



## Hazelwood Closure Update



Tuesday, June 06 2017

### Routine chimney maintenance safely completed

A routine maintenance project on the eight Hazelwood chimneys has been safely completed. The year-long project ensures the integrity of the 137 metre high structures until the next stage of the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project.

Station Director, Wayne Buckley, said the chimney inspections and maintenance were planned and completed as part of the routine unit outages. Some preliminary preparation and scope development planning is normally undertaken while the units are operating and the main scope completed during planned outages.

“This routine inspection and maintenance is focussed on maintaining the chimney shell’s integrity,” Mr Buckley said.

The recently completed maintenance project started in January 2016 with an inspection by specialist contractor, Absafe, whose employees are highly trained and skilled in high rope access work. A scope of work for repairs was then developed, based on the inspection results and planned to be completed during 2016 and early 2017.

This detailed pre-planning is integral to the success of the project and its objective of chimneys “fit for purpose”.

“Once the closure of the station was announced and the business objectives changed, this project was reviewed and re-scoped,” Mr Buckley said.

Throughout the project, WorkSafe inspectors were on site for regular ‘Safety Walks’ which included updates on the chimney work.

Mr Buckley said based on expert engineering assessments, all work had now been completed and with existing controls, would ensure the integrity of the chimneys was maintained through to their planned demolition.

Construction of the chimneys started with the rest of the station in the 1960s. The most



visible part of the station, they have a diameter of 11 metres at the base, 7.4 metres at the top and are constructed as self-supporting steel reinforced concrete with a lining of fire brick when originally finished.

Mr Buckley said while the chimneys were a familiar sight in the Latrobe Valley, they had exceeded their design life by many years.

“They were built for the station’s original 25-year life,” he added. “Work from now will be around care and maintenance, ensuring they remain safe in a suitable condition until their demolition.”

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