

TRACIE LUND TO RUN AS INDEPENDENT FOR THE SEAT OF MORWELL AT 2022 STATE ELECTION



Latrobe City councillor, Morwell Neighbourhood House manager and respected community advocate Tracie Lund has announced she will run as an independent candidate for the seat of Morwell at the upcoming State Election.

Ms Lund, who garnered 11 per cent of the vote at the 2014 State Election, moved to the region in 2011 with her husband, who works for the CFA, and her three children.

She has worked tirelessly for communities across the Latrobe Valley since starting with the Morwell Neighbourhood House in 2012 where she has introduced and championed countless initiatives to ensure there is vital support available for everyone, no matter their circumstances.

Ms Lund has informed her council colleagues of her intention to run at the 2022 State Election and has taken a leave of absence, effective immediately.

Ms Lund's vision for the seat of Morwell and advocacy priorities include:

1. A just transition

- Immediate action is required to achieve a just transition from coal-powered to renewable energy that is centred on the diversification of industry. Significant investment is needed in employment opportunities that support and highlight the abundance of large and small-scale renewable energy projects and opportunities in our region.

2. Mine rehabilitation and water allocation

- Power stations are coming to the end of their working lives. Without a more strategic and integrated approach for the future of the Latrobe Valley, the region could end up with a patchwork of fenced-off lakes. We need to explore all the options we have for mine rehabilitation.

3. Social and public housing

- Access to safe, adequate housing support and services has a huge impact on health and quality of life. Everyone deserves to have a place to call home, and this builds confidence, connectedness and pride of place.

4. Health and community services

- Covid-19 has exacerbated the pressures on an already stretched local health and community service systems. People in the Latrobe Valley are faced with poorer health outcomes than their metropolitan counterparts. Investment is vital to level the playing field and give communities access to the care they need, when and where they need it.

5. Health in the context of the Planning and Environmental Protection Acts

- The Latrobe Health Innovation Zone is designed to give voice to community aspirations in the planning and delivery of better health and wellbeing outcomes. To fully realise this vision and harness the power of the LHIZ, it must be embedded into State Government planning legislation.

6. Climate action and response

- The climate crisis is now impacting everyone. Extreme weather events and changes to the climate are disrupting our lives and impacting the local economy. Climate change is having a profound effect on weather patterns, environment and health.

7. Long-term funding for the Latrobe Valley Authority

- A just transition starts with supporting impacted and displaced workers, and our broader community, through the uncertainty of coal closure timelines. We need to enhance and expand the skills and strengths of our local workforce to aid employment in new industries.

QUOTES ATTRIBUTABLE TO TRACIE LUND, INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE FOR THE SEAT OF MORWELL:

“My experience in supporting our community on the ground every day has given me insight into what is required as we navigate the future. I bring a fresh perspective and inclusive voice at a critical juncture for our region.

“I am passionate about grassroots democracy and wholeheartedly believe that investment in and support of the community improves health and wellbeing, resilience, and employment opportunities.

“The needs of local business, community and our environment have never been so vital as we work through recovery from Covid-19 and towards a strong, sustainable future. I want to take steps to bolster our local economy so we can recover from the impacts of climate change, mine closures and the pandemic.

“I believe the people of the Latrobe Valley are future-focused and open to change. They want representation that drives an agenda towards workable solutions that take into consideration the region’s assets, the needs of local business, the health of the environment and – above all else – our proud community.

“I want to restore integrity and trust in government. I want to act now for our climate. I want to achieve a just transition from coal-powered to renewable energy. I want to support, strengthen and expand local health and community services.

“Candidates should be judged on their record of community advocacy and elected on merit. I have been humbled by the number of people who have asked, urged and encouraged me to run in this year’s state election and I am determined to prove their trust and confidence in me is well-placed.”