A just transition for the Latrobe Valley.

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Latrobe Valley Authority
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.
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 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
A strong future for the Latrobe Valley

Support workers to transition
Support tourism and visitation growth
Build inclusive community participation, health and wellbeing
Link local people to growth sector jobs
Grow industry capability and demand
Collective future orientated action

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Latrobe Valley Authority

Snapshot of our work
A strong future for the Latrobe Valley

A strong and diverse economy

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Leadership and networks

Genuine partnerships

Draw on and use best ideas

Focus on actions

Visitor economy

Latrobe Valley Sports and Community Initiative

Community Facility Fund

Youth Space Latrobe

Latrobe Valley Home Energy Upgrade Program

Good Money Store

Supporting Future Workers

Ladder

Broadening Horizons

Microcredentialing Project

Site Infrastructure Acceleration Scheme

Small Business Support Service

Industry Capability Network

New Energy Jobs and Investment Prospectus

Economic Growth Zone

Gippsland Business Connect

Economic Facilitation Fund

Gippsland Hi Tech Precinct

Major Investment Attraction

Back to Work Scheme

Worker Transition Service

Worker Transfer Scheme

Access New Industries Program

Internationalising Education

Economic Growth Zone

Latrobe Valley GovHub

GIPPSLAND HUB
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.
- Aligned and authorised support - direct involvement of public sector specialists from across state and federal departments working alongside 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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