

FAQS

HAZELWOOD POWER STATION

ENGIE

STATION
DECOMMISSIONING



What is Power Station decommissioning?

A systematic approach to decommissioning in the station involves draining of fluids, containment of hazardous materials, disconnecting electrical supplies, further cleaning, making sure the site is secure, managing ongoing security, clearing buildings and organising salvage activities.

This ensures the facility is left for demolition 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.

Again, a priority will be managing any health and safety hazards, and mitigating fire, environmental and structural risks.

It's a huge facility, how do you go about it?

It is important the closure process is orderly, controlled and safe, with all activities monitored and approved by the regulators. Work groups have been set up comprising Hazelwood employees and contractors while a dedicated Hazelwood decommissioning team meets weekly to review, plan and discuss all aspects of the project, including the safety of all activities.

What was the first thing done after the Station closed?

Initially, the Station area was made safe and stable. Work included draining fluids, removing oil and industrial gases. We do this to mitigate risks from either fires from leaks or accidental spills that could escape into the environment while the Station is sitting idle. The safest way to carry out this work is to remove them before demolition starts. Our priority is mitigating any risks such as fire, environmental and structural.

What other work is being done?

Many activities have been completed or are under way. The larger activities, some still in progress, include the cleaning of the boilers and associated equipment; cleaning of the precipitators; disconnection of the transformers; removal of 740,000 litres of oil from the transformers; the disconnection of overhead cables between the Station and the AusNet Switchyard and cleaning the coal handling plant on the main Power Station site to ensure there is minimal residual coal on site that could be a potential fire hazard.

All these projects take a great deal of careful planning by our project team members, and will continue to be completed over the coming weeks and months.

Are you using local contractors?

Local contractors are being used for all activities unless the expertise required is specialised and not available locally. For instance, under the Waste Management Plan approved by EPA for decommissioning, we must use a specially registered and licensed EPA contractor to remove hazardous substances such as oil.

Local contractor AsClear is well into the huge task of cleaning the boilers and associated plant, including removing all leftover fuel. It has a team of around 90 employees and contractors, working two shifts for 24 hours a day. Another local contractor, BMC, is disconnecting the transformers.

