

FAQs

HAZELWOOD POWER STATION & MINE

ENGIE

FIRE READINESS

Is it true there are fires burning beneath the Hazelwood Mine?

No. There are no active fires beneath the Hazelwood Mine.

Do you rely on visual inspections to detect fires?

Visual inspections are only one method which we utilise to detect fires. We have two Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) cameras permanently set up on the Northern and Southern Batters. Mine staff also use hand-held Thermal Imaging Cameras (TICs) during the course of "hot works", and as part of their routine geotechnical inspections.

Do you rely on the CFA to notify you of high fire risk days?

No. We have own Fire Rating Index, which triggers additional fire readiness and preparedness measures (for example, additional manning, fire patrols and wetting down, or the pre-establishment of an Emergency Command Centre) based on forecast/observed temperatures and wind speeds. This system is above the requirements from the CFA.

We do, however, naturally have regard to CFA ratings and advisories, and liaise closely with local CFA brigades in respect of a range of fire preparedness and response initiatives.



What happens if a fire breaks out - are you prepared?

Yes we are. All our workforce is trained in fighting coal fires with 24 hour coverage. We have four 30,000 litre water tankers and two ex-CFA fire trucks available on site and 120 kilometres of fire service pipe network with sprays and hydrants attached. All light vehicles are equipped with fire-fighting knapsacks and hoses.

What have you been doing leading up to this summer to protect the Mine?

We have conducted an annual audit and repairs where necessary on fire-fighting equipment within the Mine including reticulated pipe network, pumps, hoses and hose reels.

We have also conducted a number of fire preparedness exercises, including with local CFA brigades (such as CFA 'District 27', which has specialised equipment and training).

We saw there was a helicopter spraying over the Mine recently - why?

Part of the fire prevention within the Mine is to actively manage and where possible eradicate self-sown weeds, grasses and trees. This is generally done by hand or spray units but again this year, we have undertaken aerial spraying utilising a helicopter spraying approximately 500 hectares within the Mine. This method is effective on steep coal batters, and was communicated to the community prior to the spraying taking place.

