

Annual Report 2024–25

Report of Operations



OFFICIAL-Sensitive

Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority
Annual Report of Operations 2024–2025

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government
Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority

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Photo credit: Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority,
Yallourn mine site, Yallourn, 2024

The Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority acknowledges and respects Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

The Authority is committed to genuinely partnering with Victorian Traditional Owners and Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

Cover photo credit: Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority,
Yallourn mine site, Yallourn, 2024.

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Disclosure statement

In accordance with section 84AZH of the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*, I am pleased to present the Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority's annual report of operations for the year ending 30 June 2025.

The Assistant Treasurer has exempted the Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority (The Authority) from the requirements of the Standing Directions for the year ending 30 June 2025. Thus, annual reporting obligations outlined in the *Financial Management Act 1994* are included in the Annual Report of the Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action in accordance with a determination made by the Assistant Treasurer under section 53 of the *Financial Management Act 1994* and Standing Direction 1.5.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TAR', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Therese Ryan

Chair, Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority
30 June 2025

Published by Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR & CEO

As this financial year draws to a close, it has provided us with the opportunity to reflect on what has been another busy, productive year for the Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority and we have a clear strategy in place that has successfully guided us and will continue to do so.

Our work program focused on four key themes across the year:

- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Closure Criteria
- Rehabilitation Concept Series and Key Hazards Series
- Climate Change and Water

Within each of these themes we provided key information through fact sheets, talks and social media platforms. We have delivered technical and engagement papers at conferences, provided education programs into schools, worked closely with a number of PhD students and delivered several complex projects into government.

We have maintained high levels of engagement with our partners and stakeholders including community groups, the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Community (GLaWAC), water authorities, catchment management authorities, local government, state government agencies, the Cooperative Research Centre for Transformation in Mining Economies (CRC TiME), schools, TAFES and universities.

We continue to work with each of the declared mine licensees as they progress their rehabilitation work and navigate the complex regulatory processes that apply. The Authority is heavily invested in ensuring that rehabilitation is successful for the broader community.

The Board has been very happy with the work The Authority has conducted over the period – in particular the openness, transparency and trust that the team builds and maintains.

This year has marked the retirement of two of our inaugural Directors, Claire Miller and Ian Gibson, both of whom have been key contributors to The Authority. We thank them for their dedication and service.

This annual Report of Operations provides an overview of the work completed this year, within the budget allocated, to meet The Authority's statutory obligations.

We look forward to the exciting year ahead and all the activities and projects that we have planned.



Therese Ryan
Chair

30 June 2025



Dr Jennifer Brereton
Chief Executive Officer

30 June 2025

01

ABOUT THE MINE LAND REHABILITATION AUTHORITY

The Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority (The Authority) is an independent statutory body established on 30 June 2020 under amendments to the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990 (Vic)* (MRSDA).

These amendments gave effect to the recommendation in the *Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry Report 2015–16* that the Victorian Government establish an independent statutory body to provide greater coordination and oversight of mine rehabilitation.

Under the MRSDA, The Authority acts as a coordinating body for mine rehabilitation of Victoria's declared mines and has a number of functions including:

- monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy (LVRRS) and the rehabilitation of declared mines and their Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plans;
- providing technical advice to stakeholders;
- facilitating conversations between stakeholders;
- educating the community and stakeholders in mine rehabilitation;
- encouraging engagement and informed participation across our stakeholders;
- providing advice and reporting to the Minister for Energy and Resources; and
- oversight of the implementation of the post closure plan or by undertaking the post closure monitoring and maintenance of the declared mine land.

The Authority oversees the rehabilitation of declared mine land. It achieves this by facilitating equitable, informed mine rehabilitation outcomes for all, working with community, industry and government. Mine rehabilitation means returning land disturbed by mining to a safe, stable, and sustainable form that enables beneficial uses of the site and surrounding land.

The Authority is tasked with providing assurance to the Victorian community about the planning for the rehabilitation of declared mine land and the effective implementation of the LVRRS.

As a statutory authority The Authority is accountable to the Victorian Government through the Minister for Energy and Resources in line with the MRSDA.

1.1 Our goal

In planning for the management of declared mine land The Authority facilitates mine rehabilitation and long-term stewardship to maximise benefits and minimise potential long-term environmental, social and financial costs to the Victorian community.

1.2 What we do

We facilitate equitable, informed mine rehabilitation outcomes for all by providing rigorous, clear and independent advice within a framework of collaboration, education and engagement.



1.3 Values

In addition to the Victorian Public Sector (VPS) values, in all its operations, The Authority strives to be:

- honest
- reliable
- transparent
- rigorous
- unbiassed
- accessible.

1.4 Background

The MRSDA is the legislation governing the identification, treatment and process for declared mines in Victoria. Its purpose is to encourage mineral exploration and economically viable mining and extractive industries which make the best use of, and extracts value from, resources in a way that is compatible with the economic, social, and environmental objectives of the State, while ensuring mines are rehabilitated to a suitable standard.

1.5 Role of The Authority and services provided

As outlined in the MRSDA, it is the role of The Authority to work with community, industry, Traditional Owners, and government to oversee the rehabilitation of declared mine land and work collaboratively towards its transition to safe, stable, and sustainable post-mining landforms.

A declared mine is a mine that is deemed by the Minister for Energy and Resources to pose a significant risk to safety, the environment, or infrastructure because of geotechnical, hydrogeological, hydrological or water quality factors within the mine (MRSDA, section 7C). Currently, the only declared mines in Victoria are the Latrobe Valley's three brown coal mines: ENGIE Hazelwood, AGL Loy Yang and EnergyAustralia Yallourn. As such, The Authority's activities are centered in the Latrobe Valley.

Mine rehabilitation is managed on an individual basis in Australia. However, the proximity of the three Latrobe Valley brown coal mines to each other, and their size relative to the connecting landscape, means that their collective impacts on the environment and on future socio-economic development of the region must be taken into account. The LVRRS provides guidance on cumulative impact, and it is expected that each of the mines consider this during the rehabilitation approval process.

The LVRRS provides a high-level vision, along with principles and objectives for the declared mine licensees to address and implement through their rehabilitation planning of the Latrobe Valley's three brown coal mines. The initial LVRRS was developed between 2017 and 2020 and published in June 2020. A subsequent amendment to the LVRRS, providing guidance to ENGIE Hazelwood, AGL Loy Yang and EnergyAustralia Yallourn on the ability to use water for rehabilitation and associated constraints, was published in November 2023.

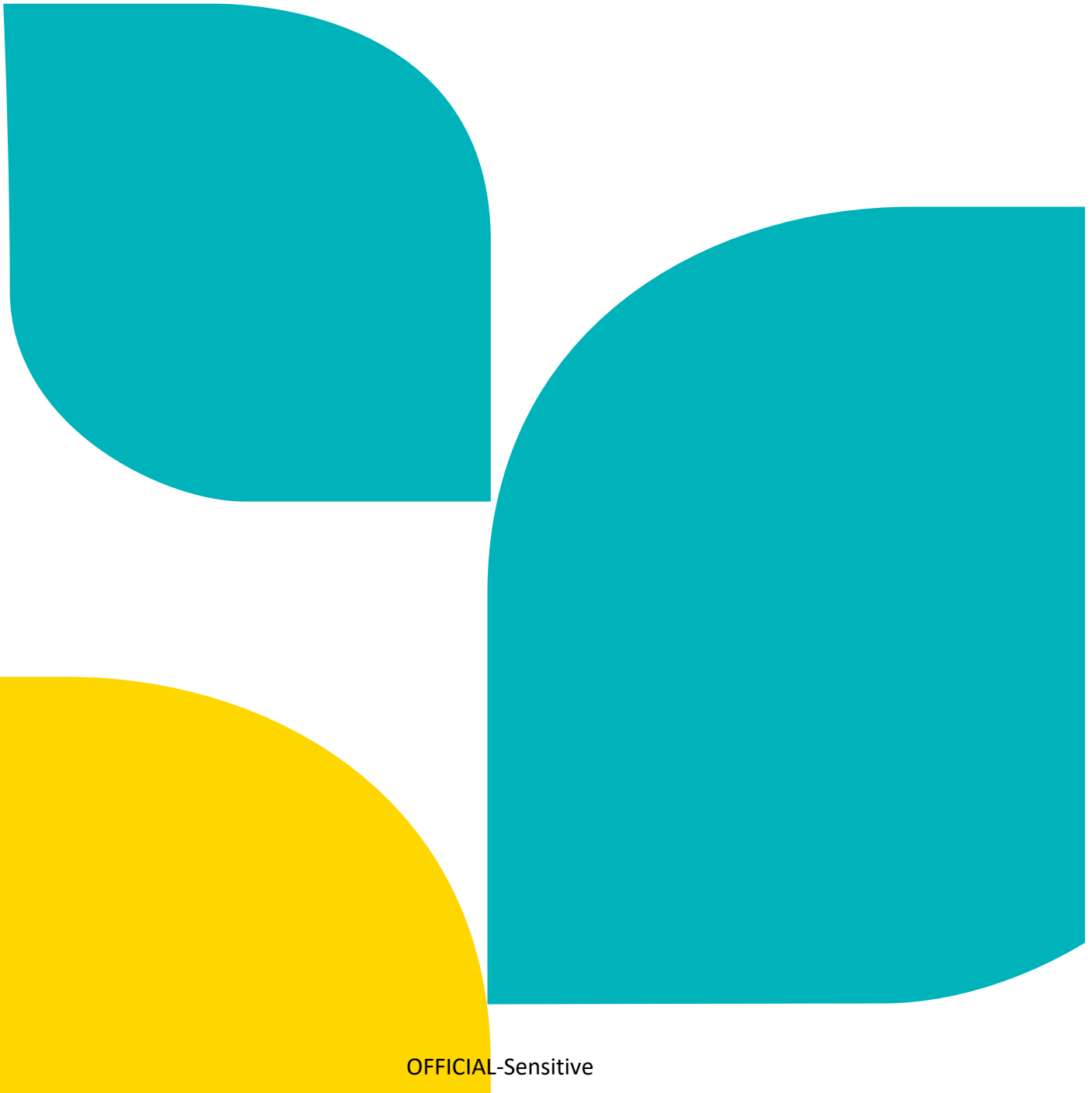
One of the roles of The Authority is to monitor the LVRRS and provide guidance to Resources Victoria in relation to the implementation actions defined in this strategy.



Photo credit: Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority. Technical Specialist, Nathan Gardiner, holding brown coal, Yallourn North Extension, Yallourn, 2024.

02

OBJECTIVES, FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE AUTHORITY



2.1 Legislated Objectives

Under section 84AE of the MRSDA, the objectives of The Authority are to:

- provide assurance to the Victorian community that public sector bodies and the Latrobe Valley mine licensees are implementing the regional rehabilitation strategy;
- provide assurance to the Victorian community that public sector bodies and the declared mine licensees are planning for the rehabilitation and ongoing management of declared mine land;
- provide assurance to the Victorian community that public sector bodies and the declared mine licensees are planning for the rehabilitation and ongoing management of declared mine land;
- promote the effective and consistent rehabilitation of coal mine land in accordance with the regional rehabilitation strategy;
- promote the sustainable and beneficial use of coal mine land in accordance with the regional rehabilitation strategy; and
- promote the effective and consistent rehabilitation of declared mine land in accordance with any Ministerial direction.

2.2 Legislated Functions and Powers

Under section 84AL of the MRSDA The Authority is responsible for the following.

- coordinating rehabilitation planning activities;
- monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy;
- auditing public sector bodies and declared mine licensee's rehabilitation planning activities;
- engaging, educating, and informing the community about rehabilitation of declared mine land and the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy;
- monitoring and evaluating geotechnical and other risks for declared mine land in relation to public safety, the environment and relevant infrastructure;
- conducting and supporting meetings between community stakeholders, public sector bodies and declared mine licensees;
- advising the Minister for Energy and Resources on the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy and post-closure maintenance of declared mine land;
- carrying out investigations referred by the Minister for Energy and Resources;
- purchasing, acquiring and disposing of declared mine land or land in the proximity;
- preserving relevant records and information relating to registered mine land;
- commenting on applications for work plan variations and rehabilitation plans for the declared mines;
- assessing the amount of contribution to be paid by declared mine operators into the Declared Mine Fund upon mine closure to be applied to the monitoring, maintenance, and rehabilitation of registered mine land; and
- providing advice and recommendations to the Minister on matters related to the exercise of The Authority's powers and functions.

The MRSDA grants The Authority all powers necessary or convenient to perform these functions.

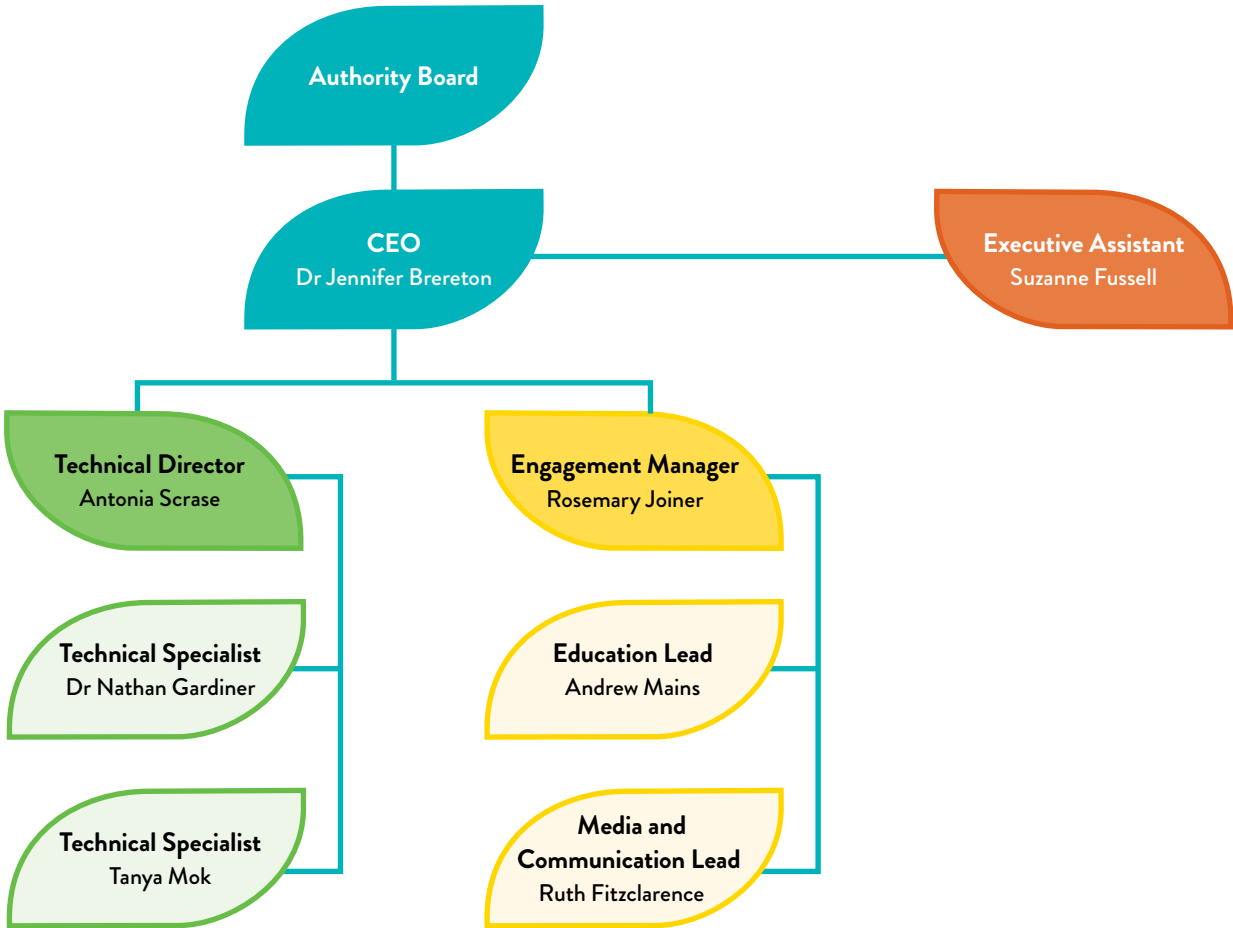
An extract from the relevant sections of the MRSDA is provided in Appendix A

03

GOVERNANCE AND
ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

3.1 Organisational structure

Staffing of The Authority is structured to ensure an equal focus on engagement (which includes education) and technical expertise. The Authority has a highly experienced team reflecting the level of advice provided to our stakeholders. The below organisational chart shows staffing of The Authority as of 30 June 2025.



3.2 The Board

The Authority has a six-member Board which is responsible for providing strategic planning and risk management, positive leadership, and governance. The Board consists of individuals with diverse and relevant expertise bringing the necessary knowledge and experience required for making informed decisions regarding governance, general policies, and the strategic direction of The Authority. Board meetings are arranged around the annual calendar of events and reporting program.

In line with the MRSDA, The Authority's Board is appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Minister for Energy and Resources. Table 3 in section 4.5 specifies the terms of The Authority's up to six-member Board. Having considered the size of the organisation and the Board, it was decided two years ago not to have Board sub committees and to do the work usually carried out in larger organisations by committees by the Board itself.

During the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, the Board comprised the following members.



Therese Ryan – Board Chair

Therese has extensive experience as a senior business executive and commercial lawyer working in widely diversified businesses in Australia and internationally. She brings strong commercial sense, risk management and strategic thinking, complemented by 45 years of legal experience in the automotive, petrochemical and other industries.

For the last 15 years she has been a professional company director, serving on a number of listed, state owned, superannuation and not for profit boards.

She currently serves on the board of listed entity Korvest Ltd, is chair of Hancock Victorian Plantations; and a director of Tasmanian Government owned Sustainable Timber Tasmania.

She has also served on the boards of Bapcor Ltd, Gippsland Water, Yarra Valley Water, WA Super, VicForests, Victorian Managed Insurance Authority and Metropolitan Fire Brigade; and was an independent member of the Audit and Risk Committee of the City of Melbourne.

- Qualifications: Bachelor of Laws (University of Melbourne)
- Graduate Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD)



Jon Crosbie – Deputy Chair (appointed 1 January 2024)

Jon has two decades of experience working within mining companies across the whole mining lifecycle, covering exploration, project development/approvals, construction, operations and closure. He has held both functional and operational roles in differing cultural contexts, with experience in Africa, Europe, South America and Australia. His commodity exposure covers coal, iron ore, copper, gold, silver, zinc, lead, cobalt, molybdenum and uranium.

For the last ten years, Jon has worked in mine closure focused roles and has extensive experience in the areas of environmental impact assessment, progressive rehabilitation planning, closure liability cost estimation, ecological restoration, stakeholder engagement and socio-economic transitioning and integrating these areas with strategy, risk, audit and financial functions.

Jon holds undergraduate degrees in Environmental Engineering, Ecology & Geography, a Graduate Certificate in Community Relations, and a Master of Business Administration. He is also a Graduate of The Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD).

He is a Fellow and Chartered Professional with the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM) and received their Performance Excellence Award in 2022.

Jon has served as an active voluntary member of many industry organisations, including AusIMM, CRC TiME, JORC, Closure Planning Practitioners Association (CPPA), and the International Council of Mining and Metals (ICMM), where he is a past Chair of their Closure Working Group.



Ian Gibson

Ian is a long-term resident of Gippsland and has extensive networks in the public sector, community organisations, business, academia and sporting bodies.

He holds qualifications as a Master of Public Policy and Management and in Economics and Arts. He is a member of the Board of East Gippsland Water and has been a Board member with the State Electricity Commission of Victoria, Coal Corporation, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and Latrobe Regional Hospital.

Ian's work experience spans local government, regional development and tertiary education. He is currently an Industry Advisor at Federation University and chairs the Community Advisory Group at the Star of the South offshore wind farm.



Claire Miller

Claire is an Independent Non Executive Director having served on government and not for profit boards as a non executive director and ASX listed and private companies as a General Counsel and Company Secretary across a range of industries including Infrastructure, Energy, Resources, Utilities, Financial Services and Property.

She brings experience from a portfolio of previous executive roles including senior executive legal and governance roles in complex and regulated environments where she provided legal, strategic, governance and commercial advice to boards and executive management. She has an in depth knowledge of corporate governance and compliance, stakeholder engagement, government and regulatory liaison.

Claire is also currently a Non Executive Director on the following boards

- Central Gippsland Health Service, Member Audit and Risk Committee
- Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency, Member Audit and Risk Committee
- Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission, Commissioner and Board member
- Governance Institute of Australia, State Council Member (until 2025).



Ian Nethercote AM

Ian Nethercote is a long term local resident and has been involved in the electricity and coal mining industry for almost 40 years and held the role of Chief Executive of Victoria's largest power station and open cut mine for more than 13 years.

During this time, he provided oversight and overall business direction and strategy in addition to managing the finances, technical/maintenance aspects, market and human resources. He was also the Chairman of the Loy Yang Marketing Management Company. Ian has been an active member and chair of many industry committees, Boards and Councils at both state and national levels. In 2018 Ian was awarded a "Member of the Order of Australia" in recognition of his significant contribution to the Energy and Education sectors.

Ian holds Engineering Qualifications and continues to Chair various profit and not for profit organisations. He is a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers Australia, a Fellow of Australian Institute of Company Directors and a Fellow of the Institute of Managers and Leaders.



Dr Corinne Unger

Corinne is a Research Fellow at The Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining, Sustainable Minerals Institute at the University of Queensland having completed her PhD in the UQ Business School on social practices that generate and manage slow-developing risk. She has 35 years' knowledge and experience in managing mine rehabilitation and closure including abandoned mines and is currently involved in developing two new ISO standards for Sustainable Mining and Mine Closure.

Corinne was a member of the Victorian Government's Technical Review Board before joining the Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority's board. Corinne first studied earth sciences before her PhD in social science. She has been involved over many decades in the mining sector and governments regulating mining and managing abandoned mines, giving advice on mine rehabilitation, closure and post-mining land use. Corinne is a Churchill Fellow having studied 'leading practice abandoned mine rehabilitation and post-mining land use' in Austria, Germany, UK and Canada. Her published research includes a maturity model for jurisdictional abandoned mine programs, shifting priorities and stakeholders in Australian mined land rehabilitation and closure, and a risk research agenda for organisational studies. Corinne led the development of an ISO standard for Managing Mining Legacies published in 2023 and is now involved in two standards on social aspects and finding value in mining wastes.

Corinne is a Chartered Environmental Professional Fellow of AusIMM. She is also a member of Australia's International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the Academy of Management (AOM).

■ Qualifications: BScDipEd, Dip Geoscience, PhD (Management)

04

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Our Year in Numbers

10

Fact sheets published

Supporting public understanding of mine rehabilitation

1,250+

People engaged

Through events, roadshows, school visits, and one-on-one meetings

4

Student mine site visits coordinated

Inspiring future careers in environmental science

5

Joint meetings with water authorities and mine licensees

Driving collaboration on water for rehabilitation

4

Educational videos launched

The videos provide information on a series of important topics

250

Mine Rehab 3D AR App downloads

Helping communities visualise rehabilitation futures

8

Email campaigns delivered

Plus 6 media releases and 3 radio interviews

6

Sprout community events delivered

Hands-on learning about regeneration and mine rehabilitation

4.1. Legislated Objectives

The following provides a report against The Authority's operational activities during the reporting period of 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Under section 84AE of the MRSDA, the objectives of the Rehabilitation Authority are:

4.1.1 Authority objective

To provide assurance to the Victorian community that public sector bodies and the Latrobe Valley mine licensees are implementing the regional rehabilitation strategy.

The Authority:

- monitored the activities of the public sector bodies through workshops, meetings, provision of advice and consultation;
- monitored the activities of ENGIE Hazelwood, AGL Loy Yang and EnergyAustralia Yallourn through regular scheduled meetings, workshops, provision of advice and consultation; and
- informed the community of the outcomes of this work through open houses, the development of fact-sheets, print media, radio media, scheduled meetings with community groups, panel discussions and social media posts.

4.1.2 Authority objective

To provide assurance to the Victorian community that public sector bodies and the declared mine licensees are planning for the rehabilitation and ongoing management of declared mine land.

The Authority:

- monitored the activities of the public sector bodies through workshops, meetings, provision of advice and consultation;
- monitored the activities of ENGIE Hazelwood, AGL Loy Yang and EnergyAustralia Yallourn through regular scheduled meetings, workshops, provision of advice and consultation;
- monitored ENGIE Hazelwood, AGL Loy Yang and EnergyAustralia Yallourn during the development of their Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plans (DMRP's), including risk assessments, ongoing rehabilitation studies, investigations, and works;
- built relationships by bringing parties together to discuss issues in an open, transparent and safe environment. The Authority's relationships to stakeholders are shown in Figure 2 The Authority's key stakeholders; and
- communicated the outcomes of this work to the community through a range of channels including fact sheets, print and radio media, regular meetings with community groups, panel discussions and social media posts.



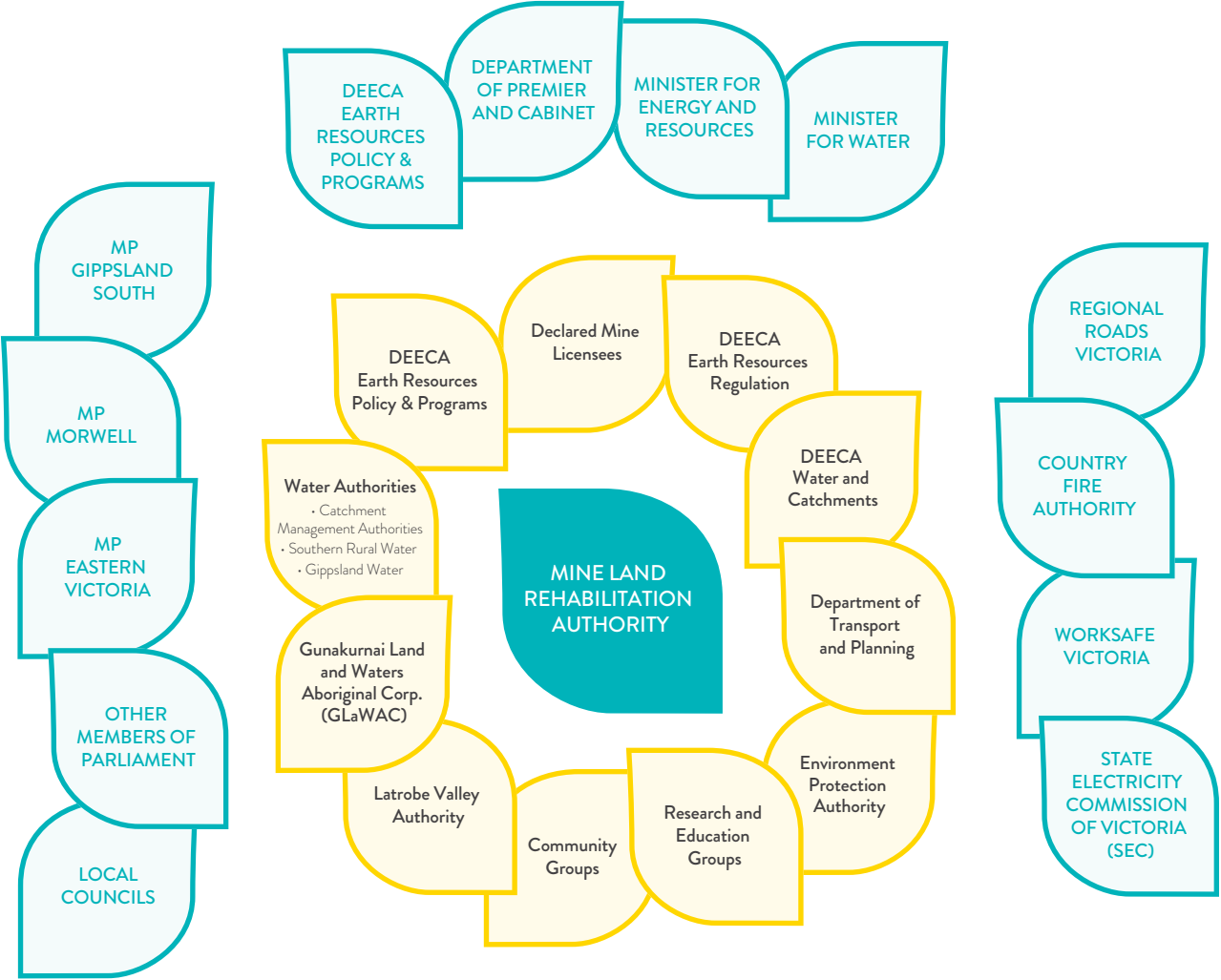


Figure 2. The Authority’s key stakeholders

4.1.3 Authority objective

To promote the participation of the community and stakeholders from the Latrobe Valley, in the implementation of the regional rehabilitation strategy

The Authority:

- held quarterly meetings with representatives from Environment Victoria, Friends of Latrobe Water, Great Latrobe Park and Voices of the Valley where The Authority shared information and discussed constraints and opportunities relating to the rehabilitation of declared mines;
- worked in collaboration with EnergyAustralia and RMIT University to deliver a design studio to investigate the nature and role of public access to Victoria's declared mines;
- attended relevant conferences, where The Authority's staff presented content and published papers;
- published media articles on mine rehabilitation;
- held regular meetings with Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) to discuss joint projects including the Gippsland Seed Bank project and The Authority's educational video project;
- attended community events, including hosting a staffed booth at various Bunnings events, to engage with a broader cross-section of the community; and
- participated in declared mine licensee led community events, including ENGIE Hazelwood's Technical Conversation Sessions and AGL Loy Yang's Community Forums.

4.1.4 Authority objective

To promote the effective and consistent rehabilitation of coal mine land in accordance with the regional rehabilitation strategy.

The Authority:

- was a member of the Technical Reference Group for the ENGIE Hazelwood Environmental Effects Statement;
- held individual monthly meetings with ENGIE Hazelwood, AGL Loy Yang and EnergyAustralia Yallourn and discussed relevant issues openly and transparently;
- held joint meetings with Gippsland Water, Southern Rural Water, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, ENGIE Hazelwood, AGL Loy Yang and EnergyAustralia Yallourn and GLaWAC to encourage positive conversations, understand information and data available and work through issues and solutions;

- developed and chaired declared mine licensee / government Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan (DMRP) working groups, to assist with the development of the plans; and
- contributed advice and knowledge to the Resources Victoria in relation to:
 - the development of the Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan; and
 - the legislation as it applies to declared mine rehabilitation.

4.1.5 Authority objective

To promote the sustainable and beneficial use of coal mine land in accordance with the regional rehabilitation strategy.

The Authority:

- worked closely with the Cooperative Research Centre for Transformations in Mining Economies (CRC TiME) and other stakeholders on the Collaborative Planning for Post Mining Land Use Project, a two-year initiative aimed at identifying appropriate land capacity / use in the future pending rehabilitation of the declared mine land;
- continued broad conversations with Resources Victoria in relation to licence matters; and
- continued to engage with other government departments to better understand any issues, concerns or opportunities; commenced discussions to develop a partnership agreement with GLaWAC.

4.1.6 Authority objective

To promote the effective and consistent rehabilitation of declared mine land in accordance with any Ministerial direction

During the reporting period, no Ministerial directions were received.

4.2. Functions and powers

The following provides a report against The Authority's functional activities during the reporting period of 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. Note that the below captures functions The Authority is currently undertaking.

4.2.1 Authority functions and powers

Coordinating rehabilitation planning activities.

The Authority:

- coordinated joint meetings with the water authorities, declared mine licensees and GLaWAC;
- participated in cross sector panels in various forum to discuss rehabilitation activities;
- coordinated workshops with each of the licensees in the development of their DMRP's; and
- conducted an open house information session in collaboration with AGL Loy Yang, ENGIE Hazelwood and EnergyAustralia Yallourn, government and Federation University where the community was able to ask questions of all the participants in relation to their draft DMRP's as well as view proposed future land use options.

AGL – Loy Yang

Monthly meetings were held with AGL Loy Yang to discuss rehabilitation planning, monitoring and evaluation, and community engagement.

The Authority commenced monthly DMRP Working Group meetings in September 2024. Attendees included Resources Victoria – Earth Resources Regulator (RV-ERR), Resources Victoria – Policy and Programs (RV-PP) and AGL Loy Yang. A total of 10 meetings were held, with an additional four pre-meetings to determine agendas.

Authority staff attended and provided input to the AGL Loy Yang's Community Dialogue Group and Environmental Review Committee.

Alinta – Loy Yang B power station

Although not directly involved in the rehabilitation process at AGL Loy Yang mine, Alinta Loy Yang B has a direct interest in the rehabilitation works proposed by AGL Loy Yang through its commercial agreements with AGL. The Authority attended quarterly meetings with Alinta Loy Yang B to understand any issues or concerns and work collaboratively to resolve these.

ENGIE – Hazelwood

The Authority held 12 meetings with ENGIE Hazelwood to discuss rehabilitation planning, monitoring and evaluation, and community engagement.

The Authority commenced monthly DMRP Working Group meetings in September 2024. Attendees included RV-ERR, RV-PP and ENGIE Hazelwood. A total of five meetings were held. ENGIE Hazelwood has commenced development of their DMRP which is due for submission in October 2025 unless an application for extension is submitted.

ENGIE Hazelwood's Rehabilitation Project continues to progress its field programs as they develop their Environment Effects Statement (EES) submission. The Authority has maintained oversight of these programs.

The Authority is a member of ENGIE Hazelwood's EES Technical Review Group. The Authority participated in 12 technical reference group meetings, in addition to attending a significant number of geotechnical review panel meetings. The Authority and RV-ERR collaborated to provide technical expert review and feedback on the geotechnical reports provided for the EES.

EnergyAustralia – Yallourn

The Authority held ten meetings with EnergyAustralia Yallourn to discuss rehabilitation planning, monitoring and evaluation, and community engagement.

EnergyAustralia Yallourn has commenced development of their DMRP which is due for submission in October 2025 unless an application for extension is submitted. The Authority proactively responded to EnergyAustralia Yallourn's requests for information and feedback.

The Authority facilitated DMRP Working Group meetings from September 2024 to March 2025 when the Resources Victoria Approval Coordination team (RVAC) became lead coordinator for the government approval processes required. Attendees included RV-ERR, RV-PP and EnergyAustralia Yallourn.

Joint Declared Mine Licensee / Water Authority

The Authority convened five meetings between AGL Loy Yang, ENGIE Hazelwood and EnergyAustralia Yallourn and local water authorities (Gippsland Water, Southern Rural Water, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority) and GLaWAC, to collaboratively discuss ongoing rehabilitation.

4.2.2 Authority functions and powers

Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy.

The Authority:

- held regular meetings with ENGIE Hazelwood, AGL Loy Yang and EnergyAustralia Yallourn and Resources Victoria;
- implemented the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (MEF) which includes many of the meetings referenced and the activities required to be undertaken (the MEF is available on the Authority website); and
- conducted an internal review of the LVRRS.

4.2.3 Authority functions and powers

Auditing public sector bodies and declared mine licensee's rehabilitation planning activities.

No strategic audits were carried out by The Authority during the 2024–25 reporting period. A high level of oversight is already exercised in relation to mine rehabilitation practices with ENGIE Hazelwood, AGL Loy Yang and EnergyAustralia Yallourn and government.

While no strategic audits were carried out by The Authority, a high-level review of the LVRRS was conducted in addition to an extensive exercise in mapping the legislative processes that apply to declared mine rehabilitation.

4.2.4 Authority functions and powers

Engaging, educating, and informing the community about rehabilitation of declared mine land and the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy.

Throughout the reporting period, the Authority delivered its Engagement and Education Plan through a dedicated workplan that responded to the needs of key stakeholders, including Traditional Owners, public bodies, declared mine licensees, industry representatives, community members, and research organisations.

1. Community Engagement and Events

The Authority delivered a range of activities to connect directly with the community and support conversations about mine rehabilitation.

Engagement Roadshow

The Authority delivered its first-ever Engagement Roadshow, featuring four in-person events (held in Morwell and Melbourne) and one live webinar.

The Roadshow offered participants opportunities to:

- join panel discussions;
- engage with The Authority Monitoring and Evaluation Framework;
- attend the launch of *A Changing Landscape Series Two*;
- experience The Authority's 3D "MLRA Augmented Reality App"; and
- take part in the interactive *Sprout* activity

The Roadshow connected The Authority with a wide range of stakeholders to share some of the key tools and resources being used to support conversations about mine rehabilitation in the Latrobe Valley.

Community Engagement Events

The Authority hosted three family-friendly events at Morwell Bunnings. These events gave community members the chance to speak with Authority staff about mine rehabilitation and participate in the interactive Sprout activity.

In June 2025, The Authority hosted *Mine Rehabilitation: The Future Together*, a community open house event held at the Latrobe Valley GovHub. The event brought together community members, the declared mine licensees, researchers, and government representatives to discuss rehabilitation planning, regulatory processes, future land use options and the development of Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plans. Through interactive activities and information stations, attendees engaged directly with key stakeholders and shared their thoughts. Insights gathered through the event are informing The Authority's ongoing engagement and will help shape future communication and planning.

Meetings with Community Members and Groups

The Authority held twelve one-on-one meetings with individual community members and local community groups. These meetings encouraged open, two-way conversations about mine rehabilitation—providing opportunities for people to share their views, ask questions, and engage directly with The Authority.



Photo credit: Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority. Engagement Manager, Rosemary Joiner and Education Officer Andrew Mains talking to a community member at MLRA's *Mine Rehabilitation: The Future Together* community event Morwell, June 2025.

2. Education Tools and Resources

These tools are designed to make mine rehabilitation more accessible and understandable for a broad audience.

Fact Sheets

The Authority published ten fact sheets during the reporting period to support public understanding of mine rehabilitation. These resources are accessible to a broad audience and are available via the Authority's website.

- *Rehabilitation Concepts Series* – an initial set of four fact sheets introducing key rehabilitation principles
- *Key Hazards Series* – an initial set of four fact sheets outlining significant risks associated with mine rehabilitation
- *Other fact sheets* – *Closure Criteria* and *How Can You Have Your Say in Mine Rehabilitation?*

In addition, The Authority undertook a project to review older fact sheets to ensure content continues to be relevant and accurate.



Photo credit: Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority. Media and Communications Officer, Ruth Fitzclarence and Lena Morris (GLaWAC), Morwell, 2024.

Educational Videos

The Authority developed four educational videos as part of A Changing Landscape – Series Two. These were developed to inform the community and empower conversations about issues and opportunities around mine rehabilitation in the Latrobe Valley.

The project involved close collaboration with stakeholders to ensure messages were tailored and relevant. During the period, The Authority also commenced development of a bespoke video in partnership with Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC), focusing on Traditional Owner perspectives on mine rehabilitation.

Sprout Initiative

Delivered in collaboration with local Gippsland nursery and ecological contractor Habitat Creations, the Sprout activity has remained a popular feature of The Authority’s education program and community engagement events. The activity encourages hands-on learning and conversation about environmental regeneration and the complexities of mine rehabilitation.

Mine Rehabilitation Vocabulary

Serving as a reference for community, industry, and government stakeholders, the Authority’s Vocabulary aims to provide a consistent, shared baseline of terms relevant to declared mine rehabilitation in Victoria. Averaging 204 visits per month, this continues to be a popular and useful resource.

3D Augmented Reality App

The Authority launched the “MLRA Augmented Reality App” a 3D Mine Rehabilitation App, providing everyone with the chance to learn and explore elements of mine rehabilitation. With 250 downloads since its launch, this has been a popular addition to The Authority’s suite of engagement tools.

3. Schools and Youth Engagement

Young people are a key audience in shaping the future of mine rehabilitation in Victoria.

School Visits and Presentations

The Authority delivered four bespoke classroom lessons across a range of year levels, from primary through to VCE. These were delivered either as a part of broader activities such as mine visits, or as part of ongoing inquiry programs.

Field Trips

The Authority coordinated four field trips to mine sites for students and teachers to support education about the rehabilitation of declared mine sites as well as providing information about different career pathways and contributing to VCE studies.

Career Expos

The Authority participated in three career expos during the reporting period to highlight potential career pathways in mine rehabilitation and related industries. These included the JobSkills Expo (July 2024), Gippy Youth New Energy Summit (September 2024) and the Trade & Tech Fit Career Expo (June 2025), where Authority representatives engaged with students and jobseekers to discuss future opportunities in the sector.



Photo credit: Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority.
Technical Director, Antonia Scrase and Technical Specialist Tanya Mok,
Jobskills Career Expo, July 2024.

4. Communications and Media

The Authority maintained a strong visible presence through delivery of a multi-channel media and communication strategy. The Authority social media posts have been accessed worldwide

Email Campaigns

The Authority delivered eight email campaigns during the reporting period, reaching over 305 subscribers. These campaigns provided updates on declared mine rehabilitation projects, upcoming events, and opportunities for community involvement.

Social Media Channels

Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube channels provided a range of engaging content spanning a wide variety of topics relating to declared mine rehabilitation.

Website

The Authority's website is regularly reviewed and updated to ensure content remains relevant and accurate.

Mineland.vic.gov.au is an important communication channel that allows transparent communication and provides accessible information for all stakeholders. The website aims to meet best practice standards for accessibility.

Media Releases

The Authority issued six media releases during the reporting period to inform the public and stakeholders about key announcements, initiatives, and developments in declared mine rehabilitation.

Radio Interviews

Three interviews were conducted on local radio, covering topics including: launch of The Authority's 3D "MLRA Augmented Reality App", the Changing Landscape Series two videos and feedback on the *Mine Rehabilitation: The Future Together* Open House event.



Published Interviews

The Authority conducted two published interviews with *Mining Magazine* and *Gippslandia*.

5. Research and Thought Leadership

Through research partnerships and expert input, the Authority contributed to broader discussions on declared mine rehabilitation and transition.

Stakeholder Engagement Research Projects

The Authority supported a major research initiative during the reporting period: CRC TiME's *Collaborative Planning for Post-Mining Development in the Latrobe Valley*. Including the provision of funding support and active involvement in project planning, guest speaking, and event hosting.

Conference Presentations and Knowledge Sharing

The Authority's staff attended and participated in four major conferences during the reporting period, sharing insights into declared mine rehabilitation and stakeholder engagement:

- CRC TiME Annual Forum – August 2024
- Gippsland New Energy Conference – September 2024
- Mine Closure Conference – November 2024
- Global Coal Transitions Network Workshop – May 2025

The Authority's CEO attended a knowledge sharing tour of rehabilitated coal mines in East Germany which allowed for an exchange of ideas and an understanding of how another jurisdiction is managing closure and rehabilitation.

Published Papers

The Authority published several papers, some as part of its conference presentations, some standalone. Including:

- *In Which Conversations Should Community Stakeholders Be Involved?* (Joiner, R & Brereton, J 2024) Ref: https://papers.acg.uwa.edu.au/p/2415_17_Brereton/

Consultation and Advisory

Authority staff provided consultation and advice to:

- The International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) for their handbook on multistakeholder approaches to socio-economic transitions in mining
- The Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining & CRC TiME for their *Multistakeholder Repurposing Framework* research project

6. Feedback and Evaluation

Stakeholder engagement feedback provides valuable insights for refining engagement strategies and improving relationships. By actively seeking and incorporating feedback, The Authority can enhance communication, build trust, and ensure that our initiatives are aligned with stakeholder needs. The Authority seeks feedback via several channels including surveys, direct email, in-person and via social media analytics.

Surveys

Four surveys were conducted to gather feedback and inform engagement planning.

Social media coverage for the 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025 reporting period is shown below.

LinkedIn Impressions: 56,285 Followers: 1,583* *Increase by 410 in the past year – 405 organic			
Instagram Reach: 525	Facebook Reach: 5,604 Content interaction: 355	YouTube Views: 1,997^ Hours viewed: 184 ^ Compared to 530 views for the same period last year	Email subscribers Impressions: 305 Open rate: 51%# # Compared to industry rate of 42%
Website Interactions: 57,735 Top 6 countries of active users: Australia, United States, Hong Kong, Canada, India, South America			

4.2.5 Authority functions and powers

Monitoring and evaluating geotechnical and other risks for declared mine land in relation to public safety, the environment and relevant infrastructure

The Authority:

- reviewed EES studies for ENGIE Hazelwood, and engaged in the ENGIE Technical Review Group (TRG) meetings;
- participated in EnergyAustralia Yallourn's Mine Rehabilitation risk workshops;
- reviewed detailed documentation at the request of ENGIE Hazelwood, AGL Loy Yang and EnergyAustralia Yallourn; and
- regularly discussed issues with RV-ERR.

4.2.6 Authority functions and powers

Advising the Minister for Energy and Resources on the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy and post-closure maintenance of declared mine land

The Authority met with the Minister for Energy and Resources across the period.

4.2.7 Authority functions and powers

Carrying out investigations referred by the Minister for Energy and Resources

No investigations were conducted during this reporting period.

4.2.8 Authority functions and powers

Purchasing, acquiring and disposing of declared mine land or land in the proximity

No declared mine land was purchased, acquired or disposed of during this reporting period. The Authority is actively planning for this eventuality.

4.2.9 Authority functions and powers

Preserving relevant records and information relating to registered mine land

The Authority does not currently monitor or manage any registered mine land. The Authority is actively planning for this eventuality.

4.2.10 Authority functions and powers

Commenting on applications for work plan variations and rehabilitation plans for the declared mines

ENGIE Hazelwood, AGL Loy Yang and EnergyAustralia Yallourn are required to develop and submit a Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan to the Minister for Energy and Resources (through Resources Victoria) by 2025, unless an extension is applied for and granted.

The Authority:

- reviewed and provided feedback on rehabilitation plans to ENGIE Hazelwood, AGL Loy Yang and EnergyAustralia Yallourn;
- contributed to the development by RV-PP of the Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan guidelines; and
- engaged with RV-ERR's assessment officers, to ensure consistent referral responses.

4.2.11 Authority functions and powers

Assessing the amount of contribution to be paid by declared mine operators into the Declared Mine Fund upon mine closure to be applied to the monitoring, maintenance, and rehabilitation of registered mine land.

This did not occur during the reporting period and will occur as part of the Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan process.

4.2.12 Authority functions and powers

Providing advice and recommendations to the Minister on matters related to the exercise of The Authority's powers and functions.

Project outcomes, fact sheets, presentations and conference papers were provided to the Minister for Energy and Resources throughout the reporting period.

4.3 Strategic Objectives

Consistent with its functions and powers as defined in the MRSDA, The Authority had a number of strategic objectives across the reporting period, noting that a full review of these was conducted in November 2024 which refined the Strategic Objectives during the reporting period. For the period 1 July to 31 December 2024 the strategic objectives were: Meaning Engagement; Evaluate, Facilitate, Advise; and Technical Expertise/Research. The Board revisited the strategic objectives in November 2024 resulting in four new strategic objectives for the period 1 January to 30 June 2025. These were: Engagement; Assurance; Readiness; and Risk and Opportunity. These are summarised in Table 2. The table shows not only the objectives, but their purpose and the contributions needed to deliver outcomes relevant to each objective. All delivery components noted in the table below have been achieved during this reporting period.

Table 2. Strategic Objectives

1 July – 31 December 2024

Strategic objectives	Implementation purpose	Delivery Components
1. Meaningful Engagement	Develop strong relationships between partners, stakeholders and community Listen, participate and empower all to achieve an informed outcome Prepare and make accessible, easily digestible information on declared mine rehabilitation processes, opportunities and risk	■ Creation of technical fact sheets ■ Curriculum based educational resources ■ Site visits ■ Co-design projects – e.g. working with CRC TiME ■ Open dialogues – through workshops and issue specific meetings ■ Knowledge sharing – through workshops, factsheets and the provision of transparent communication ■ Structured meetings with The Authority stakeholders and Traditional Owners ■ Collaboration and facilitation ■ Digital communication
2. Evaluate, Facilitate, Advise	Evaluate reports, information and data; facilitate the distribution of information to relevant parties and provide robust, science based, independent advice to our stakeholders	■ The Authority's high-level review of the LVRRS ■ Participation in preparation of the DMRP guidelines ■ Attend declared mine licensee technical review group meetings ■ Implementation of the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan providing advice to stakeholders ■ Social media and website updates

Table 2. Strategic Objectives (continued)

1 July – 31 December 2024

Strategic objectives	Implementation purpose	Delivery Components
3. Technical Expertise/Research	Facilitate rehabilitation outcomes underpinned by independent, robust and transparent science-based information in a timely manner	■ Contribution to CRC TiME research and projects • Collaborative planning for post-mining development in Latrobe Valley • Developing a multistakeholder and rightsholder participation framework to guide repurposing of mine sites • Mine Pit Lake Assessment and Management: A National Initiative to Support Mine Closure and Regional Opportunities • A Systematic Approach to Regional Cumulative Effects Assessment and Management (RCEAM) • Limitations and Issues with using the Discounted Cash flow Net Present Value for calculation of mine closure and post mine closure ■ Legislative mapping project ■ Technical input for engagement activities and deliverables ■ Organising declared mine licensee / government DMRP working groups ■ Providing input into the DMRP guidelines ■ Providing advice on the legislation as it applies to declared mine rehabilitation ■ Working with RVAC ■ Achieving timeframes for requested advice ■ Membership of industry groups e.g. Technical Reference Group for the ENGIE Hazelwood Environmental Effects Statement ■ Membership of industry associations e.g. The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM) and Closure Planning Practitioners Association (CPPA) to maintain key knowledge, industry learnings and networks

CASE STUDY 1

Student field trips to mine sites

The Authority worked closely with local Latrobe Valley secondary schools to provide educational resources about mine rehabilitation and several field trips were facilitated. This included Trafalgar High School students tour of EnergyAustralia's Yallourn mine site as part of their VCE Environmental Studies program. The opportunity for the Trafalgar High School students to explore a working mine site was coordinated by The Authority with EnergyAustralia Yallourn.

The VCE students had the opportunity to see the operations of a working mine and talk to mine rehabilitation experts from EnergyAustralia Yallourn and The Authority. During the field trip, students were able to explore the role of vegetation in stabilising soil and its long-term suitability for rehabilitated mine sites.

The successful trip finished with a visit to Habitat Creations in Yarragon to learn about seed banking and plant selection for future use at mine sites. All these elements will feed into the students' assessment tasks, an advantage to local students when studying this type of environmental topic.



Photo credit: Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority. Students visit to Yallourn North Extension mine, Yallourn, 20254.

CASE STUDY 2

The Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority Vocabulary

The Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority identified a need to bridge the gap between the terminology used in mine rehabilitation to improve comprehension and accessibility for the wider community. The Vocabulary was developed by The Authority in collaboration with subject matter experts across industry and government. An initial draft list of terms was derived from reputable, publicly available sources for review.

The purpose of The Authority's Vocabulary is to provide a consistent, shared baseline of terms relevant to declared mine rehabilitation in Victoria. Language employed for mine rehabilitation and closure is evolving and varies from region to region. A shared vocabulary is a simple and effective way to facilitate better discussions, decision making and outcomes.

The Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority Vocabulary is a living document maintained by The Authority and serves as a reference for community, industry and government stakeholders and is publicly available.

Feedback from key stakeholders and the wider community indicates that the Authority's Vocabulary is a trusted reference, helping to bring greater clarity into mine rehabilitation conversation.

<https://www.mineland.vic.gov.au/learn/vocabulary/>

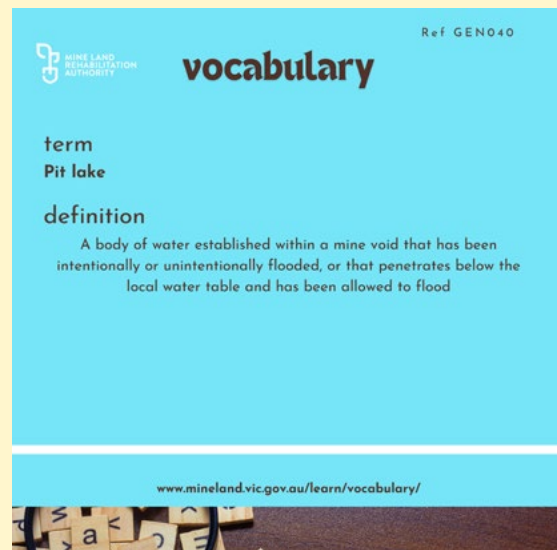


Table 2. Strategic Objectives (continued)

1 January – 30 June 2025

Strategic objectives	Implementation purpose	Delivery Components
1. Engagement	To foster our relationships with our stakeholders, Traditional Owners, share information, gain insights leading to better decisions and better rehabilitation outcomes that benefit community, Traditional Owners, industry and government.	- Our Engagement Plan - Quarterly fact sheets - Listen and learn from our community and Traditional Owners - Our education program - Partnerships
2. Assurance	Provide assurance that the declared mine licensees and government are adequately planning for and implementing mine rehabilitation.	- Monitoring and Evaluation Plan - Quarterly meetings with licensees - Meet regularly with relevant government bodies - Meet and communicate with our community stakeholders and Traditional Owners - Provide robust, open advice when needed - A review and report on the LVRRS
3. Readiness	To ensure that The Authority is prepared, understands, is ready for and communicates change to manage: - Increase in remit - Decrease in remit - Legislative change - Government change - Staff change	- Documented processes and procedures - Effective communication and mature relationships with stakeholders “Horizon scanning” completed regularly - Clarify positions and ask questions - Stay abreast of legislation - Foresight provided by effective research into what is occurring elsewhere
4. Risk and Opportunity	Minimise the risk and maximise the opportunities and value (cultural, economic, environmental, social) for the Victorian community (processes to progressively lower residual risk) to: - Identify - Understand - Mitigate - Evaluate opportunities - Communicate - Review - Document	- Strategic and operational risk registers - Proactively develop risk profile and risk appetite – documented - Reduce / mitigate risk as much as possible - Look for opportunities and, where possible, realise those opportunities - Communicate our risks effectively

CASE STUDY 3

Fact sheets – Rehabilitation Concepts Series

The Authority produces fact sheets to support community education and understanding of mine rehabilitation.

A special series was developed to explain key mine rehabilitation concepts including dry void, partial lake, full lake, and full lake interconnected. This special series was created in response to feedback received from stakeholders. The feedback highlighted a strong interest in clear, accessible information about potential rehabilitation concepts for the three declared mines, with particular interest in the use of water to stabilise the sites.



4.4. Key projects and activities

The Authority conducted several projects and activities throughout the reporting period.

- Completed draft legislative mapping, which involved mapping relevant legislation associated with declared mine rehabilitation.
- Facilitated risk workshops with Resources Victoria and the Department of Transport and Planning, to assist in understanding the risks associated with sequencing of the legislative processes and identifying mitigations.
- Worked with DEECA on the Central Bendigo Mine Rehabilitation Project Ground Water Treatment Plant procurement process.
- Participated in closure and mine rehabilitation research projects of relevance to declared mine closure and rehabilitation in Victoria, notably through CRC TiME, which is focused on improving post-mine outcomes across Australia and is co-funded by the Australian Federal Government and industry. These projects included:
 - Collaborative planning for post-mining development in Latrobe Valley
 - Developing a multistakeholder and rightsholder participation framework to guide repurposing of mine sites
 - Mine Pit Lake Assessment and Management: A National Initiative to Support Mine Closure and Regional Opportunities
 - A Systematic Approach to Regional Cumulative Effects Assessment and Management (RCEAM)
 - Limitations and Issues with using the Discounted Cash flow Net Present Value for calculation of mine closure and post mine closure
- Engaged with GLaWAC to support Traditional Owner involvement in declared mine rehabilitation and post closure land management.
- Facilitated workshops with Resources Victoria (RV) to assist with the achievement of good rehabilitation outcomes, ensuring no internal duplication or overlap of work, and applying the correct resource according to the required skill set.
- The Authority was invited to meet the Independent Expert Scientific Committee (IESC) on Unconventional Gas Development & Large Coal Mining Development and the Office of Water Science to attend site visits to EnergyAustralia Yallourn and ENGIE Hazelwood declared mines and exchange information.

4.5 The Authority's Board

Board Activities

The Board met five times across the reporting period. The Board reviewed and updated The Authority's Strategy and Risk Register in addition to providing comment to the organisation on various plans, procedures and public facing documents. During the period representatives from the Board also:

- Attended a two day Strategic Planning and Risk Review Workshop (August 2024)
- Visited ENGIE Hazelwood mine site (August 2024)
- Attended the CRC TiME Annual Forum (August 2024)
- Attended ACG Mine Closure Conference – Perth (November 2024)
- Received an update of current activities from AGL and toured Loy Yang A mine site (April 2025)
- Attended a two-day Global Coal Transitions Network Workshop, at The University of Queensland, Brisbane (May 2025)
- Monitored progress of several CRC TiME research projects, via technical advisory committees

The Board undertook an internal review to assess its performance over the reporting period and to identify areas for improvement. The review found that each Board member was effectively meeting the key performance indicators required of their role.

Table 3 below details of each member's appointment and attendance for the 2024–25 period

Table 3. Member’s appointment and attendance for the 2024–25 period

Name	Date appointed	End of term	Board Meetings Attended	Meetings eligible to attend
Therese Ryan (Chair)	1 January 2024	31 December 2028	5	5
Jonathon Crosbie (Deputy Chair)	1 January 2024	31 December 2027	5	5
Ian Gibson	30 June 2020	29 June 2025	5	5
Claire Miller	30 June 2020	29 June 2025	5	5
Ian Nethercote	30 June 2020	29 June 2027	4	5
Dr Corinne Unger	30 June 2020	29 June 2027	5	5
Ian Nethercote	30 June 2020	29 June 2027	6	6
Dr Corinne Unger	30 June 2020	29 June 2027	3*	6



Photo credit: Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority. Board members Jon Crosbie, Dr Corinne Unger, Dr Jennifer Brereton (CEO), Ian Gibson and Ian Nethercote (AM) with AGL’s Benn Snell (third from the left) visiting Loy Yang mine site, Morwell, April 2025.

4.6 Financial Performance

The Authority is in receipt of a Determination under the *Financial Management Act 1994* (Vic) and Standing Directions Exemption which states that “the report of operations and financial statements of The Authority may be consolidated with those of DEECA for the 2024–25 financial year”.

The Authority receives annual funding which is allocated by the Board across relevant areas including Board fees, salaries, operational requirements and projects. The Authority receives financial reports from DEECA finance and uses these reports to report to the Board and to track costs.

The Authority delivered its agreed program of works within budget.

There have been no significant changes in The Authority’s financial position. The Authority is unaware of any significant events that may significantly affect The Authority’s operations in the subsequent reporting period.

4.7 Operational Program

Planning

The Authority’s Corporate Plan is updated annually and looks forward over a four-year period. The Plan guides specific actions for the Annual Report period. It sets strategic goals, including actions to enable The Authority to undertake its future functions with respect to declared mine license relinquishment and the management of residual risks.

Risk registers

The Authority maintains both a strategic risk register and an operational risk register. The strategic risk register is reviewed by the Board and a full review is performed annually. The operational risk register is reviewed regularly by The Authority’s staff in response to changes in the operating environment that occur over time.

Prior to declared mine relinquishment, The Authority is projecting that its oversight and engagement functions are low to medium risks. This risk profile will only change if additional mines are declared and additional Authority resources are not available, or if those mines are close to relinquishment, which would bring forward The Authority’s role as a land manager.

05

WORKFORCE DATA AND OFFICE

The Authority does not employ staff. Instead, section 84AN of the MRSDA provides that the head of the Department must ensure that The Authority is provided with any public sector employees that are necessary to assist The Authority in performing its functions.

As at 30 June 2025, DEECA's Secretary provided The Authority with the use of the public service employees described in the Workforce data disclosure below. These staff are employees of DEECA, and they are therefore included in the workforce data disclosure contained in DEECA's annual report 2024–25.

As these staff remain employees of DEECA, many of DEECA's policies and procedures continue to apply to those employees, and DEECA's Secretary, as the 'public service body head' remains responsible for those employees in accordance with the *Public Administration Act 2004*.

The Authority undertook an internal and external review of its operations and activities in October 2024. This organisational review was an independent assessment of how The Authority was performing and focused on what both The Authority staff and external stakeholders thought about the organization; what it was doing well and what could be improved.

5.1 Public Sector Values and Employment Principles

DEECA's Secretary is a public service body head and responsible for ensuring the public sector employment principles and public sector values enshrined in sections 7 and 8 of the *Public Administration Act 2004* (Vic) are applied within the department.

5.2 Occupational Health and Safety

DEECA reports on the occupational health and safety programs, including mental health and wellbeing, and psychosocial first aid, and systems that apply to its employees in its annual report.

5.3 Workforce data

As The Authority does not employ any staff, it is not required to make a workforce data disclosure in its report. The DEECA public service employees used by The Authority are included in the broader workforce data disclosure made by DEECA in its annual report.

Table 4 below contains information about the composition of the DEECA staff that support The Authority, as of 30 June 2025 for greater transparency

Table 4. Workforce Data

2024–2025

Classification	Employees (head count)	FTE
CEO (SES-1)	1	1
Executive Assistant (VPS-4)	1	1
Technical Director (VPS-7)	1	1
Technical Specialists (VPS-6)	2	2
Engagement Manager (VPS-6)	1	1
Education Lead (VPS-5)	1	1
Media and Communications Lead (VPS-5)	1	1
Total	8	8

5.4 Other disclosures

Local Jobs First

The Local Jobs First Act 2003 introduced in August 2018 brings together the Victorian Industry Participation Policy (VIPP) and Major Project Skills Guarantee (MPSG) policy which were previously administered separately.

The Authority is required to apply the Local Job First policy in all projects valued at \$3 million or more in Metropolitan Melbourne or for statewide projects, or \$1 million or more for projects in regional Victoria. MPSG applies to all construction projects valued at \$20 million or more. The MPSG guidelines and VIPP guidelines will continue to apply to MPSG applicable and VIPP applicable projects respectively where contracts have been entered prior to 15 August 2018.

The Authority reports a nil disclosure for the reporting period.

All other disclosures for The Authority are included in the DEECA Annual Report.

06

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Vic) (FOI Act) allows the public a right of access to documents held by the Department. The purpose of the FOI Act is to extend as far as possible the right of the community to access information held by government departments, local councils, Ministers and other bodies subject to the FOI Act.

An applicant has a right to apply for access to documents held by a department. This comprises documents both created by the department or supplied to the department by an external organisation or individual, and may also include maps, films, microfiche, photographs, computer printouts, computer discs, tape recordings and videotapes. Information about the type of material produced by the Department is available on the Department's website under its Part II Information Statement.

The FOI Act allows a department to refuse access, either fully or partially, to certain documents or information. Examples of documents that may not be accessed include cabinet documents; some internal working documents; law enforcement documents; documents covered by legal professional privilege, such as legal advice; personal information about other people; and information provided to a department in-confidence and information that is confidential under another Act.

Under the Act, the FOI processing time for requests received is 30 calendar days. However, when external consultation is required under ss29, 29A, 31, 31A, 33, 34 or 35, a 15 day automatic extension applies.

Processing time may also be extended by periods of up to 30 days, in consultation with the applicant. With the applicant's agreement this may occur any number of times. However, obtaining an applicant's agreement for an extension cannot occur after the expiry of the timeframe for deciding a request.

If an applicant is not satisfied by a decision made by the Department, under section 49A of the Act, they have the right to seek a review by the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner (OVIC) within 28 days of receiving a decision letter.

6.1 Making a request

FOI requests can be lodged online at online.foi.vic.gov.au. An application fee of \$33.60 applies. Access charges may also be payable if the document pool is large and the search for material time consuming.

Access to documents can also be obtained through a written request to the Department's Freedom of Information team, as detailed in section 17 of the Act.

When making an FOI request, applicants should ensure requests are in writing, clearly identify what types of material/documents are being sought and be accompanied by the application fee to be a valid request.

Requests for documents in the possession of the Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority should be addressed to:

Chief Executive Officer
Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority
 65 Church Street
 Morwell VIC 3840

Enquiries can be made to The Authority via email at contactus@mineland.vic.gov.au

6.2 FOI statistics/timeliness

During the 2024–2025 reporting period, The Authority received 0 applications under the FOI Act. Any FOI applications received by DEECA in relation to The Authority are disclosed in the DEECA Annual Report.

6.3 Further information

Further information regarding the operation and scope of FOI can be obtained from the FOI Act, regulations made under the Act and ovic.vic.gov.au.

APPENDIX A

MINERAL RESOURCES (SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT) ACT 1990

SECTION 84AE

Objectives of the Rehabilitation Authority

The objectives of the Rehabilitation Authority are—

- a. to provide assurance to the Victorian community—
 - i. that public sector bodies and the Latrobe Valley licensees are implementing the regional rehabilitation strategy; and
 - ii. that public sector bodies and the declared mine licensees are planning for the rehabilitation and ongoing management of declared mine land; and
- b. to promote the participation of the community and stakeholders from the Latrobe Valley, in the implementation of the regional rehabilitation strategy; and
- c. to promote the effective and consistent rehabilitation of coal mine land in accordance with the regional rehabilitation strategy; and
- d. to promote the sustainable and beneficial use of coal mine land in accordance with the regional rehabilitation strategy; and
- e. to promote the effective and consistent rehabilitation of declared mine land in accordance with any Ministerial direction.
- 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;
- c. to monitor and evaluate implementation and effectiveness of rehabilitation planning activities and the regional rehabilitation strategy in accordance with the monitoring framework;
- 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;
- e. to coordinate rehabilitation planning activities;
- f. to engage with the following groups and persons in relation to the rehabilitation of declared mine land—
 - i. the Victorian community;
 - ii. other stakeholders;
 - iii. public sector bodies;
 - iv. the declared mine licensees;
- g. to conduct and support meetings between the following groups and persons in relation to rehabilitation planning activities that promote communication and the resolution of issues—
 - i. the Victorian community;
 - ii. other stakeholders;
 - iii. public sector bodies;
 - iv. the declared mine licensees;

SECTION 84AL

Functions and powers of the Rehabilitation Authority

1. The Rehabilitation Authority has the following functions—
 - a. to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the regional rehabilitation strategy in accordance with the monitoring framework;

- h. to provide advice and recommendations to the Minister in relation to—
 - i. the possible changes to the regulatory framework; and
 - ii. the outcomes of any engagement by the Rehabilitation Authority with the Victorian community or stakeholders; and
 - iii. the planning for the monitoring, and completion, of the rehabilitation of declared mine land; and
 - iv. the planning for the monitoring and maintenance of declared mine land that has been rehabilitated; and
 - v. the regional rehabilitation strategy; and
 - vi. the declared mine rehabilitation plans of the declared mine licensees;
 - i. to provide information and education to the Victorian community about—
 - i. the planning for the rehabilitation of declared mine land; and
 - ii. the regional rehabilitation strategy;
 - j. to carry out investigations on the referral of the Minister under Division 4;
 - k. to provide advice, reports and recommendations to the Minister on matters referred to the Rehabilitation Authority under Division 4;
 - 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;
 - kb. to ensure the monitoring and maintenance for registered mine land is carried out;
 - kc. to establish and maintain a register of declared mine land;
 - kd. to register declared mine land in the declared mine land register in accordance with the prescribed requirements and procedures;
 - ke. to provide advice to the Minister regarding conditions that may apply to the registration of declared mine land;
 - kf. to assess the amount of funds to be paid by declared mine licensees or land holders of declared mine land to the Rehabilitation Authority for payment into the Declared Mine Fund on the registration of declared mine land;
 - kg. to obtain and hold any entitlement, licence or permission required for the purpose of rehabilitating, monitoring and maintaining registered mine land;
 - kh. to rehabilitate, monitor, maintain and manage registered mine land in accordance with the relevant registered post-closure plan;
 - ki. to purchase, acquire and dispose of declared mine land or land in close proximity to declared mine land;
 - kj. to provide advice and recommendations to the Minister in relation to—
 - i. rehabilitation planning activities of declared mine licensees; and
 - ii. any aspect of regional, local or environmental planning that may be impacted by or impact on declared mine land; and
 - iii. declared mine land and registered mine land; and
 - iv. the regulatory framework and declared mine land;
 - kk. to provide for the preservation of relevant records and information in respect of registered mine land;
 - l. to provide advice, recommendations and reports to the Minister on the exercise of the Rehabilitation Authority's functions;
 - m. other functions conferred on the Rehabilitation Authority under this Act;
 - n. to develop and maintain, in consultation with the community, stakeholders, public sector bodies and Latrobe Valley licensees, a framework for—
 - i. the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation and effectiveness of rehabilitation planning activities and the regional rehabilitation strategy; and
 - ii. the achieving of the outcomes set out in the framework; and
 - iii. 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 regional rehabilitation strategy;
 - 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.
2. The Rehabilitation Authority has all the powers that are necessary or convenient to perform the Rehabilitation Authority's functions under this Part.



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