

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Milestone achieved



The Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project has reached a significant milestone with the decommissioning of the Power Station now complete.

We are proud of everyone who has played a part in this work which started in earnest the day after closure – 1 April 2017.

Importantly, it has been completed safely, on time and on budget.

I congratulate Station Director, Wayne Buckley, who headed the Station Decommissioning Project and his team of employees and contractors.

When decommissioning started, it seemed a mammoth task, but we were committed to all this work being done safely, which is why we used a systematic approach. This has ensured the facility is left in a safe state ready for demolition.

This project was managed in two phases - Phase 1 finished in June 2017 with Phase 2 starting in August 2017 and finishing today – 31 May 2018.

Phase 1 activities included the de-energising of major plant and equipment and then extensive cleaning and removal of oils and gases, to make everything safe. Much of this equipment, such as the boilers and crusher house, are huge structures.

Phase 2 activities saw mechanical isolation of plant to remove all energy sources as well as disconnection of all electrical supplies within the Power Station.

An extensive asbestos audit was also undertaken during the decommissioning project.

Critical infrastructure such as fire services equipment remains in place and the site is monitored and patrolled by our security and emergency services staff.

We are now moving into a period of “Awaiting Demolition”. This will take some time and will include consultation with the regulators around the final condition of the site and the tendering of contracts for work during the demolition stage.

We have appointed a specialist demolition consultant to undertake the significant task of completing the pre-planning work for the demolition. This includes developing the demolition tender specification, tendering to contractors and tender evaluation. This specialised work will be carried out over the remainder of 2018.

Running concurrently with the Station decommissioning has been our Mine decommissioning and Mine rehabilitation work.

Rehabilitation activities will take a hiatus in the coming months for the winter period and will recommence in spring. Upon commencement, work will be undertaken utilising truck and shovel to complete the remaining batter surcharge activities along with coal coverage and batter reshaping.

I want to also acknowledge the valued efforts of our 60 bucket wheel operators who have been involved with the initial stages of the batter surcharge works since closure. We will continue to support them as they leave the business in June 2018.

The Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project still has a long way to go and we are committed to continuing our extensive stakeholder engagement activities with the community for the rest of the year.

Our vision is to leave an asset that can be enjoyed by Latrobe Valley residents for generations to come. Our vision is to convert the Mine void to a full lake, although there is a range of regulatory approvals we need to obtain beforehand to deliver this outcome. We believe that a full lake represents a final landform that achieves our objective of a delivering a Safe, Stable and Sustainable outcome for the community, more so than a partial lake.

Importantly though, we want your input into the final land use – the area around the Mine is extensive and could lend itself to many uses, such as recreational, environmental and cultural. I urge you to take every opportunity to be involved in this process.

We have a vision for what the site could look like. But we want to hear yours.

Tony Innocenzi,
Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project Director