

HAZELWOOD Community Update



It was pleasing to report to the Latrobe Valley community last week with an update on decommissioning activities at Hazelwood as well as our rehabilitation progress in the Mine. Since the business closed on 31 March 2017, much has been happening at our site, initially with the first phase of the "Decommissioning" involving extensive cleaning and now preparing for the second decommissioning phase. In tandem with this work is our extensive rehabilitation project which has been underpinned by the preparation of the 2017 Mine Work Plan Variation, submitted to the Victorian Government last month. Decommissioning is a huge task with many projects simultaneously undertaken as detailed in the "What's Happening" section on the following page. All our plant in the Station and Mine, large and small, must be left in a clean and safe condition, ready for demolition.

Much of this work was completed by Hazelwood employees, many of them now finished with the business. I would like to acknowledge their commitment to these activities and thank them for their efforts under difficult circumstances. I particularly want to congratulate the efforts of all our current employees and contractors working in both the Station and Mine. Safety is our priority and all work to date has been carried out with the utmost care. The message I also took away from last week's meeting was that people appreciate being kept informed and want to be involved in the consultation process. I can assure you we are committed to this. There was much interest from those present at the meeting in our rehabilitation activities, in particular whether we will have access to enough overburden material to complete all the work required.

As explained by our Mine Manager, we do have adequate supplies of overburden and I cannot stress enough that our company is committed to meeting all our rehabilitation obligations. In the meantime I urge you to read about the extensive work to be done in the months ahead by going to a designated closure section on our website which contains comprehensive fact sheets on all aspects of the shutdown project as well as articles following the progress.

R.A. Innocenzi

Tony Innocenzi, Asset Manager

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Additional Mine fire pipework

Works are currently being conducted on the Hazelwood Mine fire service system to ensure continued fire readiness while rehabilitation works are undertaken.

Fire prevention and readiness remains a high priority across the site although with the cessation of mining operations, the risk and occurrence of fire has significantly reduced.

The operation and maintenance of the fire service system for the Hazelwood Mine will continue until rehabilitation works have been completed. The Hazelwood Mine has comprehensive infrastructure, policies and procedures in place to mitigate the risk of fire.

Recently, a new section of pipeline and batter droppers was installed down the batter face to 5 Level, the final resting place of Dredgers 10 and 11.

This 600DN (Diameter Nominal) pipeline dropper, 45 metres in length, is part of a series of pipeline

droppers installed along the Westfield western face, as well as new piping along 5 Level, to provide ongoing security of water supply through the fire service pipeline system, throughout the course of the rehabilitation works.

The works enable the fire service pipeline system to be fed from above through Balance Tanks situated at a high elevation adjacent to the Mine, or alternatively to be pumped from the Mine Pond System at the base of the Mine, according to system demand.

Works are also being currently conducted on the southern batters of the Mine in an area known as "the Knuckle" - the section visible from the Princes Freeway on the outskirts of Morwell.

The 2017 Knuckle Pipeline Realignment Project is a major rehabilitation activity upon the dirty water and artesian pipeline mains, which are integral to maintaining water supply to the fire service pipeline system, and the Mine's dewatering capabilities.

The realignment of these pipeline mains is required to allow the progression of the Overburden System into the Knuckle area as part of the Hazelwood Mine rehabilitation project. The works include realignment of 500 metres of 750DN Dirty Water Pipeline and the realignment of 500 metres of 600DN Artesian Pipeline.

Large plant being used on the project includes a 200 tonne crane, capable of lifting pipeline sections along the new alignment, and heavy earthmoving equipment.

Once the 2017 Knuckle Pipeline Realignment Project is completed, the overburden stacker (known as TS2) will gradually move its way from the South Eastfield Southern Batters dump towards the Knuckle, where it will start covering coal and adding overburden, to assist in the long term stability of the batters throughout the rehabilitation process.



Cleaning large plant in the Station

The cleaning of large plant and equipment in the Hazelwood Power Station has formed much of the decommissioning work carried out since closure on 31 March this year.

Not only is it important to leave all equipment in a safe manner for eventual demolition but it is also essential in mitigating any fire risk from the build-up of coal and dust. Members of the CFA's District 27 recently inspected external cleaning progress as part of Hazelwood's compliance in ensuring reduction of any fuel sources on site.

The Hazelwood Slot Bunker (HSB) is just one of the large structures being cleaned. Once storing more than 25,500 tonne of raw coal to supply the Station's eight operating units, it is being decommissioned by Hazelwood's Mine Operations employees.

Mine Director, Garry Wilkinson, said prior to the Station's closure, planning was implemented to ensure only the required quantities of coal were delivered to the raw coal bunker.

"During the closure process involving the winding down of the Station's generating units, as much coal as practically possible was extracted out of the HSB," Mr Wilkinson said. "However residual coal remains within the HSB, requiring removal as part of the decommissioning process."

Since closure, a range of works have been undertaken for the removal of this residue material.

The cleaning of the HSB's three, 8,500 tonne capacity slots is a major task with some coal hung up and accumulated in inaccessible areas across each slot.

Mr Wilkinson said access was difficult and the process for removal of the coal was very time consuming.

"But works are continuing systematically on both the removal of residual coal and the wash down of the HSB on a slot by slot basis," he said. "When the wash down is completed, the HSB will undergo further decommissioning activities in readiness for demolition of the asset."

Employees from local contractor AsClear cleaned inside the large boilers of the station and then turned their attention to washing outside, including the roof trusses, wall cladding, beams and drains.

AsClear Site Manager, Kane Gostling, said it was important to remove any coal dust, ash or build-up of any excess materials.

Mr Gostling said prior to any work being undertaken, a great deal of planning including health and safety risks, went into preparing for the project.

"Before any of the external cleaning starts, our electricians complete a process of bagging electrical equipment," he explained. "Anything that poses a risk if it comes into contact with water must be made safe."

AsClear was also contracted to clean the large precipitators, once used to remove dust or ash from the coal burning process.

Custom-made sprays were attached to the ceiling of the precipitator and overnight, the area was covered in water, minimising any risk of dust. A day-shift team then entered the space to complete manual cleaning including the huge steel plates which act like a giant filter.

"It has been a terrific team effort between Hazelwood project managers and AsClear to ensure a safe and efficient outcome," Mr Gostling said.

What's happening...

HAZELWOOD SLOT BUNKER (HSB)

The cleaning of the HSB's three, 8,500 tonne capacity slots is a major task with some coal hung up and accumulated in inaccessible areas across each slot.

TRANSFORMER DISCONNECTION

The eight transformers, used to convert low voltage power from Hazelwood Power Station to high voltage for distribution to the grid, have been disconnected.



REMOVAL OF OIL

A significant volume of oil is being safely removed from plant in the Station by a licensed contractor for eventual recycling.

BOILER CLEANING

Specialised equipment on vacuum trucks, located in the basement of the Station, sucked out ash and dust from the boilers and associated areas as part of internal cleaning of the huge structures.

FIRE SERVICES PIPEWORK

Installation of new sections of pipe is reinforcing the existing extensive network of pipework in the Hazelwood Mine to ensure fire readiness.



SIDE-CASTING OPERATION

A dredger and slew dropped overburden directly onto the batter below in an operation known as side-casting.

TS2 STACKER MOVE

The TS2 Tripper Stacker has been transferred to an upper level of the Mine's South Eastern Batters to continue rehabilitation activities.

EXTERNAL PLANT CLEANING

Employees from local contractor AsClear washed the externals of the 50 metre high boilers including the roof trusses, wall cladding, beams and drains.

