

FAQS

HAZELWOOD POWER STATION & MINE



ENVIRONMENT

Will there be any water discharge from the Hazelwood site after closure?

Hazelwood discharges saline, artesian, stormwater runoff and treated waste water under strict EPA licence requirements. Currently, saline water is discharged to the saline water outfall system under agreement between Hazelwood and AGL Loy Yang. This water is managed and eventually discharged to sea. This will cease after the Station is safely decommissioned and the ash ponds are closed, a process that could take up to 12 months. Stormwater and treated waste water is discharged from both the Station and the Mine, and is pumped to Hazelwood Pondage after treatment for removal of suspended matter through the wastewater treatment pond. Once the Station closes, wastewater sent to the pondage will drop by about 8,000 megalitres a year. Stormwater from the Mine and Station will continue until rehabilitation starts and Mine flooding commences.

Will we continue to hear any noise events from the power station?

From time to time, noise from the Power Station is heard during startups and shutdowns. These noise events are infrequent and generate very few complaints. With the Station closure, both this potential noise and any local background noise will cease or be greatly reduced.

Will we continue to see emissions from the chimney stacks?

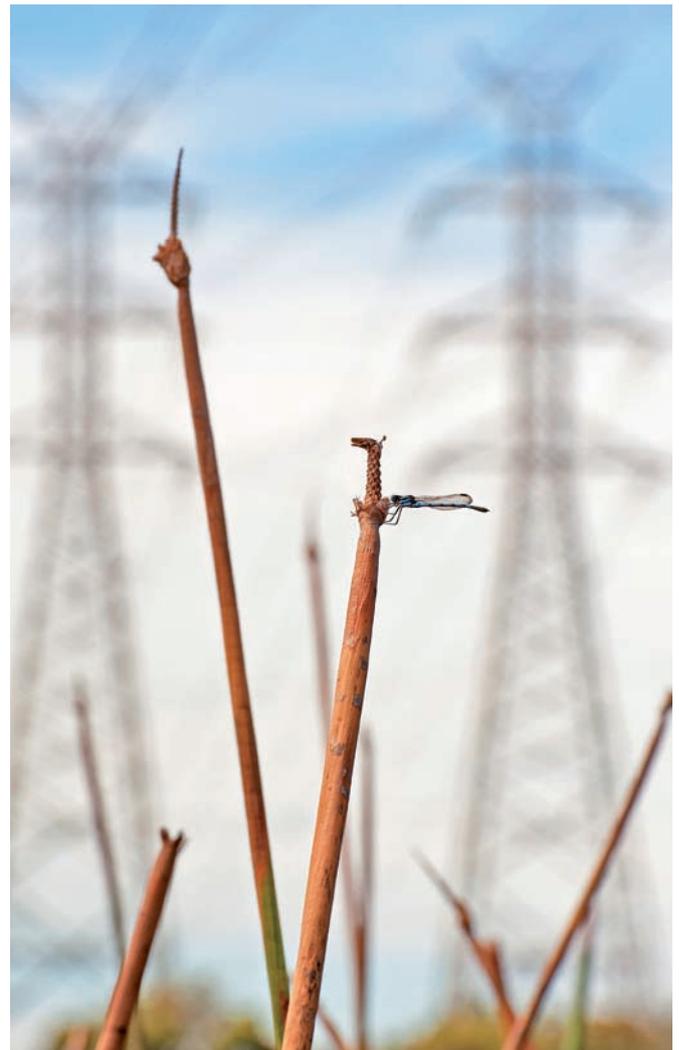
Visual emissions of particulates and steam from the stacks of Hazelwood Power Station will cease after the boilers are taken offline and cleaned. For a short period after closure, some visible emissions may occur as a result of the final boiler cleaning in preparation for the safe decommissioning of the Station. These will be managed under our existing EPA licence conditions.

Will dust suppression continue on site after closure?

Dust suppression work in the Mine will continue after the Station closes. Fugitive dust emissions are continually monitored as part of our normal operations, which is also an important part of our fire mitigation processes. This monitoring will continue through the Mine's decommissioning process and preparation for final rehabilitation.

What will happen to the Hazelwood Pondage when the Station closes?

The Hazelwood Pondage water quality is important, so the present monitoring regime will continue beyond the closure date of 31 March, 2017. Monitoring of water quality, water level and management of discharge to the Morwell River will all need to continue for some time. Hazelwood is also responsible for maintaining the integrity of the pondage wall and ensuring it is safe. This will continue for a number of years until the future of the pondage is determined.





Why did Hazelwood build a cooling pond?

The Hazelwood Pondage was built to cool water from the Power Station's condensers, enabling this water to be recycled through the station. This results in evaporation losses and a heated lake, which is available for recreational users. The water lost through evaporation is made up through rainfall, inflow from upstream (Churchill area stormwater), artesian water from beneath the Mine, raw Moondarra water purchased and used by the Station, and stormwater treated wastewater from the Mine and Station. The pondage is 550 hectares in size with a capacity of 31,000ML. This is close to the surface area of nearby Lake Narracan but holds more than four times the volume. Information on water quality and water level is provided to Latrobe City Council on a monthly basis.

Will the water still be warm after the Station closes?

Because no water from the Station condensers will be recycled back into the pondage, there will be a drop in the ambient temperature in a short period of time. Based on comparisons with Moondarra Reservoir and the Morwell River, the water temperature is expected to decrease by about 10°C. This would result in an expected high of about 20°C in summer and a low of about 10°C in winter.

What happens to the ash ponds at Hazelwood?

Hazelwood has a number of ash ponds on site, containing ash and saline water from the coal burning process. These are large, purpose-built clay lined containment

areas designed to settle ash from the water, which is then recycled back to the Station for reuse. One of these ponds has already been rehabilitated, while rehabilitation of another is almost complete. After closure, the boilers will be cleaned so ash will continue to be sent to the remaining operational ash ponds for several months before its ultimate rehabilitation. The ash ponds will then be drained and dried out, before being covered with an engineered capping liner as approved by the EPA. Such caps can comprise a combination of clay and geoplastic membranes and topsoil. The area can then eventually be returned to pasture. Capping designs and quality control during the rehabilitation are important steps to be managed and audited throughout the rehabilitation process.

Will there be any hazardous waste generated during the decommissioning?

As with most industrial sites and mines, the use of some potentially hazardous materials and chemicals is normal during operations. During the decommissioning and closure process, these materials are identified and their safe removal and disposal is managed using the existing procedures on site. Various waste management contractors with approved licences for transport and disposal are engaged to ensure the appropriate management of hazardous materials. Other solid wastes may also be generated during the decommissioning process. Hazelwood is generating a specific waste management plan to ensure the appropriate management and disposal of all waste generated on site.