

Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project

NAVIGATING THE ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS STATEMENT

The Environment Effects Statement (EES) and the draft Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA) for the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project are now available for public comment. The public exhibition period is from Monday 21 September to Monday 2 November 2026.

This fact sheet provides guidance on how to navigate the EES and information on how to make a submission. **Visit hazelwoodrehabilitation.com.au to access the EES** and find locations where you can view printed copies.

What is the EES?

An EES is a well-established process under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* (Vic) that provides a comprehensive framework for assessing the potential environmental impacts or effects of major projects. It is the most rigorous and transparent environmental assessment process in Victoria.

ENGIE Hazelwood is proposing to create a pit lake as the primary method for rehabilitating the site and addressing the substantial stability and fire risks associated with a large coal mine void.

An EES allows all elements of the project to be assessed together, providing a clear picture of the benefits of the proposed rehabilitation approach and allowing any issues, uncertainties and risks to be assessed and managed.

The EES addresses assessment requirements for the project under both the *Environment Effects Act 1978* and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act). It has been prepared in accordance with scoping requirements issued by the Victorian Minister for Planning in October 2023.



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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Navigating the EES

What is in the EES?	Topic areas	Relevant chapters and reports			
The Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project EES is made up of a number of summary chapters, detailed technical reports and attachments. These documents provide different levels of detail relating to the matters assessed as set out in the Scoping Requirements. EES Summary Brochure A plain English overview of the project and the technical studies undertaken as part of the EES, and guidance on where readers can find more information in the EES. Executive summary An overview of the of the project's potential environmental effects. Main EES Document The Main EES Document is made up of 28 chapters, separated into 3 parts. Part 1 (Chapters 1 – 7): - 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 (Chapters 8 – 24) - Chapters summarising the environmental assessments, a useful starting point for understanding the project's environmental effects with further information in the Technical Reports. Part 3 (Chapters 25 – 28) - 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 The technical reports provide detailed information on the studies undertaken for each of the 17 environmental assessments covered in Part 2. Attachments The 6 attachments include several supporting and draft approval documents, such as the EES Consultation Report, the draft Planning Scheme Amendment, and the draft Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan.	Water 	Water use and regulation Summarises Victoria's water entitlement framework as it relates to the proposed water resource use for the project. It describes water regulation that applies to the project and evaluates the implications of the project on water resource use.  Chapter 9  Technical Report B	Lake water balance and water quality Summarises the water balance and water quality modelling and assessments of the proposed pit lake and describes how the water level and quality will be managed through the recommended monitoring and contingency measures.  Chapter 10  Technical Report C	Catchments, rivers and wetlands Summarises the potential impacts on catchments, rivers and wetlands associated with the project – including the Gippsland Lakes Ramsar site – and describes how impacts will be avoided, minimised or managed through mitigation measures.  Chapter 11  Technical Report D	Groundwater Summarises the project's potential impacts on groundwater and describes how impacts will be avoided, minimised or managed through the implementation of mitigation measures.  Chapter 12  Technical Report E
	Ecology and Environment 	Climate change Summarises climate change trends for the Gippsland region and outlines how climate change has been considered in key technical assessments for the EES.  Chapter 8  Technical Report A	Ecology Summarises the potential impacts of the project on flora and fauna listed under Victorian and Commonwealth legislation and describes how impacts will be avoided, minimised or managed through mitigation measures.  Chapter 15  Technical Report H	Matters of national environmental significance Summarises the likely effects of the project and their significance on Matters of National Environmental Significance protected under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cth) (EPBC Act).  Chapter 25	
	Community 	Land use Summarises the potential impacts on land use associated with the project and describes how impacts will be avoided, minimised or managed through mitigation measures.  Chapter 21  Technical Report N	Socio-economic impact Summarises the potential socio-economic impacts associated with the project and describes how they will be avoided, minimised or managed through the implementation of mitigation measures.  Chapter 22  Technical Report O	Transport Summarises the potential impacts on transport associated with the project and describes how impacts will be avoided, minimised or managed through the implementation of mitigation measures.  Chapter 24  Technical Report Q	
	Heritage 	Aboriginal cultural heritage Summarises the potential impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage related to the project and describes how these impacts will be avoided, minimised, or managed through mitigation measures. Impacts include effects on both known and unknown places of cultural significance, as well as intangible cultural heritage.  Chapter 16  Technical Report I	Historical heritage Summarises the potential impacts on historical heritage associated with the project and describes how impacts will be avoided, minimised or managed through the implementation of mitigation measures.  Chapter 17  Technical Report J		
	Landform Safety and Stability 	Project alternatives Summarises the alternative landform and water supply options considered and the reasons that certain alternatives are not able to meet the project objectives.  Chapter 3  Attachment I: Landform and Water Supply Alternatives	Land and solid waste Summarises the potential impacts related to land and solid waste associated with the project and describes how impacts will be avoided, minimised or managed through mitigation measures.  Chapter 13  Technical Report F	Ground movement and geotechnical hazards Summarises the potential impacts from ground movement and geotechnical hazards associated with both the current site and the project, and describes how impacts will be avoided, minimised or managed through implementation of mitigation, monitoring and contingency measures.  Chapter 14  Technical Report G	Mine fire risk Summarises the potential risk of mine fire associated with both the current site and the project. It describes how mine fire risk will be avoided, minimised or managed through the implementation of mitigation measures.  Chapter 23  Technical Report P
	Amenity 	Air quality Summarises the potential impacts on air quality associated with the project and describes how impacts will be avoided, minimised or managed through mitigation measures.  Chapter 18  Technical Report K	Noise and vibration Summarises the potential impacts of noise and vibration associated with the project and describes how impacts will be avoided, minimised or managed through mitigation measures.  Chapter 19  Technical Report L	Landscape and visual Summarises the potential impacts on landscape character and visual amenity associated with the project and describes how impacts will be avoided, minimised or managed through the implementation of mitigation measures.  Chapter 20  Technical Report M	

Making a submission

The EES is on public exhibition from **Monday 21 September to 11.59pm on Monday 2 November 2026.**

During the public exhibition period, anyone can make a written submission on the EES and the draft Planning Scheme Amendment No. C159Iatr.

Next steps in the assessment process

Submissions received during the EES exhibition period will be considered by an independent Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) appointed by the Minister for Planning. After the exhibition period, the IAC will conduct a public hearing, where people and organisations who have made submissions will have the opportunity to speak in support of their written submission.

Following the public hearing, 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.

The Minister for Planning will prepare an assessment that considers all relevant information. This assessment makes recommendations about whether the environmental effects of the project are acceptable or whether modifications are needed.

Once released, relevant decision makers will consider the Minister's assessment when making

How to make a submission

Submissions must be made in writing and received before the close of the exhibition period at 11:59pm on Monday 2 November 2026 via the 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 enquires regarding the management of submissions should be directed to PPV.

statutory approval decisions in relation to specific aspects of the Project.

The Minister's assessment will also inform the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment in deciding whether to approve the Project under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth).

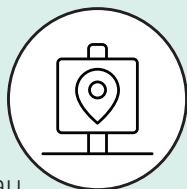
Where to view the EES

You can view the complete EES at hazelwoodrehabilitation.com.au

Full hardcopies of the EES are also available at the the Latrobe Valley GovHub in Morwell, Gippsland TAFE 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.



Find out more

For questions about the EES and draft PSA:

ENGIE Hazelwood:
Tel: (03) 5135 5000
Email: hazelwood.au@engie.com

For questions about the EES process:

Impact Assessment Unit, Department of Transport and Planning
Tel: (03) 8572 7980
Email: environment.assessment@transport.vic.gov.au

For questions about making a submission or the IAC process:

Planning Panels Victoria
Tel: 136 186 (select option 6)
Email: office@planningpanels.vic.gov.au