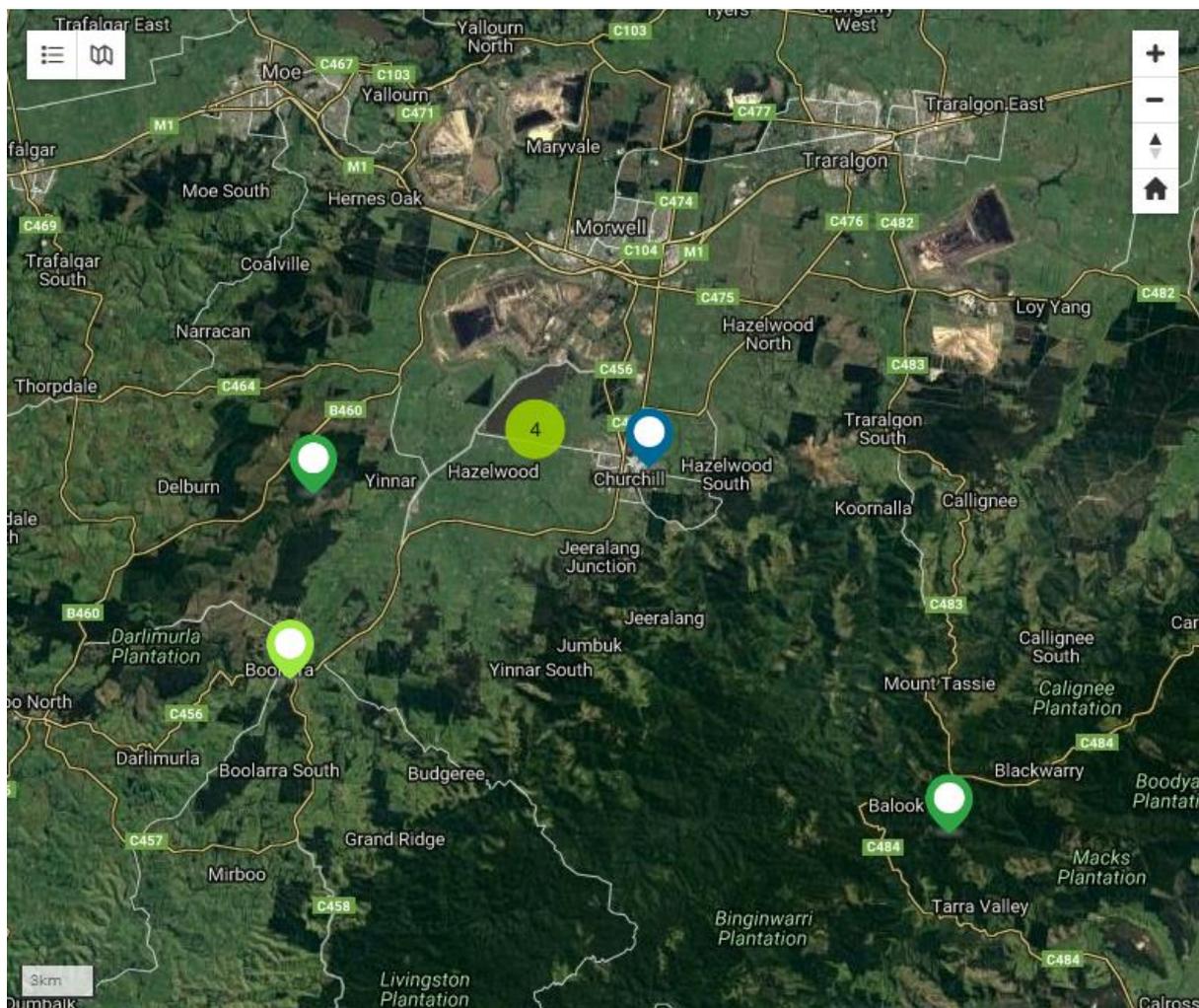
Wellington Shire Council:

- Vision statement is generally supported.
- Proposed pit lakes could have implications for long-term water security and geotechnical risks.
- Consideration of water scarcity and demand in future climate needs to be a priority.
- All options and their costs/benefits need to be critically evaluated for the best outcome.
- A public Environmental Effects Statement is desired.

## Appendix Two: Responses to interactive mapping of the Preliminary Land Use Vision

People were invited to: *Tell us what you value about the Latrobe Valley. Here is an opportunity to identify places you value in the Latrobe Valley. Click 'Add Marker' and drag and drop a pin, make a comment and upload images. You can drop more than one pin.*

This section contains the seven responses to the interactive mapping. Map 1 (below) shows where pins were placed. The circle with the number 4 in it represents submissions made about the Hazelwood Pondage (see points 5 - 8 below).



Map 1: Interactive mapping responses

Respondents' comments:

1. [Light Green pin – south-west] Making Boolarra a MTB hub like in Derby, Tasmania. With links to Yinnar and onto pondage, Morwell, Churchill, building on the current rail trail to Mirboo North. Great recreation opportunities for families and with the right infrastructure. Check out Derby's story/transformation for some inspiration!

2. [Dark Green pin – north-west] This area will be less liveable, and much less beautiful, if 35 or more wind turbines almost 2 times taller than the Hazelwood stacks were installed, particularly if they were also planned for the Jeeralangs. And it would be a good idea if the plantations became a carbon Bank.
3. [Blue pin] Better funding for on-campus scholarships at Fed Uni Churchill for student to reside on campus. A full residence would have a flow on to local shops. We need to create a vibrant place to study for students.
4. [Dark Green pin – south east] Tarra Bulga is such a special place of rainforest diversity and greenery.

The following section contains the four responses to the interactive mapping specifically situated around the Hazelwood Pondage. Map 2 (below) shows where pins were placed. Comments are in order from the blue pin clockwise.



Map 2: Interactive mapping responses around Hazelwood Pondage

5. A large source of water such as this should be seen as a source of irrigation water. As northern parts of Victoria dry out and the viability of these regions to supply our food decreases, the areas surrounding the Pondage could become an intensive farming hub with an obvious flow-on to an increase in on-farm jobs, and in the wider community with transport, processing, services and value adding. It would still then be able to be utilised as a community asset. The costs of building any large dams of this scale are huge and the public's appetite for the cost and

environmental issues associated with this is not there. (However, for the relatively small investment of repairing this structure, it would be value for money.)

6. Provision of boardwalks and jetties for fishing around a retained Pondage. Shared cycling/walking path with links to Morwell, Churchill and Yinnar and onto Boolarra to link with rail trail to Mirboo North. Creation of islands in shallow areas to attract bird life and bird watching. Tree planting to create a nice environment around the Pondage. New caravan park and boating facilities at retained Pondage to bring tourists to the area. We can't wait 20 years for the mine pit to fill to start creating new jobs in tourism.
7. Awesome holiday and recreational venue ... if only the government cared about people.
8. The Hazelwood Pondage has enormous potential as a tourism locality, even with a lower water depth. See LCBTA submission.

One submission placed a pin in a Melbourne suburb and made a statement about the Latrobe Valley as follows:

9. "The farm", our brother-in-law's dairy, has been a popular weekend destination since the children were small. The pride with which we were shown over the power station remains a strong memory. Unfortunately, this pride seems yet to be generally extended to new ventures like solar farms and wind turbines which have stirred the imagination of city-dwelling environmentalists. The remediation of Hazelwood and other power station sites in due course must offer huge opportunities for the development of the valley as a popular tourist destination as well as becoming a hub of clean energy-intensive industry. Here's hoping!

## Appendix Three: Preliminary Land Use Vision online survey

The following survey was available on Engage Victoria from 2 October to 4 November 2019.

### **Tourism, Liveability, Recreation** (see Section 4.2)

The Vision identifies multiple tourism and recreational opportunities in the Latrobe Valley, such as industrial tourism, food and wine, creative arts, sporting events and more.

1. Do you support this Vision? (scale: yes/no/unsure)
2. Do you have any suggestions for tourism, liveability and recreational opportunities in locations across the Latrobe Valley, please detail below. [open text box]

### **Industry, Business, Commerce** (see Section 4.3)

Latrobe Valley should be a recognised place for business, which attracts major corporations and supports smaller and local businesses through strong business support networks. The Vision sets out opportunities to develop engineering and other skilled businesses through improved, transport and digital connectivity.

3. Do you support this Vision? (scale: yes/no/unsure)
4. If there are any other opportunities for business and industry in locations across the Latrobe Valley, please detail below. [open text box]

### **Agriculture, Energy, Water** (see Section 4.4)

The Latrobe Valley is well placed to respond to the effects of climate change on the landscape. The Vision sets out opportunities in establishing an agricultural corridor, driving diverse business activity for the transition of the Latrobe Valley, manufacturing and maintenance of renewable energy generation, infrastructure and equipment, and opportunities for new resource-based projects and geothermal, wind and solar energy generation.

5. Do you support this Vision? (scale: yes/no/unsure)
6. If there are any other land use opportunities for agriculture, energy and water in locations across the Latrobe Valley, please detail below. [open text box]

### **Services, Education, Training** (see Section 4.5)

The Latrobe Valley will become a centre of excellence across multiple industry sectors, reflecting a bold and aspirational vision that builds on existing assets, and which can drive education, business and employment activity into the future. Opportunities include better transport links between Morwell and Traralgon to the east and Churchill to the south; building technical skills and knowledge locally to effectively carry out this long-term task over three mine sites and other infrastructure initiatives will all provide broad opportunities for other businesses.

7. Do you support this Vision? (scale: yes/no/unsure)

8. If there are any other opportunities to improve and provide services, education and training in locations across the Latrobe Valley, please detail below. [open text box]

9. Overall, how do you feel this Vision meets the future land use needs of the Latrobe Valley? (scale: very good/good/average/below average/poor)

10. Are there any other comments you would like to make? [open text box]

I am making this submission: (scale: on behalf of an organisation/local council/as an individual)

Organisation, if relevant: [open text box]

Contact email: [open text box] a copy of your submission will be sent to this address

Postcode: [open text box]

Age Group: (scale: under 35/35-49/50-64, 65-80, 80+)