Latrobe Valley and Gippsland Transition Plan – Discussion Paper

# Purpose and background

In March 2022, the Latrobe Valley Authority (LVA) was asked by the Victorian Government to lead the development of a transition plan for the Latrobe Valley.

Since then, the LVA has been listening to individuals, community groups, peak organisations, employers, industry groups, unions, Traditional Owners, professional bodies, education and training providers and local government to hear and understand the views of Gippslanders on what is important to them.

Many parts of Gippsland are experiencing significant economic and social transition. A lot of the changes are interconnected.

Key stakeholders have consistently voiced the need for a cohesive and united approach; one that recognises the distinct strengths and characteristics of communities across Gippsland. As a placebased organisation, the LVA have a deep appreciation of the need to encourage collaboration and partnerships across the region.

The Latrobe Valley and Gippsland Transition Plan is being developed in the knowledge that a core focus of the work will be supporting those communities most directly affected by transition. In order to be successful it will require the support and engagement of people right across the region.

Feedback from consultation and engagement, along with insights from the transition work that has occurred across the region over the past few years has informed this Discussion Paper.

It seeks feedback on key aspects of a Latrobe Valley and Gippsland Transition Plan, including:

* the vision for the region in 2035
* guiding principles that underpin the approach to transition
* goals that prioritise areas for action.

# Project partners

A Project Control Group has been established to provide strategic direction and authorisation for the transition plan.

A Whole of Victorian Government Reference Group will provide advice and input from departments and agencies with a specific interest in Gippsland’s transition. It will also support alignment and identify opportunities for action in the region.

The Project Control Group is supported by an Implementation Working Group. The Implementation Working Group provides local expertise and advice on actions and assists with coordination and engagement with stakeholders to support development of the transition plan.

Membership of the Implementation Working Group consists of representatives from Traditional Owners, a range of sectors such as business and industry, community services and health, education and employment, as well as non-government organisations, unions and local governments.

The members of the Implementation Working Group are listed on the LVA website.

# Our approach

## Ministerial roundtable

The engagement process commenced with a roundtable event hosted by the Minister for Regional development, The Hon Harriet Shing MP, at the Morwell Innovation Centre on 8 September 2022.

The Implementation Working Group was largely formed from roundtable attendees.

## Research and evidence gathering

The Plan draws on evidence from an evaluation of existing published literature, reviews and reports, including a large selection of plans and strategies developed in the region over recent years. Many of these reports set out opportunities to create jobs or priorities to support economic diversification, attract investment, address climate change and unlock investment.

## Community engagement

Supported by the Implementation Working Group, the LVA has met with Aboriginal groups, women’s groups, school groups, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, environmental groups, peak industry bodies, education and training providers, peak healthcare and community bodies and power stations.

Engagement includes face-to-face meetings, interviews, surveys and focus groups. The LVA has also drawn insights through participation and engagement at community events and forums for tourism, energy, young people, and ransport.

What we have heard through this engagement process has informed the vision, guiding principles and goals of the transition plan.

Engagement will continue during throughout the development of the transition plan and into the delivery phase.

# Overview of the transition plan

The transition plan will set out a high-level vision for 2035. A key focus will be to highlight future opportunities and the areas of focus required to achieve these. It will also contain guiding principles and goals.

Supporting the transition plan will be an action plan. The action plan will outline activities across government, industry and community sectors that will contribute to achieving the vision and goals of the transition plan.

The action plan will provide a means of tracking progress. The action plan initially covers the period from 2023 -2028. It will be reviewed and updated in line with significant events or new actions.

## Vision for Latrobe Valley and Gippsland in 2035

Our vision for Latrobe Valley and Gippsland in 2035 is hopeful and bright. It includes:

* education and training options that link to future employment
* appealing, meaningful local jobs and career and employment pathways
* a thriving economy
* a healthy, attractive and sustainable natural environment
* safe, welcoming and vibrant communities
* a lifestyle that attracts new residents to the region and encourages existing residents to stay
* clear roles and responsibilities across governments, industry, education and community
* acknowledgment of our proud history and bright future in vital industries.

## Discussion question

What do you like about the vision for Gippsland in 2035?

What would you change?

Is there anything missing?