

FAQS

HAZELWOOD MINE

ENGIE

MINE REHABILITATION

Is a full lake a better option than a partial lake?

A full lake provides for a safe and more stable long-term landform, with significantly lower risk from fire. If a partial lake was adopted, there would be significant areas of coal which would be covered with overburden which would erode over time, causing a risk of fire. A full lake would cover 99% of the coal and will also provide more support for the Mine floor and batters, and significantly limit movement in the future.

What other options were considered?

Three were considered: empty void, partial lake and full lake. Empty void is not practical, the Mine will contain water anyway and an empty void would require ongoing fire risk management and aquifer water pumping forever. This is not a feasible rehabilitation scenario. Therefore only two options have been carried forward into the Work Plan Variation 2017.

How will the lake level be maintained, given a large amount of water will evaporate?

The interconnection of the Morwell River is believed to be able to maintain the lake level. It's important to remember that it's not thought that the water will evaporate at a great rate due to the depth of the lake, in excess of 100m.

Is there an opportunity for water from the Mine to flow through a lakes system?

Yes. The new lake is proposed to spill, run into the current wetlands and then through Yallourn Mine. The current river diversion at Morwell will no longer run. It is possible that it may be maintained as a wetland although this is still to be worked through.



How do we know the batters or slopes of the Mine will be safe and stable into the future?

ENGIE's obligation is to deliver a safe and stable final landform. It is completing complex technical studies to achieve this. However, once we have completed the work and have provided back to the Government a full lake, the responsibility will be on the new owner to manage the lake to ensure it is safe and stable in the long term.

Why can't you allow smaller projects in the Mine?

The Mine is planned to be filled with water to increase long-term stability and limit fire risk. It is planned that it will be over 1200 hectares in size and more than 100m deep. It is not possible to create a lake and then 'segregate' areas without significant financial outlay. ENGIE is obligated to deliver a safe and stable rehabilitated landform; it is not obligated to develop the Mine void for land use that allows for a range of small projects within the Mine. Small projects would be better suited around the periphery of the final lake. ENGIE owns more than 3500 hectares of land, 1200 of these would be the Mine lake and the other 2300 hectares could be used for some other purpose, again this is not ENGIE's responsibility.

Is the plan for the Hazelwood Mine rehabilitation similar to the Germany experience?

Yes, it is very similar. Due to the favourable ratio of coal to overburden, a mine void is left after mining in Germany as well as Australia. As there is very limited overburden to fill the mine voids, water is used, firstly as the voids are natural water 'sinks' and secondly, water provides increased batter and floor stability and fire protection.

Is it feasible to continue to mine brown coal?

ENGIE operated the brown coal mine, mining 18Mt per annum to supply the Hazelwood Power Station for 52 years. This is no longer financially viable for ENGIE. As ENGIE has elected to close and rehabilitate the site, it needs to deliver on its mining licence conditions and rehabilitate the Mine void and surrounds back to a safe, stable and sustainable landform.



Why can't overburden be put back into the Mine instead of water?

This would be a significant financial investment and would not result in filling the Mine void. As highlighted before, the strip ratio at Hazelwood is 5 to 1.5 parts coal for every 1 part of overburden. There simply isn't enough overburden to fill the Mine void. The other problem is that even if this was done, it would not significantly lower the risk profile associated with the Mine and would require the Mine to be actively managed into the future. So it wouldn't provide a rehabilitated landform. It needs to be considered that the Mine is a natural water 'sink', i.e. it wants to become a lake. What ENGIE is proposing is to manage the site to allow it to achieve a natural form, sooner.

When the former SECV bought local farming land, it gave an assurance overburden would be put back into any large voids?

The original rehabilitation concept master plan - which International Power purchased from the SECV in 1996 - allowed for an external overburden dump, allowed for a full lake and made no mention of moving the external dump as part of the sale.

Why can't you use overburden from along the ridge beneath the Hazelwood Cemetery?

There is no need to do this. There is sufficient, good quality overburden in the Mine's Northfield to construct toe weights and complete the rehabilitation.

Yallourn is using a pulp material in the bottom of its Mine - why can't ENGIE?

ENGIE believes it has enough materials on site to complete the rehabilitation process. If there is a 'planned' shortfall, then studies will commence on investigating alternatives.

Will any native vegetation be removed?

No.

Are land uses for the area around the lake described in the Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan?

It's important to remember that ENGIE is responsible for providing a safe, stable and sustainable land form; it is not obligated to provide for land use. Having said that, what ENGIE has shown in the full lake visualisations are farming activities, recreational areas, bike paths etc. These are possible uses which ENGIE believes would suit the nearby surrounds.

Will there be bike paths, barbecue areas and camping grounds?

See above.

The slopes of the newly created lake will be so steep, all people will be able to do is look at it - not use it. Is this correct?

There are some areas which will be restricted, others which will not be. Areas below the Morwell Township will possible be restricted, but it's envisaged that areas to the west of the Mine would be more open and user friendly.

What is the sulphur content of the coal?

That would be 0.2-0.3% on dry basis.

How many trees will you be planting around the open cut?

This detail hasn't been determined as yet.

What is the most challenging aspect of the rehabilitation in terms of work and studies?

Finding engineering solutions and implementing these solutions for a reasonable cost to deliver a safe, stable and sustainable landform.