

Introducing the Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority

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Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry recommendations

- Establish a Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner (rec 14)
- Establish a Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Authority by 2026 or earlier if premature closure occurs (rec 15)
- Establish post closure trust fund (rec 12)
- Define and provide criteria for closure; clarify consultation requirements for workplans (rec 17)

2017 MRSDA amendments → established the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner

2019 MRSDA amendments → made the other recommended changes



Why a Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority?

The Inquiry found that

‘as the mines near closure, there will be greater complexities and priorities that will need to be addressed. The Board considers that mine closure will require a commensurate increase in coordination and oversight.’

The Inquiry said that the Authority should have

‘ongoing tenure until all mines have been successfully rehabilitated, and monitoring and maintenance of the Latrobe Valley mines is no longer required. It is foreseeable that this could be decades after the last mine has closed.’

Authority: Role and Functions

Board of the Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority



Manages the affairs of the Rehabilitation Authority



6 members including Chair and Deputy Chair



Chair - mine rehabilitation expertise



3 year terms

Transition from Commissioner to Authority

Existing functions & objectives

From 30 June 2020, the Authority takes over Commissioner's functions and objectives

New objectives

Assurance to the Victorian community that public sector bodies and the Latrobe Valley licensees are implementing the LVRRS

Promote the sustainable and beneficial use of coal mine land in accordance with LVRRS

Promote the effective and consistent rehabilitation of declared mine land in accordance with any Ministerial direction.

New functions

Covers declared mines alongside Latrobe Valley coal mines

Consulted as part of Minister's decision on satisfying closure criteria

Monitor registered mine land post-closure

Own post-closure mine land or land in close proximity if required

Rehabilitate, maintain and manage registered mine land if required



Authority Objectives



Provide assurance to the Victorian community that public sector bodies and the Latrobe Valley licensees are implementing the LVRRS



Promote the sustainable and beneficial use of coal mine land in accordance with LVRRS



Promote the effective and consistent rehabilitation of declared mine land in accordance with any Ministerial direction.

Authority Functions – during rehabilitation

Reviews declared mine work plan variations

Monitors, evaluates and reports on:

- Rehabilitation planning activities of licensees and public bodies e.g. Earth Resources Regulation, Environment Protection Authority
- Implementation of the LVRRS – from **1 July 2020**

Can investigate matters relating to rehabilitation and the LVRRS on request of the Minister

Consulted as part of:

- Department Head approval of declared mine rehabilitation plans
- Minister's decision on satisfying closure criteria

Authority Functions – Post closure

- Monitors registered mine land
- May own post-closure mine land or land in close proximity if required
- May rehabilitate, maintain and manage registered mine land

Why declared mines not just Latrobe Valley coal mines?



The Latrobe Valley coal mines are the only declared mines



The Minister for Resources could declare other mines if they present a significant risk to public safety, infrastructure or the environment



There are some other mines that are known to have significant ongoing risks.

New rehabilitation and post-closure obligations

Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Amendment Act 2019

- Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan and approvals processes
- Land registry for post-closure land maintenance
- Declared mine fund for post-closure land maintenance

Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) (Mineral Industries) Regulations 2019

- Regulations recently amended, introduced safe, stable, sustainable standard
- New declared mine regulations will build on existing requirements
- Departmental guidelines to support rehab plan information requirements

Declared mine land after closure



Declared mine land registered with Authority - may not be all the land in the licence



Owner monitors and manages declared mine land in accordance with post-closure plan



Owner could be a private person or the Authority



Authority monitors compliance with post-closure plan if it does not own the land