

Annual Report 2023–24

(Report of Operations)



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Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority
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Here at the Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority we acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country and recognise their continuing connection to land, sea, culture and community.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

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 2024.

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 2024. 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.



Therese Ryan
Chair, Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority

30 June 2024

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CHAIR'S FOREWORD



Therese Ryan

I would like to acknowledge the traditional land of the Brayakaulung people of the Gunaikurnai nation and pay respect to their Elders past and present.

The last year has been another big one for The Authority. We have now reached our originally anticipated staffing levels with the addition of Tanya Mok as a Technical Advisor and Ruth Fitzclarence as Media and Communications Officer. Following retirements on 31 December 2023 of the inaugural Board Chair, Emeritus Professor Rae Mackay and Deputy Board Chair, Christine Trotman, two new Board members were appointed and commenced 1 January 2024 – myself as Chair and Jon Crosbie as Deputy Chair. The terms of the remaining Board members were renewed, effective 30 June 2023, which has provided for a smooth transition in a complex environment. I would like to acknowledge the great work completed by Rae and Chris in establishing and guiding The Authority from its inception.

We have maintained our strategic outlook and established our Business Management System which will assist us in guiding work into the future. A refresh of The Authority's website was also undertaken. We have established a structured program of works focused on our two key themes of "working in partnership" and "conversations about water". We have delivered technical and engagement papers at conferences, released a series of fact sheets and delivered education programs into schools.

We continue to engage with our partners and stakeholders including community groups, the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Community (GLaWAC), Catchment Management Authorities, the Cooperative Research Centre for Transformations in Mining Economies (CRC TiME), local government, state government agencies, schools, TAFE and universities.

Each of the mine licensees is progressing their rehabilitation works and navigating the regulatory processes that apply. The Authority is heavily involved in assisting the mine licensees with their requirements from both the technical and engagement aspects.

We are proud of our achievements and the trust that we have built with our stakeholders based on saying what we will do and delivering what we say we will. The Board has been very happy with progress that The Authority has made over the past 12 months and the level of engagement that staff have demonstrated.

This annual report of operations provides an overview of the work completed this year to meet The Authority's statutory obligations. The work has been completed within the annual budget provided to The Authority by government.

I hope that you find this report helpful in understanding the work that we have been tasked to carry out and we also look forward to the work to be conducted in the year ahead.



Therese Ryan
Chair

30 June 2024

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:

- ensuring that the rehabilitation of declared mines and their rehabilitation plans are monitored and evaluated;
- encouraging engagement and participation across our stakeholders;
- reporting to the Minister for Energy and Resources;
- future management of landform post mining;
- mining license relinquishment and
- residual risk management post-rehabilitation.

The Authority oversees the rehabilitation of declared mine land and works collaboratively towards its transition to safe, stable and sustainable post-mining landforms. 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, productive and self-sustaining condition 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 Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy (LVRSS).

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



OUR GOAL

In planning for the management of declared mine land the MLRA will facilitate mine rehabilitation and long-term stewardship to maximise benefits and minimise potential long-term costs (environmental, social and financial) to the Victorian community.



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.

1.1 Vision (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 Mission (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 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.

Role of The Authority and services provided

As outlined in the MRSDA, it is the role of The Authority to work with community, industry, 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 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.

For most mines in Australia, rehabilitation is managed on an individual basis. 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 addressed as part of rehabilitation and closure planning for each mine.

The LVRRS provides guidance to the mine licensees, government, the community and other key stakeholders on issues that need to be considered in planning for and undertaking rehabilitation of the Latrobe Valley’s three brown coal mines. The objective of the LVRRS is to ensure the collective impacts are appropriately addressed. The initial LVRRS was developed between 2017 and 2020 and published in June 2020. A subsequent amendment to the LVRRS, providing additional guidance to the mine licensees, 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.

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;
- 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 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;
- 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.

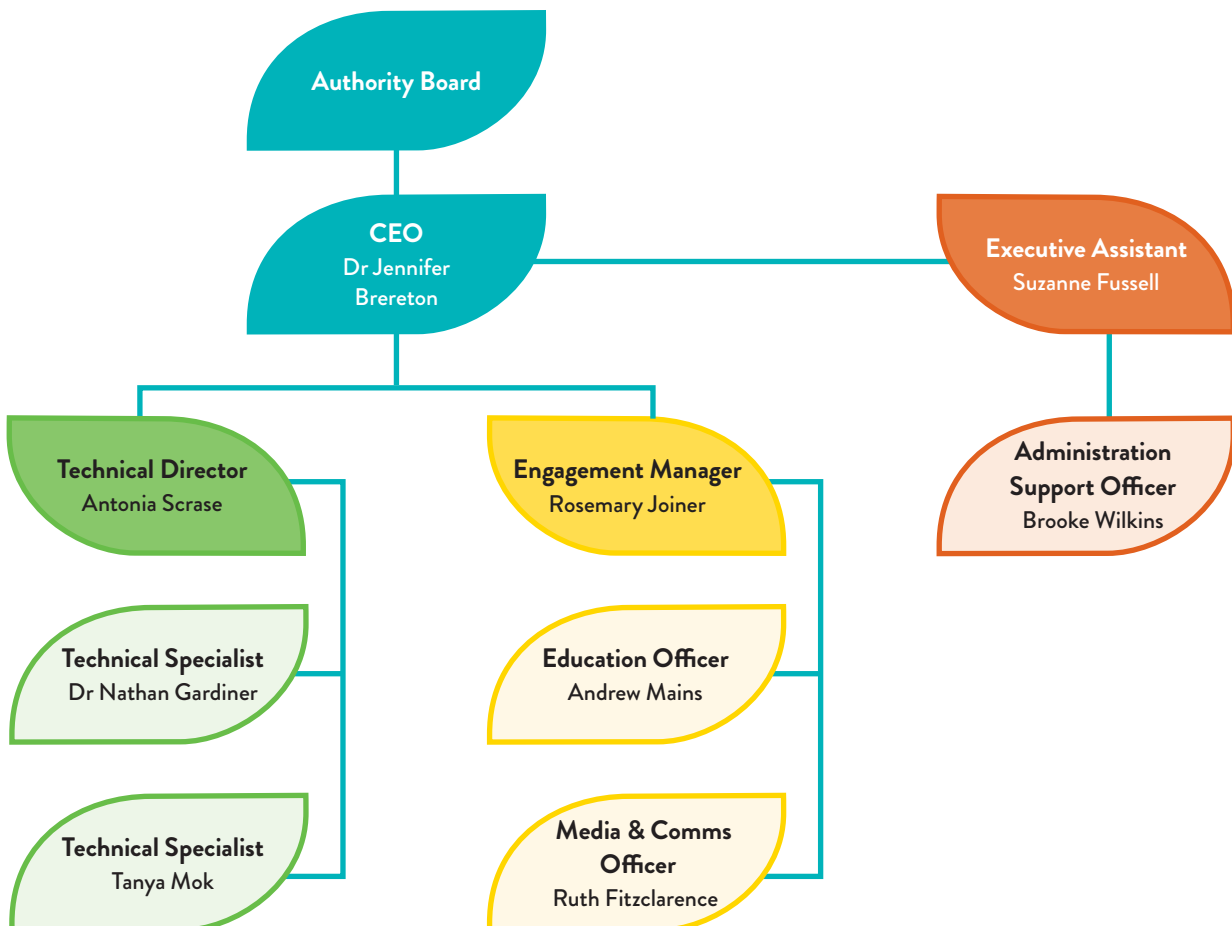
An extract from the relevant sections of the MRSDA is provided in Appendix A.

03

GOVERNANCE AND ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

3.1 Organisational structure

Staffing for 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.



3.2 The Board

The Authority has a six-member Board which is responsible providing 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.

During the reporting period two inaugural members of the Board resigned with their terms ending 31 December 2023. Emeritus Professor Rae Mackay was replaced as Chair by Therese Ryan and Christine Trotman was replaced as Deputy Chair by Jon Crosbie. The new Chair and Deputy Chair commenced in their respective roles on 1 January 2024. The remaining four board members had their terms extended by the Governor in Council on 27 June 2023. Table 3 in section 4.5 specifies the terms of The Authority's six-member Board.

During the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, the Board comprised the following members.

Past Board Members



Emeritus Professor Rae Mackay — Board Chair (ended 31 December 2023)

Emeritus Professor Rae Mackay held the role of Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner from June 2017 to June 2020 before becoming the Chair of The Authority Board.

Rae has extensive mine rehabilitation related expertise, with more than 40 years' experience as a practising engineer, hydrogeologist and academic.

He was the Director of the Geotechnical and Hydrogeological Engineering Research Group (GHERG) at Federation University, working on issues of geotechnical stability and risk at the Latrobe Valley brown coal mines from 2011 to 2017. During this time, he was also a member of Victoria's Technical Review Board, which had oversight of stability issues across the state's mines and quarries.

He was Head of Hydrogeology at Birmingham University, UK for 15 years before moving to Australia in 2011. He has worked on and researched a wide range of geotechnical, hydrogeological and water resources problems including deep geological disposal of nuclear waste arid zone groundwater resource and agricultural development, spanning many countries around the world.



Christine Trotman — Deputy Chair (ended 31 December 2023)

Mrs Chris Trotman has extensive board experience spanning 15 years, serving as Chair and member of a range of boards and audit & risk committees in the not-for-profit sector, including Chair of the Lower Yarra Ministerial Advisory Committee. Chris is the Board Chair of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, and a Board member of Parks Victoria where she Chairs the People and Safety Committee. From 1 July 2023, she was also a Board Director of TAFE Gippsland.

Formerly a Registered Nurse (Div 1), Chris holds undergraduate, postgraduate, and Masters degrees in Business/Accounting, Health Education and Business Management respectively. Chris is also a graduate of the AICD Company Directors course. She has over 20 years of executive experience, most recently as CEO of a public hospital in Gippsland. Chris has extensive experience in the areas of corporate governance, public sector administration, audit and risk management, and financial and strategic planning.

Current Board Members



Therese Ryan – Board Chair (appointed 1 January 2024)

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 13 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, 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 almost two decades working for 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 is a current member of their ESG Advisory Council, advising the Board on ESG-related industry issues and trends. He received their Performance Excellence Award in 2022.

Jon has served as an active member of many industry organisations, including the CRC TiME, Closure Planning Practitioners Association, 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



Ian Nethercote AM

Ian Nethercote 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 remain an active member of 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 University of Queensland Business School having completed her PhD in organisational processes of risk management. She has more than 30 years' knowledge and experience in managing and researching mine rehabilitation and closure and is currently the Project Lead developing ISO Standards for Managing Mining Legacies.

Corinne studied earth sciences and managed mine rehabilitation, closure and related research in Australia and overseas. Corinne is a Churchill Fellow and studied 'leading practice abandoned mine rehabilitation and post-mining land use' in Austria, Germany, UK and Canada. This research informed the study of maturity of state and territory abandoned mine programs in Australia in the Centre for Mined Land Rehabilitation, at the University of Queensland's Sustainable Minerals Institute. Corinne also led the development of an ISO standard for Managing Mining Legacies while completing her PhD in the UQ Business School on the organisational management of slow-developing risks.

- Qualifications: BScDipEd, Dip Geoscience, PhD (Management)
- Member AusIMM and Chartered Environmental Professional

3.2.1 Board Committees

During the 14 August 2023 Board meeting the Board endorsed the decision that the current committee structure be maintained until a new Chair and Deputy Chair commenced, therefore terms for each committee member were extended to 31 December 2023.

During the 19 February 2024 Board Meeting the Board reflected on the size of the organisation and the efficacy of running separate Board committees. It was resolved the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee and the People, Safety and Culture Committee be disbanded and all obligations and functions be added as standing items on the Board meeting agenda.

Disbanded Board Committees

Prior to 1 January 2024, there were two Board committees: the Audit and Finance Committee; and the People, Safety and Culture Committee. Both committees comprise select Board members and operated under Charters approved by the Board. As Board members are not involved in the day-to-day management of The Authority, committee members are independent.

The Audit, Finance and Risk Committee (disbanded 19 February 2024)

The primary objective of this committee was to oversee and advise the Board on matters of accountability relating to financial accounting practices, risk management, internal control systems, external financial reporting, and internal and external audit function. All members of this committee during the reporting period were independent.

Committee Members: Ian Nethercote (committee Chair), Claire Miller, Dr Corinne Unger

The People, Safety and Culture Committee (disbanded 19 February 2024)

The role of this committee was to assist the Board to fulfill its responsibilities in relation to The Authority's performance measures, remuneration of the CEO, oversight of workforce strategy, people related policies, organisational culture and worker health and safety for all Authority staff and contractors. All members of this committee during the reporting period were independent.

Committee Members: Christine Trotman (committee Chair), Ian Gibson, Emeritus Professor Rae Mackay



04

PERFORMANCE REPORT

4.1. Legislated Objectives

The following provides a report against The Authority's operational activities during the reporting period of 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

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 public sector bodies through workshops, meetings, provision of advice and consultation;
- monitored the activities of the Latrobe Valley mine licensees through regular scheduled meetings, workshops, provision of advice and consultation; and
- informed the community of the outcomes of this work through the development of fact sheets, print media, radio media, scheduled meetings with community groups, panel discussions and social media posts.

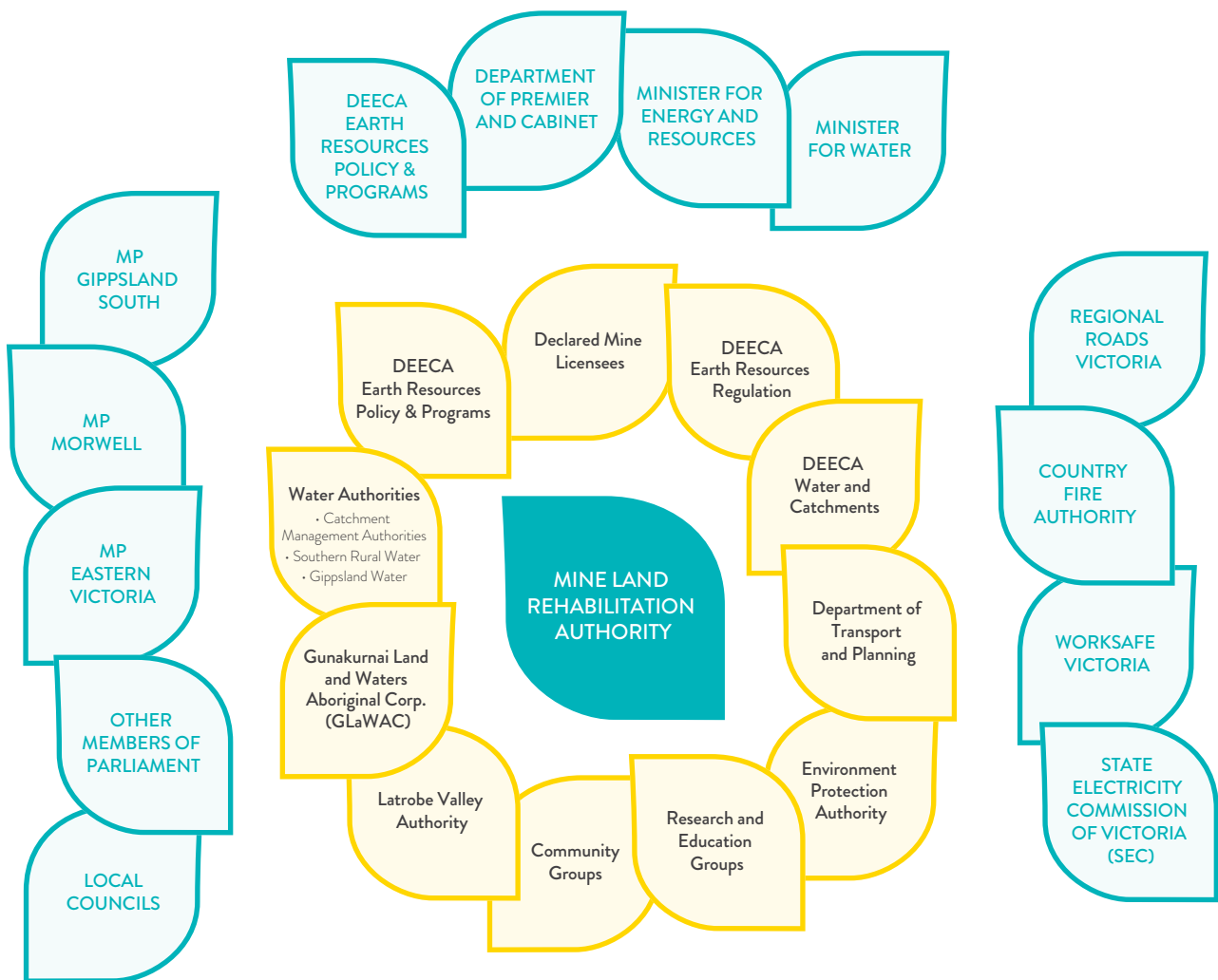
4.1.2 Authority objective

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 the Latrobe Valley mine licensees through regular scheduled meetings, workshops, provision of advice and consultation. Key to this is the involvement of The Authority in monitoring the mine licensees during the development of their Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plans (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 the diagram below. (Figure 1) The Authority’s key stakeholder connections; and
- informed the community of the outcomes of this work through the development of fact sheets, print media, radio media, scheduled meetings with community groups, panel discussions and social media posts.

Figure 1. The Authority’s key stakeholder connections



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 RMIT 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 team members attended, presented content and published papers;
- published articles in the media about mine rehabilitation;
- held regular meetings with Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) about joint projects including the Gippsland Seed Bank project and The Authority's educational video project;
- attended a number of community events, including the 10 years on from the Hazelwood Fire; and
- attended mine licensee driven community events including ENGIE Hazelwood Technical Conversation Sessions and AGL Loy Yang 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:

- were members of the technical reference group for the ENGIE Hazelwood Environmental Effects Statement;
- held quarterly meetings with each of the Latrobe Valley mine licensees and discussed relevant issues openly and transparently;
- held joint meetings with water authorities and mine licensees to encourage positive conversations, understand information and data available and work through issues and solutions; and
- contributed advice and knowledge to both DEECA and mine licensees in relation to the development of the Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan.

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 which is a two year project with the aim of identifying appropriate land capacity / use in the future pending rehabilitation of the declared mine land;
- commenced working with Latrobe City Council (LCC) and their aspirations;
- 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.

4.1.6 Authority objective

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

On 7 July 2023, The Authority received correspondence from the Minister for Energy and Resources initiating formal consultation between The Authority and DEECA on a proposed amendment to the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy (LVRRS). This consultation is under section 84AZR of the MRSDA. The Authority participated in this consultation.

4.2. Functions and powers

The following provides a report against The Authority's functional activities during the reporting period of 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

4.2.1 Authority functions and powers

Coordinating rehabilitation planning activities

The Authority:

- coordinated joint meetings with the water authorities and mine licensees;
- participated in panels to discuss rehabilitation activities; and
- coordinated participation in workshops for the development of Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plans (DMRP) for each mine licensee.

AGL — Loy Yang

A number of meetings have been held with AGL Loy Yang to discuss rehabilitation planning, monitoring and evaluation, and engagement.

Authority staff have attended and provided input into meetings of the AGL Loy Yang's Community Dialogue group and Environmental Review Committee.

Following the decision by AGL Loy Yang to cease power generation in 2035 (approximately 12 years earlier than originally planned) the timeline for commencement of final rehabilitation has been significantly compressed. The company has a dedicated rehabilitation team to address all issues related to preparing for and gaining approval for their rehabilitation plans under the new Declared Mine Rehabilitation Regulations.

Alinta — Loy Yang B power station

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

ENGIE — Hazelwood

The Authority held a number of meetings with ENGIE Hazelwood to discuss rehabilitation planning, monitoring and evaluation, and engagement.

The Authority is represented on the Technical Review Group for the ENGIE Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project – Environment Effects Statement referral process and has met with ENGIE Hazelwood as part of the consultation process around the Environment Effects Statement process which includes reviewing technical reports.

ENGIE Hazelwood's Rehabilitation Project continues to progress its field programs as they develop their Environment Effects Statement submission and staff of The Authority have maintained oversight of these programs. ENGIE Hazelwood's rehabilitation plans have also been referred under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1990 (Cth) in relation to impacts on regional water resources.

ENGIE has commenced development of their DMRP which is due for submission in October 2025 unless application for extension is submitted. As part of the development of the DMRP a closure risk assessment was undertaken. The Authority was invited and attended ENGIE's Hazelwood Closure Risk Assessment in May 2024.

EnergyAustralia — Yallourn

A number of meetings have been held with EnergyAustralia Yallourn to discuss rehabilitation planning, monitoring and evaluation, and engagement.

EnergyAustralia Yallourn has commenced development of their DMRP which is due for submission in October 2025 unless an application for extension is submitted. As part of the development of the DMRP a closure risk assessment was undertaken. The Authority was invited and attended the EnergyAustralia Yallourn Closure Risk Assessment in February 2024.

EnergyAustralia Yallourn has proactively involved The Authority in rehabilitation planning through inviting The Authority to technical options assessment workshops. EnergyAustralia Yallourn has also assisted The Authority in delivering its educational outreach program by hosting both Lowanna College's VCE environmental science students for a field work exercise as well as the Baw Baw Latrobe LLEN.

Joint Mine Licensee / Water Authority

The Authority coordinated five meetings between the mine licensees and local water authorities (Gippsland Water, Southern Rural Water, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority) and GLaWAC, to discuss the ongoing rehabilitation planning of the mines.

Technical Review Group for ENGIE Hazelwood EES

The Authority participated in 12 technical reference group meetings for the ENGIE Hazelwood Environmental Effects Statement.



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 mine licensees and Resources Victoria; and
- implemented The Authority's Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (MEF) originally released in 2022 and commenced work on a revised MEF. The Authority's (MEF) is designed to provide clarity and guidance to key stakeholder groups and the wider community on The Authority's role in declared mine rehabilitation planning, oversight and outcomes. The Authority's MEF was reviewed and updated during the latter half of the reporting period. Consultation with stakeholders and community members of the Latrobe Valley region, public sector bodies, and mine licensees on the revised version of the framework commenced June 2024.

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 2023–24 reporting period. A high level of oversight is already exercised in relation to mine rehabilitation practices.

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

The Authority implemented its Engagement and Education Plan across the period through a dedicated workplan addressing the needs of the community and stakeholders, comprising Traditional Owners, public bodies, mine licensees, industry, community and research groups.

The Authority conducted a broad range of community engagement activities including:

- New Energy Technology (NET) program (1)** – 3 secondary school students mentored to graduation as part of the NET program focused on technologies, engineering and emerging jobs with students mentored to design, research and develop innovations and learn about the jobs of the future (November 2023)
- mine closure workshop (1)** – 67 Attendees (37 online/30 in person): professionals engaged to provide diverse and honest views of mine closure's iterative nature, problems and the importance of access to appropriate skills by industry and government (May 2024)
- conference presentations (3)** – 43rd Annual Conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment, Countering Consultation Fatigue in Regional Approaches to Just Transition (April 2024,) CRC TiME Annual Forum Unravelling the Rehabilitation Spiderweb (November 2023) Life of Mine Conference, Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority, reducing the risk for Victoria, Australia (October 2023)
- Festival of Big Ideas (FOBI) events (2)** – The Authority participated in two festival events in collaboration with the Latrobe Valley Authority highlighting mine rehabilitation and revegetation with a youth audience
- research projects (5)** – Funding of and involvement in CRC TiME's Collaborative planning for post-mining development in Latrobe Valley project



- **published interviews (2)** – Mining Magazine and Gippslandia
- **Mine Rehabilitation Vocabulary (1)** – Vocabulary designed to provide a consistent, shared baseline of terms relevant to declared mine rehabilitation in Victoria
- **educational videos (1)** – development of Series Two ‘A Changing Landscape’ to educate and inform the community about mine rehabilitation. One of these videos was co-designed with the Latrobe Valley Authority. Commenced development of bespoke video in collaboration with GLaWAC focusing on Traditional Owner views on mine rehabilitation
- **meetings with community members and community groups (over 10)** – one-on-one meetings with individual community members and community groups encouraging people to come and talk to us and share their views on mine rehabilitation
- **community engagement events (2)** – to engage with the community, encourage two-way conversation, and share merchandise, including seed-sticks collaboration with local Gippsland nursery and ecological contractor Habitat Creations, “10 Years On” Community event – ten years after the Hazelwood Mine fire (February 2024), and the Federation University Open-Day (August 2023)
- **major review and update to The Authority website (1)** – To ensure content is relevant, accurate and current. Minor reviews and updates are conducted regularly
- **surveys (2)** – preferred time, day and format for community events; after-event survey to gain feedback from attendees on the content of the event, ideas for future events and to encourage conversion to social media followers and email subscribers
- **media releases (4)** – Trafalgar Secondary School Mine Site Visit (May 2024), Lavalla Catholic College Mine Site Visit (February 2024), Board appointments (February 2024) and the Future of Latrobe Valley mines on international agenda (August 2023)
- **career expos (4)** – attended careers days and talks to demonstrate possible future directions and job opportunities within mine rehabilitation (August, October 2023 and May 2024)
- **field trips (3)** – visits and tours of mine sites for students and teachers to highlight career pathways as well as Environmental Science VCE Fieldwork and VCE Speciality studies in Mine Rehabilitation (October 2023, March and May 2024)
- **radio interviews (4)** – Interviews on local radio covering topics including: The Authority Literature Review (March 2024), the departure of the long-term Authority Chair (December 2023) the LVRRS amendment, water allocations (October 2023), and The Authority’s engagement and education program (July 2023)
- **social media posts (240+)** – Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn social media posts spanning a wide variety of topics relating to mine rehabilitation that reached over 4k users and had over 1400 interactions. All of this has been organic – no paid advertising
- **factsheets (5)** – accessible to a broad audience (via The Authority’s website) and providing key information relevant to mine rehabilitation, The Authority has published the following factsheets: ‘Monitoring and Evaluation Framework’ (June 2024); ‘Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan’ (April 2024); ‘Key Terminology: Understanding the language of mine rehabilitation’ (December 2023), ‘What does mine rehabilitation look like around the world?’ (November 2023), ‘Hazelwood Rehabilitation Investigation Report’ (August 2023)
- **literature review (1)** – To inform the understanding of community consultation about mine rehabilitation, this review considers the literature related to community consultation on declared mine rehabilitation in the Latrobe Valley, Victoria, Australia (February 2024)
- **email campaigns - (3 to over 310 subscribers)** – The Authority’s Engagement Roadshow, Declared Mine Rehabilitation Fact Sheet, Consultation Report
- **visits and presentations to schools (16)** – bespoke classroom lessons delivered either as a part of a broader activity such as a mine visits or as a part of ongoing enquiry programmes, ranging from primary years through to VCE
- **sprout initiative** – working in collaboration with local Gippsland nursery and ecological contractor Habitat Creations developed and trialed a schools-focused planting program highlighting difficulties in plant selection for rehabilitation, characteristics suited to better planting and processes to harvesting and store seeds

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 studies through the EES process for ENGIE Hazelwood (specifically Geotechnical in April and May 2024);
- participated in EnergyAustralia Yallourn Mine Rehabilitation and Stabilisation Strategy workshop (September 2023);
- reviewed detailed documentation at the request of the mine licensees and actively seeks this information / study status through quarterly meetings; and
- regularly discussed issues with Resources Victoria.

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

During the reporting period, The Authority met with the Minister for Energy and Resources on three occasions and had monthly meetings with the Minister for Energy and Resources' Advisor and other ministerial staff.

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

The Authority:

- engaged with each declared mine licensee and provided advice on their rehabilitation and closure plans. Each mine licensee is required to develop a Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan by 2025;
- participated in closure risk assessment at EnergyAustralia Yallourn and ENGIE Hazelwood mine sites; and
- collaborated with Resources Victoria's Policy and Programs team on the development of the Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan guidelines.

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.

During the reporting period, from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, three meetings with the Minister for Energy and Resources and monthly meetings with the Minister for Energy and Resources' Advisor and other ministerial staff were held.

4.3 Strategic Objectives

Consistent with its functions and powers as defined in the MRSDA, The Authority focused on three strategic objectives for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. 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 the delivery components noted in the table below have been achieved during this reporting period.

Table 2. Strategic Objectives

Strategic objectives	Implementation purpose	Delivery Components
1. Meaningful Engagement	<p>Develop strong relationships between partners, stakeholders and community</p> <p>Listen, participate and empower all to achieve an informed outcome</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Engagement and Education Plan ■ Co-design projects ■ Community and school education ■ Open dialogues ■ Knowledge sharing ■ Structured meetings ■ Networking ■ Inter-departmental engagement activities ■ Collaboration ■ Digital communication ■ Stakeholder Register ■ Maintaining records of meetings
2. Evaluate, Facilitate, Advise	<p>Evaluate reports, information and data; facilitate the distribution of information to relevant parties and provide robust, science based, independent advice to our stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Monitoring and Evaluation Framework ■ Monitoring and Evaluation Implementation Plan ■ Meeting timeframes and expectations for delivery of advice ■ Social media and website updates
3. Technical Expertise/Research	<p>Facilitate rehabilitation outcomes underpinned by independent, robust and transparent science-based information in a timely manner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Evolving program of work ■ Project plans ■ Achieving timeframes for requested advice ■ Members of relevant groups e.g. technical reference group for the ENGIE Hazelwood Environmental Effects Statement ■ Projects in collaboration with CRC TiME

4.4 Other Activities

The Authority has been engaged in a broad spectrum of other activities directly associated with its governance remit including:

Business Management System

The Authority's Business Management System (BMS) has been established to ensure the Authority's effective operations. Significant effort has also been devoted to developing The Authority's governance systems as well as planning for future activities. This is not only related to the current remit of The Authority within the Latrobe Valley, but also more widely in relation to abandoned and legacy mines across the state that might require long term management. This includes the development of the following (some of which are not yet finalised):

- a complete Business Management System.
- an updated Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.
- a Risk Management Plan.
- key Background Documents:
 - Background of the Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority;
 - Mine Rehabilitation;
 - History of Mining in the Latrobe Valley; and
 - Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority Vocabulary.
- Implementation Plan.
- Drafting of procedures that support the BMS.

Legislative Mapping

Undertaking legislative mapping, including mapping all relevant legislation associated with mine rehabilitation to identify overlaps and issues with the legislation that may impact on achieving a successful outcome.

Engagement in mine rehabilitation

- Part of the project team tasked with the procurement process for the Central Bendigo Mine Rehabilitation Ground Water Treatment Plant Project (with the Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action being the lead agency).
- Attending and contributing to national and international conferences to gain new insights into leading practice in mine closure and to promote the extensive work on rehabilitation underway in Victoria.
- Participating in closure and mine rehabilitation research projects of relevance to declared mine closure and rehabilitation in Victoria, notably through the ten-year Cooperative Research, Centre for Transformations in Mining Economies (CRC TiME), which is focused on improving post-mine outcomes across Australia and is co-funded by the Australian Federal Government and industry, including:
 - managing acceptable levels of transferable residual risk;
 - mine pit lake Assessment and management; A national initiative to support mine closure and regional opportunities;
 - collaborative planning for people navigating mine land transition in Australia's Latrobe Valley;
 - limitations and issues with using the Discounted Cash Flow Net Present Value method for calculation of mine closure and post mine closure;
 - a systematic approach to Regional Cumulative Effects Assessment and Management; and
 - research into education and training options to upskill the next generation of mine closure and transition specialists.

Communication and Engagement

- Facilitating dialogue between mine licensees and water authorities at quarterly intervals to ensure that any options for water for rehabilitation that might eventually be adopted are properly discussed and the costs and benefits are identified and understood.
- Community engagement through a range of social media outlets, through community meetings and via The Authority's recently redeveloped website.



4.5 The Authority's Board

Board Activities

The Board met six times across the reporting period. The Board maintained 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 the launch of LVRRS Amendments** – Board representatives attended launch by the Minister for Energy and Resources and Minister for Water, at Federation University (October 2023)
- **Attended the Annual CRC TiME Forum** – held in the Latrobe Valley (Federation University) (November 2023)
- **Induction of new Chair and Deputy Chair** – following the resignation of the inaugural Chair and Deputy Chair, a new Chair and Deputy Chair were appointed and commenced (1 January 2024)

- **Attended "Ten Years on Community Event"** a gathering to reflect on the community's progress since the Hazelwood Mine fire (February 2024)
- **Participated in The Authority's Training Day** attended by staff from various government departments to better inform government about the complexities of mine land rehabilitation (May 2024)

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 2023-24 period.

Table 3. Member's appointment and attendance for the 2023-24 period

Name	Date appointed	End of term	Board Meetings Attended	Meetings eligible to attend
Emeritus Prof Rae Mackay (Chair)	30 June 2020	31 December 2023	3	3
Therese Ryan (Chair)	1 January 2024	31 December 2028	3	3
Christine Trotman (Deputy Chair)	30 June 2020	31 December 2023	3	3
Jonathon Crosbie (Deputy Chair)	1 January 2024	31 December 2027	3	3
Ian Gibson	30 June 2020	29 June 2025	6	6
Claire Miller	30 June 2020	29 June 2025	5	6
Ian Nethercote	30 June 2020	29 June 2027	6	6
Dr Corinne Unger	30 June 2020	29 June 2027	3*	6

* Dr Corinne Unger was granted leave of absence for the period 1 August 2023 to 31 January 2024.

Board Committees

During the 19 February 2024 Board Meeting the Board reflected on the size of the organisation and the efficacy of running separate Board committees. It was resolved the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee and the People Safety and Culture Committee be disbanded and all obligations and functions of these committees be added as Standing Items on the Board Meeting Agenda.

The Audit, Finance and Risk Committee oversaw and advised the Board on matters of accountability relating to financial accounting practices, risk management, internal control systems and external financial reporting. Taking into account the reduced number of obligations of the committee in the initial half of the reporting period, the committee did not meet during the year and instead all obligations and functions were included in the Board agenda.

The People, Safety and Culture Committee assisted the Board to fulfill its oversight responsibilities in relation to the corporate culture and the health, wellbeing, and safety of Authority staff and its contractors. One committee meeting took place during the reporting period (October 2023) and was attended by all members.

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 2023-24 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. The plan is published on The Authority's website.

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 2024, 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 2023-24.

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*.

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 contains information about the composition of the DEECA staff that support The Authority, as of 30 June 2024 for greater transparency.

5.4 Other disclosures

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

Table 4. Workforce Data

Classification	2023–2024	
	Employees (head count)	FTE
CEO (SES-1)	1	1
Technical Director (VPS-7)	1	1
Technical Specialists (VPS-6)	2	2
Executive Assistant (VPS-4)	1	1
Administration Support Officer (VPS-3)	1	1
Engagement Manager (VPS-6)	1	1
Education Officer (VPS-5)	1	1
Media and Communications Officer (VPS-5)	1	1
Total	9	9



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 **\$32.70** 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 2023 - 2024, 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 1

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.

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;
- 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;
- 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.**





MINE LAND
REHABILITATION
AUTHORITY

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