

Community Update



September 2026

IN THIS EDITION: Preparing for the EES exhibition, Hazelwood supports fire-affected communities, and community groups visit Hazelwood.



Stay up to date

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

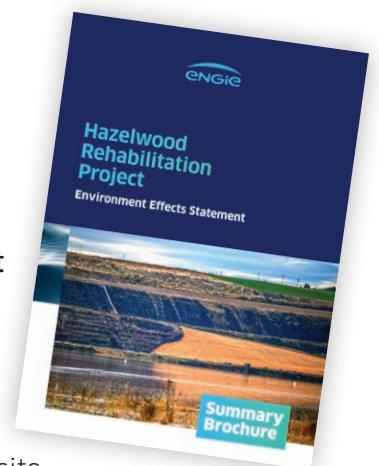
Preparing for EES exhibition

The Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project is approaching an important milestone, with the Environment Effects Statement (EES) and draft Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA) expected to be placed on public exhibition in the coming weeks.

Developed over several years, the EES describes the project rationale and brings together technical investigations and community consultation undertaken to assess the proposed rehabilitation of the Hazelwood site.

Public exhibition will provide the first opportunity for community members, stakeholders, and interested organisations to review the complete EES and make a formal submission.

> Turn the page to find out what happens during public exhibition and how to stay informed.





Developing the EES

The upcoming exhibition period marks the culmination of several years of planning, investigation, and consultation for the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project.

Since the EES process started in 2022, specialist investigations have examined a broad range of topics, including water resources, lake water quality, ground movement and stability, ecology, cultural heritage, land use, transport, and socio-economic impacts.

Community feedback has also helped to shape the EES, highlighting issues and priorities important to local residents, stakeholders, and community groups.

With these investigations now completed, the project is preparing for the next stage of the process, public exhibition of the EES and draft PSA.

The exhibition period will provide an opportunity for community members to review the EES, understand the findings of the investigations, and provide feedback through a formal submissions process.

What happens once the EES is released?

1

The EES is exhibited

The EES, draft PSA and supporting documents are made publicly available. Public exhibition will occur for a period of 30 business days.

2

Review the information

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

3

Make a submission

Anyone can make a written submission on the EES and the draft PSA during the public exhibition period via engage.vic.gov.au

4

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.

5

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.

6

Minister's assessment

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

How will I know when the EES is on public exhibition?

We will share information about exhibition dates and opportunities to participate through a range of methods.



Keep an eye out for our advertising in the Latrobe Valley Express, Gippsland Times, The Herald Sun and The Australian



Chat to our project team at a community drop-in sessions in Morwell



Sign up to our mailing list to be notified as soon as the EES goes on public exhibition



Email hazelwood.au@engie.com to request a posted copy of the EES Summary Report or the complete EES on a USB memory stick. Materials will be mailed to arrive as close as possible to the start of the exhibition period.



Visit the project website hazelwoodrehabilitation.com.au

Hazelwood supports fire-affected communities

The Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project has joined the statewide effort to support farming communities impacted by the Longwood fires earlier this year.

In March, the project worked with local farmers who lease land around the Hazelwood site to provide 110 large round bales of hay for affected farmers in northern Victoria. Local farmer Tony Rosato, who leases land around the site, was one of the key contributors, helping to cut and bale the hay before it was transported north.

Two trucks from Hazelwood joined a convoy of more than 40 trucks at Seymour before travelling to the Euroa saleyards where hay will be distributed to farmers to support recovery efforts across the region.



Community groups visit Hazelwood

From mine rehabilitation to battery storage, a recent visit to Hazelwood offered community members a firsthand look at projects helping to shape Gippsland's energy future.

Representatives from Nannas for Action, Voices of the Valley and Yes2Renewables recently visited the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project as part of a tour of renewable energy projects across Gippsland.

For tour organiser Wendy Farmer, visits like these help connect conversations about Gippsland's energy future with projects already taking shape across the region.

After an introduction to the project, the group headed out to see the rehabilitation works at the Hazelwood Ash Pond 4, the former power station site, and the fire services lookout.

A particular focus of the visit was the Hazelwood Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). With several participants coming from communities where battery projects are being proposed, there was strong interest in how large-scale batteries operate in practice. BESS Coordinator Jonathan Vila explained how the facility works and outlined the safety systems built into its design and operation.

"Gippsland is well on its way to a distributed energy future, with fantastic examples emerging right across the region. We want to share these good-news stories, show our community what is really happening, and help clear up the misinformation that continues to circulate,"

- Wendy Farmer



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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