

Community Update

September 2026

IN THIS EDITION: The EES on public exhibition and Hazelwood attracts international interest on transition from a coal-based economy

The EES is on public exhibition

The Environment Effects Statement (EES) and the draft Planning Scheme Amendment for the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project are on public exhibition from Monday 21 September to 11.59pm on Monday 2 November 2026.

The EES describes the project rationale and brings together technical investigations and community consultation undertaken to assess the proposed rehabilitation of the Hazelwood site. This marks a significant milestone in rehabilitation at Hazelwood and reflects years of technical investigations, environmental studies, planning and community engagement.

We would like to thank the community, Traditional Owners, stakeholders, technical specialists and government agencies who have contributed their knowledge, feedback and expertise throughout the development of the EES.

During the public exhibition period, anyone can make a written submission on the EES and the draft Planning Scheme Amendment No. C159latr (draft PSA). The submission process is independently managed by Planning Panels Victoria (PPV) and provides an important opportunity to have your say on the project.



Learn more and access the EES

Visit hazelwoodrehabilitation.com.au to:

- View the EES, draft PSA and supporting technical reports
- Access project updates and frequently asked questions
- Learn more about the EES and how to navigate the exhibition documents
- Find information about upcoming information sessions in Morwell

> Turn the page to find out what is in the EES and how to make a submission

What is in the EES?

The main EES is made up of 28 summary chapters, separated into three parts. It includes 17 technical reports and 6 supporting attachments.



Part 1

Part 1 of the main EES provides an introduction to the project, including why it is needed, how it has been developed, the alternatives considered, and the planning and assessment framework. It also summarises community and stakeholder engagement and how feedback has been considered and addressed in the EES.

Part 2

Part 2 includes summary chapters for each of the environmental assessments. This includes:

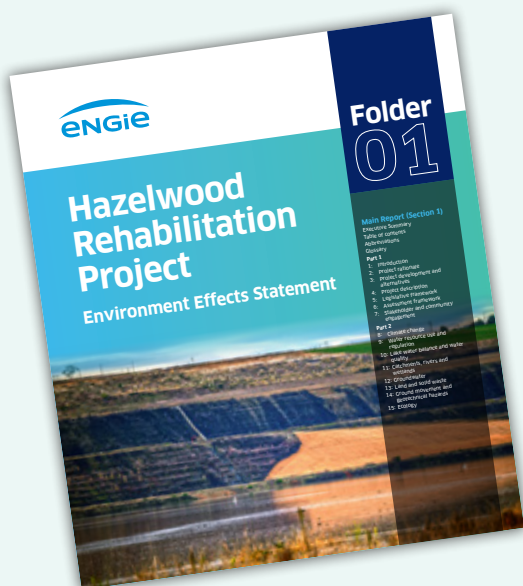
- Climate change
- Water resource use and regulation
- Lake water balance and water quality
- Ground movement and geotechnical hazards
- Groundwater
- Catchments, rivers and wetlands
- Land and solid waste
- Ecology
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
- Historic heritage
- Air quality
- Noise and vibration
- Landscape and visual
- Socio-economic impact
- Land use and planning
- Mine fire risk
- Transport

Part 3

Part 3 brings together key findings on matters of national environmental significance, an integrated assessment of environmental effects, conclusions on the project scenarios and alternatives considered, and the Environmental Management Framework for the project.

Technical reports provide detailed information on the studies undertaken for each of the 17 environmental assessments covered in Part 2.

The **6 attachments** include several supporting documents and draft approval documents, such as the EES Consultation Report, the draft PSA and the draft Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan.



What we have heard

Throughout the EES process, we have been engaging with Traditional Owners, stakeholders and community members to gain local insight and seek feedback.

To see how this feedback has informed the EES, refer to Chapter 7 Stakeholder and community engagement, or Attachment V Consultation Report. These documents detail ENGIE Hazelwood's engagement activities and how feedback has informed the project and been considered in the preparation of the EES.



Where to view the EES

- You can view the EES and draft PSA at hazelwoodrehabilitation.com.au
- The EES and draft PSA are also available to view at the Latrobe Valley GovHub in Morwell, TAFE Gippsland Traralgon campus, Sale Library, and State Library Victoria.
- The addresses of these display locations can be found on hazelwoodrehabilitation.com.au
- You can also email hazelwood.au@engie.com to request a posted copy of the EES Summary Report or the complete EES on a USB memory stick, mailed to your address.



How to make a submission on the EES

The EES and draft PSA are on public exhibition for 30 business days from Monday 21 September until Monday 2 November.

During the public exhibition period, anyone can make a written submission on the EES and the draft PSA.

Submissions must be made in writing and received before the close of the exhibition period at 11:59pm on Monday 2 November via the Victorian Government's Engage Victoria website at engage.vic.gov.au/Hazelwood-Rehabilitation-Project-IAC

Submissions will be treated as public documents and will be published on the Engage Victoria website.

If you do not have internet access and are unable to make a submission online, contact PPV through the Customer Call Centre on 136 186 (select option 6) and request a hard copy submission coversheet.

The submission collection process is independently managed by PPV and any enquiries regarding the management of submissions should be directed to PPV.



Upcoming events

ENGIE Hazelwood is holding two community information events during the EES exhibition period.

You can attend at any time during these sessions to understand how to navigate the EES documents, learn about how to make a submission and ask the project team questions.

Italian Australian Club
499-501 Princes Drive Morwell
Tuesday 6 October 2026 5:00-8:00pm
Wednesday 7 October 2026 11:00am-2:00pm



What happens next?

1

Public exhibition begins

The EES and supporting documents, including the draft PSA, are publicly available. Public exhibition began on Monday 21 September.

2

Review the information

Community members, stakeholders, and interested organisations can review the documents, which are available online at hazelwoodrehabilitation.com.au and at the Latrobe Valley GovHub in Morwell, Gippsland TAFE Traralgon campus, Sale Library and State Library Victoria.

Check out our [Navigating the Environment Effects Statement](#) fact sheet and online interactive tool to find the sections of the EES that matter most to you.

3

Make a submission

Anyone can make a written submission during the exhibition period via engage.vic.gov.au/Hazelwood-Rehabilitation-Project-IAC

4

Public exhibition ends

The EES is on public exhibition for 30 business days. Public exhibition ends at 11:59pm Monday 2 November 2026.

5

Public hearings

An Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) appointed by the Minister for Planning will review submissions and conduct public hearings. The hearing gives ENGIE Hazelwood and people who have made submissions and indicated they wanted to be heard an opportunity to speak in support of their written submission.

6

Independent review

Following the public hearings, the IAC will review the EES, the draft PSA, and all written submissions received. The IAC will then provide advice to the Minister for Planning.

7

Minister's assessment

The Minister for Planning will prepare an assessment of the project's environmental effects to inform subsequent statutory approval decisions.

Hazelwood attracts international interest

The Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project continues to attract international interest on topics as diverse as the transition from a coal-based economy to how various soil types support rehabilitation works.

A European Union (EU) delegation toured the site in August 2026 as part of a visit to Australia that included the Latrobe Valley.

The International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC) delegation had an intensive five-day study visit to Melbourne and Gippsland, exploring how international regional cooperation can support the transition from traditional energy industries towards renewable energy, new economic opportunities and a socially inclusive net-zero future.

The study visit placed strong emphasis on learning directly from projects and places undergoing transformation, so Hazelwood was an important destination. The delegation visited the site, examining the long-term challenges associated with repurposing former mining land. The program also included the Yallourn mine area and discussions around the future use of industrial sites and infrastructure.

Another visit during August was by Professor Jan Frouz from Charles University, Prague, in the Czech Republic.

His area of interest is in soil science and ecosystem restoration after mining. He has taken samples from around the world – including Africa and America – and now Hazelwood.

His work has a particular focus on restoration of soil as part of ecosystem recovery due to soil processes and functions.

Professor Frouz collected numerous samples from areas around the Eastern Overburden Dump (EOD) on the Hazelwood site, including from pasture and wooded sections and replanted at various times. He was accompanied by Federation University's Professor Thomas Baumgartl, who is at the University's Churchill campus. He is an environmental scientist with a specialisation in soil hydrology and soil mechanics.

Professor Frouz's work may assist the ENGIE team when considering further methods of rehabilitation as the project progresses.



Professor Jan Frouz and Federation University's Professor Thomas Baumgartl.

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.

hazelwoodrehabilitation.com.au

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