

Community Update

December 2023

IN THIS EDITION: Snapshot of our latest community events and what we heard, wildfire training for Hazelwood staff, and final Scoping Requirements released.



Stay up to date

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

Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project on track with confirmation of EES Scoping Requirements

After considering public submissions on the draft Scoping Requirements released in April this year, the Minister for Planning has issued the final Scoping Requirements for the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project Environment Effects Statement (EES).

The Scoping Requirements set out the matters to be assessed in the project's EES including:

- Water resources and environmental values
- Landform safety and stability
- Biodiversity and ecological values
- Cultural heritage
- Amenity, socio-economic and land use.

An EES is a well-established process that provides a comprehensive framework for assessing projects environmental effects.

The preparation of 16 technical studies for the EES is well underway. ENGIE Hazelwood will continue to provide updates on progress, and opportunities for community input and feedback throughout 2024.

Technical Conversations Series

In November the Environment Effects Statement team hit the streets and the shops 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.

Local MP visits the Hazelwood site

In early October we were joined on site by Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien MP, for a tour of the site and an update on the project.

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

Second instalment of Technical Conversation Sessions

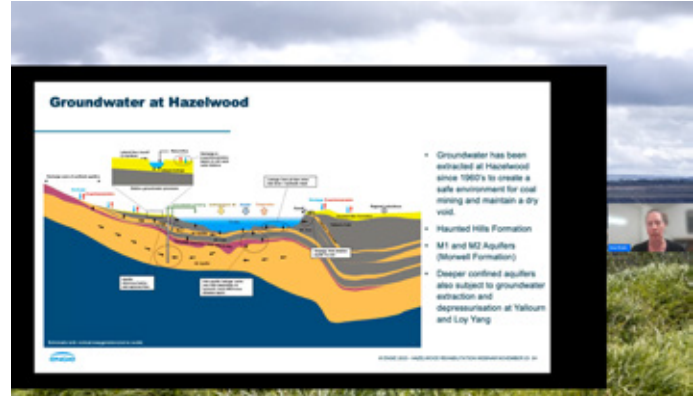
After the success of our first Technical Conversation Session and webinar in August, ENGIE Hazelwood was back in Morwell in November for the second round of our conversation sessions.

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

After the presentations, attendees were invited to join roundtable discussions to ask specialists questions about their study areas and provide feedback.

These sessions allow for direct conversations between the technical specialists and people in the area about their key concerns and issues they'd like to see assessed in the EES.

These direct discussions will help ensure the EES is as comprehensive and relevant as possible.



Webinar with technical specialists

After the Morwell session, the EES specialists also hosted an online webinar and Q&A for those unable to attend the in-person session.

Attendees heard an overview of each specialist's study area and the methods being used to prepare their environmental assessments.

14 people joined to hear directly from the specialists, ask questions about their study areas and provide feedback.

Couldn't make the session? Head to our project website and view the recording.

ENGIE in the community

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

We had several 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 between
Warragul and
Lake Tyers



Postcards mailed
to homes from
Yarragon to
Bairnsdale



Flyer handouts in
Morwell, Traralgon
and Churchill



Stakeholder calls
and emails



Talking technical in Morwell with EES specialists

Thanks to everyone who joined us in Morwell for the event and for the online webinar. The roundtable conversations and Q&A were a great way for ENGIE Hazelwood to hear feedback directly from the community and understand concerns about the project, so these can be addressed in the EES.

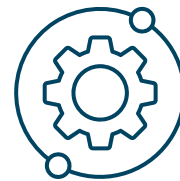
Our Technical Conversation Series will continue in early 2024 to ensure we're building community feedback into the environmental assessments. Future event details will be published on our website and through our e-newsletter.



35
people

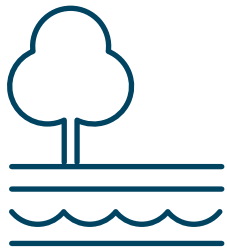


151
questions and
feedback captured



5
technical
discussion
tables

What we heard



Groundwater resources

Groundwater will be a key source of water to fill the pit lake. Groundwater is naturally occurring and is currently being pumped away from the mine to maintain stability.

Common questions and comments raised included:

- What is the extent of the groundwater study and what regional resources are considered?
- How will cumulative impacts of groundwater from other mine rehabilitation activities be measured?
- What effect will groundwater have on the pit lake?



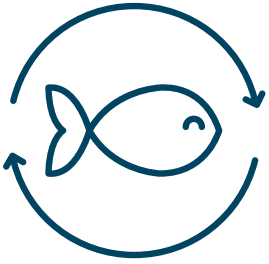
Land and solid waste

The entire 4000-hectare Hazelwood site is currently subject to a number of environmental audits, to rehabilitate the land around the mine back to pre-mining conditions. The audit process

is being managed in consultation with the EPA. Regardless of the outcome of the EES, the site will be rehabilitated to the highest standard.

Common questions and comments raised included:

- What testing has been completed to understand potential contamination on the site?
- How is the Hazelwood site being rehabilitated?
- What are the risks of contamination on the site?



Ecological values

The ecology study will assess the potential effects on native vegetation, habitat, listed threatened species and ecological communities that may be found at the Hazelwood site.

There were discussions about possible improvements to biodiversity including opportunities for revegetation on the site, a matter which is being considered outside the scope of the EES.

Common questions and comments raised included:

- What is the ecological value of the site post mining activities?
- How do you monitor and look for species in the project area?
- Could the pit lake support aquatic species?



Climate change considerations

Climate change is an important consideration of the EES. The climate change study will model the possible effects of climate change scenarios on water resources and environmental values.

Some participants highlighted concerns about the impacts of climate change on water availability, in particular for other users including irrigation and the environment.

Common questions and comments raised included:

- Is the climate already changing in the Hazelwood area and Latrobe Valley?
- How is climate change considered in the EES?
- What climate rating or modelling is used to predict future climate change scenarios?



Mine fire risk

Fire risks are currently managed using a water sprinkler system around the site. Active fire management is a critical responsibility for ENGIE Hazelwood. Exposed coal is at risk of combustion, and covering the coal

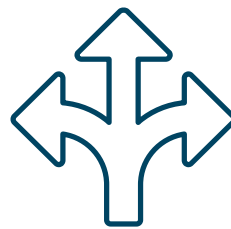
by creating a full lake would effectively eliminate the risk of fire.

Attendees discussed how mine fire risk could be managed in other pit lake scenarios, and asked if a full pit lake was the best way to meet the mining licence objectives of a safe, stable, sustainable and non-polluting landform.



Common questions and comments raised included:

- How is fire risk currently being managed at Hazelwood?
- What are the fire risks outside of the mine void?
- Does vegetation around the site affect mine fire risk?



Considering alternatives to a pit lake

The final EES documentation will include an Alternatives chapter and the consideration of alternatives in relevant technical reports.

The consideration of alternatives will include:

- Alternatives to a full lake landform
- Options for water sources to fill the pit lake
- Different approaches and timings for filling the pit lake
- Options with and without a connection to the Morwell River.

We're seeking feedback to understand what community think should be done to assess alternatives, and what options should be considered in the EES alternatives study.

All alternatives are considered against the project's objectives to deliver a safe, stable, sustainable and non-polluting landform.

Attendees at the session asked about the feasibility of some alternatives including revegetation of the pit lake, consideration of a partial lake, and how alternatives may impact options for future uses of the site.

Common questions and comments raised included:

- How are alternatives considered in the EES documentation?
- What do we need to consider when proposing alternatives to a pit lake?
- Would a partial lake satisfy the landform stability and safety requirements?
- Could you use a mix of options to rehabilitate the void?



Wildfire training for Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project staff

Long-term fire preparedness is a priority at Hazelwood and has been improved this year with the introduction of a wildfire training program.

With predictions of a hot and dry summer and the possibility of an extended fire season, the training delved into how to prepare for a wildfire, and how to react to wildfire behaviour due to changes in weather, topography and fuel conditions.

The training also touched on how to maintain the health and safety of each person in the immediate work area, and mop-up and patrol operations in response to possible fire events. Delivered by Fire and Safety Australia, the program is part of a nationally recognised training package and is

in addition to the annual Mine Fire Awareness Training sessions held annually throughout October.

Over 70 staff and contractors who may need to take part in any fire situation on site participated in the training.

Hazelwood Safety Manager, Shane Cane, says there continues to be a high level of focus on fire preparedness and safety at the project site.

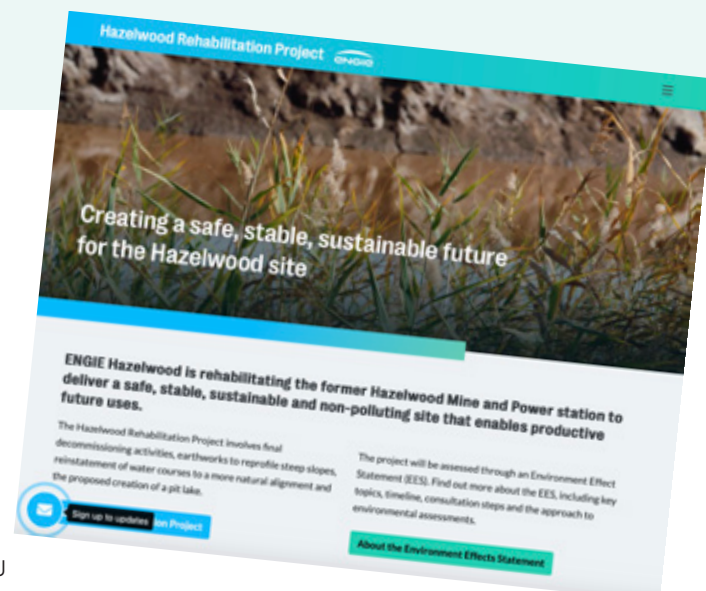
“Anything we can do to continue to improve our preparedness is important, which is why we have added this program this year”, said Shane.

Check out refreshed website content

Have you visited our project website lately? We've uploaded new content on key EES studies, including biodiversity and ecological values and how alternatives are being considered in the EES.

You can also hear directly from our technical specialists about their area of study in our latest videos.

Visit our website, check out the new videos and read the discussion papers at www.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.

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