



Thursday, December 21 2017

## Conveyor belt is reeled in

Eight conveyors, snaking from the Hazelwood Raw Coal Bunker to the Power Station, are progressively being removed.

The rubber and steel rising conveyors, each over one metre wide and 450 metres long, transported coal from the Mine into the raw coal bunker, then to the Crusher House, before finishing in the Station bunkers ready to heat the boilers.

Danny Kearns from contractor local Belle Banne is overseeing the project, which is mid-way through.

“All the work must be done manually with the five employees accessing the conveyors from walkways either side,” Danny said. “Specialised equipment is being used for this slow and meticulous process as each conveyor belt weighs 10 tonnes.”

The thick rubber belt contains steel rods needed to strengthen this piece of infrastructure, vital for reliable transportation of coal and overburden.

As each section is removed, it is wound onto a 20-tonne belt winder, similar to a large cotton reel.

“The most important part of the process is holding back the force so there is no uncontrolled movement,” Danny said. “Safety is paramount.”

The team will have completed the removal of six rising conveyors by Christmas with the removal of the remaining two expected to be completed by the end of January.

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