

**Economy and Infrastructure Committee**

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Inquiry: Inquiry into the Closure of the Hazelwood and Yallourn Power Stations

Hearing Date: 2 March 2022

Questions taken on notice

**Directed to: Mr Buckingham, Chief Executive Officer, Latrobe Valley Authority**

**1. Ms BATH Page no. 5**

**Question asked.**

Can you provide some documentation about the ongoing jobs – so X project created Y jobs and they are still ongoing? How can you provide that certainty to this committee?

**Response:**

As at November 2021, the LVA has contributed to more than 4000 employment outcomes from investments in infrastructure and local programs. These include:

- 1156 jobs have been created by support provided to 374 businesses through the Economic Growth Zone Reimbursement Scheme.
- 1498 unemployed people who live in the Latrobe Valley have been hired as a result of funding provided through the Back to Work Scheme.
- Over 730 workers impacted by the closure of Hazelwood and Carter Holt Harvey sawmill have been supported to find employment by the Worker Transition Service.
- 500 jobs across the region resulting from major infrastructure projects funded through the Latrobe Valley Sports and Community Initiative.
- Since November 2016 (the month Hazelwood closure was made public) there are currently (Jan 2022) 4,700 more persons employed in Latrobe-Gippsland (SA4).

The creation of jobs creates flow on effects in the local economy. As persons shift from welfare to employment, personal consumption rises (as income rises and so to an individual's marginal propensity to consume) supporting employment growth in surrounding sectors. To track the long-term outcomes of individual jobs is costly, resource intensive and may have privacy implications. The LVA instead focusses on providing the policy settings to support and facilitate strong and sustainable employment growth for the local economy and abroad.

**2. Ms BATH Page no. 5**

**Question asked.**

Ultimately one of your performance indicators is your 4000 jobs, but how do we know that those 4000 people are currently receiving an income from Latrobe Valley as a result of that? I think

rather than saying the markets will change, how can we be sure of that, and can you provide that information?

**Response:**

Please see answer to Question 1

The latest unemployment figures show a considerable improvement in the unemployment numbers between now and when Hazelwood Power station closed:

Latrobe-Gippsland (SA4) Labour Force Data (ABS, 2022, 3-month moving average)

November 2016 – 7.9%

January 2020 – 3.7% (pre COVID-19 Pandemic)

January 2022 – 4.7%