



**How Far We've Come!** — 30 minutes Moderator Led Panel & 30 Minutes Audience Q&A  
*Focus: 10 years on from the mine fire, what are the positive outcomes in our region and what work do we need to focus on moving forward? The ongoing story of our community in transition.*

**Ask the panel a question, submit online or raise your hand during the Q&A section**

<https://forms.gle/rQKWNQC1qKSmWBRR7>

## Moderator

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**Bronya Lipski (She/Her)** — Environmental law and policy nerd

### Bio

Bronya Lipski is a lawyer and activist who grew up on the land of the Braiakulung people of the Gunaikurnai Nation. Her parents instilled in her a wonder and respect for the environment, and she spent many years wondering what the Latrobe Valley looked like before colonisation. As a kid she watched the Latrobe Valley economy decline when Victoria's power industry was privatised and started eroding the community's social fabric.

Throughout her career, she has worked with communities around Australia to fight for a healthy environment using law and policy. From air pollution, CSG, mine rehabilitation and contaminated land matters through to stopping native vegetation clearing and protecting the Murray-Darling Basin from over-extraction, Bronya consistently sharpens her nerd skills to support her two main passions: community empowerment and engagement in environmental decision-making, and reforming law and regulation to safeguard against irreversible climate change and biodiversity loss.

Bronya is currently a senior policy officer at the Clean Energy Council, focussing on legal and policy barriers in environment and planning regimes throughout Australia that slow down the renewable energy transition. She is currently obsessed with her front-line work that seeks to resolve the rapid implementation of the renewable energy transition without causing additional environmental harm.

## Panellists

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### **Chris Buckingham (He/Him)** — Latrobe Valley Authority

#### **Bio**

Chris Buckingham, CEO Latrobe Valley Authority

Chris has extensive experience working in senior leadership roles across business, community and government. He is recognised for his capacity to provide positive leadership, inspire change and get people working together for the greater good.

Chris loves Gippsland and is passionate advocate for the region. He has lived in the region with his family since 1997. He has an optimistic, can-do view of the world and believes that when the people of Gippsland work together, they are able to overcome just about any challenge.

Chris is a Graduate, Australian Institute of Company Directors; was a Finalist in the 2012 Melbourne Awards for Individual Contribution to Melbourne's profile, and served the visitor industry in a voluntary capacity as Adjunct Professor, College of Business, Victoria University for a number of years. He enjoys volunteering in a range of community activities, with a particular interest in locally produced food, community events and running.

### **Stay Connected**

<https://au.linkedin.com/in/chrisbuckingham>

[www.lva.vic.gov.au](http://www.lva.vic.gov.au)

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### **Wendy Farmer** — President, Voices of the Valley, Community Organiser, Friends of the Earth.

#### **Bio**

Wendy Farmer is an inspiring figure in Gippsland and the Latrobe Valley. She is passionate about advocating for the environment and raising

awareness to promote sustainability. Wendy is President of Voices of the Valley, a local community advocacy group in Latrobe Valley. Voices of the Valley's advocacy work has led to, notably, the Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiries, The Latrobe Valley Authority, Latrobe Valley Health Innovation Zone and EPA Victoria reform. Voices of the Valley has won Awards for Environmental Justice and Health Equity. Voices of the Valley is known for not just looking at what the problems are but also creating solutions. Wendy is also the Gippsland organiser in the Yes2Renewables team. Yes 2 Renewables is a Friends of the Earth's campaign for 100% renewable energy, climate jobs, and strong communities.

Wendy's drive and dedication are evident in her many roles. She is an excellent media spokesperson, a prominent figure in the community, and a powerful public speaker. She has been invited to speak at progressive events around Australia and is a highly respected board member of The Next Economy.

Wendy Farmer is an inspiring force for positive change in Gippsland and the Latrobe Valley. Her passion for environmental sustainability and her dedication to her community is an example to us all. Wendy Farmer's commitment to making the world better for future generations is admirable.

Wendy is passionate about Social Justice, Health, sustainability and prosperity for our community.

## Stay Connected

<https://www.votv.org.au/>

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## Tracie Lund (She/Her)— Manager, Morwell Neighbourhood House

### Bio

Tracie Lund, a highly regarded community leader in the Latrobe Valley, has been a driving force since she and her family relocated to the region in 2011. As the Manager of Morwell Neighbourhood House since 2012, she has transformed it into a vital support hub, gaining valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities faced by the Latrobe community.

During the Hazelwood Mine Fire in 2014, Tracie's advocacy skills were a stand out seeing her play a crucial role in bridging the communication gap between services and the Morwell community, providing essential information and support. She was a vocal advocate and a key driver behind the community's push for a long-term health study.

An advocate of grassroots democracy, Tracie ran as an Independent candidate in the 2014 State Election, securing an impressive 11% of the primary vote and reshaping Morwell into one of the most

marginal electorates. In 2020, she was elected as a Councillor for Latrobe City Council and currently serves as Deputy Mayor, tirelessly working to enhance health, wellbeing, resilience, and employment opportunities for residents.

Recognized for her unwavering dedication to public service, Tracie's strengths lie in her diverse relationships, her ability to build and expand connections, and her talent for uniting like-minded individuals to achieve significant victories for the broader Latrobe Valley community.

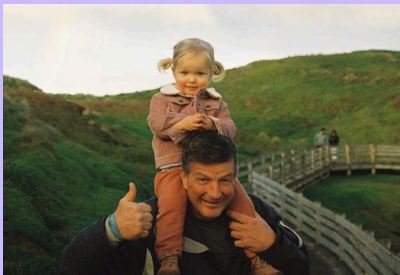
### Stay Connected

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### **Tony Wolfe** (He/Him) — Former Coal Worker & Gippsland Climate Change Network Member

#### **Bio**

Tony has worked in the fossil fuel power generation industry in Gippsland in for over 40 years.

Born in Morwell and growing up on a dairy farm nearby, he started an apprenticeship as an electrician at the age of 15 at Hazelwood Power Station and progressed to the role of a Unit Controller at Loy Yang (picture Homer Simpson).

He has graduated from the Australian Rural Leadership Program & Gippsland Community Leadership Program, completed a Graduate Certificate in Rural Leadership at James Cook University and spent time as Deputy Mayor at Baw Baw Shire.

Currently, he is a Board Member of the Gippsland Climate Change Network, sits on the RDA Gippsland Committee and Community Advisory Groups for the Star of the South offshore wind farm and OSMI (Delburn) wind farm.

Tony is also a volunteer Camp Leader, caring for kids impacted by cancer with Camp Quality. His passion is to see regional Australia capitalise, and communities engaged, in the significant opportunities that are presenting as part of the transition away from fossil fuels.

### Stay Connected

<https://www.gccn.org.au/>

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