

Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project

ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS STATEMENT PROCESS

ENGIE Hazelwood is progressing a comprehensive and transparent planning and consultation process for the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project Environment Effects Statement (EES).

The EES for the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project is expected to be exhibited publicly in 2024.

The EES process is managed by the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) on behalf of the Minister for Planning. Information about the process is available on the DTP website www.dtp.vic.gov.au

The Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project EES

Since power generation operations ceased in March 2017, ENGIE Hazelwood has been progressively rehabilitating and remediating the 4,000 hectare Hazelwood site, in line with obligations under its mining licence.

With major infrastructure decommissioning and demolition works complete, plans for final rehabilitation works were referred by ENGIE Hazelwood to the Minister for Planning.

Delivering a safe, stable and sustainable land form is central to the feasibility and success of the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project and the site's potential for productive future uses.

A pit lake is proposed as the most effective solution to keep the mine void and surrounding areas stable and safe from risks of ground movement and fire.

In February 2022, the Minister for Planning determined an EES would be required for the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project.

Draft scoping requirements have been exhibited, and public submissions will inform DTP's preparation of the final Scoping Requirements.

The Minister for Planning will provide a final assessment of the effects of the project following public exhibition of the EES and a subsequent inquiry.





About the EES

What is an EES?

An EES is a well-established process under the Environment Effects Act 1978, that provides a comprehensive framework for assessing projects with the potential for significant environmental effects.

The Ministerial guidelines for assessment of environmental effects define the environment as the physical, biological, heritage, cultural, social, health, safety and economic aspects of human surroundings. All of these are considered in the EES.

The guidelines state the objective of the assessment process is to provide for the transparent, integrated and timely assessment of projects capable of having a significant effect on the environment.

What's included in an EES?

An EES usually contains:

- a description of the proposed development and alternatives considered;
- an outline of community and stakeholder consultation undertaken during investigations and issues raised;
- a description of the existing environment that may be affected;
- predictions of potential environmental effects of the proposal;
- proposed measures to avoid, minimise or manage adverse environmental effects; and
- a proposed program for monitoring and managing environmental effects during Project implementation.

Does the EES process determine if the project will go ahead?

To ensure the safety, stability and amenity of the Hazelwood site, final rehabilitation works in some form are required. The EES will assess which of the available options provide an acceptable outcome.

The Minister for Planning will provide a final assessment of the effects of the Project.

The assessment will consider all relevant information including the EES documents, public submissions, ENGIE Hazelwood's response and an inquiry report. This information and the Minister's assessment - as to whether the Project provides an acceptable outcome - must be considered by other government agencies who make statutory approvals decisions in relation to specific aspects of the Project.

These agencies will decide whether to approve the Project under Victorian law.

What are EES Scoping Requirements?

Scoping Requirements set out the matters to be investigated and documented in an EES and are issued by DTP on behalf of the Minister for Planning.

Draft Scoping Requirements for the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project have been exhibited, and public submissions will inform DTP's preparation of the final Scoping Requirements.

What aspects of the Project will be assessed in the EES?

The final matters to be assessed in the EES will be determined in the final Scoping Requirements prepared by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP)

It is expected that matters to be assessed in the EES will include:



Water resources and environmental values

- Water resource use and regulation
- Lake water balance and water quality
- Groundwater
- Catchments, rivers and wetlands
- Climate change



Landform safety and stability

- Ground movement and geotechnical hazards
- Land and solid waste



Cultural heritage

- Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Historic heritage



Amenity, socio-economic and land use

- Air quality
- Noise and vibration
- Landscape and visual
- Land use planning
- Socio-economic impact



Biodiversity and ecological values

- Ecology



Technical Reference Group

A key step in developing an EES is the establishment of a Technical Reference Group (TRG). A TRG is specifically appointed by DTP to advise on the preparation of an EES and help ensure that the key potential impacts are thoroughly considered.

The TRG for the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project includes representatives from key state government agencies with a statutory or policy interest in the Project, local government, traditional owners, water retailers and catchment management authorities.

The TRG will meet regularly, provide advice and review draft EES documentation prior to the EES being publicly exhibited for comment.

Commonwealth assessment

A parallel referral to the Commonwealth Government under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) is in progress, with assessment outcomes expected over the coming months.

Under arrangements between the Commonwealth and the State of Victoria, any EPBC Act assessment requirements will be able to be addressed through a single EES process.

Expected EES timeline

You will have an opportunity to view the EES and have a say when it is publicly exhibited. Submissions received will be considered by an Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) with submitters able to appear at public hearings.

For more information about the EES process, please visit the DTP website at <https://dtp.vic.gov.au/>



Find out more and stay involved

Community input is an important part of the EES process and the Project's continued development.

- Sign up for project updates and find the latest information at the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project website hazelwoodrehabilitation.com.au
- Email the project team at hazelwood.au@engie.com