

FAQS

HAZELWOOD POWER STATION & MINE

ENGIE

MINE DECOMMISSIONING



What is Mine decommissioning?

A systematic approach to decommissioning in the Mine involves progressive activities being undertaken on out-of-service plant comprising the thorough cleaning, removal of all energy sources, Make Safe works, draining of fluids, containment of hazardous materials, disconnecting electrical supplies, making sure the site is secure, managing ongoing security and verifying that plant is in a safe and prepared condition for handover to a demolition contractor.

This ensures the facility is left for demolition 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. Again, a priority will be managing any health and safety hazards, and mitigating fire, environmental and structural risks.

What activities are being done under decommissioning?

Mine decommissioning activities presently centre around the out-of-service coal plant assets comprising Coal Systems 1, 2, 3 and 5 and Dredgers 9, 10 and 11, together with the associated plant and conveyor transport.

These out-of-service assets are currently undergoing the following works:

- Detailed planning of the decommissioning process
- Thorough wash down cleaning process to remove all coal debris
- Removal of stored energy
- Removal of high risk conveyor belts
- Removal of residue coal within the Hazelwood Slot Bunker

Following this work, specialised industrial cleaning, Make Safe activities, and oil and grease removal will occur then further decommissioning activities in readiness for the final handover to a demolition contractor.

What is happening to the dredgers?

Work is well under way on a large bench area for two Hazelwood Mine dredgers (Bucket Wheel Excavators) and associated large mining equipment (LME) to be decommissioned. A decision was made to relocate Dredgers 9 and 10 as well as the mobile slew conveyor S96 to a safe area on 5 Level for a localised decommissioning and demolition operation rather than have the LME spread over different areas of the Mine. Dredger 25 will continue digging overburden as part of ongoing Mine rehabilitation while Dredger 11, which has been out of service since the time of closure, will remain in its current location on the level below its other coal digging counterparts where decommissioning and demolition works will be undertaken.

What is a large bench area?

A bench area is a large flat surface in the Mine some 1.23 kilometres in length and up to 170 metres wide. Because this site was a former operating coalface within the Mine, the area is being covered with a 300mm thick layer of clay capping to mitigate the risk of fire. Some 20,000 - 30,000 cubic metres of overburden has already been spread across the surface with the remainder to be placed following the removal of M720 conveyor, currently running through the middle of the LME park-up area. Each of the park-up sites in the bench area will have a 150mm thick layer of crushed rock applied as a working surface for the LME decommissioning to take place. Additional crushed rock will be used for road access to the respective sites.

Once the dredgers are there, will they be demolished?

Each of the LME will initially be positioned on their respective park-up locations for the final decommissioning process to be undertaken. Demolition will follow final decommissioning and will be undertaken at each respective park-up site.





What is the rehabilitation plan for the Mine?

Mine staff have been actively working on preparing the 2017 Work Plan Variation (WPV) which sets out the rehabilitation and closure plan framework. A roadmap of technical studies and operational activities, required as part of rehabilitation and closure plan, has been set out and is included within the plan document.

This updated document was submitted to Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) on 12 May. The document lists activities which are currently being completed as well as future activities.

The 2017 WPV sets out the final land form of the Mine, subject to regulatory approvals and community consultation. It covers partial and full pit lake final land form scenarios to be valued as part of ongoing technical research and review.

What rehabilitation work is currently being done?

Current rehabilitation work in the Mine includes continued overburden stripping in the Northfield with the bucket wheel excavator, Dredger 25. This overburden is being relocated to cover coal and also to place up against the existing batters to assist the long term stability.

Dredger 25 underwent an outage recently but returned to work on 5 June.



Are you working in other parts of the Mine too?

During the D25 outage, the travelling overburden stacker we refer to as TS2 was relocated to the south Eastfield southern batters dump, the section of the Mine visible from the Princes Freeway. This involved moving TS2 from level one in the Mine to level two.

It will continue working on this level, covering batters and gradually move its way around into the area known as the Knuckle where it will start covering the coal and adding overburden to assist the long term stability of the batters.

This is expected to take until the end of the year. After that, it will progress to the Westfield southern batters.

Meanwhile rehabilitation of the eastern batters is continuing with the cutting down of the coal batters, reshaping and re-profiling them to a 3:1 gradient.

We are also removing redundant infrastructure and erecting new infrastructure which includes relocating roads and powerlines. This is very much seasonal work because it is weather dependent, with earthworks activities usually undertaken between November and April.

Does the rehabilitation change at all?

The only time our rehabilitation plan would vary is because of results from our daily monitoring of the area. Our staff are in the field, taking readings on any movement, measuring water levels and dewatering. We are using drones to complement our survey work.

All this work generates reports and checks trends, feeding this information through to our senior management and regulators.

An extensive range of technical studies is also ongoing and we work with our regulators on a regular basis.