

Environmental Justice Australia Trailing Liabilities Campaign – default text

Dear Director of Policy and Legislation Reform,

As the transition to renewable energy speeds up, communities who powered our state for decades deserve certainty that mining companies will clean up after themselves.

All too often, mine operators try to do as little as possible to clean up the mess they've made.

That's why a trailing liabilities scheme is so important.

This law should ensure mining companies can't escape their responsibilities to leave communities with sustainably rehabilitated land - and prevent ongoing issues now and into the future. Even where the company is no longer the current owner of the mine.

Without it, their obligations just aren't strong enough.

I am writing to call on you make our new trailing liabilities laws:

- Make sure companies can't escape their responsibilities to leave communities with sustainably rehabilitated land – and prevent ongoing issues now and into the future
- Operate long into the future – because contamination, particularly from coal ash dump can emerge decades after the mine is closed – and cover residual issues. This will stop band aid solutions and provide more incentive for companies to prevent issues emerging in the future.
- Introduce appropriate penalties for non-compliance.
- Cover all Victorian mines, quarries and offshore oil and gas projects – not just the three in the Latrobe Valley.

Private companies have profited for decades from mining Victoria, it's only fair that they be held accountable for cleaning up.