



6 August 2025

Submission by Advance Morwell in Support of EnergyAustralia Yallourn's Draft Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan

To Whom It May Concern,

Advance Morwell welcomes the opportunity to provide this submission in support of EnergyAustralia Yallourn's Draft Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan (DMRP), currently on public exhibition.

About Advance Morwell

Advance Morwell is a well-established community and business advocacy organisation based in Morwell, Victoria.

Formed in response to the need for a unified voice representing the interests of local residents and businesses, Advance Morwell has played a pivotal role in promoting the town's development, resilience, and identity.

Our organisation is comprised of members from across the business spectrum—small enterprises, medium-sized firms, and large industries—who share a commitment to the prosperity of Morwell and the Latrobe Valley. We actively engage with government bodies, industry stakeholders, and community groups to advocate for infrastructure investment, economic development, and improved liveability.

Advance Morwell has been instrumental in supporting initiatives such as the Morwell CBD Revitalisation Project, which transformed the town's central business district into a vibrant, modern space with new public areas, smart lighting, and community gathering zones.

We also champion Morwell's identity as the "Town of Gardens," celebrating local assets like the award-winning Morwell Centenary Rose Garden, which attracts visitors and enhances civic pride.

With respect to our relationship with EnergyAustralia, Advance Morwell has had a long-standing relationship with the local operator of Yallourn and Jeeralang and is actively engaged with at our monthly meeting through the attendance of EnergyAustralia's Community Engagement Manager, David Burt who is also a member of our committee.

Support for the Draft Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan

Advance Morwell supports the proposed rehabilitation of the Yallourn mine site, particularly the transformation of the mine voids into an interconnected lake system. This initiative represents a responsible and forward-thinking approach to mine closure and land repurposing, with significant potential benefits for Morwell and the broader Latrobe Valley.

We commend EnergyAustralia for its commitment to environmental restoration, community engagement, and long-term sustainability. The proposed lake and associated landform improvements offer a unique opportunity to:

- **Enable the Expansion of Morwell:** The rehabilitation plan opens up possibilities for future urban development and infrastructure projects that can extend Morwell's footprint and enhance its development and connectivity.
- **Create New Economic Opportunities:** The repurposed site could support recreational activities such as boating, fishing, and tourism, as well as new commercial ventures. These developments would attract visitors and investment, boosting local businesses and services.
- **Generate Local Jobs:** The implementation and ongoing management of the rehabilitation plan will require skilled labour and services, creating employment opportunities for our members and the broader community.
- **Support Small, Medium, and Large Businesses:** The economic ripple effect from increased activity in the region will benefit businesses of all sizes, from hospitality and retail to construction and professional services.

Advance Morwell believes that the Yallourn DMRP aligns with our vision for a thriving, sustainable Morwell. We encourage EnergyAustralia and the Victorian Government to continue engaging with local stakeholders including Advance Morwell and to prioritise initiatives that maximise community benefit.

We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this important process and look forward to seeing the Yallourn site evolve into a landmark of environmental renewal and regional economic revitalisation.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Graeme Sennett".

Graeme Sennett

Chair

Telephone 0417 509 149