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### Final resting place for Mine dredgers

Work is taking shape on the final resting place for two Hazelwood Mine dredgers (Bucket Wheel Excavators) and associated large mining equipment (LME).

Mine Director Garry Wilkinson said a decision was made to relocate Dredgers 9 and 10 as well as the mobile slew conveyor S96 to a safe area on 5 Level for a localised decommissioning and demolition operation, rather than have the LME spread over different areas of the Mine.

Dredger 25 will continue digging overburden as part of ongoing Mine rehabilitation while Dredger 11, which has been out of service since May 2016, will remain in its current location on the level below its other coal digging counterparts where decommissioning and demolition works will be undertaken.

“Dredger 24 will be retained as a back-up overburden machine to Dredger 25 in the event of a major breakdown occurring,” Mr Wilkinson said.

“Work started just before closure on preparing the 5 Level area to make it safe. The chosen decommissioning/demolition location is Dredger 9’s former operating bench. At the end of coal excavation on 31 March 2017, this area finished up being 1.23 kilometres long and up to 170 metres wide.

“Because this site was a former operating coal face within the Mine, the area will soon be covered with a 300mm-thick layer of clay capping to reduce the risk of fire. Some 20,000-30,000 cubic metres of overburden has already been spread across the surface, with the remainder to be placed following the removal of M720 conveyor, currently running through the middle of the LME park up area.”

Finally, each of the park-up sites will have a 150mm-thick layer of crushed rock applied as a working surface for the LME decommissioning to take place. Additional crushed rock will be used for road access to the respective sites.





Mr Wilkinson said that once construction of these areas was complete, each of the LME would be cleaned and positioned on their respective park-up locations for the decommissioning/demolition process to start.

“Finally, secure fencing will be erected around each of the LME locations for safety reasons,” he added.

In addition, coal assets are being thoroughly washed down as part of the decommissioning process to remove all coal debris. Following this, oil, grease and stored energy will be removed with further decommissioning activities then occurring in readiness for the final handover to a demolition contractor.

