

# Community consultation



## OPEN LETTER FROM HAZELWOOD ASSET MANAGER, TONY INNOCENZI

Hazelwood is, and will continue to be an important part of the Latrobe Valley community even after closure.

That was particularly evident when we held the first of many planned community consultation sessions in Morwell last week, with about 150 people attending to hear what happens at Hazelwood after closure on 31 March 2017.

I understand the concern over the impact of closure and ENGIE's future commitment to rehabilitation. It is important for the community to be given information about the initial shutdown project and what happens next.

The message I also took away from the 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.

After closure next week, our priority is to decommission and make the site - station and mine - safe. We need to mitigate risks from either fires or accidental spills that could escape into the environment while the station is sitting idle. Simultaneously, decommissioning work will be carried out in the mine.

Be assured this work is all done under a strict regulatory regime. Safety is paramount in our decommissioning so there will be a strong emphasis on managing any possible risk to our employees or the community.

A questioner was concerned about asbestos removal in the station. We have an extensive asbestos register and any known locations will remain contained and sealed until the demolition process starts. A comprehensive inspection will be done by qualified personnel, under regulatory oversight, to identify any previously unknown asbestos that may be present.

I was asked why we would destroy critical infrastructure in the station. Again, the decommissioning phase is to make the station safe for our employees. Boilers need cleaning and hazardous substances removed.

We then move into a stage called "awaiting demolition", which is when there will be further discussion and consultation with government regulators and the community.

Water was a concern for several people, including the stability in the base of the mine and where water would come from if the final recommendation adopted was a partial or full pit lake. Again, no decision has been made - the mine's future use depends on a decision from the government in consultation with the community.

Meanwhile, we will continue to dewater the aquifer and put overburden in the base of the mine to ensure its stability.

People were concerned we might walk away from our obligations. Nothing could be further from the truth. The current assumption is Hazelwood will close and ultimately be rehabilitated. There will also be an after-care period where we will maintain responsibility until it is eventually handed back to government and community.

Some criticism was levelled at ENGIE for not closing Hazelwood in stages. I can assure you the company investigated every possible option before announcing closure, including renewables. These were not viable.

There is a long road ahead in this process and many decisions have not yet been made. Ultimately we will need your support in making those decisions. As I told the meeting, our initial focus is to close our plant safely and successfully.

I urge you to read about the extensive work to be done in the months ahead by going to the dedicated Hazelwood Closure section on our website, which contains comprehensive fact sheets on all aspects of the shutdown project. This will be regularly reviewed and updated.

Meanwhile, be assured we are committed to ongoing engagement with the community.

Tony Innocenzi, Asset Manager



## Rehab focus on Eastern Batters



### FIRE READINESS A HIGH PRIORITY

Fire prevention and readiness will continue to be a high priority across the Hazelwood Power Station and Mine sites.

After the official closure date, extensive work around fire prevention and readiness will continue until the rehabilitation of the mine has been completed and the station demolished.

Mine Services Superintendent, Dave Shanahan, said a comprehensive program remained in place to reduce the risk of fire.

"After closure, Mine Fire Services will have approximately 18 full-time employees managing fire risk on a 24/7 basis, as happens now," he said. "This team can deploy additional personnel to protect the mine prior to any extreme weather days. All our mine staff and contractors are trained as 'First Responders'."

Mr Shanahan said once Hazelwood stopped digging coal, the fire risk would reduce significantly.

He said overheating idlers under the conveyors could be an ignition source as could equipment digging the coal but as the conveyors and coal digging dredgers would not be operating after closure, this risk was also mitigated.

Mr Shanahan said an extensive pipe, spray and

pump system protected coal surfaces across the mine and significant measures were in place around the mine perimeter.

The current procedures in place for days of high, very high, severe and extreme fire danger will continue. On severe and extreme fire risk days, a Mine Fire Readiness Plan is issued the day before the expected hot weather. An Emergency Command Centre is set up on days of Extreme fire risk.

The CFA is an integral stakeholder for emergency response at Hazelwood and this will continue until the completion of mine rehabilitation.

Mr Shanahan said this cooperation with the CFA was recently enhanced by installing a radio in the Hazelwood Gatehouse which links directly with the CFA control centre.

Hazelwood also employs an emergency services provider onsite 24/7 and this will continue after the business closes. Its employees are well trained in both security and emergency response such as a fire.

"They monitor security cameras across the site, including the outside perimeter of the station and mine, and can respond immediately to any situation," Mr Shanahan said.



### CLOSURE OF POWER STATION

The closure of Hazelwood Power Station will be carried out in a staged process, at all times adhering to relevant regulatory and legislative requirements.

These stages are: shutdown, decommissioning, awaiting demolition, demolition and rehabilitation.

The shutdown of the eight generating units will progressively occur over several days leading up to the business closing date of 31 March 2017. The units are taken off gradually because an uncontrolled shutdown could increase the risk of injury to employees and damage to plant.

As part of the shutdown of the units, Hazelwood staff will also be working with AusNet Services to ensure electricity supplies remain secure.

This first phase of the decommissioning process starts from 1 April 2017 and will continue until at least the end of May 2017. Work includes draining fluids, and removing oil and industrial gases. This is to mitigate risks from either fires from leaks or accidental spills that could escape to the environment while the station is sitting idle before demolition.

The decommissioning will take about 12 months.

### WORK UNDERWAY

Rehabilitation work in the Hazelwood Mine has moved into a section now visible from the Princes Freeway.

Work is now well underway on the Eastfield Eastern Batters and should be completed by the end of the year.

Senior Mine Planner, Romeo Prezioso, said work in the adjoining area known as the 'Knuckle' was almost complete after 18 months of reshaping activities.

"This is the large clay covered sloping area that can clearly be seen from the freeway on the outskirts of Morwell," Mr Prezioso said. "It has been reshaped with a 5:1 and 3:1 profile and now all that remains of this project is for the new fire service pipes to be installed."

The Eastfield Southern Batter walls, like the Knuckle, are very steep and require a 3:1 reshaping profile. As with other rehabilitation work on site, the overburden is firstly removed to access the coal below and then the coal is re-profiled. Once this has been done, the exposed coal will be covered with clay and then topsoil before seeding.

"The Eastfield Eastern Batters is quite a large area," Mr Prezioso said. "We are starting at a point known as the Old Southern Outlet, directly below the mine office, and working in the direction of Energy Brix."

"We should have half of the work completed before winter, then we will resume around October. This work is very weather dependent but we aim to have it completed by early next year."

Once this section of rehabilitation is completed, the focus will return to the Eastfield Northern Batters, which is a continuation of the work started in 2014.

A systematic approach will ensure the facility is left safe for the work over the remaining stages to be carried out in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.

Detailed surveys will also be undertaken during this time to validate and update the existing hazardous materials registers, such as asbestos.

The ENGIE Hazelwood website [www.engie.com.au/hazelwood-closure](http://www.engie.com.au/hazelwood-closure) contains a dedicated closure section with fact sheets available on every aspect around closure and decommissioning.