

# Media release



## FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

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### **\$100,000 FOR GIPPSLAND INDUSTRY TRANSPORT STUDY**

The Brumby Government will inject \$100,000 into a study to identify future transport infrastructure improvements to support the Latrobe Valley's rapidly growing clean coal industry.

In the Latrobe Valley today, Premier John Brumby, said the study would examine potential road, rail, pipeline and ports development projects needed to ensure the region was well-equipped to drive further industry growth and expansion.

"We are taking action to ensure Victoria can continue using its world-class brown coal and gas resources to generate affordable and reliable energy, and to capitalise on emerging markets and opportunities – and to build jobs into the future in the Latrobe Valley" Mr Brumby said.

"Our Government has invested more than \$244 million in clean coal projects since 2002, including \$127.4 million in the 2008-09 State Budget to help position Victoria's coal industry as one of the cleanest in the world and to drive jobs in the Latrobe Valley.

"Coal drying, gasification and other new clean coal technologies have the potential to produce exportable commodities from brown coal, such as diesel and other fuels, fertilisers and export quality brown coal.

"Having efficient and affordable transport in and out of the Latrobe Valley is central to the region's success in getting new clean coal technology developments off the ground and this study will take the lead in identifying and assessing new infrastructure projects."

The Government will provide \$100,000 to the newly-formed Gippsland Resource Infrastructure Development (GRID) organisation to help undertake the study to be completed this year.

GRID comprises representatives from the Latrobe Valley generators, Monash Energy and other organisations with significant energy interests in the region.

Regional and Rural Development Minister Jacinta Allan said the study would provide valuable input into the Brumby Government's planning for the Latrobe Valley's future infrastructure needs.

"Our Government has invested record levels in leveraging investment and job growth from the Latrobe Valley's brown coal and we are ensuring the valley is positioned to generate not just power but jobs and growth into the future," Ms Allan said.

"New projects in the Latrobe Valley utilising Victoria's brown coal resources face a number of infrastructure challenges such as transporting large-scale modular plants and equipment to the region and getting export products to market.

"The study group will consider the road, rail, pipeline and ports improvements needed – this will be vital to the development of new industries and future economic prosperity of Gippsland.

"The Latrobe Valley has been Victoria's powerhouse for more than 75 years, providing reliable low-cost power for Victorians, boosting the state's economy and providing significant employment. Our Government will continue planning and investing in the Latrobe Valley to ensure it continues to be the powerhouse of Victoria well into the future."