



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)

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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.

