



Monday, May 29 2017

Hazelwood Slot Bunker (HSB) cleaning

The Hazelwood Slot Bunker (HSB) once stored more than 25,500 tonne of raw coal to supply the Hazelwood Power Station's eight operating units.

Now it is one of the many large structures at the Station currently being decommissioned by Hazelwood's coal and ash employees.

Mine Decommissioning Project Manager, Dave Baxter, said prior to the Station's closure on 31 March 2017, planning was implemented to ensure that only the required quantities of coal were delivered to the raw coal bunker.

"During the closure process involving the winding down of the Station's generating units, as much coal as practically possible was extracted out of the HSB," Mr Baxter said. "However residual coal remains within the HSB, requiring removal as part of the decommissioning process."

Since closure, a range of works have been undertaken for the removal of this residue material. This includes:

- Dry cleaning to remove coal build up within the HSB operating levels;
- Thorough wash down of conveyor infrastructure supplying the HSB;
- Modification of HSB outlet conveyor lines allowing Bunker Discharge Wagons (BDWs) to reclaim as much dry coal as possible, conveyors then dump the reclaimed coal in an accessible area allowing the coal to be removed and transported back into the Mine;
- Protection of energised equipment in preparation for wet washing; and
- Wet washing of the HSB infrastructure following the removal of as much dry coal as possible from within each slot.

The cleaning of the HSB's three 8,500 tonne capacity slots is a major task with significant amounts of coal hung up and accumulated in inaccessible areas across each slot.



Mr Baxter said access was difficult and the process for removal of the coal was very time consuming.

“While every effort was made to extract all of the coal from within the HSB at closure, the residual amounts remaining are certainly a challenge to remove,” he said.

“Works are continuing systematically on both the removal of residual coal and the wash down of the HSB on a slot by slot basis. When the wash down is completed, the HSB will undergo further decommissioning activities in readiness for demolition of the asset.”

