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Internal cleaning works completed

Now internal cleaning of the eight Hazelwood Power Station boilers has been completed, attention has turned to the outside of the large chambers.

Employees with local contractor As Clear are washing the externals of the 50 metre high boilers including the roof trusses, wall cladding, beams and drains.

AsClear Site Manager, Kane Gostling, said it was important to remove any coal dust, ash or build-up of any excess materials.

Mr Gostling said prior to any work being undertaken, a great deal of planning including health and safety risks, went into preparing for the project.

“Before any of the external cleaning starts, our electricians complete a process of bagging electrical equipment,” he explained. “Anything that poses a risk if it comes into contact with water must be made safe.”

All electrical motors and associated equipment are made safe through a protective covering.

Work is carried out manually one stage at a time using 65ml fire hoses with long range nozzles. Low pressure hoses are used for the more intricate areas.

“We use a variety of equipment for this specialised industrial cleaning,” Mr Gostling said. “We have two shifts of 25 multi-skilled people working day and night.”

AsClear is also contracted to clean the large precipitators, once used to remove dust or ash from the coal burning process. Instead of passing all the dust into the atmosphere, these precipitators were like an electrical purification device for removing fine particles like dust from gases. Put simply, they separated the solid particles from the gases.

Mr Gostling said a detailed plan was again put in place to ensure safety of all employees.

Custom-made sprays were attached to the ceiling of the precipitator and overnight, the area is covered in water, minimising any risk of dust. A day-shift team then enters the space to complete manual cleaning including the huge steel plates which act like a giant filter.

“It has been a terrific team effort between Hazelwood project managers and AsClear to ensure a safe and efficient outcome,” Mr Gostling said.

