



Tomorrow, 31 March 2017, marks the end of an era for the electricity industry in the Latrobe Valley, with the formal closure of ENGIE in Australia's Hazelwood business.

While it will be a very sad day for everyone who has had an involvement with Hazelwood over the past 52 years, it should also be a very proud day. Our employees past and present, as well as contractors, local suppliers and businesses, and the broader Latrobe Valley community have all played their part, ensuring that Hazelwood has been able to reliably generate the electricity that under-pinned the economic development and well-being of the State of Victoria.

Hazelwood produced its final megawatts yesterday and we now begin the complex and demanding process of decommissioning the mine and power station plant and equipment, as well as ongoing mine rehabilitation work. This will involve 135 of our current employees and around 110 contractor employees at various stages of the process.

Our job now - our commitment - is to continue to work with the local community and regulators to develop plans for the final remediation and rehabilitation of the Hazelwood site; plans that deliver benefits not only to Morwell but to the broader Latrobe Valley region.

The decision to close Hazelwood was extremely difficult and was made only after we investigated all options to keep the business open. While it was state-of-the-art when it opened in 1964, it has now reached the end of its productive life, lasting far longer than anyone would have anticipated when its life began.

The Latrobe Valley community should be proud that Hazelwood has continued operating for more than 50 years. It is a great tribute to the women and men who have worked with the business over the years.

On behalf of the ENGIE in Australia management team, I wish to congratulate and thank our employees and the entire Latrobe Valley community for their contribution to the story that will forever be remembered as Hazelwood.

Thank you.

**Alex Keisser - Chief Executive, ENGIE in Australia**

