

# FAQS

## HAZELWOOD POWER STATION & MINE

ENGIE

### ASH PONDS

#### What is an ash pond and how many are there?

An 'ash pond' (or landfill) is a nominated area approved by the regulator, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), to receive and store (long term) industrial wastes, such as the ash created from the combustion of brown coal. Each landfill is required to be managed within a set of regulations defined by the EPA to ensure there are no environmental impacts associated with the operation of the landfill.

The Hazelwood ash disposal landfills include the Hazelwood Ash Retention Area (HARA), Hazelwood Ash Pond 1 (HAP1) and Carbonation Pond, Hazelwood Ash Pond 2 (HAP2) remnant, Hazelwood Ash Pond 4 (HAP4), Treated Effluent Pond and the Recirculating Pond.

#### Now the Station and Mine aren't operating, what happens to these ponds and how will they be rehabilitated?

The Hazelwood ash ponds are being closed and remediated (rehabilitated) under a regulated framework including EPA Auditor approved rehabilitation plans and landform design.

The present scope of work for rehabilitation consists of the following activities, which will be undertaken in the approximate sequence:

- Draining the ponds, once the first phase of decommissioning is completed.
- Application of an interim clay cover to mitigate fugitive ash dusts and water ingress during the rehabilitation period.
- Complete capping of the respective ash disposal landfills to a capping type agreed with the EPA.
- Establishing a leachate disposal process from the existing seeps and soaks, potentially utilising passive techniques after the completion of the rehabilitation period.

These activities will be in accordance with an EPA Auditor approved Landfill Environmental Management Closure Rehabilitation Plan.

#### Is this a safe and permanent solution?

The rehabilitation plan is approved by the EPA and will represent best practice outcomes to provide a long-term, environmentally stable and safe end landform.

#### What checks are there to make sure this happens?

These activities will be conducted in accordance with an EPA Auditor approved Landfill Environmental Management Closure Rehabilitation Plan and stringent audit processes. Post completion, a continuing monitoring and assessment framework will be in place to demonstrate effective closure and rehabilitation.

#### You recently applied a spray to Hazelwood Ash Pond 4 (HAP4). Why?

The aerial spraying of HAP4 was a first for the business and will assist in mitigating dust during periods of high wind. When Hazelwood was operating, the ash ponds were covered with water from the station process to mitigate any dust. This water source is no longer available. With HAP4 continuing to dry out since closure, there was a potential for strong winds to generate surface dust, particularly during the high wind months of October and November.

To mitigate this, a non-toxic dust suppressant called Gluon, a versatile water-borne polymer emulsion, was sprayed onto the surface to form a "vener" or "crust".

The treatment will last at least 12 months, taking us through to the period of rehabilitation of the ponds.

