

FAQS



HAZELWOOD POWER STATION & MINE

PONDAGE

What will eventually happen to the Hazelwood Pondage?

There are a number of options under consideration for the final landform of the Hazelwood Cooling Pondage (HCP) post closure:

- Option 1: Retaining the existing water body as a cold lake is feasible, subject to establishment of ongoing management arrangements with regulators and stakeholders.
- Option 2: Forming a wetland with re-established flows from the various creeks into Eel Hole Creek and joining the Morwell River is possible, noting the Pondage would need to be partially drained and developed for this purpose.
- Option 3: Complete decommissioning involves remediating the site for appropriate future land use, e.g. as farmland.

What are some of the potential future uses of the Pondage if it's empty of water?

Much of the Pondage area was originally farm land and when empty, could be used for that purpose again. The large, relatively flat area also makes it suitable for possible commercial use, subject to planning permits. A significant advantage is its location - close to the Latrobe Valley's major towns, rail transport and roads.

Who will be responsible for it once Hazelwood leaves?

If a new owner is found, the asset would be legally transferred. Hazelwood will have a post closure obligation for care and maintenance on any remediated lands, as agreed with the various regulators.





How cold is the water temperature now and will it get much colder?

The main water body temperature has reduced from ~ 25 Degrees Celsius to close to ambient temperatures ~ 10 Degrees Celsius.

Have all the tropical fish died?

The main tropical fish species found in the HCP is Tilapia (*Oreochromis* spp - endemic to Africa and the Middle East), listed as a Declared Noxious Aquatic Species in Victoria as declared under the Fisheries Act 1995. We believe the majority of these tropical fish have perished, either as a food source for the introduced Barramundi or through the impacts of the reduced water temperature.

What about the Barramundi?

The Barramundi species is widely distributed in the Indo-West Pacific region from Southeast Asia to Papua New Guinea and Northern Australia, and regarded as a tropical species endemic to the warmer northern temperate waters. The Barramundi also have been impacted by the reduced water temperatures and a reducing food source as the Tilapia have similarly perished. The remaining fish are being progressively removed under the supervision of the Victorian Fisheries Authority. These fish will be disposed of through an accredited waste agent.

Do you need water from the Pondage for fire services in the Mine?

Yes, Pump House 50 and 53 is a component of the Mine Fire Services System and draws water from the hot channel of the Pondage. The system will be required for a period of time post initial Mine flooding.

Will the waterways running into the Pondage be affected?

Eel Hole Creek (East Branch) is the main natural waterway running into the Pondage. It will form a part of the final rehabilitation plan for the HCP, whereby its original landform/flow path will be largely re-created, reconnecting with the downstream West Branch of the Eel Hole Creek below the current Pondage outlet structure.

The final form of the current Works Effluent Pond is yet to be determined; it may be retained as a wetland or remediated back to agricultural land. This decision will form part of an overall water management plan for the remediated Power Station site.