



There is a high level of anxiety in the community around energy transition for several reasons: Firstly, the shock of Hazelwood Power Station's sudden closure announcement has left people in fear that this could happen again. Secondly, because the Latrobe Valley Authority's economic diversification work has received insufficient publicity, many people in the Valley do not yet understand that there are a plethora of industries beyond coal available now and in the future. Lastly there is further anxiety that the remaining power stations will not operate for as long as their owners claim. We have spoken with power station workers who are scared for the welfare of their families because they are concerned that the power stations will not remain open as long as their owners claim, and yet have received no honest communication.

Beyond allaying community concerns, announcing realistic closure dates allows for necessary economic planning. This gives community members opportunities to be involved in planning for their own future and builds their confidence in and hope for a better future. There is a very large capacity for renewable energy jobs that can utilise the energy generation expertise of people currently working in the coal industry. Having realistic closure dates for all remaining coal power stations will enable suitable planning to make sure that renewable energy and other projects are able to dovetail into the broader industrial transition plan.

#### Summary:

To improve health in the Valley, the Valley can and should be supported to return to the level of prosperity it enjoyed before the privatisation of the State Electricity Commission. This will require much more funding, committed for many years, for the Latrobe Valley Authority to work in partnership with the community and industry to deliver a full transition plan from coal to other industries. We recommend that the Victorian Government commit to this outcome immediately.

#### References:

1. Teague B, Catford J & Roper A (2016). Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry report 2015/2016 volume III - health improvement. Retrieved from <http://hazelwoodinquiry.vic.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Hazelwood-Mine-Fire-Inquiry-2015-2016-Report-Volume-III-Health-Improvement.pdf>
2. Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi), Germany (2019). Commission on Growth, Structural Change and Employment. Retrieved from <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Publikationen/commission-on-growth-structural-change-and-employment.pdf>

#### **FILE ATTACHMENTS**

**File1:**

**File2:**

**File3:**

#### **Signature:**

Henry Jennens