Let’s continue the conversation
Future generations are not going to remember the 52 years Hazelwood operated. They will remember the legacy left behind and how ENGIE Hazelwood helped shape the future.

For more than 50 years, Hazelwood produced the electricity that underpinned the state’s economic development and well-being. Now the focus is on how best to remediate and rehabilitate the 3,554 hectare future landform.

Communities are best placed to understand the opportunities and challenges they face, and to identify what the broader region needs to ensure continued growth in a changing economic landscape.

We want the people who live and work in the Latrobe Valley, who operate business and industry, and who are passionate about the future of Morwell and the wider Latrobe Valley, to contribute to discussions and influence decisions about what happens to the area affected by Power Station operations and mining.

ENGIE Hazelwood will work with the community to create a shared vision for the future of Hazelwood.

The need to balance and consider a range of influencing factors such as a shared vision, opportunities and constraints for the land, environmental attributes, commercial viability, liveability, and social and economic profile of the Latrobe Valley will form a basis for discussion.

To get the conversation started, this document has been developed to help set the scene. It outlines a number of questions community members have raised during our community information activities. It is now time for us to start those conversations and together we can shape our future.

JOIN US IN THE CONVERSATION

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

WE WILL LISTEN AND ACKNOWLEDGE

FUTURE USE OBJECTIVES

MINE MUST BE SAFE, STABLE AND SUSTAINABLE

FIRE READINESS A HIGH PRIORITY

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS IDENTIFIED

STATION CLEANED AND MADE SAFE

HAZELWOOD PONDAGE FUTURE

HOW CAN I JOIN THE CONVERSATION?
THE CHALLENGES:
The Hazelwood Project is the biggest of its kind to be undertaken in Victoria, possibly Australia. The rehabilitation of the Hazelwood Mine is a substantial project in isolation to the overall Hazelwood Project. The Mine boasts a perimeter boundary of 16.4 kilometres, a 100 metre average coal seam depth, with some 772 million tonnes of coal mined.

The rehabilitation goal is to provide a technically and practically feasible, safe, stable and sustainable landscape that reflects community aspirations and practicalities of mine rehabilitation.

The challenges facing the Hazelwood Project are not limited to the final Mine landform - they include the safe demolition of the ageing Power Station which has far exceeded its operating life; the safe removal of asbestos; the safe removal of large plant and equipment from in and around the Station; the demolition of the eight tall chimneys; ongoing management of fire preparation in the Mine; and the safe and sustainable rehabilitation of the Mine and surrounding area.

THE OPPORTUNITIES:
Hazelwood offers an array of opportunities for the local community and for the broader Latrobe Valley.

We will develop a shared vision and guiding objectives for our community that will underpin all elements of our project. These objectives should be reflective of the community’s aspirations for the site and could include:

- Provide a safe and stable landform for future use
- Value and complement the natural environment
- Provide a resource to the local community
- Honour the heritage value of the site
- Complement the future of the Latrobe Valley region
Community consultation and engagement is critical and planning is well advanced for broader engagement activities now, and as we move through the project.

We recognise and acknowledge the community wants to have their say about what might be next for the Hazelwood site. To reflect this, our engagement activities will now change focus and will seek out your thoughts, comments and suggestions.

- We want community input.
- We would like to know how we are doing.
- We want to hear your concerns and your ideas.
- We have made a commitment to consult, involve and collaborate with key stakeholders and the community.

We want the people who live and work in the Latrobe Valley, who operate business and industry, and who are passionate about the future of Morwell and the wider Latrobe Valley, to contribute to discussions and influence decisions about what happens to the area affected by Power Station operations and mining.
We must demonstrate that we are not only committed to keeping stakeholders informed but will listen to and acknowledge their concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how stakeholder input influenced or did not influence decisions. Information from this consultation will be incorporated into closure policy design and decision making processes. It is important that all feedback obtained through external engagement activities is recorded and considered.

The community must feel confident that any feedback from the consultation process will be considered by the appropriate parties - Hazelwood Project, government and/or regulators.

Feedback received through our engagement activities is captured in a secure stakeholder engagement database which enables us to assess and review the feedback and comments.

KEY QUESTIONS TO HELP SHAPE THE DEBATE

1. How can we have meaningful input into the final outcome of the Hazelwood site, especially the end concept for the Mine?
2. How can we be convinced our views will be given the proper consideration?
3. Can our ideas help shape the future end use of the site?

We understand the community is interested in the work we have completed and continue to complete. We will continue to engage and are committed to providing as much information as possible to key stakeholders and the community.

We will seek community input, we want to hear from the community and will listen to their ideas and concerns. We will work with the community to create a shared vision for the future of Hazelwood, and ensure the community has an asset that will shape the future of Morwell and the Latrobe Valley.

Lauren Carey - Communications Manager
Future use objectives

ENGIE Hazelwood has developed draft guiding objectives for community endorsement, aimed at capturing the community's views and aspirations for future land use. These guiding objectives will also assist, in due course, in forming the development of the draft masterplan for conceptual rehabilitation of both the Mine and Power Station sites.

PROVIDE A SAFE AND STABLE LANDFORM FOR FUTURE USE
- Meet regulatory and community safety concerns by ensuring long-term land stability
- Ensure the risk of Mine fire is managed to the community's expectations

VALUE AND COMPLEMENT THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
- Recognise and enhance the environmental potential of the site
- Provide an opportunity for local flora and fauna to flourish

PROVIDE A RESOURCE TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY
- To the extent possible, support a diverse range of future uses
- Enhance environmental, recreational, lifestyle, tourism and community outcomes

HONOUR THE HERITAGE VALUE OF THE SITE
- Maintain a link with the site's historic past as a testament to the Hazelwood workforce of 52 years while maintaining the cultural heritage

COMPLEMENT THE FUTURE OF THE LATROBE VALLEY REGION
- Build upon the natural beauty of the Gippsland region and expand local opportunities
- Encourage local community aspirations and local and regional planning processes

We want to leave the Latrobe Valley community with an amenity that can enhance the environmental and recreational lifestyles of residents and visitors for generations to come. This amenity would support a diverse range of future uses as well as provide an opportunity for local flora and fauna to flourish. It is also important for it to provide a link with the site’s historic past as a testament to the Hazelwood workforce of 52 years while maintaining the cultural heritage.
We have undertaken many studies into the best outcome for the Hazelwood Mine. Our view has always been that it must be left in a safe, stable and sustainable condition for the community and provide the community with many years of future use.

While we initially proposed two options - a partial and full pit lake - our preference is for the Hazelwood Mine to eventually become a full pit lake. We still have to undertake a range of technical studies that will help us to conclude what is the best final landform option from a ‘safe, stable and sustainable’ perspective, but this concept ticks the boxes. A full lake will diminish the risk of fire in the Mine and will also provide stability for the Mine walls. Importantly, it can be used for generations to come.

KEY QUESTIONS TO HELP SHAPE THE DEBATE
1. You have given the community two options for the final outcome of a rehabilitated Mine - a partial and a full pit lake. Which one is your preferred outcome?
2. Are there any other options which have not been considered?
3. Where will you get the water from to fill the Mine?
4. Could the water in the Mine be used for a hydro-electric plant on site?
5. Is there enough overburden in the Mine to complete all the rehabilitation work required?
6. What sort of community facilities will be created in and around the proposed lake in the Mine?

We are committed to returning the Hazelwood Mine to a full or partial pit lake to be used by our community into the future. While our preference is for a full pit lake, both concept plans include many possible uses for the area around the surface of the Mine, including woodland, native grass, wetlands, walking tracks, picnic facilities and other public amenities.

The opportunity that this project presents is exciting and I look forward to working with the community to provide a safe, stable and sustainable landform.

James Faithful - Mine Technical Services Manager
Fire prevention and readiness is, and will continue to be, a high priority across the Hazelwood Station and Mine sites. Although the fire risk has significantly reduced since the Mine stopped operating, the extensive work being done around fire prevention and readiness will continue until the rehabilitation of the Mine has been completed and the Station demolished. A comprehensive program remains in place to reduce the risk of fire. Our Mine employees continue to manage the fire risk on a 24/7 basis. This team can deploy additional personnel to protect the Mine prior to any extreme weather days. All our Mine staff and contractors are trained as ‘First Responders’.

The CFA is an integral stakeholder for emergency response at Hazelwood and this will continue until the completion of Mine rehabilitation. Members of local CFA units regularly attend exercises onsite to familiarise themselves with both the Mine and Station.

Our onsite emergency services provider’s employees are trained in all aspects of emergency response, including fire. Our fire readiness equipment onsite includes two fire tankers and several 30,000 litre water tankers.

KEY QUESTIONS TO HELP SHAPE THE DEBATE

1. What if a fire breaks out in the Mine or surrounding area before it has been fully rehabilitated?
2. You don’t have many employees on site now so will there be an adequate response?
3. Is there a sufficient supply of water to fight any fires?
4. Are all the water pipes and sprays operating?
5. Are there any fires still burning in the Mine?
6. Why has the fire risk reduced since mining operations ceased in the Mine?

Rob Dugan - Mine Production Manager
The safety of our employees is our highest priority in everything we do. Hazelwood already has a comprehensive register of hazardous materials onsite. In addition, as part of Division 6, 2017 Occupational Health Safety regulations for the site’s pre-demolition and rehabilitation, external hygienist experts are conducting an audit. The Division 6 audit will identify what hazardous materials within plant and buildings will be removed as part of the demolition activities. Access to some areas of the plant will determine the timeframe of the removal program during demolition. It is a lengthy process to identify and quantify all hazardous materials on site so a licensed demolition contractor can safely remove it all before demolition activities commence. An independent local company is conducting a new quarterly onsite air monitoring program. The program will continue until demolition to ensure there is no presence of any airborne fibre. An underground audit will also be conducted in coming months.

Over winter, we undertook aerial spraying of Hazelwood Ash Pond 4 (HAP 4) which has dried out since closure. There was a potential for strong winds to generate surface dust, particularly during the high wind months of September through to November. This treatment will last at least 12 months, taking us through to the period of rehabilitation of the ponds.

KEY QUESTIONS TO HELP SHAPE THE DEBATE
1. We are concerned about the presence of asbestos on the Hazelwood site. How can you assure us that this is being managed correctly?
2. What if asbestos or some other hazardous substance escapes into the air?
3. What happens when the ash ponds dry out - will nearby communities be affected by dust?
4. Who will ensure that Hazelwood complies with health and safety, and environmental regulations designed to keep our community safe?
All large plant and equipment in and around the Station has been cleaned and made safe for its eventual removal and demolition. This has taken some months as areas such as the boilers and crusher house are huge and often covered in ash. Hazardous substances such as oil had to be safely removed before cleaning could start and any power sources disconnected. Some of this plant and equipment can be used by our other assets or sold off.

The Station, including the chimneys, will eventually be demolished and the site returned to a safe and sustainable condition for any future use under its current zoning of 'Industrial'.

KEY QUESTIONS TO HELP SHAPE THE DEBATE

1. Has all plant and equipment been removed from the Power Station?
2. What will eventually happen to the Station and the chimneys?
3. Why do the chimneys need to be demolished?
4. What happens to the items of historical significance and/or interest on site?

Our systematic approach to decommissioning in the Station ensures our site is secure while we manage ongoing security, clear buildings and organise salvage activities. We are committed to decommissioning the Power Station safely, ensuring the facility is left for demolition to be carried out in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.

Wayne Buckley - Station Director
The Hazelwood Pondage has played an integral role in the production of electricity at Hazelwood as well as being made available for community recreational use. Now the Station has stopped operating, the temperature of the Pondage water has dropped significantly, causing the death of the introduced tropical fish. The future use of the Pondage is still to be determined and will be done in consultation with the community. Most likely it will be aligned with final Mine rehabilitation and its water used in Mine flooding. The area would then be returned to the community as wetlands and/or agricultural land.

KEY QUESTIONS TO HELP SHAPE THE DEBATE
1. Why can’t the Pondage remain as a recreational water source?
2. Who will look after the Pondage if it remains as it is at present?
3. If the water is used to flood the Mine, what happens to the local waterways that feed into it?
4. We want to continue to fish for barramundi - can we have access to the closed off area near where they are now located?
5. What is the integrity of the dam wall?

We are committed to being environmentally responsible in all aspects of the Hazelwood Project. All work done across our site is in accordance with Environment Protection Authority procedures and our EPA licences. We must ensure the facility is left for demolition to be carried out in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.

Ross Brooker - Environment Manager, Regulation
Our goal is to engage often and widely with everyone in our community; to have open, honest and respectful two-way conversations; and to come up with solutions that best meet the needs of our community. We will do this through a range of processes which are listed in our engagement document ‘Hazelwood - Be part of our future’. Be assured we will ensure that we consult widely and endeavour to contact all sections of our community in the process.

Over the months ahead, you will find us going out to the community to discuss our final rehabilitation conceptual plans. Advertising of those activities will allow you to be part of this conversation. If you can’t make it in person, you can contact us:

(03) 5135 5000

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How can I join the conversation?

Over the months ahead you will find us going out to the community to discuss our final rehabilitation conceptual plans. We want you to join the conversation and ‘Be part of our future’.

Tony Innocenzi - Hazelwood Project Director