Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project

Community Update

June 2024

IN THIS EDITION: Snapshot of our recent specialist panel, how project alternatives are considered in the EES, and a site works update.

Stay up to date

To keep up to date on the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project, visit our website hazelwood rehabilitation.com.au

Site activities ramping up

Works to rehabilitate one of the most visible areas of the site are progressing. Read more about rehabilitation works currently underway at the Hazelwood site.

Technical Conversation Session

In April and May, the Environment Effects Statement team held a specialist panel to share information about the project and ensure we're building community feedback into the environmental assessments. Read on to see what we heard and how you can get involved.

EPA audit underway

Before the decision that an EES should be prepared for the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project, ENGIE Hazelwood initiated preparation of an independent Environmental Audit of the mine void by an EPA Appointed Auditor.

The results of the Audit are expected to be publicly available in the second half of 2024 and will feed into the project's EES. The Audit and the public report will include assessment of:

- the effects potentially contaminated material in the mine void, including the Hazelwood Ash Retention Area (HARA), would have on water quality in the pit lake
- recommendations on ongoing management of the HARA
- groundwater flow and quality in relation to the materials in the mine void
- measures to mitigate or manage any unacceptable risks to human health and the environment.

We'll provide updates on the Audit on the project website hazelwoodrehabilitation.com.au

Works on Eastern Batters progress

Works to rehabilitate one of the most visible areas of the site are well underway. The Eastern Batters, once steep mine walls, have been reprofiled, capped and are now fully grassed in a number of areas.

At the Eastern Overburden Dump, surface drainage works are underway to reduce water infiltration and improve runoff in the area.

Other activities to rehabilitate the Hazelwood site are continuing, with a focus on rectification, reshaping and drainage.

The Hazelwood team is working closely with Environment Protection Authority (EPA) which licenses landfills around the site. Works are being undertaken in accordance with Best Practice Environment Management (BPEM) protocols.

Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan

ENGIE Hazelwood is required under Victorian Government legislation to prepare a Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan (DMRP). The DMRP will detail the plan for mine closure, post rehabilitation of the site, and include the system for managing any impacts on the community and the environment.

The DMRP will address the specific criteria that mine operators must meet for mine closure – ensuring the mine land is safe, stable, and in a sustainable condition to enable relinquishment of the site and mining licence.

The DMRP will include measures to ensure potential public health and infrastructure risks are addressed; erosion and fire risks are managed, and future suitability and water use is managed responsibly.

The DMRP must also provide a post-closure monitoring and maintenance plan to manage any future risks and impacts, including how ENGIE will keep community and stakeholders informed when the DRMP is being delivered.

Work to prepare the DMRP is starting and will continue alongside EES preparation. We'll keep communities updated on opportunities to inform the development of the DRMP.

Find out more about how alternatives are being considered in the EES

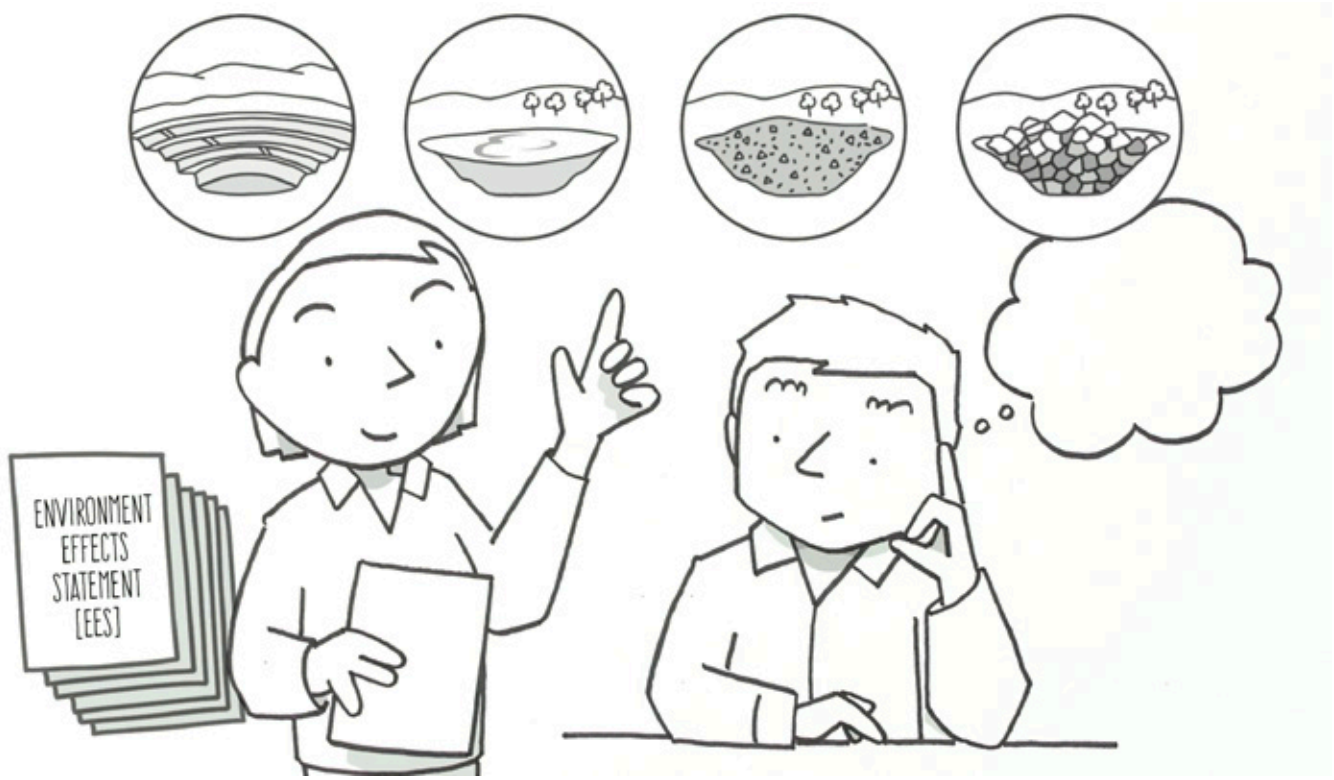
The EES Scoping Requirements require the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project EES to:

- Describe any feasible alternatives capable of substantially meeting the projects objectives
- Describe how information gathered during consultation was used to inform the assessment of project alternatives
- Document the assessment of likely environmental effects of feasible alternatives, particularly where these may avoid or minimise significant environmental effects.

Any rehabilitation solution needs to satisfy project requirements for geotechnical stability, provide enough weight balance on the floor and walls of the mine, and manage fire risk.

A full pit lake is proposed as the most effective solution to deliver on the project's objectives of a safe, stable, sustainable and non-polluting site.

You can watch the alternatives video online here.



Technical Conversation Sessions continue in 2024

After the success of our Technical Conversation Series in 2023, ENGIE Hazelwood was back in Morwell in April for the third round of our conversation sessions.

52 people came along to the session to hear directly from specialists preparing technical studies for the project's EES. Attendees heard an overview of the EES process, and the methods specialists will use to prepare their assessments.

After the presentations, attendees were invited to ask questions of the specialists and provide their feedback as part of a facilitated panel discussion. The session ended with an opportunity to speak with specialists directly about their assessments and the project.

After the Morwell session, the project team also hosted an online webinar and Q&A for those unable to attend the in-person session. 28 people joined to hear directly from the specialists, ask questions about their study areas and provide feedback.

Feedback received during these sessions will be shared with project specialists to inform preparation of the EES and technical studies.

Couldn't make the session?

Head to our project website and view the recording of the webinar.

ENGIE in the community

Our team was out and about in Morwell and Traralgon during April to share more information about the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project and promote upcoming community sessions on the EES.

Our team attended the April Traralgon Farmers Market to provide an update to locals about the project and rehabilitation plans.

We had lots of in-depth and constructive conversations about the project, the EES process and the proposed pit lake solution.

Newspaper ads Latrobe Valley to Lakes Entrance

Radio ads throughout Latrobe Valley

Postcards mailed to homes from Yarragon to Bairnsdale

Flyer handouts in Morwell and Traralgon

Stakeholder calls and emails

Talking technical in Morwell with EES specialists

Thanks to everyone who joined us in Morwell and online for the third instalment of our Technical Conversation Sessions. The interactive panel discussions and Q&A sessions are a way for ENGIE Hazelwood to capture questions and feedback directly from the community, to ensure they are addressed in the project's EES.

We'll continue to meet with community and stakeholders throughout 2024 to ensure we're building community feedback into EES preparation. Future event details will be published on our website and through our e-newsletter.

80 people

80 questions and feedback captured

4 specialist topics

What we heard

Feedback gathered throughout engagement activities will help to inform preparation of the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project EES.

Landform safety and stability

Delivering a safe, stable and sustainable landform is central to the feasibility and success of the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project.

A full pit lake is proposed as the most effective way to keep the mine void and surrounding areas stable and safe from risks of ground movement and fire. This is because the pressure of water from a full pit lake presses down on the mine floor and stops the steep sides of the mine void from collapsing.

Attendees at the sessions asked whether a partial pit lake presses down on the mine floor and could achieve the project's safety and stability objectives, and how the rate of filling will impact stability.

Common questions and comments raised included:

- Could a partial pit lake satisfy project stability requirements, and provide enough weight on the floor of the mine?
- Is subsidence or rebound in the Latrobe Valley likely, and how might these impacts be managed or monitored?
- How does the speed of mine filling impact stability?

Groundwater resources

Groundwater will be a key source of water to fill the pit lake. Over time, water from rain and rivers migrates through the ground and is stored in porous soils and rocks, forming aquifers.

The mine floor is below the natural water table, and groundwater continues to be pumped away from the mine to maintain safety and stability.

Attendees were particularly interested in hearing about how groundwater pumping will impact aquifer flows, the cumulative impacts of mine rehabilitation on the aquifers, and any risks of pit lake water leaking into the aquifers.

Common questions and comments raised included:

- How will cumulative impacts to groundwater resources in the Latrobe Valley be considered?
- Are groundwater levels expected to return?
- Could water in the pit lake seep into the aquifers?
- Will reduced groundwater pumping impact aquifer flows in the Latrobe Valley?

Waterways and water sources

The Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project EES will consider waterways within and beyond the mine site, and assess potential impacts of the project on catchments, rivers and wetlands.

The EES will also include an assessment of both an unconnected lake and an option to provide a limited connection between the Morwell River and the pit lake.

Attendees asked specialists about the water sources being considered, the downstream impacts, and the potential role of a connected lake in rehabilitation plans. Some participants highlighted their concern about flooding, and asked if the project could help to mitigate this risk.

Common questions and comments raised included:

- What water sources are being considered to fill the pit lake?
- How will possible effects on downstream waterways be measured and considered?
- Could a connected pit lake provide flood mitigation and irrigation benefits to the Latrobe Valley?
- What are the expected impacts of a pit lake on ecological values in and around the site?
- What rehabilitation activities are planned at Eel Hole Creek, and is this included in the EES?

Water quality in the pit lake

Understanding water quality in the pit lake is a key study in the EES, and findings from the study will also be used to inform other relevant technical assessments.

The EES will consider how water sources and conditions in the mine void could affect water quality both within the lake and downstream.

Attendees discussed the potential future uses of a rehabilitated site, as well as opportunities to support biodiversity on site. There was also discussion about the various sources of the water already in the mine void.

Common questions and comments raised included:

- What is the expected quality of water in the pit lake after the Hazelwood Ash Retention Area is covered with water?
- Will the pit lake water quality support future use opportunities and biodiversity?
- How are you considering impacts of potential site contaminants on water quality?

Want to know more?

To stay up to date on project news and future events visit, hazelwoodrehabilitation.com.au

ENGIE Hazelwood acknowledges that the Gunaikurnai people are the Traditional Owners and Native Title holders of lands and waters in the Latrobe Valley and broader Gippsland region in which the ENGIE Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project is located, and we pay our respects to Elders past and present.