

A just transition for the Latrobe Valley.

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LATROBE VALLEY

Victoria, Australia



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Region size

- **16,271 Sq. Km**

Location

- **2 hours east of Melbourne – fastest growing city in Australia**

Population

- **168,723**

Gross Regional Product

- **\$9.1 billion**

Major industries

- **Agriculture, forestry and fisheries**
- **Healthcare**
- **Energy production**
- **Oil and gas**
- **Manufacturing**
- **Tourism**
- **Construction**



History of coal mining in the Latrobe Valley

- The Latrobe Valley is home to large brown coal reserves and has been one of the main sources of power generation in Victoria and south eastern Australia for more than 130 years.
- There are three large open cut pits across three towns.
- Privatisation of the State's power network in the mid 90s led to a decline in direct and indirect employment in the region.
- The downgrading of assets and decreased economic benefit to the community is due to upgrade costs, privatisation and changes in the market.
- It is anticipated that all three mines will close over the next 27 years.



A photograph of the Hazelwood Coal Fire Power Station. Several tall, cylindrical smokestacks are visible, with a thick plume of dark smoke rising from the leftmost stack and spreading across the sky. The main building of the power station is a large, multi-story structure with a weathered, brownish facade. The word "HAZELWOOD" is written in red capital letters on the side of the building. In the foreground, there are some trees and a white structure with the "ENGIE" logo. The sky is a clear blue with some light clouds.

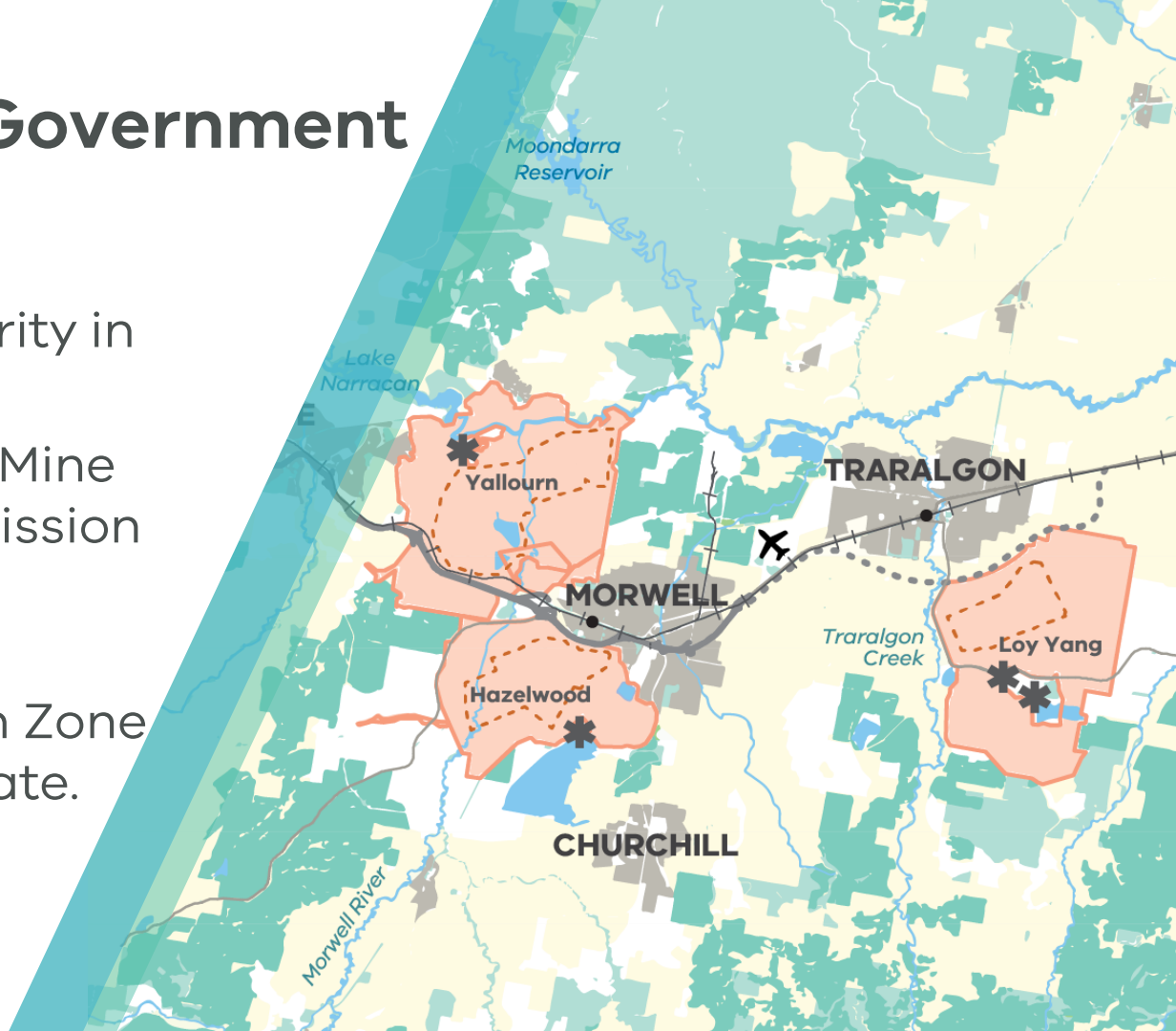
Why transition?

The First Big Disruptor

In November 2016 Engie announced the closure of the Hazelwood Coal Fire Power Station and Mine by the end of March 2017 resulting in a loss of approximately **1000 jobs** with associated supply chain impacted.

Response from Government

- Establishment of the Latrobe Valley Authority in November 2016.
- Establishment of the Mine Rehabilitation Commission in 2017.
- Establishment of the Latrobe Valley Health Zone Assembly and Advocate.



Latrobe Valley Authority

What is the proposition?

- If Government does 'things differently' by supporting and working with and across 'community' in the Latrobe Valley on 'things that matter' then impact will be direct, built on collective effort, leadership and local strengths for long term resilience.

Who are we?

- The Latrobe Valley Authority was established by the Premier's office as an administrative office of the State Government of Victoria based in the Latrobe Valley supporting workers, business and community.
- State Government investment package of \$266m over four years.

Latrobe Valley Authority - some fundamentals

The Latrobe Valley Authority working with and for the people of the Latrobe Valley to:

- Build on community strengths and capability for the future
- Lead collaboration and innovation
- Draw on and use the best ideas for what works
- Support opportunity for all



Latrobe Valley Authority - some fundamentals

Our Priorities

- Victoria creates jobs now and in the future
- People in the Latrobe Valley learn to develop and succeed
- Latrobe Valley 'communities' are pro-active
- The Latrobe Valley is liveable, connected and vibrant

Our Outcomes

- The Latrobe Valley community participates in and benefits from the economy.
- The Latrobe Valley's economy is competitive, adaptive and diverse.
- The Latrobe Valley develops knowledge, skills and attributes for social and economic participation now and in the future.
- Latrobe Valley is open, inclusive and collaborative for collective benefit.
- The Latrobe Valley is socially engaged, cohesive, creative and culturally vibrant.
- Latrobe Valley community infrastructure is attractive, functional and well used.
- Latrobe Valley's natural environment is healthy, sustainable and accessible.

Creating the conditions for doing things differently

- Authorisation from senior levels of Government including funding for four initial years covering comprehensive community impact
 - Design based on elements of success elsewhere – addressing gaps and opportunities, local people working in their own community, mixture of experience including senior public sector background across a number of departments (education, economic, human services)
- Core immediate response activities – partnered worker transition service, supply chain support, economic stimulation for growth and new jobs, infrastructure to improve liveability, pride and social connection
 - Recovery and strategic action – based on continuous discovery and check in within and beyond community focussed on gaps, strengths and opportunity

Latrobe Valley Authority

Snapshot of our work



Snapshot of our work



What does success look like in the short term?



1,434

Workers and their families supported through the Worker Transition Service



865

People employed through the Back to Work Scheme



135

Community projects supported through the Community Facility Fund



962

Jobs created through the Economic Facilitation Fund

Lessons learned for the long term

- Relationships and trust matter
- Respect and understand the past
- Quick wins
- Not the usual suspects/early adopters

Comprehensive and integrated system of linked actors and actions

- All aspects of community life.
 - Being involved in building sustainable practice over time – success is dependent on building capability and systems, local strong governance and identified priorities and commitment of local and global networks.
 - Future funding opportunities that support evidence based proposals.
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- Aligned and authorised support – direct involvement of public sector specialists from across state and federal departments working along side community, for local place based initiatives is important to inform evidence, policy and funding decisions through direct partnership.

Making the most of opportunity

What are we confident about now for the next steps?

A focus on embedding a regional innovation system:

- Requires a top down / bottom up synergy of 'policy mix' tailored to 'context mix'.
- Individuals/teams operate in networks that include community, government, business and institutions.
- Innovations agents facilitate across multi-dimensions, levels and actors.
- Innovation is co-created and evolves.





Thankyou, questions?

—
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