



MINE LAND
REHABILITATION
AUTHORITY

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (MEF) V0.B
The Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority

OFFICIAL

The Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority

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**The Mine Land Rehabilitation
Authority acknowledges Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander people as
the Traditional Custodians of the
land and acknowledges and pays
respect to their Elders, past,
present, and emerging.**



Approval for Use

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1. Acronyms

Terms and references considered useful in the understanding of this procedure.

Acronym	Explanation
BMS	Business Management System
DM	Declared Mine
DML	Declared Mine Land
DMF	Declared Mine Fund
DMRP	Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan
ERR	Earth Resources Regulation
ERPP	Earth Resources Policy and Programs branch.
LVRRS	Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy
MEF	Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
MRSDA	<i>Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act</i>

Refer to the MLRA Vocabulary for definitions and reference.

2. Introduction

2.1. Purpose

The purpose of this operational document is to detail the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (MEF) established by the Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority (MLRA) pursuant to the requirements of the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990* (MRSDA) S.84AL(1)(n), S.84AZC & S.84AZD. These sections of the MRSDA require the MLRA to develop and maintain, in consultation with the community, stakeholders, public sector bodies and Latrobe Valley licensees, a framework for:

- the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation and effectiveness of rehabilitation planning activities and the regional rehabilitation strategy; and,
- the achieving of the outcomes set out in the framework; and,
- the carrying out of strategic audits of public sector bodies and Latrobe Valley licensees, in relation to the implementation of rehabilitation planning activities and the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy (LVRRS).

The MLRA has developed four key supporting documents (that sit alongside the BMS documentation) to support the understanding of the MLRA's remit. The key supporting documents are,

- The MLRA,
- Mine Rehabilitation,
- The History of Mining in the Latrobe Valley and
- MLRA Vocabulary.

Figure 1 demonstrates how MLRA operational documents interact and support each other to achieve the requirements of the MRSDA, whilst providing background information for everyone.

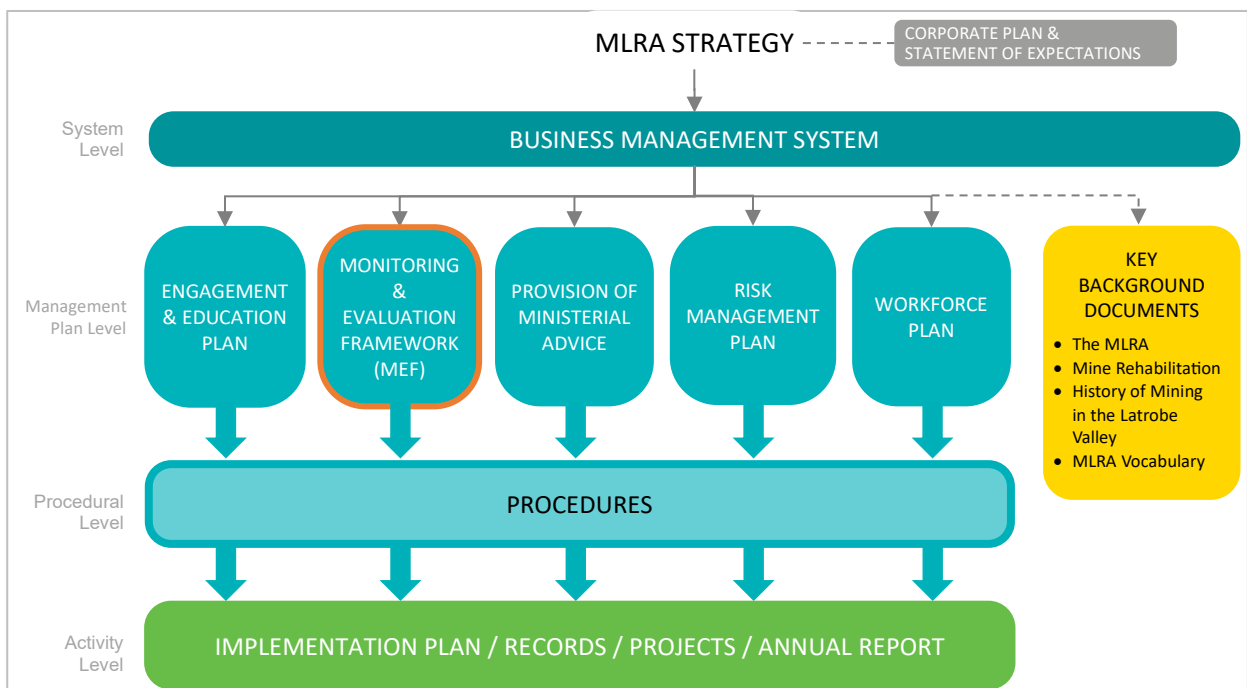


Fig 1: MLRA document structure

Figure 1 illustrates the Business Management System (BMS) along with its inputs and outputs with the MEF at the management plan level within the BMS structure.

This document identifies the requirements of the legislation that are relevant to the MEF, and the policies and procedures the MLRA has established to implement these requirements and achieve its objectives (as per S.84AE of the Act) to:

- provide assurance to the Victorian community that the Latrobe Valley licensees are implementing the regional rehabilitation strategy and planning for the ongoing management of declared mine land,
- to promote the participation of the community and stakeholders from the Latrobe Valley, in the implementation of the regional rehabilitation strategy,
- promote the effective and consistent rehabilitation of coal mine land, and
- promote the sustainable and beneficial use of coal mine land.

A key objective of the MEF is to assist in facilitating good rehabilitation outcomes.

The MEF assists the MLRA in identifying, tracking and highlighting some key risks for the Victorian Community, associated with the rehabilitation of the Declared Mines in the Latrobe Valley.

Should the MEF identify unacceptable risk, we would report it to those responsible and to the Minister (see Section 4.5 for reporting).

2.2. Scope

The MEF identifies the type of activities carried out by the MLRA in its day-to-day activities in accordance with the Act. It does not provide a detailed work program for this as the changing environment requires adaptability (See Section 2.3.1 Constraints).

A declared mine is defined in the *MRSDA, S.4(S.7C)*, as, “A mine or quarry in Victoria declared by the Minister to have geotechnical, hydrogeological factors, water quality or hydrological within that pose a significant risk to public safety, the environment or infrastructure”.

Currently there are only three declared mines in Victoria. These are located in the Latrobe Valley:

- Hazelwood: owned by ENGIE (mining licence No. 5004).
- Yallourn: owned by Energy Australia (mining licence Nos 5003, 5216, 5304).
- Loy Yang: owned by AGL (mining licence No. 5189).

The MEF applies:

- To the suitability and implementation of the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy (LVRRS).
- Only to the declared mines in the Latrobe Valley.
- Only to declared mine land while an active mining licence is in place.

The scope of MLRA activities will be updated as the mine licensees’ Research Plans (which includes the Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan (DMRP)) are developed, updated, and submitted.

The MLRA does not monitor and evaluate its own activities through the MEF, rather declared mine licensees and public sector bodies.

Other stakeholders, such as Community groups and Traditional Owners, must be involved in declared mine rehabilitation planning processes. These groups are not “evaluated” as they are not responsible for delivering

the plans or outcomes, however the MRSDA requires that the MLRA to monitor and evaluate the declared mine licensees' engagement with these groups.

2.3. Constraints

In accordance with the *MRSDA*, the MEF will no longer apply once the closure criteria are fulfilled, and all Latrobe Valley Declared Mine licences are surrendered.

Unforeseen circumstances for example, a licensee "walking away" without completing their obligations are not covered by the MEF and are identified and managed through the MLRA risk management processes and managed accordingly.

The individual stakeholder plans for the Licensees, and individual project plans developed by the MLRA identify how the MEF activities will be implemented. Metrics associated with these activities are not held within the MEF itself, because the metrics require regular updating and any changes to the MEF itself require consultation. The MLRA requires that activities conducted remain adaptable because there is a:

- Rapidly evolving regulatory environment; and a
- Rapidly changing rehabilitation planning environment

2.4. Audience

The MLRA uses the IAP2 Spectrum of Participation to guide consultation with stakeholders. Consultation is a process of public or stakeholder engagement. The IAP2 Spectrum of Participation establishes five levels of engagement; inform, consult, involve, collaborate, and empower. Each of the five levels is defined by a different level of participation.

For further information see the Engagement and Education Plan.

The MLRA is required to consult on the preparation of the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. The MRSDA states that the MLRA must prepare its Monitoring and Evaluation Framework in consultation with—

- (a) *community members and stakeholders of the Latrobe Valley region; and,*
- (b) *public sector bodies; and,*
- (c) *the Latrobe Valley licensees; and,*
- (d) *the declared mine licensees.*

The MLRA often goes further that the legislated requirements for engagement and education. However, for the purpose of this document, which is to ensure all relevant aspects of the MRSD Act are implemented, the following participation levels have been determined. For further information on the level of involvement refer to the Engagement and Education Plan, which will be available on the MLRA website.

Stakeholder	Level of Participation	Description
Community members and stakeholders of the Latrobe Valley region	Consult	To obtain feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.
Public sector bodies	Consult	To obtain feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.
The Latrobe Valley Declared Mine Licensees	Consult	To obtain feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.

Table 1: Participation Levels for the MEF



These participation levels reflect the legislative and operational nature of the MEF.

The MLRA welcomes any individual community member or community group to meet with them at any time to discuss any topic related to mine rehabilitation. The MLRA has also designed a program of activities where we engage with stakeholders through a variety of mechanisms.

This plan is designed to be implemented on an ongoing basis, with activities designed, tracked, and reported annually. For further information see the Engagement and Education Plan which is available on the MLRA website.

3. Framework Development

The MEF has been developed and prepared after a full review of the updated MRSDA (2019) legislation, and an extensive consultation program.

In 2022, the MLRA released Version 0 of the MEF after extensive engagement with stakeholders. An implementation plan was developed in 2022 and updated in 2023.

As part of the MLRA's document review and development of the organisations Business Management System, the MEF has undergone a review. This document is the amended version (MEF Version 02). The MLRA conducted internal workshops to determine the relevant parts of the MRSDA for the MEF and developed this document accordingly.

The outputs of the MEF and implementation of the MEF are reported in the MLRA Annual Report. The MEF annual round up report will be made available on the MLRA website.

The MEF will be published on the MLRA website with a notice placed in the Victorian Government Gazette.

The MEF includes all the relevant stakeholders identified in the MRSDA.

3.1. MLRA MEF Guiding Principles

The MLRA used the following guiding principles when establishing and implementing the MEF:

- Be consistent with requirements of the MRSDA.
- Be focused and feasible in relation to available MLRA resources.
- Provide timely information to support decision making by relevant parties.
- Be useful to rehabilitation planning and decision making as well as wider knowledge-sharing among stakeholders.
- Be credible, valid, transparent, and reliable to the extent possible given available resources.
- Be ethical, (for example in relation to data consent and protection).

3.2. Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy

The LVRRS is a strategic document that sets out principles to guide planning for the rehabilitation of Latrobe Valley coal mines and adjacent land within a regional context. The MLRA will assess the suitability of the strategy and guiding principles in addition to assessing how the licensees are implementing the strategy.

The MLRA's role includes providing assurance to the Minister for Resources and the community that the LVRRS is being effectively implemented by the declared mine licensees. The MLRA will monitor and



evaluate the mine licensees' consideration of the LVRRS and its inclusion in their rehabilitation planning and respective DMRP's. This will be reported in the MEF annual round up.

The LVRRS was published in 2020 and updated in 2023, and is reviewed once every three years, under the MRSDA S.84AZO.

The MLRA is required to provide Ministerial advice on the LVRRS (S.84AL(1)(h)(v)).

The LVRRS includes a set of implementation principles as follows:

Fire risk of rehabilitated land should be no greater than that of the surrounding environment.	Traditional Owner involvement in rehabilitation planning should be developed in consultation with Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation	Requirements for ongoing management to sustain a safe and stable landform should be minimised as far as practicable	Community should be consulted on rehabilitation proposals, the potential impacts, and have the opportunity to express their views
Mine rehabilitation should plan for a drying climate. Rehabilitation activities and final landforms should be climate resilient	Mine rehabilitation and regional land use planning should be integrated, and the rehabilitated sites should be suitable for their intended uses	Any water used for mine rehabilitation should not negatively impact on Traditional Owners' values, environmental values of the Latrobe River system or the rights of other existing water users	Ground instability and ground movement risks and impacts during rehabilitation and in the long-term should be minimised as far as practicable

Table 2: The LVRRS Principles

The MLRA will review and comment on the inclusion of the implementation principles within all relevant licensee rehabilitation planning documentation drafted by the declared mine licensees. This will be done on a case-by-case basis as the licensees work through the detail of their DMRP development. See Section 4.1 Licensee engagement.

3.3. Preparation and Updates to the MEF

The MRSDA S.84AZC requires that the MEF is prepared by the MLRA. The MLRA can update the MEF at any time.

Updates to the MEF will be undertaken with stakeholder consultation and updated versions provided.

3.4. Lifecycle and Implementation Timeframes

The MEF is designed to be implemented during any phase of a declared mine's operational lifecycle, and the MLRA recognises that each of the declared mines in the Latrobe Valley are in a different phase of their rehabilitation planning. The timeframes for specific milestones in rehabilitation planning and implementation are lengthy, and exact timeframes, milestones and activities are difficult to schedule too far in advance. The MEF will be updated to incorporate this information as it comes available.



In recognition of these issues, the MLRA will assess each declared mine and its requirements and progress case by case, customising an plan for each declared mine.

In addition, the long timeframes raise the likelihood for changing circumstances in:

- technical and social understanding,
- government and industry priorities, or
- regulations and policy.

To ensure these elements are captured, the MLRA has establishes a series of stakeholder and project plans and will report on the implementation of these annually on the MLRA website.

The MEF will no longer apply once the closure criteria are fulfilled and all Latrobe Valley Declared Mine licences are surrendered.

3.5. Limitations

The MLRA is focused on monitoring and evaluation activities related to the legislated requirements set out in the MRSDA. While the MLRA can gather information under formal request, the declared mine licensees and public sector bodies have no obligation to create new documents or information outside the required regulatory documents or other documents they develop.

In addition, the declared mine licensees have not yet developed their DMRPs for approval. Note that the DMRPs are required to be submitted to government by October 2025, unless an extension is granted.

The MLRA has established ongoing consultation mechanisms to work with the mine licensees and understand their approach to rehabilitation planning. Through the MEF, the MLRA will undertake ongoing engagement with the licensees, to enable an understanding of their progression. The MLRA is largely limited to the verbal discussions and information the licensees are willing to share prior to submission of the required documentation.

Similarly, the work the MLRA completes with those that are responsible for the LVRRS is grounded in collaboration based on ongoing relationship development. It is important to note, however, that those responsible for the LVRRS and the Declared Mine Licensees are not required to take on or incorporate the advice provided by the MLRA.



4. Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (MEF)

The MEF has been developed and structured based on the requirements of the MRSDA, see appendix A for relevant clauses.

Key stakeholders, and aspects of public policy (LVRRS), and how the MLRA will monitor and evaluate these to achieve the requirements of the Act are detailed in the following sections.

4.1.1. Rehabilitation Implementation and Effectiveness

The MRSDA states the MLRA 's role is:

S.84AL(1)(c) to monitor and evaluate implementation and effectiveness of rehabilitation planning activities and the regional rehabilitation strategy in accordance with the monitoring framework;

To ensure that the Declared Mine Licensees are implementing LVRRS, the MLRA will review the declared mine licensees' research plans (which include their DMRPs) to confirm inclusion and consistency with the LVRRS guiding principles. To evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of the LVRRS within the DMRP, the MLRA will review and monitor the relevant closure criteria developed by the Licensees.

To monitor and evaluate implementation and effectiveness of rehabilitation planning activities the MLRA is undertaking:

- Ongoing engagement with licensees;
- Minimum of 4 meetings per year
- Project (which change over time) specific meetings driven by needs and requirements, examples of this are:
 - Working group for development with the DMRP
 - Workshops
 - Technical Reference Group for EES processes (TRG) for the EES, etc.
 - Review of available documentation when provided by the licensees.

The relevant outcomes will be reported on in MEF annual round up through the website.

4.1.2. Reviewing Research Plans

S.84AL(1)(d) to review any research plan in relation to the rehabilitation of declared mine land prepared by a declared mine licensee and make recommendations, if any, following a review to the relevant declared mine licensee;

The MRSDA is not explicit in its definition of a research plan. Commonly used rehabilitation and closure terminology has been determined by the MLRA. This work resulted in a set of definitions, which defined a research plan as: *all documentation associated with the development and implementation of the DMRP and requirements of any other Act.* This set of definitions of commonly used terminology (Vocabulary) has been published on the MLRA website.

The MLRA will review any research plan in relation to the rehabilitation of declared mine land prepared and provided by a declared mine licensee and make recommendations, if any, to the relevant declared mine licensee.

The research plans the MLRA review may include (but are not limited to):

- Specific Licensee rehabilitation planning schedule.



- Scope of technical studies and other work.
- Outputs of studies or designs.
- Construction documentation.
- Compliance reporting.
- Monitoring data.
- Risk assessment and plans to address and manage risks.
- Engagement planning and implementation.
- Other legislated requirements, e.g. Landfill design.

The MLRA will also seek to be involved in the implementation work, which is outside of the MEF, to ensure the work being done is fit for purpose and will continue to reduce risk in the long term, to the Victorian community.

There will be aspects of rehabilitation planning that the MLRA will not see and review which may include (but not limited to) commercial in confidence and other aspects, which will be defined with each licensee as they progress their rehabilitation planning and implementation.

The review of research plans presented by a licensee may:

- confirm that the research plans identify the risks, mitigations, and opportunities,
- provide feedback on the suitability and adequacy of such research plans,
- provide feedback on the suitability of the persons conducting the research, their skills and experience and its relevance to the research.

The review findings are intended to be used for the benefit of all parties and while it is not a requirement to implement recommendations, the MLRA will encourage their consideration and implementation.

4.1.2.1. Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plans

The DMRP is a legislated requirement for all declared mine licensees under S.84AZU of the MRSDA and associated regulations.

A DMRP is a plan for the rehabilitation of declared mines, detailing the approaches and activities determined necessary for the rehabilitation of a mine site, conducted throughout its operational and rehabilitation phases.

Contents of the DMRP are prescribed within the MRSD Amendment Regulations 2022.

The DMRP forms part of the research plans that the MLRA must review in accordance with the MEF. The development of the DMRP, and formal assessment of the DMRP forms an intrinsic part of the MEF through understanding of the implementation of the LVRRS principles by the licensees.

The MLRA will co-ordinate and engage through site specific working groups, with mine licensees in relation to the development and implementation of their DMRP to:

- provide advice/opinion on the achievement of regulatory requirements,
- promote good rehabilitation outcomes consistent with the LVRRS guiding principles,
- promote the participation of the community and stakeholders from the Latrobe Valley and Victoria, in the implementation of the regional rehabilitation strategy.

Measuring the effectiveness of rehabilitation activities will not only occur during the rehabilitation works but also for an amount of time after the completion of implementation requirements. The mine licensees (through



the development of closure criteria) will define the effectiveness of the rehabilitation activities. The MLRA will provide guidance direct to the licensees on the development of all aspects of the DMRP, including but not limited to closure criteria. The Licensees are not required to take on board or make any changes based on MLRA guidance and recommendations.

The MLRA is a formal referral agency for the Earth Resources Regulator (ERR) in the assessment of a DMRP. The MLRA will make formal comments and recommendations via the legislated assessment process.

4.1.3. Participation with Community

S.84AE(b) to promote the participation of the community and stakeholders from the Latrobe Valley, in the implementation of the regional rehabilitation strategy; and

As required under the MRSDA S.84AE(b), the MLRA will review the declared mine licensees' community consultation plans within the DMRP, and their subsequent implementation to promote the participation of the community and stakeholders, in the implementation of the regional rehabilitation strategy. Outcomes will be reported when required through the MLRA annual round up.

4.1.4. Rehabilitation Risk Management – oversight of licensees

S.84AL(1)(ka) to monitor and evaluate the risks posed by geotechnical, hydrogeological, water quality or hydrological factors for declared mine land in relation to public safety, the environment and relevant infrastructure;

Engagement with mine licensees is fundamental to the approach taken by the MLRA. This is critical when considering their risk management strategy, assessment of risks and their approach to address and mitigate risks identified.

The MLRA will monitor and evaluate the mine licensees' assessment and evaluation of the risks to achieving successful long-term rehabilitation posed by geotechnical, hydrogeological, water quality and/or hydrological factors for declared mine land in relation to public safety, the environment and relevant infrastructure and any potential introduced risks associated with the rehabilitation design.

To monitor and evaluate the licensees approach to risk, the MLRA has requested to observe the risk assessment workshops that are undertaken for the DMRP development, or others that are relevant. The Licensees do not have to invite the MLRA to observe. Once the DMRP is submitted, the risk assessments will be formally assessed by the MLRA and comments provided through official channels.

This monitoring and evaluation will be completed through a number of different forums, including: workshops, quarterly meetings, issue-specific consultation sessions, events. The MLRA will report on this through the annual round-up published on the MLRA website.

4.1.4.1. Mine Licensee Risk Management

The MLRA will establish if the mine licensees have a robust rehabilitation risk management strategy/ assessment in place. The MLRA will review the identification of risks, mitigations, and risk rankings and will recommend necessary improvements in consideration of this, and evaluate implementation plans to remedy if required.

The MLRA has requested that the mine licensees include the MLRA in all rehabilitation and closure related risk assessments and corresponding workshops. The MLRA will have observer status in the workshops and provide feedback directly to the licensees on any matters.

The declared mine licensees are required to provide risk assessments and management plans through the DMRP assessment process. The MLRA, will assess the licensee risk assessments, and provide a response to ERR, as a formal referral agency for ERR in this assessment process.

Any formal outcomes may be provided in a letter to the risk assessment organizer providing, an overview of the MLRA's observations on the process/ framework, key recommendations or commentary.

4.1.5. MLRA Implementation

S.84AL(o) to monitor and report, in accordance with the monitoring framework, on— (i) the implementation by public sector bodies and Latrobe Valley licensees of the regional rehabilitation strategy; and (ii) the effectiveness of the regional rehabilitation strategy.

4.1.5.1. MLRA Activities Pre-submission of the DMRP (pre-2025)

The MLRA will:

- undertake quarterly meetings, at a minimum, with the mine licensees to understand the:
 - work being undertaken to develop the DMRP,
 - ongoing consultation with the Latrobe Valley community,
 - implementation of the LVRRS guiding principles,
- request to be included in the mine licensees risk assessment processes,
- request to be included as part of the review cycle of research plans as described above,
- be involved in the Technical Reference Groups, (TRG), associated with any Environmental Effects Statements (EES), and any legislated processes,
- provide guidance and feedback directly to mine licensees,
- provide a conduit for issues and concerns to be raised with parties who are participating in the rehabilitation process.

4.1.5.2. MLRA Activities Post-submission of the DMRP (post-2025)

The MLRA will:

- undertake quarterly meetings, at a minimum, with the mine licensees, to understand the progression of activities associated with the research plans, including approved DMRPs, including the:
 - ongoing consultation with the Latrobe Valley community,
 - implementation of the LVRRS guiding principles,
- be a formal referral agency to assess the DMRP and any subsequent variations as per the MRSDA S.84AZW, and provide comment to the ERR,
- remain involved with any other legislated processes,



- provide guidance and informal feedback throughout the process,
- provide a conduit for issues and concerns to be raised with parties who are participating in the rehabilitation process.

4.2. Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy

At the time of drafting this version 02 of the MEF the LVRRS 2023 version was published, with its next review date expected to be in 2026. The LVRRS can be amended at any time. At these points the MLRA will engage with those responsible for the review and / or update of the LVRRS.

The LVRRS has documented a series of implementation activities, which involve the collection of additional information to support the principles of the strategy. The consideration and implementation of the principles within the Strategy is completed by the declared mine licensees, through the development of DMRPs and their implementation.

In accordance with the MRSDA S. 84AZC the MLRA monitors and evaluates implementation and effectiveness of LVRRS.

The goal of monitoring and evaluating the implementation and effectiveness of the LVRRS is to assist Resources Victoria, by providing feedback on the effectiveness of the Strategy in achieving good rehabilitation outcomes for the declared mines. Key inputs from the MLRA include measures to be undertaken to achieve the outcomes and the effectiveness of those measures, in providing this assistance the MLRA will consider:

- Identifying and commenting on the knowledge gaps, assumptions, and limitations within LVRRS studies.
- Identifying and providing comments on the risks associated with the strategy.
- Reviewing and commenting on the study reports and implementation action documentation.
- Commenting on the inclusion of the broader regulatory, planning, and environmental objectives in formulating the strategy.
- Encouraging those responsible for the LVRRS to include inputs from a broad range of stakeholders, including other government departments, operators, community groups and Traditional Owners.
- Commenting on and providing feedback to the Minister about the likely success of the strategy, including the guiding principles, in assisting with achieving good rehabilitation outcomes for the Latrobe Valley.

Points to note:

- Those responsible for the LVRRS are not required to incorporate or alter the studies or Strategy based on the MLRA review or comments.
- To date, the MLRA has undertaken a content-led engagement process with those responsible for the LVRRS, which has included frequent workshops and meetings. These meetings are structured based on the outputs and workings of the LVRRS. MLRA views and advice has been reported directly to the Minister for Energy & Resources. This will continue as and when the LVRRS is to be reviewed and/ or amended.



4.3. Public Sector Bodies

S.84AL(o) to monitor and report, in accordance with the monitoring framework, on - the implementation by public sector bodies and Latrobe Valley licensees of the regional rehabilitation strategy; and the effectiveness of the regional rehabilitation strategy

In order to monitor and evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of the LVRRS, The MLRA undertakes engagement with relevant public sector bodies such as:

- ERR
- ERPP
- Water & Catchments
- Other public sector bodies

The MLRA develops and undertakes projects to identify blockers in the legislation and government processes that will delay or potential derail the implementation of the LVRRS.

Engagement involves, meetings and formal comments to relevant departments. Managing interactions with public sector bodies is largely managed through the MLRA's Provision of Ministerial Advice plan.

4.4. Strategic Audits

S.84AL(b) to carry out strategic audits of public sector bodies and declared mine licensees in relation to the implementation of rehabilitation planning activities and the regional rehabilitation strategy;

The MLRA may conduct audits of public sector bodies and declared mine licensees in relation to mine rehabilitation. These audits will determine if rehabilitation planning activities and the regional rehabilitation strategy are being implemented as described in the documentation. Audits will be undertaken in line with the MLRA audit procedure. Such evaluations may take the form of a review rather than a full strategic audit.

The MLRA has defined a strategic audit as a formal examination of any aspect of rehabilitation and closure planning and implementation by declared mine licensees or public sector bodies against relevant standard(s), such as legislation, policy and/or guidance.

The purpose of the audit is to comprehensively and systematically test and review aspects such as:

- the risks the auditee has identified in achieving good rehabilitation outcomes,
- the opportunities the auditee has identified to improve the likelihood and effectiveness of achieving good rehabilitation outcomes,
- the strategies and plans in place to address such risks and opportunities,
- current performance in relation to delivering these strategies and plans,
- the auditee's engagement with community

The MLRA will use the results of strategic audits to:

- acknowledge achievements,
- encourage improved performance,
- provide feedback on the risk and opportunities identified,
- recommend improvements to strategies and plans,
- identify opportunities for further collaboration and participation with other stakeholders,
- identify opportunities for further engagement with community.



for the benefit of improving the effectiveness and likelihood of implementation of rehabilitation planning activities and implementation of the regional rehabilitation strategy.

Prior to instigating a strategic audit, serious consideration will be given to the need / requirement for the audit. If an audit is to be conducted it will be scoped and carried out in accordance with the Strategic Audit Procedure.

The strategic audit forms part of the MLRA hierarchy of controls that can potentially be employed to manage key risks to the MLRA's objectives. The use of the Strategic Audit should be considered carefully, as the work the MLRA undertakes relies on collaboration and good will, and an audit process has the potential to damage relationships and the MLRA's ability to undertake its future work.

4.4.1. Public Sector Bodies

Public sector bodies include government departments or agencies that have either a role in approving rehabilitation plans, or whose policies or legislation can have an effect on rehabilitation planning and implementation timeframes and outcomes. These include, but are not exclusive to:

- Earth Resources, (Resources Victoria, Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action (DEECA)),
- Water and Catchments (DEECA),
- Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria.

The inclusion of public sector bodies in the MEF is to ensure the following are designed to frame declared mine rehabilitation:

- Legal and Organisational frameworks,
- Land use planning,
- Regulatory and guidance documentation.

4.4.2. Declared Mines Licensees

Strategic audits may be carried out to evaluate the declared mine licensees rehabilitation planning and implementation.

The overall approach of the MLRA will be considerate of the MEF/ MLRA guiding principles.

4.5. Implementation of the MEF

In a fluctuating environment, where the MLRA has to be responsive to changes from government, the declared mine licensee's and other stakeholders, adaptability in the MLRA approach is key to understanding and staying abreast of key rehabilitation risks for the Victorian community. Due to the legislated requirements for the development of the MEF, exact details, (for example the number of meetings and their purpose), cannot be included within the MEF, but are managed through licensee engagement plans and project plans.

The MLRA's core activities fulfil the requirements of the MEF. These core activities are, but not limited to:

- Quarterly meetings with Licensees (as minimum)
- Engagement with government stakeholders
- Project meetings as required
- Workshops as required



The MLRA has developed a visual implementation plan (sits separately to this document for ease of update) to ensure it:

- has planned for all the MEF and legislated requirements,
- has a structured and consistent approach with all declared mines in scope,
- has a framework for planning and resourcing,
- can be shared with stakeholders for more effective collaboration and engagement and no surprises,
- can be independently audited for evaluation and effectiveness.

The implementation of the MEF is subject to constraints associated with:

- Size of the MLRA team available for the work, and
- Budget available

4.6. Reporting

The MLRA will report in accordance with the MEF on:

- the implementation by public sector bodies and Latrobe Valley licensees of the LVRRS; and,
- the effectiveness of the regional rehabilitation strategy.

This reporting is completed through a variety of ways including:

- Reporting to the Minister as detailed in the Provision of Ministerial Advice management plan.
- Reporting to the MLRA Board on outcomes of MEF related activities at each board meeting, S.84AG.
- Annual Roundups of the implementation of the MEF, will be made available on MLRA website.



Appendix A – MEF Specific Clauses

MRSD Act Reference	Section Location
S.84AZC requires that the MLRA prepare the MEF based on:	Section 3
<i>S.84AL(1)(a) to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the regional rehabilitation strategy in accordance with the monitoring framework,</i>	Section 4.1.1 Section 4.2
<i>S.84AL(1)(b) to carry out strategic audits of public sector bodies and declared mine licensees in relation to the implementation of rehabilitation planning activities and the regional rehabilitation strategy,</i>	Section 4.4
<i>S.84AL(1)(c) to monitor and evaluate implementation and effectiveness of rehabilitation planning activities and the regional rehabilitation strategy in accordance with the monitoring framework,</i>	Section 4.1.5 & 4.4
<i>S.84AL(1)(d) to review any research plan in relation to the rehabilitation of declared mine land prepared by a declared mine licensee and make recommendations, if any, following a review to the relevant declared mine licensee,</i>	Section 4.1.2
<i>S.84AL(1)(ka) to monitor and evaluate the risks posed by geotechnical, hydrogeological, water quality or hydrological factors for declared mine land in relation to public safety, the environment and relevant infrastructure,</i>	Section 4.1.4
<i>S.84AL(o) to monitor and report, in accordance with the monitoring framework, on - the implementation by public sector bodies and Latrobe Valley licensees of the regional rehabilitation strategy; and the effectiveness of the regional rehabilitation strategy.</i>	Section 4.3 & 4.5

Table 1 – Specific Clauses



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