

## Community Update



JUNE 2023

**IN THIS EDITION:** Demolition program complete, what we heard at our latest community events, recent group tours of the site and upcoming ways you can have your say on the Environment Effects Statement (EES).



### Stay up to date

To keep up-to-date on the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project, visit our website [hazelwoodrehabilitation.com.au](https://hazelwoodrehabilitation.com.au)

## The Hazelwood demolition program is now officially complete!

**Three years after the iconic Hazelwood chimneys were demolished, a certificate of final inspection was issued in May 2023.**

The Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project included one of the largest demolition programs in the world at the time. The explosive engineered collapse of the eight chimneys on 25 May 2020, demolition of bucket-wheel dredgers and similar explosive collapses of the eight boiler house units that formed the Hazelwood Power Station were the high-profile activities in the program.

However, there were other extensive works that needed to be completed, including demolition of kilometres of conveyor belts, demolition of massive buildings such as the concrete coal bunker and clearing of other structures around the site. The site of the former power station has also been cleared.

Most importantly, the entire demolition program was completed without a Lost Time Injury, meaning all works were completed safely.

The official certificate of final inspections formally completes the demolition program, while extensive earthworks, rehabilitation and remediation activities are continuing at the site.

# Local stakeholder visits to the Hazelwood site

Over the last couple of months the Hazelwood team has been pleased to host several tours of the site by local groups and stakeholders with an interest in the rehabilitation plans and EES.

We've had media groups onsite for a project update and capturing footage of our latest progress. We've also had Commonwealth and Victorian regulators, and site tours and in-depth discussions with the following organisations:

- Latrobe Valley Authority
- The Coal Face Podcast
- Environmental Justice Australia
- Environment Victoria
- Great Latrobe Park
- Voices of the Valley
- Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority



We are very grateful for the opportunity to talk with representatives from the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) to learn about their knowledge of the area and respond to questions and concerns. Earlier in April we were also joined for a tour by Martin Cameron, Member for Morwell (pictured).

Visits to the site will continue to be a feature of our engagement program to support the preparation of the EES.



## ENGIE in the community – recent activities and feedback

Over the last month, ENGIE Hazelwood has been out in the community talking about the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project and letting people know how they can participate in the preparation of the project's Environment Effects Statement process.

We thank everyone who visited our information stands and attended our community sessions in Morwell, Traralgon and Sale.

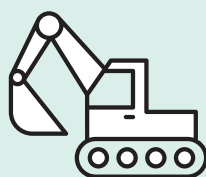
The sessions provided an opportunity to talk through the draft Scoping Requirements. The Scoping Requirements are prepared by the Victorian Government to set out the matters which will be considered in the EES. Submissions to the Department of Transport and Planning are now closed, but you can view the draft by visiting Engage Victoria at [engage.vic.gov.au](http://engage.vic.gov.au)

We had several in-depth and constructive conversations about the project and the proposed lake solution. We heard how connected people feel to the Hazelwood site and how important it is for the project to leave a positive legacy for the Latrobe Valley community and the Gippsland region.

While we encouraged everyone to provide feedback in submissions to the Victorian Government, here is a snapshot of discussion themes.



Seeking more information about how the water impacts of the project will be assessed by the EES



Why the proposed solution of a lake is preferred and whether alternatives have been considered



Wanting to know more general information about the project and the EES process, and the expected timeline



Questions about how any contamination issues and water quality will be managed and assessed in the EES



## Draft Scoping Requirements Webinar

In late April, ENGIE Hazelwood hosted an online webinar that provided an overview of the project and the Environment Effects Statement process, including how to provide a submission on the draft Scoping Requirements.

The session also offered an opportunity to meet the ENGIE Hazelwood team and finished with an engaged Q&A session. You can watch the webinar and read the Q&As on our website.

## How you can get involved in the Environment Effects Statement

The preparation of the EES is a critical step in planning the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project. It will make comprehensive assessments of the project's potential effects publicly available for community information and submissions.

To make sure we're keeping people up to date and seeking people's ideas and feedback, over the next couple of months we're launching the EES Technical Conversations Series.

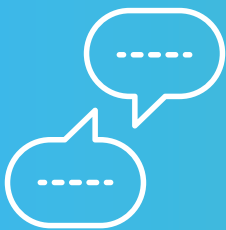
This program of technical events and sessions will help explain the science and technical modelling that informs the rehabilitation project and lake proposal and ensure your questions are being considered in the project's Environment Effects Statement.

Together with technical specialists, the ENGIE Hazelwood project team will share the work underway as part of the EES process to review and assess the potential environmental impacts of the project.

Each session in our Technical Conversations Series will cover the areas of the project being assessed, including:



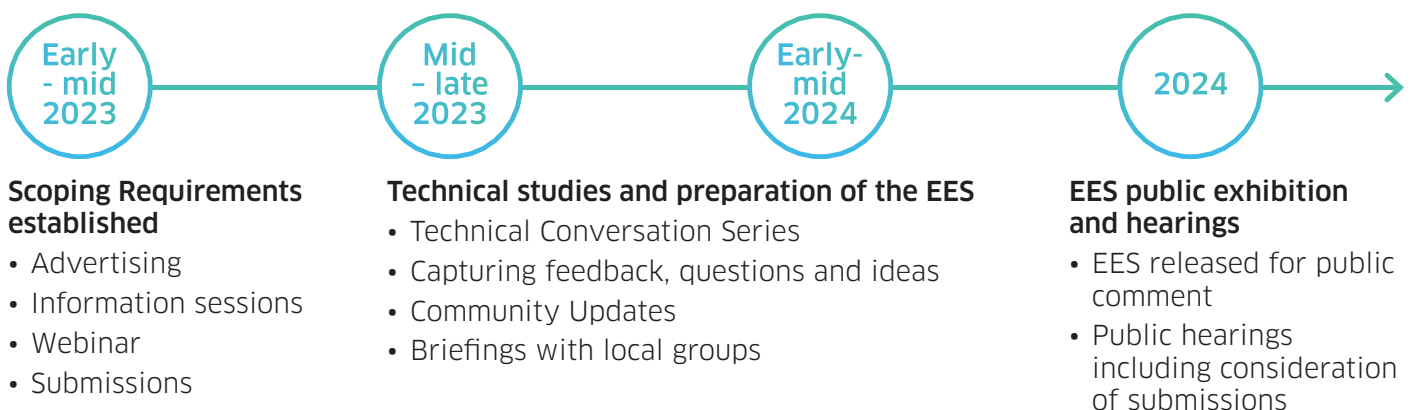
- Ground movement, stability and safety
- Management of contamination and risks
- Water sources, quality and waterways
- Ecology and biodiversity
- Alternative options considered
- Climate change scenarios and impacts



The Hazelwood EES Technical Conversations Series will kick off in July and be held several times over the next year, both online and in person. There will be opportunities to discuss the project and raise questions directly with the team and the technical specialists undertaking the assessments.

More information about these sessions will be published on the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project website in the coming weeks. To stay up-to-date, please visit our website to subscribe to our e-news.

## Key steps to prepare the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project EES





## Meeting with the Environment Review Committee

**Members of the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project's Environmental Review Committee (ERC) toured the Hazelwood site in May, as part of the ongoing involvement of community members and government regulators in oversight of ENGIE Hazelwood's mine licence.**

The ERC typically meets three times a year to review onsite activities and provide feedback on any issues of concern.

The group includes a number of community members and representatives of local government and state government departments.

After a tour of the site, the ERC received an in-depth briefing on current key elements of the project including the EES process.

Feedback from the committee members included recommendations about further community outreach, and recognition of how far on-site works have progressed since the last meeting.

The upcoming Technical Conversation Sessions will present a great opportunity for broader community discussions with the project team and with the technical specialists preparing assessments for the Environment Effects Statement.

## Ongoing water quality monitoring

**ENGIE Hazelwood carries out regular water quality monitoring across the Hazelwood site, in line with our rehabilitation and regulatory requirements including EPA licence conditions and our General Environmental Duties.**

Regular water monitoring has been underway at the site since the 1980s, and our current monitoring program is helping us understand current and potential future water quality in the mine lake.

We test and analyse water at several locations around the site, including in the mine void and upstream and downstream in the Morwell River. Depending on the things we're testing, like water flows, temperature, metals, minerals, oxygen and solids in the water, we take samples weekly, monthly or quarterly.

In 2022, ENGIE Hazelwood launched a water monitoring pontoon in the mine pit to improve our water monitoring capabilities. The pontoon provides a more accurate picture of water quality because it continuously gathers data about the water depth, temperature, cloudiness, any algae or organic materials present, and how saline or salty the water is.

Water quality is analysed to nationwide accredited standards which are governed by the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA).

The results of our water monitoring will feed into the technical assessments being prepared for the project's Environment Effects Statement.



## Rehabilitation works well underway

Rehabilitation works at the Hazelwood site have been underway for many years, well before closure of the mine and power station. Several major programs of rehabilitation work are continuing at the site under existing approvals.



### Remediation of the HAP4

One of the largest programs of work undertaken so far at Hazelwood has been the remediation of the Hazelwood Ash Pond (HAP4).

The HAP4 is a 30-hectare area on the north-eastern corner of the Hazelwood site which was used to store and contain coal ash created when coal is burned to generate power.

Coal ash was transported to this site during the

operation of the coal mine and power station.

The HAP4 is an EPA-approved landfill and all remediation and capping works at the HAP4 are being reviewed by an independent EPA-accredited auditor.

The HAP4 remediation works are expected to be completed in the next few weeks, and pasture grasses will then be planted over the area.



### Earthworks on Eastern mine batters

**One of the most visible areas of the Hazelwood site will have a new look in the next few months.**

The Eastern batters, the wide area of clay-covered embankment visible from the Princes Freeway, particularly for people travelling east, will soon have grasses planted on it.

Topsoil is now being placed on a lengthy section of the batter following a program of drainage and batter stability works around the mine area.

The soil works are scheduled for completion by the end of June, which will allow grass sowing in July. The top two levels of the batter will be sown first with the lower level of the batter planned for Spring 2023.

It's hoped the grass will begin to shoot very soon, changing the appearance of the eastern end of the mine.