

MEDIA RELEASE

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Support needed for \$90 million investment by Latrobe Valley's largest private employer

The call for Government to attract investment to the Latrobe Valley has been welcomed by Australian Paper as the company assesses a \$90 million investment for a recycling plant and associated equipment at its Maryvale Mill. In its report to the Victorian and Federal Governments, the Latrobe Valley Transition Committee has recommended strong action to grow the Latrobe Valley economy.

"We believe in operating sustainably and can significantly increase our recycled paper output with community support. To make this a reality, we recently announced a feasibility study for a wastepaper recycling plant at Maryvale Mill," said Mr Jim Henneberry, CEO, Australian Paper.

"We need a clear commitment of support for Australian made recycled paper from the community, as well as Local, State and Federal Government, as part of our feasibility study.

"We're calling on all Australians to take a stand for recycled paper and register their support for the project at www.onpaper.com.au. We'll be recording the total number of signatures as part of our feasibility study to show that Australians want this investment to happen," Mr Henneberry said.

Australian Paper thanks the many Australians who have already pledged their support for Australian made recycled paper, after Latrobe City Council recently voted unanimously to sign the recycled paper pledge.

"As the largest private employer in the Latrobe Valley, Australian Paper Maryvale directly employs around 900 people. We have a proud history of local capital investment and manufacture the majority of recycled office paper sold in Australia each year.

"If our feasibility study is successful, we would more than triple our use of de-inked recycled fibre and divert up to 80,000 tonnes of waste paper from Australian landfill every year," said Mr Henneberry.

As the only local maker of office paper, Australian Paper currently estimates that the plant would support up to 20 direct jobs ongoing and around 60 in supply chain and collection. Up to 60 jobs would be created during the construction phase.

Latrobe City Council's mayor, Councillor Ed Vermeulen, added his support for the recycled paper pledge. "We strongly encourage the community to take the pledge. Your mouse-click could result in jobs creation," Cr Vermeulen said.

"We appreciate the broad interest that has been shown for this project and hope that many others will take the opportunity to show their support by simply clicking on the pledge button at www.onpaper.com.au," Mr Henneberry said.

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