

FAQS

HAZELWOOD POWER STATION & MINE

ENGIE

FIRE READINESS

What happens if there is a fire at Hazelwood after closure on 31 March 2017?

Fire prevention and readiness is, and will continue to be, a high priority across the Hazelwood Station and Mine sites after the official closure date. The extensive work being done around fire prevention and readiness will continue until the rehabilitation of the Mine has been completed and the Station demolished. A comprehensive program remains 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. 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'.

What fire prevention initiatives do you have in place?

We have an extensive pipe, spray and pump system protecting coal surfaces across the Mine. A water spray system on the batters can be turned on when required to wet down areas and reduce the risk of fire spread in the event of a fire starting. These are also regularly used for dust suppression. Sprays are mounted around the Mine and water hydrants are located 50 metres apart along the pipeline network.

Fixed thermal imaging cameras scan the Mine while portable thermal imaging cameras will continue to be used by our employees to instantly detect hot areas in and around the Mine.

Our Mine vehicles are checked daily. They have a modified exhaust with heat shielding to reduce the risk of fires starting. Every Mine vehicle must have a compliance sticker, indicating it is suitable for travelling over coal. They are also fitted with a fire extinguisher and a large box with firefighting equipment, including 60 metres of fire hose and nozzles.

In addition to our two tankers on site, we also have two large six-wheel drive water carts, which patrol the Mine daily in summer and are on call when necessary at other times. These vehicles carry between 30,000 and 40,000 litres of water and have high power sprays mounted on the front, back, top and sides. Additional carts may be used onsite if required by excavator and truck hauling operations for more dust suppression work.

We will continue our work in grass and vegetation fuel load reduction to mitigate the chance of a grass fire reaching the Mine perimeter. This work includes creating fire breaks, weed spraying and grass slashing.

What is the most likely source of fire at Hazelwood?

The main risk of fire is from plant and equipment operating in the Mine and also vehicles driving across the coal surface. Once we stop digging coal, the fire risk will reduce significantly. Overheating idlers under the conveyors can be an ignition source, as can equipment digging the coal, but as the conveyors and coal digging dredgers won't be operating after closure, this risk is also mitigated.

Only one dredger will be operating to dig overburden in preparation for rehabilitation of the Mine, so vehicles will carry this non-combustible clay product.





Are any extra measures taken on days of extreme fire danger?

The current procedures and measures 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. On the actual day, personnel from the Mine, Power Station and our fire and emergency services meet to review fire readiness plans and work for the day, and review expected weather conditions. An Emergency Command Centre is set up on days of Extreme fire risk.

Will you continue to work with the CFA?

The CFA is an integral stakeholder for emergency response at Hazelwood and this will continue until the completion of Mine rehabilitation. Members of local CFA units regularly attend exercises onsite to familiarise themselves with both the Mine and Station. We recently enhanced our cooperation with the CFA by installing a radio in the Hazelwood Gatehouse which links us directly with the CFA control centre.

Do you have any other outside assistance?

Hazelwood 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.

