

FAQS

HAZELWOOD POWER STATION

ENGIE

STATION
DECOMMISSIONING

DECOMMISSIONING, DEMOLITION AND REHABILITATION

The closure of the Hazelwood Power Station will be carried out in stages, at all times adhering to all relevant regulatory and legislative requirements. These stages are: shutdown, decommissioning, awaiting demolition, demolition and rehabilitation.



On 31 March 2017, do you flick a switch and everything shuts down?

Prior to the business closing date of 31 March 2017, the shutdown of the eight generating units will progressively occur over several days. The units are taken off gradually because an uncontrolled shutdown could increase the risk of injury to employees and damage to plant.

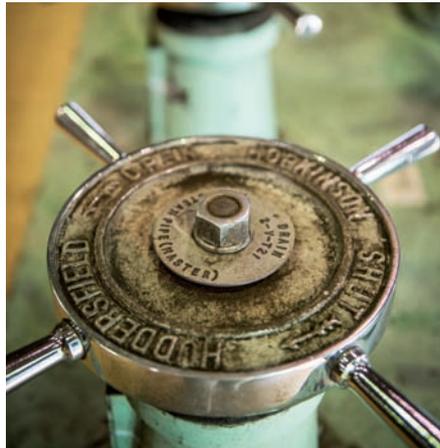
As part of the shutdown of the units, we will also be working with AusNet Services to ensure electricity supplies remain secure.

Why a controlled shutdown?

An uncontrolled shutdown could expose our operating staff to higher levels of safety risk and could also damage plant. Our people have spent all of their careers at Hazelwood caring for this plant and it would be disrespectful to ask them to carelessly destroy it. Some of our plant items can also be salvaged and an uncontrolled shutdown could make them worthless.

What happens in the 'shutdown' stage?

This first stage of the closure process, known as 'shutdown', will take place from the business closure on 31 March 2017 and continue until at least the end of May. Work includes draining fluids, and removing oil and industrial gases. We do this to mitigate risks from either fires from leaks or accidental spills that could escape to the environment while the Station is sitting idle before demolition. The safest way to carry out this work is to remove them before demolition starts. We will clean out the boilers and wash out ash and coal from all parts of the Station including conveyors and bunkers. It is important the closure process is orderly, controlled and safe in preparation for the decommissioning stage. Our priority is mitigating any risks such as fire, environmental and structural risks.



What happens in the ‘decommissioning’ stage?

This stage will take about 12 months. A systematic approach will involve further draining, 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 registers of hazardous materials, such as asbestos. Again, a priority will be managing any health and safety hazards, and mitigating fire, environmental and structural risks.

What is ‘awaiting demolition’?

This stage will continue for about two years and includes

consultation with the regulators around the final condition of the site and the tendering of contracts for work during the demolition stage.

How long will ‘demolition’ take?

This will take around three years. A systematic approach over this time will ensure all buildings are demolished and removed from the site.

What happens in the ‘rehabilitation’ stage?

The rehabilitation of the Station site will take about 12 months. After buildings have been demolished and materials removed, the site will be cleaned up and soil contamination checks conducted. The site will be returned to an area suitable for industrial use, permitted under its current zoning of ‘Industrial Special Use’.

