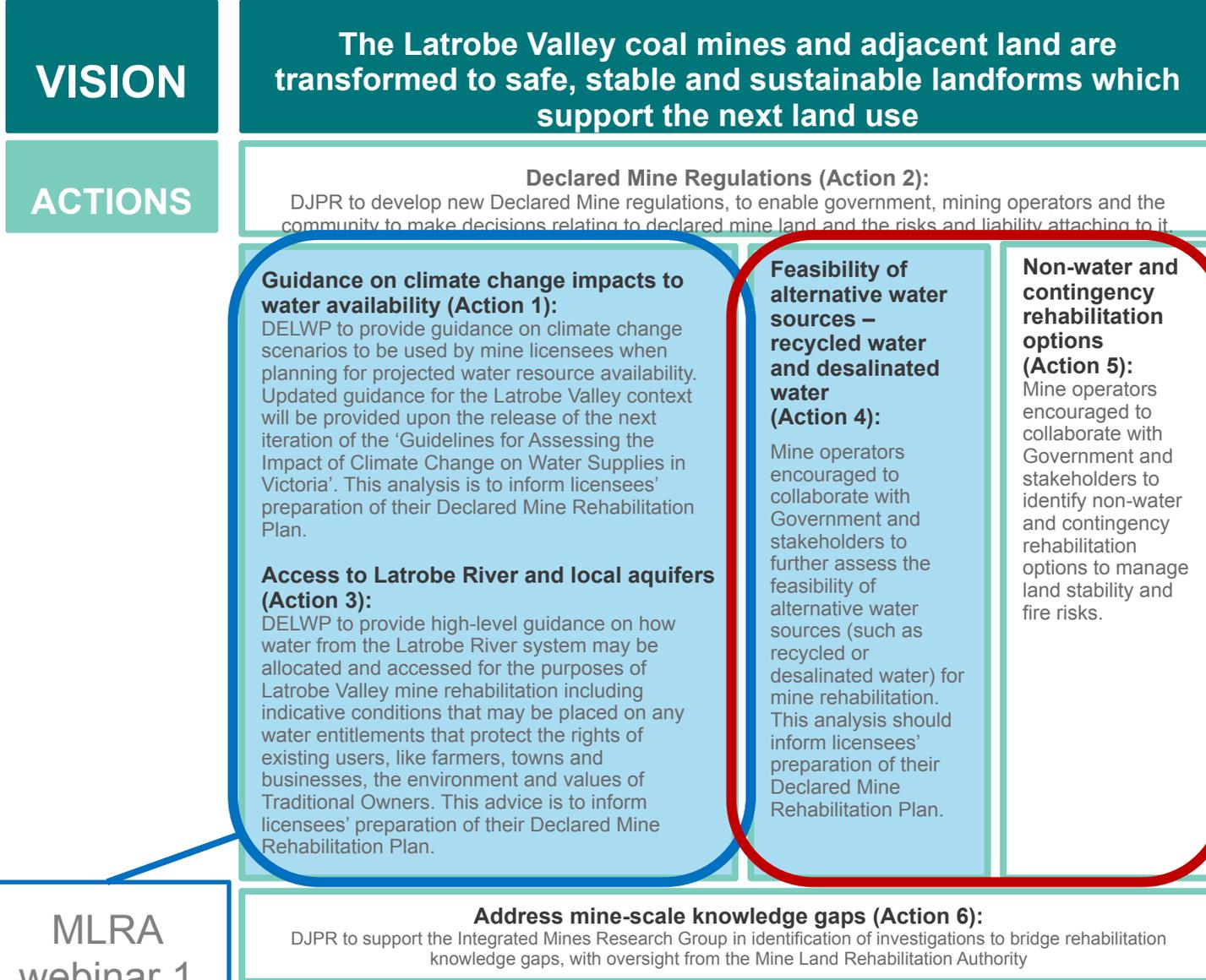


# **Alternative water sources and the Latrobe Valley**

**Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority Forum  
9 February 2021**

# Government commitment: LVRRS actions



MLRA webinar 1

MLRA webinar 2



## Mine rehabilitation: what we heard



Desire to ensure rehabilitation doesn't come at a **cost** to taxpayers



Concern about **water availability**



Need for **clarity and transparency**



Need for **partnership** between government, industry and community to deliver optimal outcomes



Desire for positive legacy with sites offering **amenity**



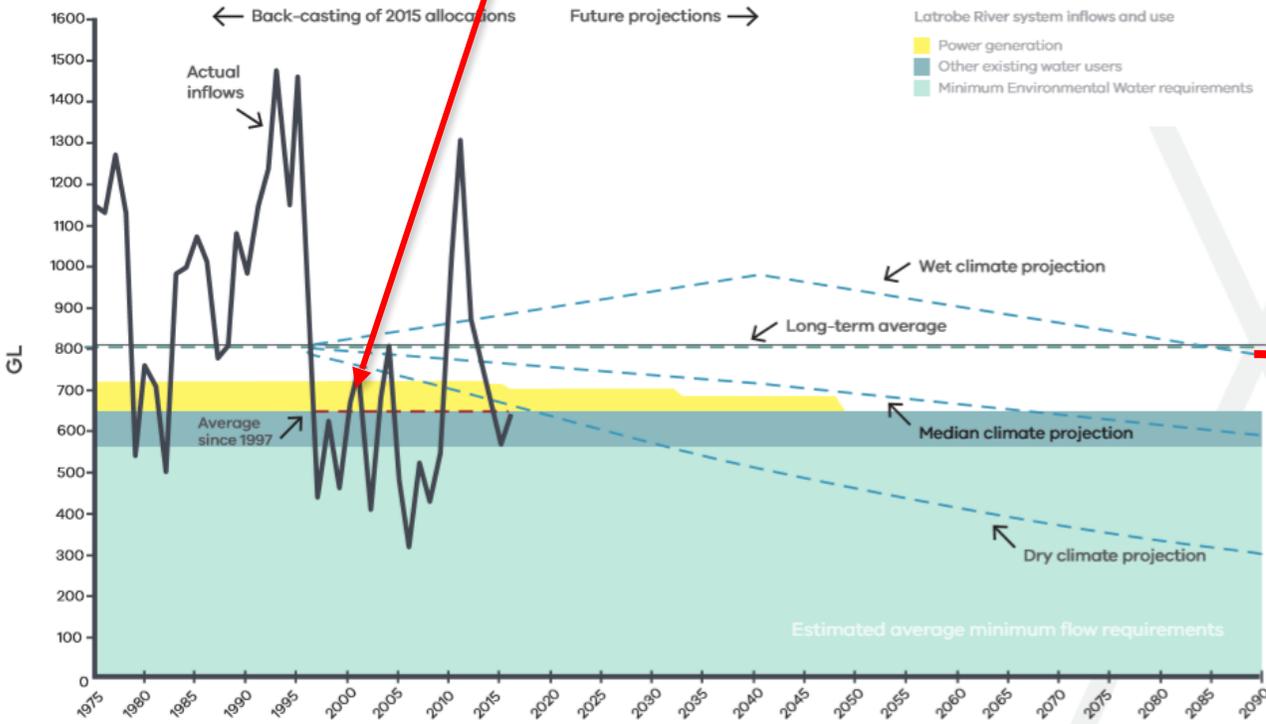
# Feasibility of alternative water: scope of this presentation

1. Key considerations – why alternative water?
2. What is alternative water? Examples of where alternative water is used elsewhere
3. Assessing feasibility for mine rehabilitation and next steps

# Rationale for considering alternative water

25% (200GL) decrease in average inflows since 1997

\*Mean annual water availability is projected to decline to around 470 GL a year by 2050



Field of uncertainty – tracking on the drier end of the projections

Latrobe Regional Water Study (DELWP: 2019)

# Rationale for considering alternative water

A mine rehabilitation approach that is not dependant on rainfall is more resilient to:

Risks of extended dry periods



Declines in water availability



Alternative water sources are climate resilient creating certainty that safe and stable mine voids can be achieved and maintained into the future

## Characteristics of alternative water

- Climate resilient water from sources other than the Latrobe River system or Latrobe Valley aquifers
- Water is fit-for-purpose or an acceptable water quality for its intended end use
  - Likely to require treatment to ensure no negative environmental impacts and allow for passive or active recreation etc.
- Volumes that can make a material difference to hasten mine rehabilitation on a regional scale
  - > 10 GL but more like 50 – 100 GL per year.

# Examples of alternative water



# Integrating feedback into the assessment approach

## We've heard from:

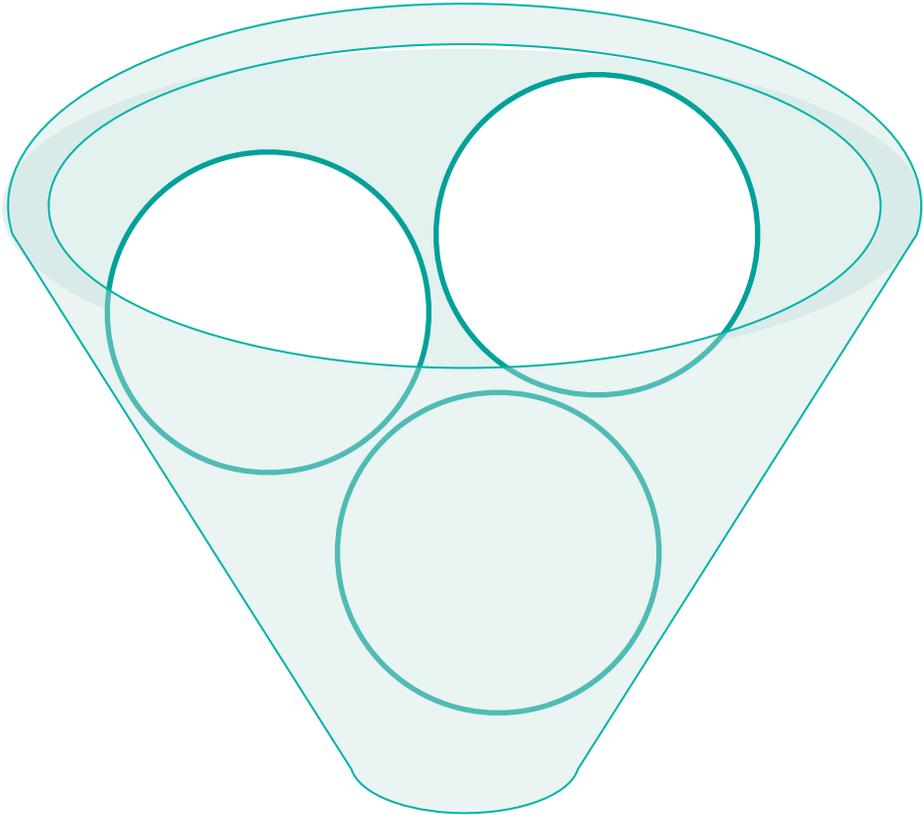
- Water corporations
- Mine licensees and power generators
- Community groups
- Irrigators
- Government departments
- Regulatory bodies
- **We need to coordinate and collaborate with stakeholders and be mindful of broader regional programs**
  - ✓ We are taking a coordinated approach to ensure aligned and consistent outcomes across LVRRS implementation actions and water resource and economic planning in the region
- **It is important to consider a broad range of climate resilient alternative water options**
  - ✓ All ideas have been noted as part of an extensive process, starting a long-list and narrowing down to a short-list
- **Water quality is a key consideration when assessing alternative water options**
  - ✓ Understanding water quality is a key component of technical feasibility. We will assess water quality risks to a range of beneficial uses

## Implementation Action 4

Further assess the feasibility of alternative water sources that could be used for mine rehabilitation

- 1. Identify potentially feasible alternative water source options (complete)**
2. Options development, including investigation of water quality implications and estimated costs (underway)
3. Assessment the risks and opportunities of different options and how these might impact different stakeholders
4. Options comparison using the findings of the technical feasibility assessment alongside the risk and opportunity analysis.

# Examples of long list of options – not exhaustive

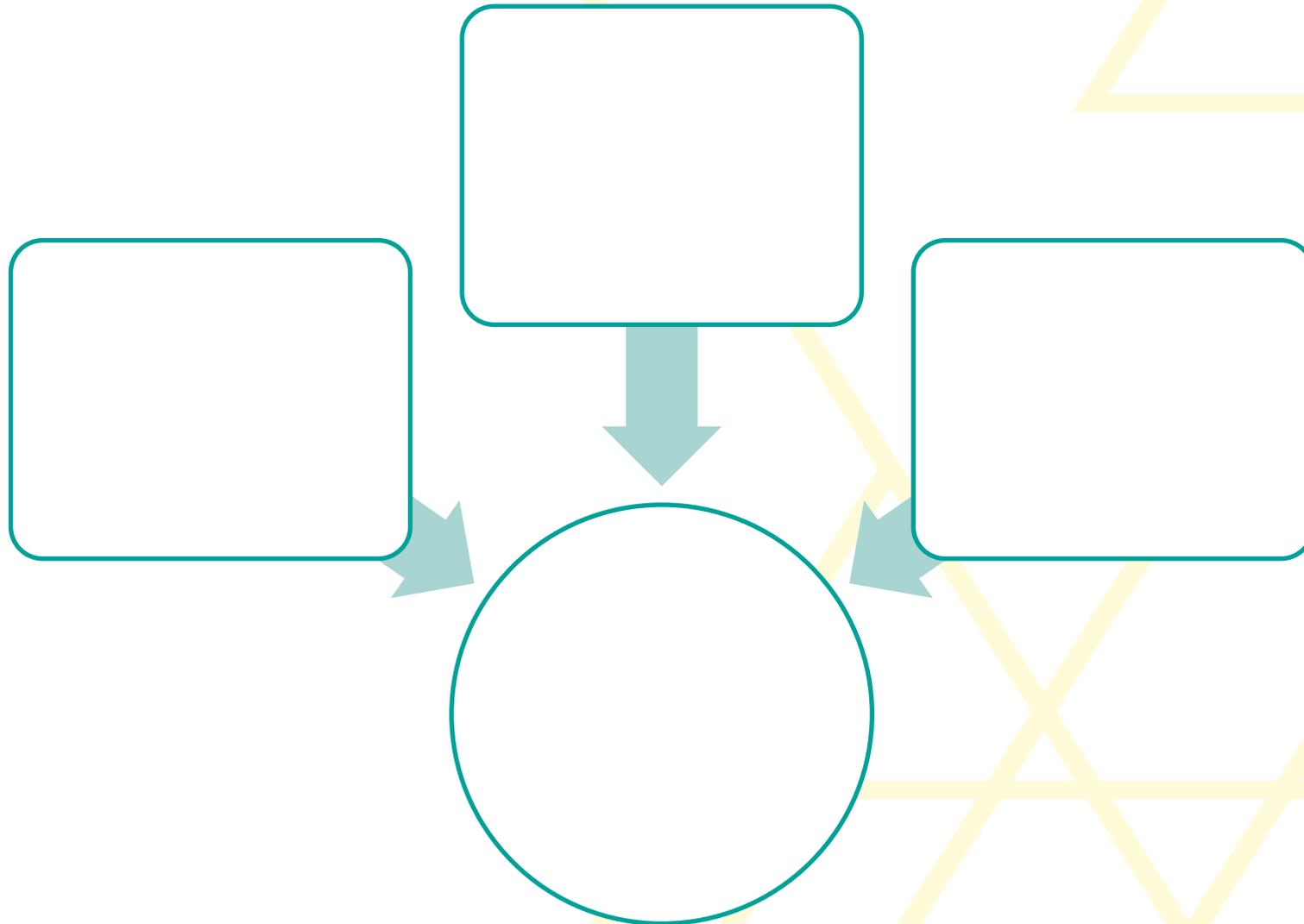


Shortlisted options



Concept designs and cost estimates to inform rehabilitation planning

# Next Steps



# Questions?

