



Economy and Infrastructure Committee

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

Hearing Date: 24 November 2021

Questions taken on notice

Directed to: Mr Steven Piasente, Chief Executive Officer, Latrobe City Council

1. Ms BATH Page no. 5

Question asked.

Employment rate chart - How does that stack up in relation to other regions? If we need to compare region by region, what about Ballarat, Bendigo, Shepparton or Geelong? How do we stack up against those? Would you mind quantifying that?

Response:

A spreadsheet is attached showing 2020 comparative data for Latrobe City, Rural Victoria, the City of Ballarat, Greater Bendigo City Council and Greater Geelong City Council. This is the latest data we hold. We do not hold this data for Shepparton but it will form part of the Rural Victoria data.

Using the first quarter of 2020 as a baseline, the spreadsheet shows information for population, Gross Regional Product (GRP); employment where the location is the domicile of the worker and employment where the location is the place of work showing the estimate made before the pandemic (pre-Covid) and actuals (post-Covid).

For example, for Latrobe City as a place of work, across 2020 before the pandemic it was expected that jobs would increase by 0.5% (to 100.5%) but in fact jobs fell by 3.4% (to 96.6%). The comparative data shows that jobs in all other locations were also adversely impacted by the pandemic but not by as much as those in Latrobe City.

2. Ms SHING Page no. 5

Question asked.

Why was the LVA not included in the transition taskforce?

Response:

The Latrobe City Mayor initiated the Transition Taskforce and the Transition Reference Group.



The Transition Taskforce membership was limited to elected representatives of the Commonwealth and State Parliaments and the Latrobe City Mayor. As a result, the LVA was not eligible for membership.

The Transition Reference Group was established to support the Transition Taskforce and was comprised of representatives from Commonwealth and State departments and agencies, unions and business groups. The LVA was invited to join the Transition Reference Group.

3. Ms SHING Page no. 7

Question asked.

When providing the data to question 1 – could you include a trend from the establishment of the LVA to now in relation to unemployment data and what those subsets look like?

Response:

The best available data is the Small Area Labour Markets publication from the Australian Government Department of Jobs and Small Business. An extract covering the requested time period is attached.

4. Mr MEDDICK Page no. 9

Question asked.

Full time, part time, casual jobs, prior to closure of Hazelwood and then what it is right now?

Response:

This detail is not currently held by Council although the information is available. We have requested the information and I had hoped it would have been provided by now but I will forward it to the Committee as soon as it is available.