



Consultation report: Engagement Roadshow 2024

In 2024, the Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority held its first Engagement Roadshow. The purpose of this roadshow was to connect with stakeholders directly, offering a platform for open dialogue, relationship-building, and feedback gathering. In addition, these events were an opportunity to launch *A Changing Landscape Series Two*, conduct consultation about the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and share several other projects with stakeholders and the community.

The roadshow included in-person and online events.

What We Did

In 2024, we conducted a series of face-to-face and online events as follows:

Date and Time	Venue	Format
Thursday 4 th July, 2pm	Latrobe Valley GovHub, Community Hub	Roadshow event
Thursday 4 th July, 5pm	Latrobe Valley GovHub, Community Hub	Roadshow event
Wednesday 10 th July	Online	Webinar
Tuesday 29 th November, 2pm	Latrobe Valley GovHub, Community Hub	Open House
Tuesday 29 th November, 5pm	Latrobe Valley GovHub, Community Hub	Open House

A Roadshow event scheduled for Thursday 27th June, 2pm at 1 Spring Street, Melbourne, was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

Key activities included in the roadshow included:

Launch A Changing Landscape Series Two

The in-person events included the screening of videos from Series Two of *A Changing Landscape*. These videos aim to address the most common questions about mine rehabilitation. We've developed this series to inform the community and empower conversations about issues and opportunities around mine rehabilitation in the Latrobe Valley.

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework consultation

The purpose of the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework consultation was to consult with community, stakeholders, public sector bodies and Latrobe Valley licensees around the MLRA's Monitoring and Evaluation Framework in line with requirements stated in the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990. Copies of the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and copies of the factsheet about the framework were available at the roadshow events for attendees to read and take home with them.

Panel discussions

At the roadshow events, we welcomed to the stage a moderated panel discussion with a group of experts. Leading on from the topics covered in the *A Changing Landscape* video, the panel discussed a number of issues related to mine rehabilitation. The panel then answered questions from the audience.

Sprout project

As part of the ongoing discussion regarding rehabilitated landscapes, the Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority has made seed packs available to start the conversation about what species might be planted around mines and why. Our Sprout seed packs were available at all face-to-face roadshow events.

MLRA 3D AR app

Attendees at the Open House sessions were invited to experience the Mine Rehab 3D Augmented Reality App and explore the journey of mine rehabilitation first-hand.

What We Heard

As part of these contact sessions, a number of messages came through. Key themes relevant to mine rehabilitation were:

Responsibility

People we spoke with expressed a strong interest in seeing Latrobe Valley mine licensees appropriately fulfill their corporate responsibilities, ensuring that taxpayers are not left with an undue financial burden for mine rehabilitation. The panel discussion facilitated a conversation on the concepts of financial assurance mechanisms and trailing liability. A financial assurance, such as a bond required from the mine licensee, is held by the government and can be used if the licensee fails to complete necessary mine closure activities. Trailing liability relates to the government issuing remedial directions to recall former title holders or related parties to complete rehabilitation works if a current title holder fails or is unable to do so. A review is underway relating to trailing liability declared mines. Despite these steps, there continues to be a level of concern around this issue.



Leadership

People we spoke with expressed a strong preference for transparent and well-defined leadership to guide the mine rehabilitation transition in the Latrobe Valley. They emphasised the importance of having clear, coordinated direction to ensure that all parties involved understand their roles and responsibilities throughout the transition process. Additionally, stakeholders highlighted that clear leadership would enhance accountability, streamline decision-making, and facilitate clear communication, ultimately contributing to a more efficient and equitable transition.

Transparency

Stakeholders emphasised the need for transparency in decision-making related to the rehabilitation of the Latrobe Valley's declared mines. Community members expressed frustration over the frequent reference to research studies by industry and government stakeholders that influence decision-making but have not yet been made publicly accessible. This lack of access has led to a sense of fatigue among community members. Increased transparency would enable the community and Traditional Owners to participate more meaningfully in the rehabilitation process, fostering greater involvement and trust in the transition efforts.

Water

People we spoke with expressed a desire to ensure Traditional Owner aspirations and connection to country in relation to water and its use was considered when decisions were made and conversations were had relating to the mine rehabilitation transition in the Latrobe Valley. This is in line with what we have heard in previous consultations.

Opportunity

We consistently hear from individuals who are strongly committed to ensuring that the rehabilitation of the Latrobe Valley's declared mines delivers meaningful benefits for local communities. Stakeholders recognised the socio-economic challenges facing the Latrobe Valley community and expressed a desire for the rehabilitation and transition process to serve as an opportunity for enhancing quality of life through avenues such as employment, education, and tourism, as well as by creating an environment the community can take pride in. As one participant noted, "This is the opportunity to get it right. If we miss the opportunity and get it wrong we mess up this area and all areas down to the Gippsland lakes."

Further feedback

Event attendees were invited to complete a feedback survey, with results indicating high satisfaction regarding clarity and information gain. All respondents (100%) reported that the information presented at the event was either "Clear" or "Very Clear." Additionally, all survey participants confirmed that attending the event increased their understanding of the Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority's role. When asked about topics of further interest, respondents expressed a desire for more detailed information on the mine rehabilitation process, the potential for early release of mine license land for community use, and how the MLRA plans to ensure that social and environmental impacts of mine rehabilitation are fully addressed.





Attendees enjoy a screening of *A Changing Landscape* at the MLRA Engagement Roadshow

What we will do next

We use this feedback to guide our work as we work with community, industry and government to oversee the rehabilitation of declared mine land to ensure transition to safe, stable and sustainable post-mining landforms in Victoria. We also share this feedback with stakeholders. We continue to carry out meaningful engagement to develop strong relationships between partners, stakeholders and community. We continue to host engagement events and encourage direct meetings with community groups and individuals. There is interest in rescheduling the Melbourne Roadshow, and we look forward to hosting a similar event in Melbourne in 2025.

Want to know more?

If you have any questions or comments, you can contact us by calling 1800 571 966, emailing contactus@mineland.vic.gov.au, following us on social media, or subscribing to our mailing list at www.mineland.vic.gov.au.

