

Mark Pearson, Executive Manager – Yallourn

Speech at ALDP announcement

Friday, 16 May, 2014

We are pleased to host and be part of today's announcement by the Victorian Government.

Using our coal mine as a backdrop really highlights a key part of why today's announcement is such an important one for this community.

Supporting the development of new technology aimed at unlocking the potential within the coal resource, in a sustainable way, also supports the continued use of a resource that has underpinned the economy of the Latrobe Valley region for decades.

Making use of the existing mines and their infrastructure, and utilising or expanding them into new coal fields represents an efficient and economic approach to further development.

Coal remains one of the region's most significant resources and through it supports thousands of jobs within the Latrobe Valley region.

It's an affordable resource and is a key economic driver in the Latrobe Valley.

But how we best use the resource is changing.

As a brown coal miner and generator, we have a choice – to sit back and watch this happen, or to participate in the development of new ways to use the significant brown coal resource that's available in the Latrobe Valley.

At Yallourn, we are actively working with partners to continue to develop how we can use coal in different ways. Some of those strong relationships include Coal Energy Australia and Ignite - both of which are here today.

We believe that through developing new technologies and looking at alternative uses of the coal resource we have the best chance to provide ongoing benefits to the local community and the State.

It will create jobs and will strengthen the local economy.

The continued support shown from the Victorian and Federal Governments is encouraging and highlights the confidence they have in the Latrobe Valley.