

How can you have your say in Declared Mine rehabilitation?

Rehabilitating Victoria's declared mines is a complex, long-term process that must meet a range of legislative requirements. Good practice recognises that local communities live with the outcomes of rehabilitation. That's why some of the legal processes provide opportunities for community members to have a say in the proposed rehabilitation plans.

This fact sheet outlines the key legal processes involved in declared mine rehabilitation and highlights where and when the community can be involved.

There are also other approvals and requirements that mine licensees will need to meet as they plan for closure. However, many of these have limited or no public consultation. For more detail, see the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy (LVRRS) [amendment](#) which helps to ensure the Latrobe Valley coal mines are transformed to be safe and stable for the long term.

To learn more about the regulatory environment and relevant Acts watch *A Changing Landscape Series Two Part 1 Who's who in the zoo of mine rehabilitation in Victoria* on the MLRA YouTube channel.

Where can the community have their say?

There are three key legal processes that require community consultation:

- Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan (DMRP)
- Environmental Effects Statement (EES)
- Bulk Water Entitlement (BWE)

Each process is guided by its own legislation and guidelines.

All declared mine licenses must prepare a DMRP. However, the need for an EES or BWE will depend on the site-specific rehabilitation plans for each site.

Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan

The *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act (MRSDA) 1990* and its supporting regulations govern all mineral extraction in Victoria, from small quarries to large mines. This legislation is administered by Earth Resources Regulation (ERR).

Declared mine licensees are required to develop a DMRP, engage with the community during its development, and submit the final plan to ERR for assessment.

A draft DMRP must be placed on public display for 60 days before it is formally submitted. During this time, community members are encouraged to provide feedback directly to the declared mine licensee.

Further information on the DMRP process is available on the [Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority website](#).

Environmental Effects Statement

In Victoria, an EES is the highest level of environmental assessment. It examines the potential environmental impacts of a proposed project and is a requirement under the *Environmental Effects Act 1978*.

The EES process is administered by the Department of Transport and Planning and the Minister for Planning decides whether an EES is required for a project. The community can have a say by making submissions during the public exhibition period. Further information on the EES process is available on the [Victorian Government website](#).

Bulk Water Entitlements

In Victoria, all water access is regulated under the *Water Act 1989 (Vic)*. For declared mine licensees, the most relevant form of access is a BWE.

In the Latrobe Valley, existing BWEs support the region's power stations and mines. Applications for new or amended BWEs are advertised on both the [Victorian Public Notices](#) website and the [Bulk Entitlements website](#).

Depending on the proposal, the application process may involve consultation with stakeholders and local communities, including opportunities to provide submissions to the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) or directly to the applicant.

Further information about bulk water entitlements can be found on the [Bulk entitlements](#) website.

MLRA Content Disclaimer:

This content provides the MLRA's high-level overview of aspects of mine rehabilitation in the Latrobe Valley. It does not reflect the opinions, pre-empt decisions or policies of Resources Victoria, mine licensees or any other government department. The information was accurate to the best of the MLRA's knowledge at the time of publication and is intended to inform the community, stakeholders and Traditional Owners.

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