

EnergyAustralia Yallourn Pty Ltd
Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan
(June 2025)

MIN 5003, MIN 5216, MIN 5304

**Community and Stakeholder
Engagement Plan**



EnergyAustralia
LIGHT THE WAY

PROJECT	Yallourn Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan	DATE	11 June 2025
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Table of Contents

Glossary	4
Executive Summary	5
1 Introduction	7
1.1 Purpose of this Document	7
1.1.1 Prior Engagement	9
1.2 Related Documents	11
1.3 Background.....	12
1.3.1 Ongoing Engagement	17
1.4 DMRP Engagement Phases.....	18
1.5 Document Compliance	20
1.6 Communication and Engagement Management	22
1.6.1 Guiding Principles	22
1.6.2 International Association for Public Participation.....	22
1.6.3 Formal Consultation	24
2 Overview and Context.....	25
2.1 Sentiment Analysis and Social Factors Assessment	25
2.1.1 Risks and Opportunities.....	26
3 Stakeholder Overview.....	27
3.1 Key Stakeholders	27
3.2 Traditional Owners and Indigenous Peoples.....	27
4 Engagement Activities and Methods	28
4.1 Key Messages	28
4.1.1 DMRP Key Messages	28
4.1.3 Engagement.....	29
4.2 Key Communications Contacts.....	30
4.3 Engagement Methods and Tools.....	30
4.3 Enquiries and Complaints Management	33
5 Limitations.....	34
Appendix A	36
Stakeholder Engagement Analysis	36
Appendix B	41
Enquiries and Complaints Management Procedure	41
Appendix C	42
Yallourn Mine Rehabilitation Community Sentiment Research - Summary of Key Findings	42

Glossary

Key Terms and Abbreviations

Term / Acronym	Definition
CSEP	Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (this plan)
CMS	Consultation Management System
Community	A group of people who are living / working / commuting / frequenting an area or region who are affected by activities undertaken in that area or region.
DMRP	Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan
EAY	EnergyAustralia Yallourn Pty Ltd
EES	Environmental Effects Statement/s
ERR	Earth Resources Regulator
LVRRS	Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy
MRSDA	Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990 (Vic)
RL	Reduced Level in surveying means the height above or below a common assumed datum
SECV	State Electricity Commission of Victoria
Stakeholder	Individuals or groups that are likely to affect, or be affected, by a proposed project
The Project	The rehabilitation of the Yallourn Mine

Executive Summary

Yallourn has helped power the lives of Australians for over 100 years. EnergyAustralia Yallourn (EAY) is committed to honouring this proud history as we work towards closing the power station and coal mine in June 2028.

EAY is working towards making the Yallourn site a place that locals and visitors can enjoy and that provides potential economic opportunities for the Latrobe Valley.

EAY announced the closure of Yallourn in 2021, giving seven years' notice to the community, workers and stakeholders. EAY has a long history of consultation with community and stakeholders in relation to the rehabilitation of Yallourn. This continues with the public consultation process in relation to the draft Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan for Yallourn.

The public exhibition of the draft Yallourn DMRP is the next step towards recognising the rehabilitation of the Yallourn mine. The DMRP is our plan to make the mine site safe, stable and sustainable by filling the mine voids with water to create a lake that locals and visitors can enjoy and wildlife calls home. Since first being proposed as the rehabilitation solution by the State Electricity Commission of Victoria (SECV) in the early to mid-1990s, subsequent modelling and investigations by industry experts and EAY has supported this solution.

The Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) supports the DMRP submission by outlining how EAY will manage community and stakeholder engagement.

As a declared mine licensee, EAY must consult with the community during mine closure and rehabilitation under the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990* (Vic) (MRSDA). This includes a 60-day public exhibition period, evidence of consultations, and copies of any submissions received. EAY will follow Resources Victoria's 'Principles for Community Engagement' for all activities.

The CSEP details how EAY will apply engagement principles, guidelines, best practices, and procedures to meet the DMRP consultation requirements.

EAY welcomes the feedback of locals and stakeholders as an important part of the pathway towards closure.



Image 1: Before and after: Progressive rehabilitation completed at the Yallourn Mine, Latrobe Road Batters

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Document

The Yallourn Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan (DMRP) Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) has been developed to provide the strategic framework and guidelines for community and stakeholder engagement activities for the 60-day public exhibition period of the DMRP which is to be undertaken by EAY as a key part of the plan for the closure and rehabilitation of the Yallourn Mine (the Project).

This CSEP is subordinate to the DMRP, and has been developed to address requirements of the:

- MRSDA, and;
- Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) (Mineral Industries) Regulations 2019 (the Regulations).

The MRSDA, and the Regulations are administered by the Earth Resources Regulator (ERR).

Undertaking community and stakeholder engagement activities as described in this document builds on the strong foundation of engagement that EAY has undertaken during its operation of the Yallourn Mine, including ongoing discussions regarding rehabilitation. This document seeks to formalise and document parts of this process in order to meet the regulatory requirements and ensure EAY meets the requirements of the 60-day public consultation and exhibition period required for the DMRP. The CSEP is founded on the principle that timely provision of information, complete transparency, strong relationships with stakeholders and regular engagement with communities is critical to the successful delivery of the Project and minimising potential impacts on the community and stakeholders. The following objectives are targeted by EAY to demonstrate commitment to engaging the community and stakeholders:

- Compliance with applicable legislation and regulations.
- Being proactive and seeking a broad range of feedback and perspectives.
- Building on our existing relationships and forging new ones.
- Detailed analysis of issues to be managed during the Project and strategies to mitigate these issues.
- Maintaining effective communication with community and key stakeholders.
- Applying the principles of the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum.
- Providing the community and stakeholders with timely, accurate, and appropriate information on project activities and potential impacts.
- Ensuring EnergyAustralia Yallourn Mine Rehabilitation Leadership are available to meet community and stakeholders as required.
- Record and monitor stakeholder engagement in the Project's Consultation Management System (CMS).

EAY acknowledges the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy Implementation Principals¹ (LVRRS, p.8, 2020). Further to these principles and targeted objectives, EAY recognises Resources Victoria's 'Principles for Community Engagement'² as a guide for Victoria's earth resources industry on expectations for engaging community.

Resources Victoria - Principles for community engagement

Aboriginal communities and Traditional Owners

Meaningful relationships are established with Aboriginal communities and Traditional Owners.

- Meaningful engagement occurs for all projects, regardless of Native Title requirements.
- Effort is made to identify the relevant Aboriginal communities and Traditional Owners. They may be represented by land corporations or other groups. Do not limit to just groups with formal recognition under the Native Title Act or other legislation.

Understand the affected community

Community members impacted by the project are identified and understood.

- Any person or group whose interests are likely to be affected by the project are identified and the impact the project will have on them is understood.
- These interests are not confined to a strict legal interest in land or property – it includes cultural interest of First Nations peoples and community of place connection of local residents.

Engagement tailored to the community

Engagement level and methods are appropriate for the project and the community.

- Engagement goals, levels and methods are appropriate for community members and groups affected by the project. Different stakeholders are likely to require varied engagement levels or methods.
- Information about projects is provided in a way that is accessible and appropriate for the community members and groups being engaged.
- Community engagement is appropriate for the size, location and potential impact of the project.

Genuine and informed prior consultation

Engagement is based on genuine and informed prior consultation.

- Community members are given a genuine opportunity to express their concerns and provide feedback.
- Sufficient and accessible information has been provided for community members to assess how a project will impact them.
- Consultation has occurred prior to work commencing.
- Community members are given information on how their concerns will be taken into account.

Ongoing engagement

Community engagement occurs through the lifetime of the project.

- Community engagement is ongoing throughout the project, with engagement level and methods changing as the potential community impact of the project changes.
- Projects provide community members with ways to raise any issues or concerns throughout the project.

¹ [Latrobe-Valley-Regional-Rehabilitation-Strategy.pdf](#)

² <https://resources.vic.gov.au/legislation-and-regulations/guidelines-and-codes-of-practice/principles-for-community-engagement>

1.1.2 Prior Engagement

EAY has undertaken a significant amount of genuine and informed prior engagement and consultation with the community and stakeholders prior to the statutory DMRP consultation period and this forms part of the phase one early development studies and scoping for DMRP engagement activities.

It is important to note that as a major employer and industry participant in the region, EAY has provided a multitude of opportunities for meaningful engagement prior to the development of the DMRP. EAY has engaged and consulted over and above the regulatory requirements as part of its core values and efforts to be a responsible operator in the local community.

The Maryvale Environmental Effects Statement (EES) 1999 included a comprehensive rehabilitation plan, which was open for public display and comment. Formal submissions were received and considered for the final report. Similarly, the Supplementary EES 2001 followed the same process. A condition of approval from these EES processes was the development of a Rehabilitation Master Plan and the establishment of an Environmental Review Committee, which continues to operate today. The Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry involved extensive public consultation, with active participation from Yallourn Mine. The Yallourn Open Day in 2016 featured a dedicated mine rehabilitation shopfront, attracting over 1500 attendees. Subsequent years saw the establishment of dedicated mine rehabilitation shopfronts in Moe, with notable events from 2017-2019.

With respect to prior engagement regarding the closure and rehabilitation of the Yallourn Mine, EAY has conducted ongoing engagement during mining operations at the site and undertook significant consultation on the Yallourn Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan (RCP) that was approved in June 2019.

The Covid-19 Pandemic significantly disrupted our community engagement efforts for mine rehabilitation. The imposition of lockdowns, social distancing measures, and travel restrictions hindered our ability to conduct in-person meetings, workshops, and site visits, which are crucial for effective community involvement. Despite these challenges, online engagement continued, allowing us to maintain some level of communication and collaboration.

Engagement regarding the closure of the Yallourn Mine (and subsequent Yallourn 'W' Power Station) as part of the Yallourn Transition Program, commenced in March 2021 (following the announcement that the Yallourn 'W' Power Station would close in June 2028), and continued consultation and engagement with the community and stakeholders has been ongoing since that time.

Furthermore, in August 2024, EnergyAustralia opened the Morwell Community Hub, which exemplifies a community-centred approach to actively inform, involve, and benefit the local community. The EnergyAustralia Morwell Community Hub has set the benchmark for community engagement in the Latrobe Valley.

EAY's engagement is based on the principles of genuine and informed consultation that seeks to:

- Give the community and stakeholders the genuine opportunity to express their concerns and to provide feedback.
- Provide sufficient and accessible information to assess how the site closure and rehabilitation could potentially impact them.
- Provide opportunities for input into rehabilitation consultation prior to the DMRP commencing.
- Provide information on how their concerns will be considered.

For example, EAY is a key sponsor and participant in the Cooperative Research Centre for Transformations in Mining Economies (CRCTIME) Post-Mining Land Use Study, including Indigenous youth and school programs, Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner involvement and community site tours. In 2024 alone, EAY hosted over 20 site tours and attended a broad range of community events, reaching over 2300 community members and stakeholders, allowing for genuine and informed prior engagement and consultation regarding the rehabilitation of the Yallourn Mine.

In 2025, and prior to formal DMRP engagement, EAY undertook informal DMRP engagement with stakeholders and the community. These engagements ranged from site tours, visits and meetings with key stakeholders and community events. Of particular note, EAY consulted early with community at the Warragul Show, Thorpdale Potato Festival and Farm World 2025 at Lardner Park. EAY continues to engage in person at the Morwell Community Hub every Tuesday, Wednesday, and by appointment.



Image 2: Community site tour at the Yallourn Mine, East Field Lookout 2024

1.2 Related Documents

This document is a sub-plan and appendix of the DMRP. Any subsequent Community Engagement Action Plan/s and On-Ground Community and Stakeholder Engagement Activities will be considered a sub-plan to this Document.

A hierarchy of interrelated plans is displayed at Figure 1. If any additional engagement plans are developed, the hierarchy will be updated upon review of the DMRP (if required).

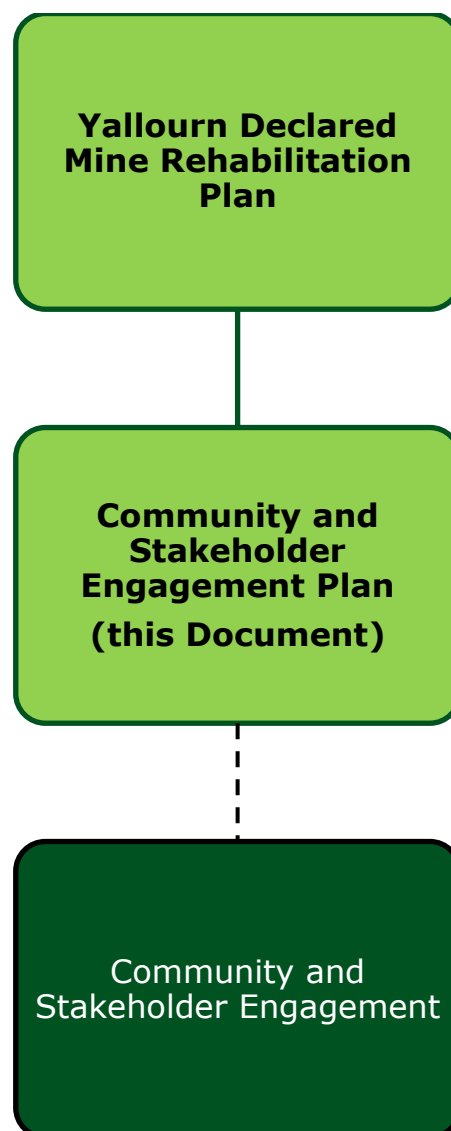


Figure 1: Hierarchy of interrelated plans

1.3 Background



Image 3: Yallourn Maryvale Field with the Yallourn 'W' Power Station in the background (centre-right).

In March 2021, EAY announced that the Yallourn 'W' Power Station would cease operation in mid-2028, at which point the Yallourn Mine would also cease production. As planning for the final closure of the mine progresses, EAY is committed to honouring Yallourn's legacy and wants the **site** to be part of the regions' transition to new economic opportunities, creating jobs, while providing beneficial future land uses beyond mining.

As such, the overarching vision for the site is:

"To transform the Yallourn site into a landscape that enables ongoing prosperity and amenity for all. One that is an example of what can be achieved when business, government, communities, and custodians of the land work together."

EnergyAustralia

This vision centres around the transformation of the current pit voids into a lake to create a final landform that is *safe, stable and sustainable* as required under the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) (Mineral Industries) Regulations 2019*. The concept of a lake as the final landform has been the intention throughout the life of the mine and was presented to the regulators as part of past Rehabilitation Master Plans, Work Plan Variations, Rehabilitation and Closure Plans, and Environmental Effects Statements (EES).

EAY has undertaken community and stakeholder engagement during the life of the mine including engagement specific to the creation of a lake. Post DMRP, EAY will continue to engage with the community and stakeholders on the rehabilitation plans and the progress of rehabilitation works (see Section 1.3.1).

The DMRP will detail the rehabilitation strategy for the Yallourn Mine and outline the measures and actions to be taken to rehabilitate the land impacted by mining within the mine licence to create a safe, stable and sustainable landform which supports the next land use.

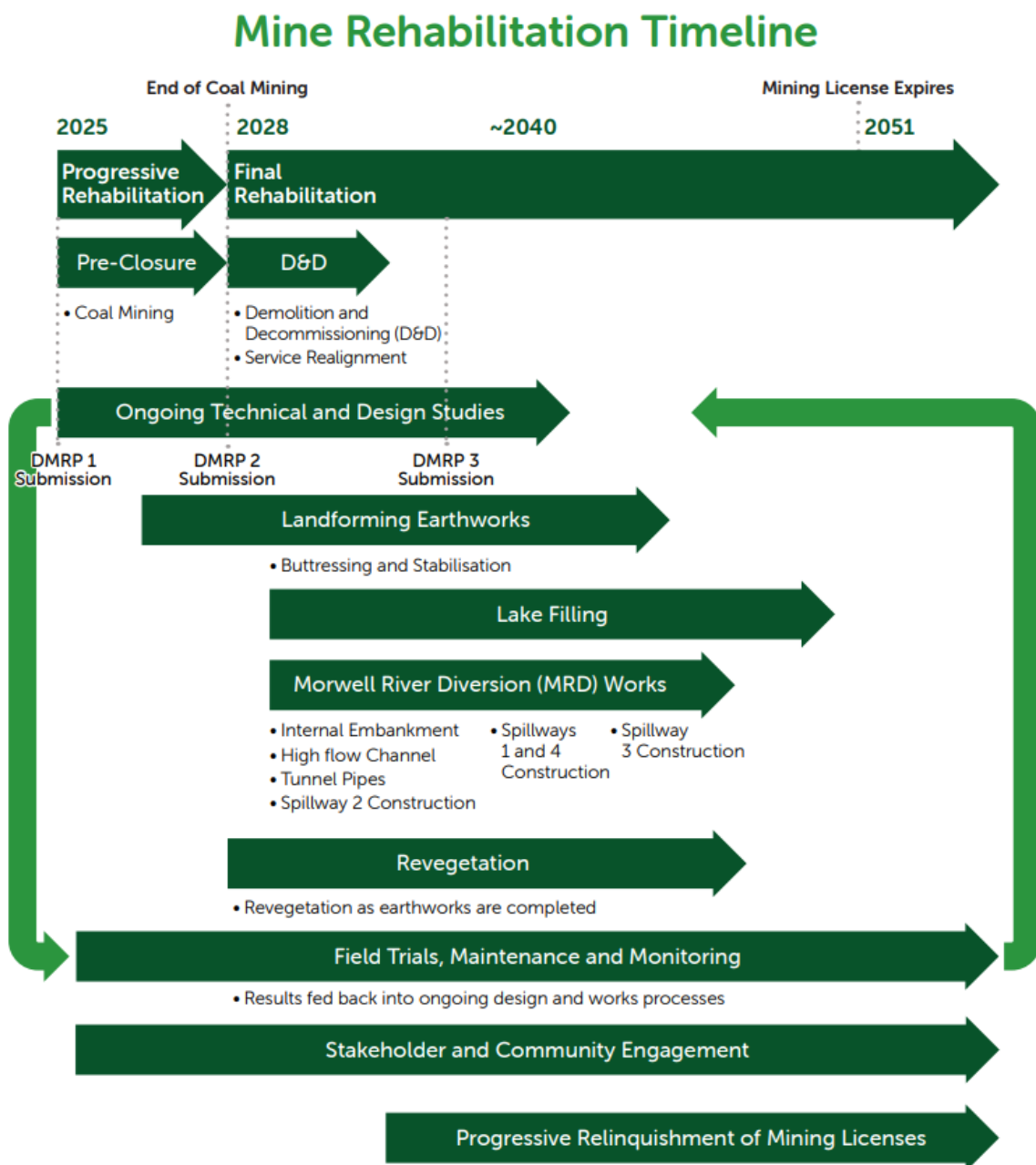


Figure 2: Mine Rehabilitation Timeline

The mine voids are intended **to be** filled with water to form two adjacent lakes (Image 5). The main aspects of the rehabilitation project include:

- Filling the voids to approximately RL 37m with water
- Intention to maintain the Morwell River Diversion with some improvement works to provide longer term stability
- Works to allow the conveyor tunnels to be used as tunnels to transfer water and provide equilibrium between the pits
- Reshaping of batters as required to meet the final landform design parameters
- Protection of the conservation blocks
- Redirection of surface water that has been diverted during operations back into the pit to contribute to batter stability
- Construction of spillways to take Morwell River and Latrobe River flood flows to protect the Morwell River Diversion
- Construction of lake overflow in northeast corner of the east field to direct lake overflow to the Latrobe River

EAY is required to submit the DMRP under the MRSDA by 30 September 2025.

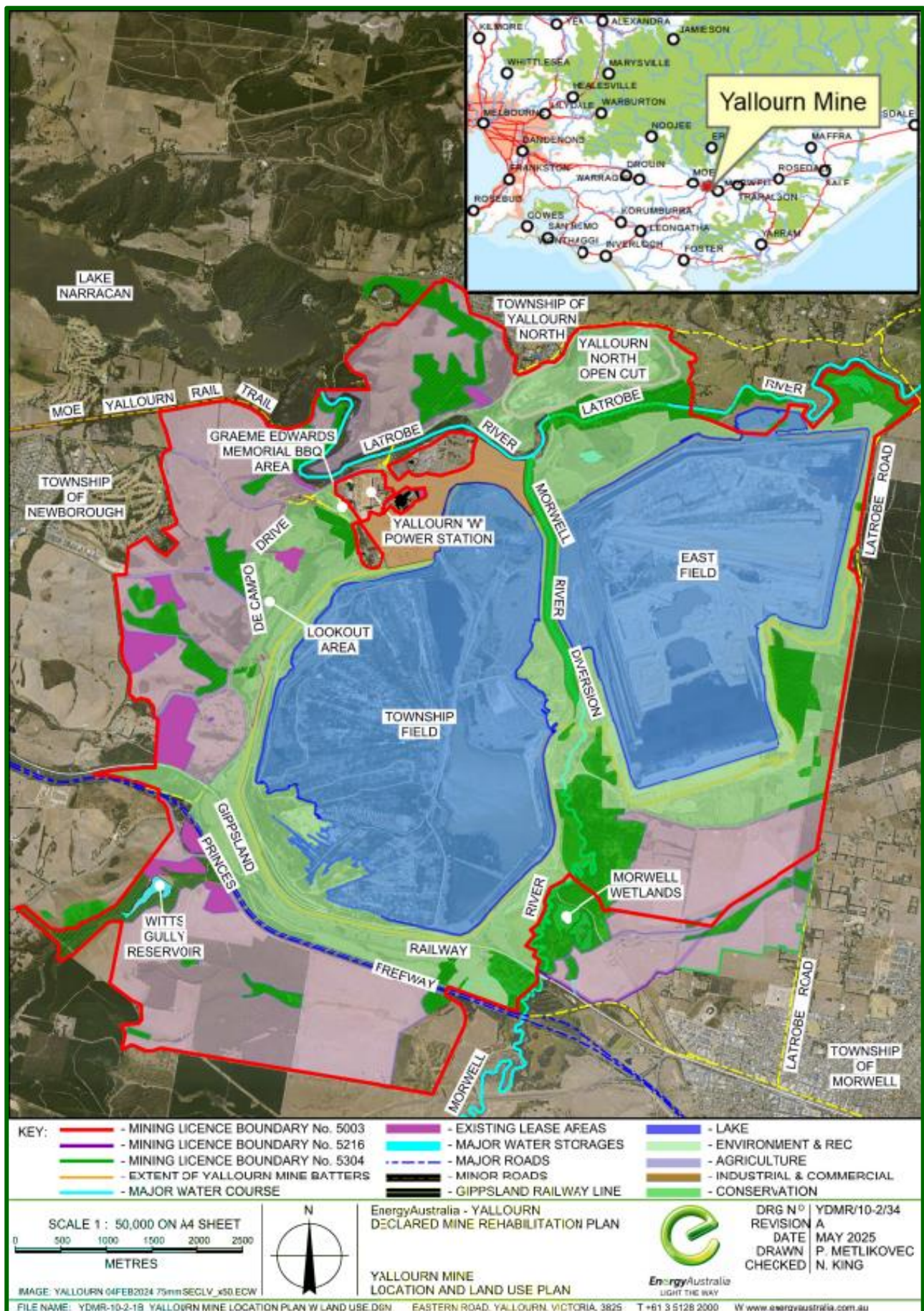


Image 5: Yallourn Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan – Yallourn Mine Location and Proposed Land Use

1.3.1 Ongoing Engagement

Post-DMRP submission, EAY will continue to engage with the community and stakeholders, and commit to ongoing, meaningful, genuine, informed, and transparent engagement, aside from just being a regulatory requirement. The DMRP CSEP will be updated, where required, based on the matters raised through DMRP consultation. Additional stakeholders identified during the DMRP consultation will be included in Appendix A where appropriate.

Ongoing engagement will occur through the lifetime of the Project and EAY is committed to this and has established a dedicated Community Engagement Team to make this a reality. Aligned with the IAP2 methodology, the LVRRS Implementation Principals and Resource Victoria's Principles for Community Engagement, EAY is well placed to meet the ongoing engagement needs for the closure and rehabilitation of the Yallourn Mine.

Key strategies to maintain trust, address enquiries and complaints, and continue to build positive relationships with the community and stakeholders include, but are not limited to:

- Regular communication and updates through newsletters, fact sheets and updates on the Project website.
- Continuing to host site visits and tours to maintain interest and engagement in the rehabilitation of the Yallourn Mine with key stakeholders and community.
- Dedicated contact points via email and telephone.
- Enquiry and complaints handling procedure.
- Continuous and proactively seeking feedback, including via outreach, to understand and respond to community and stakeholder expectations and concerns.
- Document consultation processes to demonstrate compliance with regulatory requirements.

1.4 DMRP Engagement Phases

Planned community and stakeholder consultation activities are shown on page 19. The proposed phases of activities will be reviewed regularly and updated as needed and/or required.

As identified at Figure 1: Hierarchy of interrelated plans (p.11), a detailed community and stakeholder engagement action plan and on-ground community and stakeholder engagement activities will be developed in the lead up to the compulsory 60-day public exhibition period of the DMRP.

EAY has commenced informal engagement and consultation with community and stakeholders.

DMRP Engagement Phase	Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan	
	Objectives	Activities
Phase One Early development studies and scoping (underway)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build awareness and understanding of the DMRP and next steps • Engage directly with adjacent and local residents to provide awareness of DMRP works and outcomes • Seek specific preliminary community and stakeholder feedback to inform understanding of risks, concerns and aspirations for consideration in project development • Initial consultation with Traditional Owners to inform understanding of cultural heritage impacts, concerns and opportunities for involvement of First Nations Peoples • Identify consultation and communication preferences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1800 number and email • Stakeholder briefings and meetings • Development and launch of information materials and basic FAQ's • Implementation of Enquiries and Complaint Procedure • Project website • Information about the DMRP and relevant documentation on public display at the EAY Community Hub located in Morwell, Victoria • Host site tours for interested community and school groups. • Participate in the Cooperative Research Centre for Transformations in Mining Economies (CRC TiME) Post-Mining Land Use Study, including youth program, Gunaikurnai and community site tours
Phase Two DMRP preparation, including specialist assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information about the DMRP process and encourage public participation via the dedicated project website • Involve communities and stakeholders in discussions to thoroughly understand issues identifying suitable mitigations and opportunities 	<p>As above, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local area engagement • Email notifications • Technical fact sheets as relevant
Phase Three Formal DMRP exhibition and submission report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present and explain the DMRP • Provide information about how to make a submission and next steps • Explain how feedback helped inform the DMRP • Respond to submissions • Prepare submissions report 	<p>As above plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal submission process (managed by EAY planning team) • Community presentations • Information drop-in sessions and online webinars • Local and industry events • Community newsletter (print and e-news) • DMRP Consultation Engagement Summary Report
Phase Four DMRP exhibition process complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report back on how consultation informed DMRP outcomes • Explain next steps for approvals and works programs 	<p>As above</p>

Table 1: DMRP Engagement Phases

1.5 Document Compliance

This CSEP has been written to comply with the MRSDA and Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) (Mineral Industries) Regulations 2019 S.R. No. 48/2019³

Section	Description	Section of CSEP
Act Section 39A	<i>Licensee's duty to consult with community throughout the period of the licence and allow the community reasonable opportunity to express their views.</i>	Appendix A
Act Section 77K specifies the duty to consult as:	<i>(a) sharing with the community information about any activities authorised by the work authority that may affect the community; and</i>	Section 4.1.3
	<i>(b) giving members of the community a reasonable opportunity to express their views about those activities.</i>	Section 4.6
Act Section 84AZU(4) Outlines preparation of the rehabilitation plan and includes	<i>The declared mine licensee must consult with a prescribed person or a prescribed class of persons in relation to the plan.</i>	Appendix A
REGS 64F(1)(b) listing a stakeholder engagement plan that	<i>(i) identifies the persons or classes of persons, including the persons or classes of persons prescribed by regulation 64G— (a) consulted on the draft declared mine rehabilitation plan; and (b) who will be consulted on the declared mine rehabilitation plan; and</i>	Appendix A
	<i>(ii) includes a strategy and milestones for ongoing engagement with those persons and classes of persons during rehabilitation and closure of the declared mine; and</i>	Section 1.3
	<i>(iii) complies with any relevant guidelines issued by the Minister under section 120A of the Act</i>	Section 1.5
REGS Section 64H (1)	<i>Requires declared mine licensee to give notice of consultations at least 60 days before giving the plan to the Department Head for approval.</i>	Section 1.6.3
REGS Section 64H (2)(vi))	<i>Notice to include "the declared mine licensee's plan for carrying out the duty under section 39A of the act to consult the community, including landowners and occupiers, throughout the period of the licence"</i>	Section 1.6.3
REGS Section 64J(a) "report on the consultations undertaken under Section 84AZU(4) of the Act", with Section 84AZU(4) being	<i>that sets out the matters raised within the consultations and the declared mine licensee's response to those matters; and</i>	Section 1.4
	<i>that attaches a copy of any written submissions received by the licensee in response to the consultation.</i>	Section 1.4
REGS Section 64K lists the items for the Department Head to consider in the rehabilitation plan	<i>(a) the report on consultations under regulation 64J(a). (c)(ii) views of the community and Aboriginal persons are taken into account.</i>	Section 1.4
Section 84AZY of Act, Section 64N (b) of Regulations	<i>Evidence of community and stakeholder engagement is also required when we apply for determination that closure criteria have been met.</i>	Section 1.3.1

Table 2: Relevant sections of MRSDA and Regulations for Engagement

³ [Mineral Resources \(Sustainable Development\) \(Mineral Industries\) Regulations 2019 \(legislation.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/)

Section	Description	Section of CSEP
REG 64G (1) For the purposes of section 84AZU(4) ⁴ of Act, the following persons are prescribed	(a) the Rehabilitation Authority;	Appendix A
	(b) the Minister responsible for administering the Environment Effects Act 1978;	Appendix A
	(c) in the case of declared mine land that is Crown land, the Crown land Minister;	Appendix A
	(d) any responsible authority, within the meaning given by section 13 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, for the area in which the declared mine land is located;	Appendix A
	(e) any public sector body that is responsible for the authorisation or oversight of a matter in the declared mine rehabilitation plan.	Appendix A
REG 64G (2) For the purposes of section 84AZU(4) of the Act, the following <u>classes</u> of persons are prescribed	(a) in the case of a declared mine on private land— (i) the owner and occupier of the declared mine land affected by the declared mine rehabilitation plan; and	Appendix A
	(ii) the owner and occupier of land directly adjacent to the declared mine land affected by the declared mine rehabilitation plan; and	Appendix A
	(iii) a traditional owner group or traditional owner group entity, within the meaning of the Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010, in the area in which the declared mine land is located;	Appendix A
	(b) in the case of a declared mine located in the Latrobe Valley region— (i) the communities in the Gippsland Region set out in column 2 of Schedule 2 to the Regional Development Victoria Act 2002; and	Appendix A
	(ii) a traditional owner group or traditional owner group entity, within the meaning of the Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010;	Appendix A
Gippsland Region set out in column 2 of Schedule 2 to the Regional Development Victoria Act 2002	Bass Coast Shire Council	Appendix A
	Baw Baw Shire Council	Appendix A
	East Gippsland Shire Council	Appendix A
	Latrobe City Council	Appendix A
	Mount Baw Baw Alpine Resort	Appendix A
	South Gippsland Shire Council	Appendix A
	Wellington Shire Council	Appendix A
Traditional Owner group or traditional owner group entity (within the meaning of the Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010)	Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation	Appendix A

Table 3: Prescribed persons or class of persons for consultation

⁴ Act 84AZU (4) *The declared mine licensee must consult with a prescribed person or a prescribed class of persons in relation to the plan*

1.6 Communication and Engagement Management

1.6.1 Guiding Principles

EAY's approach to community and stakeholder engagement for the DMRP has been guided by Victoria's earth resources industry on best practice and expectations for engaging community and stakeholders. This document has been developed considering those guidelines. Further, we are also guided by the following principles:

- EAY will operate within the limits that set out any planning conditions, government regulation, or similar, and other related management plans and documents to ensure minimum impact on the environment and the communities impacted by the Project.
- EAY will be sensitive to the needs and interests of the community and stakeholders and make it possible for them to register their concerns and feedback with EAY.
- The community and stakeholders will be informed about activities that may be impacting on their wellbeing, way of life, financial status and safety.
- EAY will address the concerns of residents where it is reasonably and commercially feasible to do so.

1.6.2 International Association for Public Participation

EAY utilises the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Public Participation Spectrum as the key approach to community and stakeholder engagement. IAP2 defines public participation as the involvement of those affected by a decision in the decision-making process.

IAP2's Core Values⁵ of public participation include promoting sustainable decisions by recognising the interests of all decision-makers, actively facilitating the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision, providing participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way, and communicating to participants how their input affected the decision.

Utilising the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum⁶ (see Figure 3 on p.22), knowledge of the community, experience on similar projects and the objectives to be achieved, the predominant level of participation for the Project is to inform and consult.

- **Inform** – to provide community and stakeholders with balanced and objective information that assists them in understanding the Project and what we are working on.
- **Consult** – to obtain feedback on mine site rehabilitation related activities by providing information about the Project and providing accessible ways for communities and stakeholders to ask questions and provide feedback on the Project.

Accordingly, IAP2's Quality Assurance Standard in Community & Stakeholder Engagement⁷ is used as a guide for audit processes.

⁵ <https://iap2.org.au/about-us/about-iap2-australasia/core-values/>

⁶ https://iap2.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2018_IAP2_Spectrum.pdf

⁷ https://iap2.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/IAP2_Quality_Assurance_Standard_2015.pdf

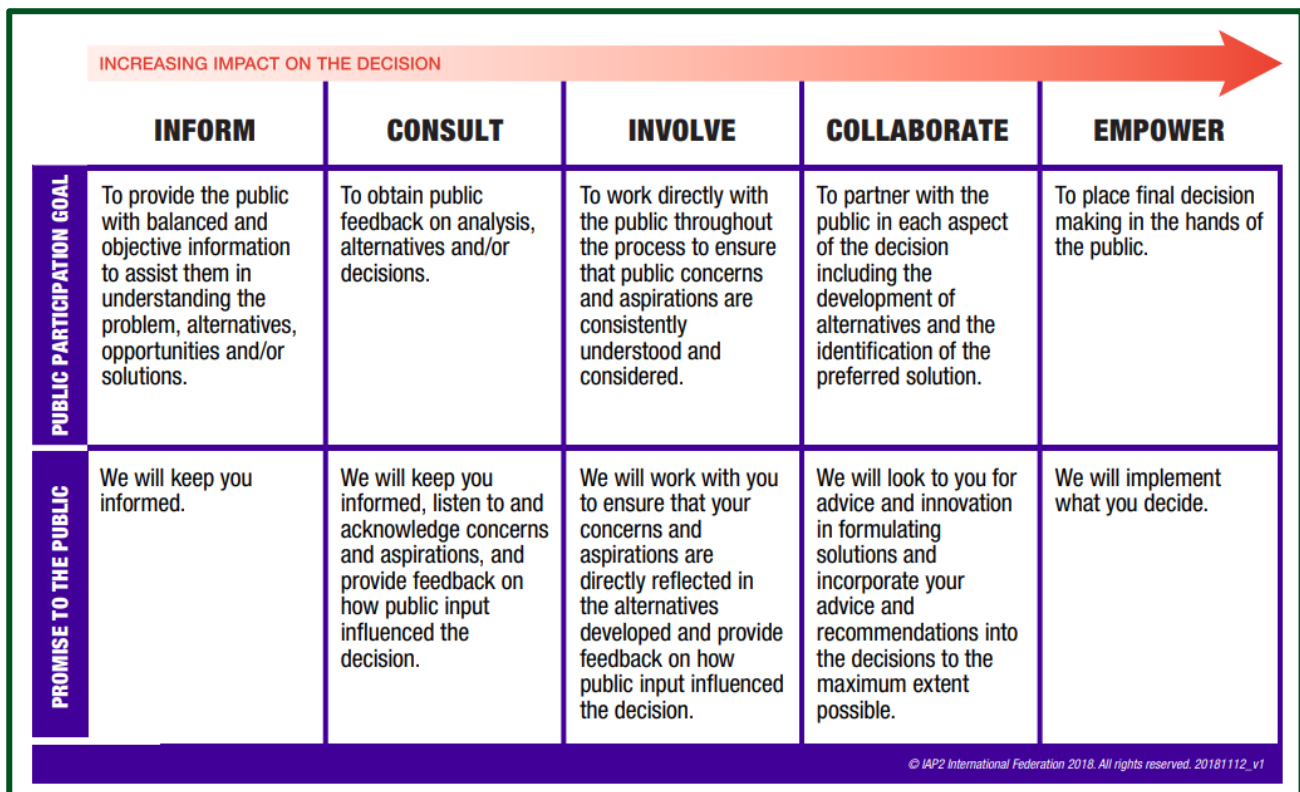


Figure 3: IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum

1.6.3 Formal Consultation

Declared mine licensees are required by the MRSDA and the Regulations to consult formally on a draft DMRP with stakeholders identified in the stakeholder engagement plan, which must include at least prescribed persons and classes of persons listed in regulation 64G of the Regulations and the community.

As part of formal consultation, licensees are required to publish a notice seeking submissions on a draft DMRP at least 60 days before submitting the DMRP for approval.

The notice must include:

- the name of the declared mine licensee
- the website maintained by the licensee where information about the DMRP is published including:
 - a draft DMRP that substantially addresses the form and content set out in these guidelines
 - the draft stakeholder engagement plan, including the licensee's plan to carry out its section 39A duty to consult with the community throughout the period of the licence.
- a description of the declared mine land, including a map of the land.

The notice must be published in a newspaper with local or statewide circulation or by an alternative publication method approved by the Department Head⁸. The licensee must publish this notice on its website throughout the consultation period and for at least 21 days after lodging the DMRP with the Department Head for approval.

Licensees must provide a copy of the notice to the Department Head within 7 days of publication.

⁸ Licensees may submit an application to the Earth Resources Regulator to publish a notice by an alternative method, including how the alternative method will not reduce the opportunity for community awareness of the proposed draft DMRP. If the Department Head approves the alternative method, then the Department Head must publish a notice of an approved alternative method in the Government Gazette.

2 Overview and Context

2.1 Sentiment Analysis and Social Factors Assessment

There are many factors that need to be taken into consideration throughout the Project's planning and development cycle. Prior to the development of this CSEP, EAY commissioned an independent community sentiment research and analysis of the Project, and undertook a social factors assessment to identify and understand current community perceptions, contextual local issues and attitudes, knowledge and awareness, and to evaluate key social risks and opportunities for the Project.

This social research provided valuable insights into the existing sentiment and perceptions within the community and among stakeholders regarding similar rehabilitation projects in the area, attitudes towards the changing energy market and other influences such as current social and economic priorities for the region. This holistic view enables EAY to inform the development of a tailored CSEP that will drive genuine and informed consultation that provides for effective community and stakeholder engagement on the DMRP.

A summary of the key findings of the Yallourn Mine Rehabilitation Community Sentiment Research (2024) is provided at Appendix C.



Image 6: Yallourn Mine Rehabilitation Community Sentiment Research Perceptions (September 2024)

2.1.1 Risks and Opportunities

There are a range of risks and opportunities that are related to providing effective community and stakeholder engagement. There are currently numerous projects throughout the region seeking to engage with the same community members and stakeholders, so there is a significant risk that consultation fatigue⁹ may impact the community's view of the DMRP and appetite to participate in any engagement activities. Misconceptions and/or misinformation about mine closure and rehabilitation, job opportunities, and energy security contributing to a higher cost of living, may also pose a risk.

Risks include but are not limited to misinterpretation of EAY objectives, disinformation, low participation, consultation fatigue, resistance from community and stakeholders to engage, biased feedback, and potential community alienation i.e., 'reaching the unreachable'.

Community alienation refers to a sense of disconnection or exclusion felt by individuals or groups within a community. This can occur when people feel their needs, concerns, or perspectives are ignored or undervalued in decision-making processes. During any public exhibition, alienation can arise if certain voices or demographics are underrepresented or if the engagement process feels inaccessible or unresponsive. As a result, affected individuals may disengage from engaging, reducing the overall effectiveness and inclusivity of community-building efforts. Our mitigation strategy includes identifying those minority groups or individuals and attempting to engage with them by inviting them to attend the EAY Morwell Community Hub or by providing outreach to affected individuals or groups to listen to their queries or concerns.

The community is acutely aware that the impending closure of the coal-fired power industry will lead to the loss of hundreds of well-paid local jobs and are seeking to replace coal with industries that can offer long-term, sustainable employment opportunities and economic benefits. EAY will ensure that during the 60-day public exhibition period and implementation of the DMRP, the focus of the engagement is centred on understanding the opportunities that could create shared value opportunities for the community and stakeholders with regards to the mine closure and rehabilitation.

Opportunities include, but are not limited to fostering collaboration, gathering diverse perspectives, building trust, promoting transparency and enhancing community engagement for the Project.

EAY also has the opportunity to minimise and reduce consultation fatigue by combining engagement and consultation on other projects in the region that EAY is undertaking to assist the community to remain interested and engaged.

⁹ https://2024.iaia.org/final-papers/132_Joiner_Countering_Consultation_Fatigue.pdf

3 Stakeholder Overview

3.1 Key Stakeholders

The Project has a significant number of key external stakeholders that will have an interest in the DMRP. As such, and as part of the development of this CSEP, EAY undertook comprehensive stakeholder assessment using desktop analysis and based on existing engagement interactions, to identify key stakeholders and anticipated areas of interest in the Project (Appendix A).

This analysis includes an overview of interested communities and stakeholders of the DMRP, highlighting proactive engagement and consultation methods.

Furthermore, to comprehensively capture ongoing stakeholder interactions and feedback, EAY has established a stakeholder Consultation Management System (CMS) which will be updated throughout the lifecycle of the Project. The CMS will also enable tracking and categorising community interests, concerns and preferences for engaging on the Project.

3.2 Traditional Owners and Indigenous Peoples

The Brayakaulung people of the Gunaikurnai nation are the Traditional Owners of the land on which the Yallourn Mine is located. EAY acknowledges them as the Traditional Owners and recognises their living culture and strong connections to their Country. EAY has strong and meaningful relationships with local Traditional Owners and has already established relationships with them to gain a broader understanding of Indigenous knowledge and cultural and traditional practices relating to the lands covered by the DMRP. EAY understands that providing accurate and timely information to the First Nations Peoples is necessary and an important responsibility. EAY takes a partnership approach to engaging with Traditional Owners and will seek involvement and consultation on a range of aspects of the Project including Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Planning, social procurement opportunities, unexpected finds protocols, mine closure and rehabilitation plans.

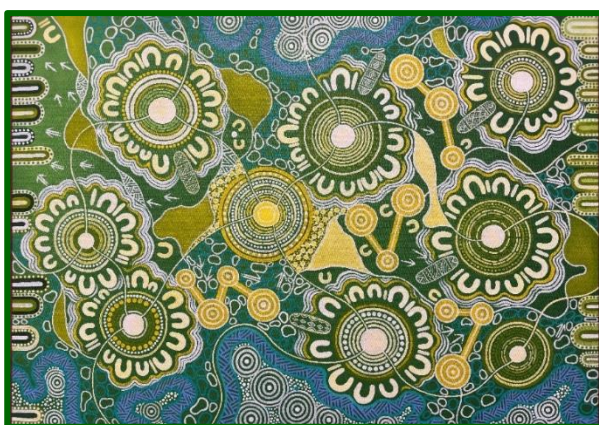


Image 8: In 2023 EnergyAustralia commissioned local Gunaikurnai artist Montana McStay for the local 'Wooreen' (meaning 'light' in Gunaikurnai language) Energy Storage System project. Her painting "Under One Sun" (2024), represents light among Gunaikurnai communities.

4 Engagement Activities and Methods

4.1 Key Messages

The following key messages will be used as part of the communications materials for the project and to assist in responding to enquiries and complaints.

4.1.1 DMRP Key Messages



Image 9: Key messages for Yallourn DMRP community and stakeholder engagement.

4.1.3 Engagement

- We are committed to keeping the community and stakeholders informed throughout the DMRP process.
- Our communication with community and stakeholders will focus on two-way dialogue and a transparent approach to engagement.
- As the DMRP work is scheduled, community members and key stakeholders will be informed in several ways including, but not limited to:
 - Information on the Project's website.
 - Fact sheets relating to the Project made publicly available.
 - Project information available to the public at our Morwell Community Hub.
 - Community information booths.
 - Community and stakeholder meetings.
 - Webinars.
- We are committed to:
 - Providing opportunities to communities and stakeholders for Project improvement and learning through early and regular engagement and consultation.
 - Minimising disruption to local communities and stakeholders by focusing on early and regular engagement and consultation.
 - Enabling meaningful dialogue through a variety of proactive engagement practices and communication activities, including regular project updates and direct consultation.
 - Capturing feedback from the community throughout the Project to ensure we are always learning from our interactions with community and stakeholders.

4.2 Key Communications Contacts

Title	Phone	Email
Community Engagement Lead	1800 574 947	community.yallourn@energyaustralia.com.au
Communications Lead	1800 574 947	community.yallourn@energyaustralia.com.au

Table 4: Key Communications Contacts

4.3 Engagement Methods and Tools

A range of communication and engagement methods and tools will be used to support different stages of the Project which includes planning and development of the DMRP. Engagement will be tailored based on audience preferences, requirements and objectives. The table below provides a description of the recommended engagement tools and channels for the DMRP.

Activities have been categorised into three sequential groups:

- **Planning:** activities that will need to be undertaken in preparation for communication and engagement to commence.
- **Collateral:** the communication materials that will need to be prepared to support communication and engagement activities.
- **Engagement:** the actual activities that will be undertaken to engage with communities and stakeholders.

TYPE	ACTIVITY	PROJECT STAGE	DESCRIPTION	ENGAGEMENT APPROACH
Planning	Consultation Management System	Planning & Development	Consultation Management System (CMS) established for capturing community sentiment, tracking engagement and recording outcomes. CMS to be set up for the Project to maintain stakeholder contacts, and record all interactions, submissions, opportunities and issues raised.	Not Applicable
Planning	Establish Project phone line and email	Planning & Development	Phone line and email address established to centralise and take community and stakeholder enquiries during all project stages. Provides the community with a consistent point of contact and gives reassurance to those who prefer to speak over the phone.	Inform Consult
Collateral	Key messages FAQs Fact sheet	Planning & Development	Develop communication materials outlining Project information, addressing key areas of interest identified in the social impact assessment.	Inform
Collateral	Stakeholder briefing pack	Planning & Development	Develop a standard project presentation to be used for stakeholder meetings (e.g. government, regulators, Traditional Owners, Unions, etc).	Consult

TYPE	ACTIVITY	PROJECT STAGE	DESCRIPTION	ENGAGEMENT APPROACH
			The pack can be tailored based on stakeholders / interests.	
Collateral	Website content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project description DMRP document Interactive map Contact details 	Planning & Development	Develop website and / or other digital content to share Project information and provide opportunities for feedback.	Inform
Collateral	Digital survey	Planning & Development	Undertake a digital survey using tool to understand public perception and sentiment towards the project, and identify key areas of concern – survey can be shared via social media, website, direct email or used in-person at community events	Consult
Collateral	Visualisations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual render (artists impression) Site photography 	Planning & Development	Develop visual images that can be used for community and stakeholder consultation for the DMRP.	Inform
Collateral	Video animation or still infographic	Planning & Development	Develop a short, animated video / or infographic to tell the story of the Yallourn Mine closure, rehabilitation and the changing role of EAY operations in the Latrobe Valley including the DMRP.	Inform
Engagement	Employee updates	Planning & Development	Regular updates and briefings for EAY employees (Latrobe Valley based employees) designed to build employee understanding of the DMRP.	Inform Involve Consult
Engagement	Stakeholder meetings (face-to-face where possible)	Planning & Development	Arrange meetings with key stakeholders and project representatives to provide an update on the project, gain feedback on the proposal, identify any concerns, expectations and future communication requirements.	Inform Consult Involve
Engagement	Neighbour meetings (face-to-face where possible)	Planning & Development	Arrange in-person meetings with adjacent landowners / near neighbours to provide an update on the project, gain feedback on the DMRP, identify any concerns, expectations and future communication requirements.	Inform Consult Involve
Engagement	Community drop-in information sessions	Planning & Development	Open community information sessions to provide an opportunity to share information about the project and meet the project team. Information will aim to build understanding of the DMRP To demonstrate transparency and accountability and to build trust. Opportunity to understand community priorities, concerns and expectations and identify potential opportunities.	Inform Consult Involve

TYPE	ACTIVITY	PROJECT STAGE	DESCRIPTION	ENGAGEMENT APPROACH
			The sessions should provide opportunities for two-way engagement through informal discussions with the project team and opportunity to provide feedback via a short survey using EAY Microsoft Forms. Sessions should be advertised via local newspaper advertising, social media and direct contact (phone calls and email invitations) with key stakeholders to ensure they are brought 'on-board' as advocates for the project.	
Engagement	Community updates	Planning & Development	Prepare and distribute regular project updates to community and stakeholders	Inform
Engagement	Social media	Planning & Development	Use EAY's existing social media platforms, including Facebook and LinkedIn to engage key audiences, communicate Project milestones and invite feedback.	Inform
Engagement	Media and advertising	Planning & Development	Use local media including print and radio to raise awareness about the project and share key information (upcoming community information sessions, opportunities to participate) Proactive media releases to share key project milestones, highlight Project benefits and share the story of the DMRP	Inform

Table 5: Engagement Methods and Tools

4.3 Enquiries and Complaints Management

Any relevant enquiries and complaints received that are related to the Project are to be recorded and responded to (if required) by the Community Engagement Lead, Communications Lead and/or Head of Community Engagement at EnergyAustralia. Complaints are directed to be made via either phone call or email in all the material distributed and meetings held. Complaints and enquiries directed to the Project via social media channels will not be responded to.

All enquiries and complaints will be managed in accordance with the procedure outlined below. Appendix B – Enquiries and Complaints Management Procedure, illustrates the required complaints handling and reporting process.

Enquiries and Complaints management	
Responding to complaints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record details of complaint received, how it was managed, and closeout actions in the CMS. Determine source of complaint. If the complaint is not related to the Project advise immediately and redirect to the appropriate party. Provide acknowledgment of the receipt of the complaint within 10 business days from the time of receipt of the complaint. Provide a detailed written response to the complainant within 30 business days of initial complaint, outlining details of the issue and remedial actions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All complaint emails received are to be saved on the CMS in coordination with the complaint register. Follow-up on community complaint after closeout, particularly when complaint is raised in person. Record of follow-up must be detailed in the CMS and indicate whether the complaint has been resolved, and the complainant is satisfied with the resolution. Where the community complaint also relates to a third party / stakeholder, approval of the response would be sought. A register of all complaints that are received about the project will be recorded in the CMS.
Responding to enquiries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record details of enquiry received in CMS. Provide a response to enquirer within 10 business days from time of enquiry, during standard working hours, or on the next business day if received out of hours. Where no phone number has been provided, responses should be made in writing. Where a phone number is provided, a response should be made to the enquirer via telephone. Follow-up on community complaint after closeout, particularly when complaint is raised in person. Record of follow-up must indicate whether the concern has been resolved, and the complainant is satisfied with the resolution. Where the community enquiry also relates to a third party / stakeholder, approval of the response in meeting would be sought.

Table 6: Enquiries and Complaints Management

5 Limitations

This CSEP forms part of the Draft DMRP. Both the draft DMRP and this CSEP (the Documents) are being prepared by EAY in satisfaction of its obligations under the MRSDA and the Regulations. The Documents relate to the rehabilitation of the land in and surrounding the Yallourn Mine following the closure of the Yallourn Power Station, and reflect relevant information available to, and the intentions of, EAY as at the date of the Documents. Following a statutory consultation period, the DMRP will be submitted for approval in accordance with the MRSDA and the Regulations. The DMRP is an iterative document that will be subject to review and refinement over time to reflect the latest evidence base and status of other regulatory processes.

Statements of fact in the Documents are made as of June 2025, and are subject to change or updating from time to time. These statements are made on, and are applicable as at, June 2025 and no representation is made as to their accuracy, completeness or reliability after this date.

Other than as required by applicable regulations or law, EAY does not undertake any obligation to publicly update, release or review any revisions of the Documents (including as a result of new information or future events), after this date.

To the extent that the Documents contain any forward-looking statements, these are based on the expectations, best estimates, assumptions and intentions of EAY as at the date of preparation of the Documents. However, these may be affected by a range of factors which could cause actual results to differ materially. These include, but are not limited to: environmental conditions; regulatory and policy changes; technological development; changes in regulatory requirements; and the availability of water to EAY for rehabilitation purposes, which may be influenced by environmental and financial factors (noting that access to water to deliver the DMRP has yet to be resolved).

Forward-looking statements are not statements of fact, guarantees, predictions or forecasts of future performance or outcomes, and are subject to both known and unknown risks, other uncertainties and may involve elements of subjective judgement and assumptions. These statements may be affected by limitations in data or methodologies, inaccurate assumptions or known and unknown risks, many of which may lie beyond EAY's control.

No representation or warranty, express or implied, is given as to the accuracy, completeness or correctness, likelihood of achievement or reasonableness of any forward-looking information contained in the Documents. Past performance and outcomes cannot be relied on as a guide to future performance and outcomes.

The Documents may contain disclosures that have been prepared on the basis of publicly available information, internally developed data and other third-party sources believed to be reliable. EAY has not sought to independently verify information obtained from public and third-party sources and makes no representations or warranties as to the accuracy, completeness, reasonableness or reliability of such information.

This publication may contain information of interest to you, but EAY, its affiliates, directors, officers, employees, and agents:

- do not guarantee that the Documents are without flaw or error of any kind, or are appropriate for any purpose for which you may use it; and
- to the extent permitted by law, disclaim all liability and responsibility for any decisions or actions which you may take and for any damage or losses you may suffer as a result of your use of, or reliance on, the Documents.

The Documents do not contain or comprise profit forecasts, investment, accounting, legal, regulatory or tax advice nor are they an invitation for any party to enter into any transaction.

Appendix A

Stakeholder Engagement Analysis

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TYPE OF STAKEHOLDER	STAKEHOLDER NAME
EnergyAustralia employees	EnergyAustralia
	EAY Yallourn Mine
	EAY Yallourn Power Station
Victorian Government Ministers	Minister for Climate Action
	Minister for Energy and Resources
	Minister for the State Electricity Commission
	Minister for Small Business and Employment
	Minister for Housing and Building
	Minister for Development Victoria and Precincts
	Minister for Water
	Minister for Skills and TAFE
	Minister for Environment
	Minister for Outdoor Recreation
	Minister for Growth and Jobs
	Minister for Finance
	Treasurer
	Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Regional Development
	Minister for Treaty and First Peoples
	Minister for Prevention of Family Violence
	Minister for Agriculture
	Minister for Industry and Advanced Manufacturing
	Minister for Planning
	Shadow Minister for Energy and Resources
Local MPs	Member for Morwell
	Member for Gippsland
	Member for Monash
	Member for Eastern Victoria
	Member for Eastern Victoria
	Member for Eastern Victoria
	Member for Eastern Victoria
	Member for South Gippsland
	Member for Narracan
Federal Government Ministers	Minister for Climate Change and Energy
	Minister for the Environment and Water
	Minister for Resources
	Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
	Minister for Industry and Science
	Minister for Skills and Training
	Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy

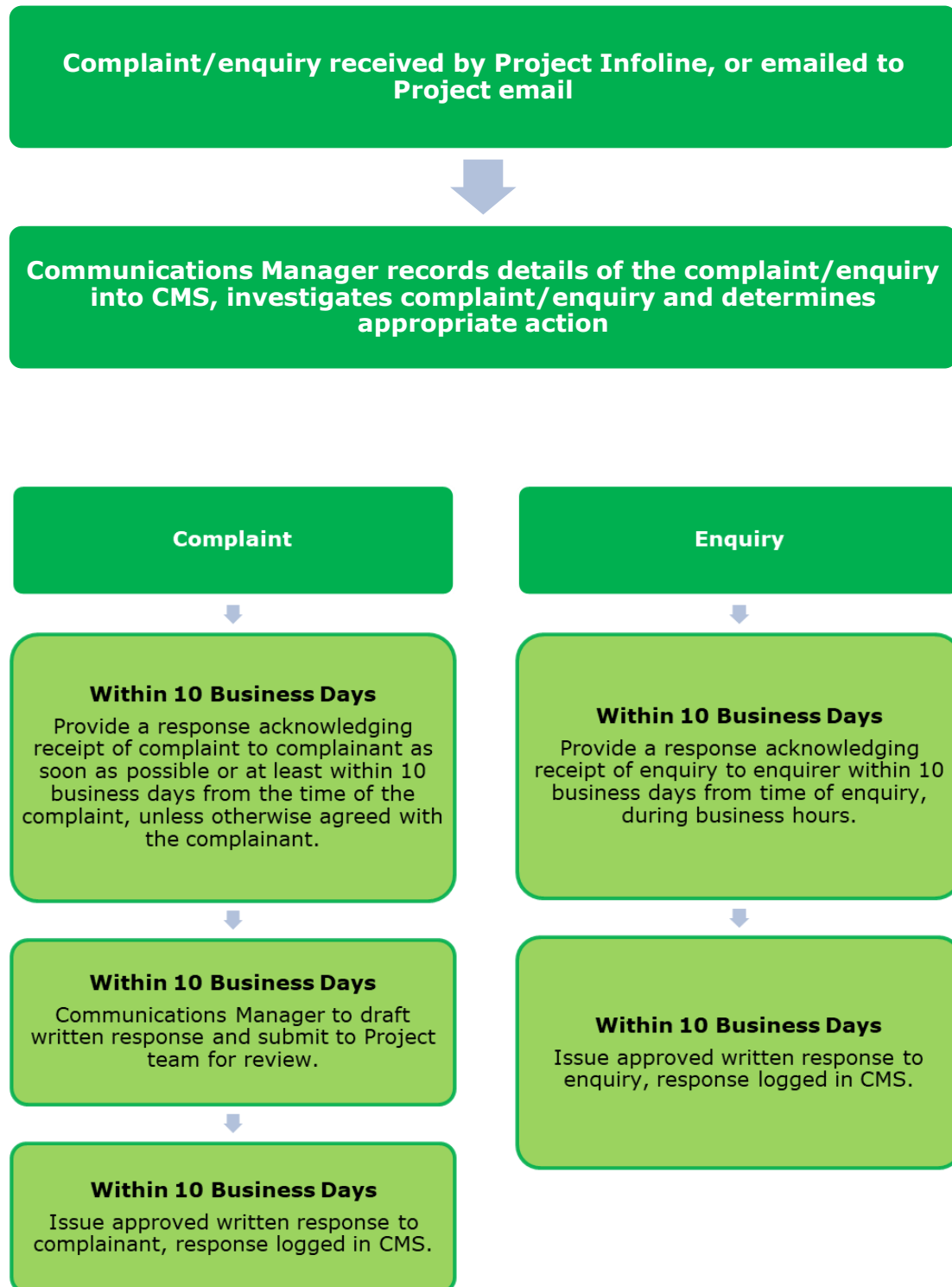
TYPE OF STAKEHOLDER	STAKEHOLDER NAME
Government Organisations and Departments	<p>Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)</p> <p>Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) – Energy Group, Planning Group, Gippsland Region, Environment and Climate Change Group (Biodiversity Division)</p> <p>DEECA Water and Catchments</p> <p>Department of Transport and Planning (DTP)</p> <p>Latrobe Health Assembly</p> <p>Net Zero Authority</p> <p>Regional Development Australia (Gippsland)</p> <p>Regional Development Victoria</p> <p>Regional Partnerships Gippsland</p> <p>State Electricity Commission</p> <p>VicRoads</p> <p>Regional Roads Victoria</p> <p>Regional Partnerships Gippsland</p> <p>Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions</p>
Local Government Areas	<p>Latrobe City Council</p> <p>Wellington Shire Council</p> <p>East Gippsland Shire Council</p> <p>South Gippsland Shire Council</p> <p>Baw Baw Shire Council</p> <p>Bass Coast Shire Council</p>
Local Government	<p>Latrobe City Council – Organisation</p> <p>Latrobe City Council – Mayor</p>
Regulators / Government Authorities	<p>Environmental Protection Authority Victoria (EPA)</p> <p>EPA Pollution Camera</p> <p>WorkSafe Victoria</p> <p>Earth Resources Regulator (ERR)</p> <p>East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (EGCMA)</p> <p>Southern Rural Water</p> <p>West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA)</p> <p>Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority (MLRA)</p>
Unions	<p>Mining & Energy Union (MEU)</p> <p>Construction Forestry Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU) (Construction and General Division)</p> <p>Electrical Trades Union (ETU)</p> <p>Australian Manufacturing Workers’ Union (AMWU)</p>

TYPE OF STAKEHOLDER	STAKEHOLDER NAME
	Australian Workers Union (AWU)
	Australian Services Union (ASU)
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups	Gunaikurnai Land and Water Aboriginal Corporation Gippsland Local Aboriginal Network (via Victorian Department of Premier & Cabinet) The Brayakaulung Advisory Committee – Latrobe City Council
Site Based Contractors	Approximately 30+ site-based contractors
Community groups	Committee for Moe Gippsland Climate Change Network Gippsland Trades and Labour Council Friends of Latrobe Water (FLoW) Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network Latrobe City Business Chamber Inc Latrobe Sustainability Group Latrobe River Irrigators Strzelecki Alpine Biolink Advance Morwell Great Latrobe Park Morwell Rotary Moe Traders Recreational Fishers – Gippsland Lakes Yallourn North Action Group Yallourn North Brown Coal Museum Friends of the Earth Voices of the Valley Broader Community
Adjacent landowners	Landowners living adjacent to the mine licence
EnergyAustralia Land Users	Commercial In Confidence (Name of Land Users Withheld)
Educational and Research institutions	Federation University - Gippsland Campus Collaborative Research Centre Transformations in Mining Economies (CRC TIME) Aboriginal Education Centre (AEC) TAFE Gippsland (Yallourn & Morwell Campus's) Department of Education Inner Gippsland

TYPE OF STAKEHOLDER	STAKEHOLDER NAME
Local emergency services	Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) Country Fire Authority (CFA) CFA District 27 Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) Victoria Police Ambulance Victoria (AV)
Local industry participants	Allinta Loy Yang B Zinfra (LV Transmission assets ex AusNet) AGL Loy Yang A Australian Carbon Innovations Engie Hazelwood Environmental Clean Technologies (ECT) Gippsland Water Latrobe Magnesium Group (LMG) Opal Australia and New Zealand (OpalANZ) – Maryvale Mill
Employer Organisations	Business Council of Australia AiGroup AiGroup - LV Contractors Forum Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Australian Energy Council
Economic Development Groups	One Gippsland Committee for Gippsland (C4G) Destination Gippsland Industry Capability Network (ICN)
Environmental groups	Environment Victoria (EV) Environment Justice Australia (EJA)
Potential partnership groups	Power Works Morwell Innovation Centre
Industry groups	Minerals Council
Other	Yallourn Environmental Review Committee Members (ERC) Mount Baw Baw Alpine Resort (Alpine Resorts Victoria)

Appendix B

Enquiries and Complaints Management Procedure



Appendix C

Yallourn Mine Rehabilitation Community Sentiment Research - Summary of Key Findings

Contextual issues

Key concerns in the Latrobe community related to crime, unemployment and broader cost of living concerns.

A few mentioned energy prices (4%), 3% mentioned the closing of the power stations and 2% pollution from coal mines.

Negativity towards the energy transition is relatively high.

Almost half (42%) feel negative, with only a third (35%) feeling positive and the rest neutral. In terms of energy generation sources, support was highest for hydro-electric, closely followed by solar farms and then coal-fired power plants. Nuclear ranked the lowest with similar levels of support and opposition.

Awareness & knowledge of EnergyAustralia

Almost all (98%) have heard of EnergyAustralia although most (69%) know only a little about the organisation.

However, upon prompting almost all claim to be aware that EnergyAustralia is a retailer and supplier of energy to end customers (90%) and a generator and producer (86%). Around two thirds (65%) are aware that it is the operator of Yallourn Coal-fired Power Station.

Sentiment towards EnergyAustralia

EAY's local reputation is quite positive.

Half (50%) feel positive towards EAY, while only 10% feel negative and the remainder are neutral.

Positive perceptions of EnergyAustralia were often based on a customer perspective with several noting positive experiences with EnergyAustralia or just the general feeling they were a 'good' company. Others spoke of their community support, their good reputation, good pricing, and job creation.

Negative perceptions toward EnergyAustralia were primarily related to rising energy prices, previous negative experiences or interactions, and the view that they are not doing enough for the local community.

Social License Benchmarking

Performance of specific social license benchmarks is strong.

The vast majority recognise EnergyAustralia's contributions to the community in regard to providing employment, supporting local community groups, making an important contribution to the local economy, and supporting local businesses.

Fewer people see EAY as helping to transition its coal workforce to other jobs, as a responsible user of water or as working cooperatively with the community stakeholders.

Reputation drivers

Modelling results showed that the strongest drivers of sentiment towards EAY are that it:

1. Is committed to the long-term future of the local community
2. Supports local community groups via sponsorships and grants
3. Tries to minimise their impact on the local environment
4. Makes an important contribution to the local economy
5. Is helping to drive Australia's transition to clean energy

In terms of performance, there is particular room for improvement in relation to "commitment to the long-term future of the local community" (just 43% agree) and on "trying to minimise their impact on the local environment" and as such, these should be a key focus area to improve EnergyAustralia's reputation.

Sentiment towards Yallourn rehabilitation project

Nearly three quarters (70%) of the community are aware of the proposed Yallourn mine rehabilitation project with most knowing "a little" about it (57%).

Among those aware, initial sentiment towards the project is quite positive with 56% feeling positive about the project and only 15% feeling negative.

Key reasons for positivity toward the project were the general sense it was a good idea, that it would create or maintain recreational options, and to give something back to the community.

The top reasons people felt negatively toward the project centred around the amount of water required to create the lake, support for the ongoing coal operations or concern with contamination.

Encouragingly, once prompted with basic information about the project, positivity rises significantly to 70% while negativity drops to only 16%.

The significant uplift shows there is an opportunity to further improve sentiment by regularly communicating with the local community and focusing on the project benefits.

Methodology and sample

Results are based on a 20-minute telephone survey conducted by fieldwork provider, CanvasU. Fieldwork was conducted between Thursday 8th August – Monday 26th August 2024.

The overall sample is n=300 people aged 18 years and over living within the Latrobe LGA.

The data has been weighted by Australian Bureau of Statistics Census data (2021) for Latrobe on age, gender and highest level of education completed to ensure the results are as representative as possible of the Latrobe LGA.

Based on the final sample the associated margin of error for the full sample (at the 95% confidence interval) is ±6.9%.

