

FAQS

HAZELWOOD POWER STATION

ENGIE

STATION DECOMMISSIONING

When will decommissioning of the Hazelwood Power Station be completed?

Decommissioning activities in the Station are being managed in two phases. Phase 1 started immediately after closure on 1 April 2017 and finished in June 2017. Phase 2 began in August 2017 and is on track to be completed before the end of May 2018.

What type of activities have been completed?

Phase 1 activities included the de-energising of major plant and equipment and then extensive cleaning to make everything safe. This work included cleaning of the large boilers and the crusher house. The overhead cables which once sent power from Hazelwood Power Station to the AusNet Switchyard for distribution to the grid were also disconnected. More than one million litres of oil was safely removed from the site. Phase 2 activities have seen mechanical isolation of plant to remove all energy sources as well as disconnection of all electrical supplies within the Power Station. In addition, rubber belting over a metre wide and 450 metres long has been removed from the rising conveyors. This systematic approach ensures the facility will be left safe before demolition. Critical infrastructure such as fire services equipment remains in place and the site is monitored and patrolled by our security services.

Have you been monitoring the air quality to ensure community safety for during this work?

Yes. Regular air monitoring of the site is continuing with no abnormal readings recorded.

Have you also been checking for soil quality?

We conducted an extensive program of underground drilling to check soil quality. Specialist contractor ERM has drilled 76 bore locations around the power block - 60 of these were soil bores and a further 16 were initially soil bores then converted to monitor ground water. A Hazardous Materials Audit, part of the OHS Division 6 regulations, is also being undertaken.

Are there any employees still working in the Station?

As a result of the pending electrical disconnection of the Power Station, the majority of employees have relocated to the Mine Offices to allow Phase 2 decommissioning work to continue. However a crew of Station employees continues decommissioning work on the site. Contractors are also clearing the administration offices and surrounding buildings. Lifts have been decommissioned and buildings disconnected from energy supplies in preparation for demolition.

When do you expect demolition to start and how long will it take?

An expression of interest for site demolition works was issued in December 2017 with pre-qualification and shortlisting of tenderers planned in the first quarter of this year. After decommissioning is completed, we move into the next stage of the project which is called "awaiting demolition". This will take 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. All work, including removal of hazardous substances such as asbestos, is carried out in conjunction with regulators to ensure health and safety for employees and the community is a priority.

Will viewing locations be provided to watch the eight chimneys come down?

Should demolition plans proceed, it is too early to say how the demolition of the chimneys will be undertaken. Our work has been around ensuring the structures have been made safe. A significant body of work, including technical and engineering studies, needs to be undertaken before any decision is made on the process of demolition.

You have said the Hazelwood Power Station cannot be used again to generate electricity - is this correct?

Our plan is to decommission and demolish the Power Station. That has not changed. Apart from the fact that the plant and equipment is old and outdated, the activities we have already undertaken mean the plant cannot be re-energised.