

Food & Fibre Gippsland Inc.

PO Box 857, Warragul VIC 3820
ABN: 27 546 137 219
Registration: A0105635W



LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/foodandfibregippsland](https://www.linkedin.com/company/foodandfibregippsland)
Facebook: [facebook.com/foodandfibregippsland](https://www.facebook.com/foodandfibregippsland)
www.foodandfibregippsland.com.au

29 October 2021

RE: INQUIRY INTO THE CLOSURE OF THE HAZELWOOD AND YALLORN POWER STATIONS

We appreciate the opportunity of submitting our views to the work of the Latrobe Valley Authority (LVA) in relation to the above noted inquiry.

To provide a brief overview of our organisation: The DNA of our organisation, and networks, lies in clustering and collaboration to achieve innovation, and enrich networking as part of that. Food & Fibre Gippsland is the peak representative body for the food and fibre value chain – a sector contributing \$7B annually to Gippsland’s regional GRP. Our organisation has comprehensive engagement and connectivity with growers, producers, on-farm operators; manufacturers and processors; supply companies and transport operators; exporters; retailers; Local Government Authorities and regulatory bodies to highlight just a few stakeholder areas. We are viewed as a trusted entity to the industry. Project deliveries Food & Fibre Gippsland undertakes includes sector work in waste, circular economy, workforce capability and capacity building, advanced processing in horticulture, export growth, technology platforms, and value-adding opportunities for Gippsland’s regional growth. We are a highly regarded and included participant in numerous CRC’s (Food Agility CRC; Fight Food Waste CRC, as examples) and are a successfully aligned cluster organisation to FIAL (Commonwealth food and agribusiness growth centre).

Food & Fibre Gippsland (F&FG) has been partnering with the LVA under the program “Gippsland Smart Specialisation Strategy” (GS3). In short, this work has, and continues to be a “game-changer” for the region and economic and workforce transitioning. Latrobe Valley Authority have brought a comprehensive set of skills and engagement processes to drive this, both in a tangible and intangible sense. This includes:

- Global engagement and connectivity to the European Union and specifically countries such as The Netherlands, driving knowledge exchange, process and practice adoption practices, technology awareness sharing, and opportunity for deep collaboration
- Methodology and framing for Government, community, industry, and academia to deeply work collaboratively and be at the same table contributing to that collaboration
- Building the environment that exploration and discovery to get to the right outcomes requires both success and failures and the lesson learned and applied from both are important
- An incredible level of governance to support that framework and ensure that early work remains connected to, and does deliver measurable outcomes and genuine economic stimulus and growth support
- Curiosity, creativity, bravery, commitment, nurturing, and sharing

