

Sourcing Water

Transforming Yallourn - Mine Rehabilitation fact sheet

EnergyAustralia's Yallourn power station and mine operate on the lands of the Brayakaulung people of the Gunaikurnai nation. We acknowledge them as Traditional Owners and recognise their living culture and strong connections to their Country

Summary

EnergyAustralia has applied for a new Bulk Water Entitlement (BWE) to fill the site of the Yallourn mine after it closes in 2028. We're asking for less water than we're entitled to today, with stronger protections for other water users and the environment. The public exhibition is now closed and the Minister for Water will now consider our application.

Transition from generation to rehabilitation

The Yallourn Power Station currently uses water to generate electricity, supplied through a Bulk Water Entitlement. A BWE is a legal right to access and use water for a specific purpose.

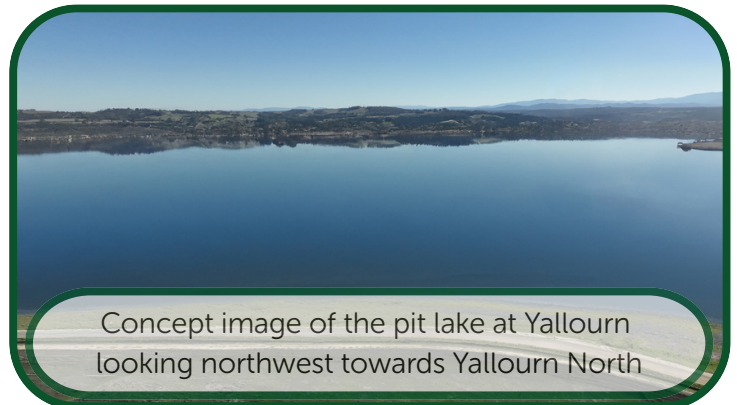
When the power station retires, we still need access to a reliable water supply – this time to fill the mine and create the lake described in the Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan (DMRP). This requires a new BWE, which we apply for through the Minister for Water.

What we're asking for

Less water, not more. Our current entitlement allows up to 36.5 GL a year. The new entitlement we've applied for caps this at 27 GL a year. The new entitlement also carries stronger protections for other water users and the environment.

- 30-year non-renewable period;
- no take December to May;
- no run-of-river access when environmental flow conditions aren't met;
- Blue Rock Lake cap.

We can't take water whenever we want. Under the new entitlement we can only access water during the winter and spring months, when river flows are higher and demand is lower.



Concept image of the pit lake at Yallourn looking northwest towards Yallourn North

Where the BWE fits

The BWE is part of rehabilitating the Yallourn site. It's separate from the safe and reliable operation of the power station to 2028, and separate from any proposed future development at the site. These are different initiatives on different timelines.

Why a lake?

Filling the mine voids with water to create a lake is the approach set out in our DMRP, and the approach planned for the site since the 1990s. A lake:

Stabilises the land: the water adds weight to the floor and walls of the mine (the batters), countering the forces that cause ground movement.

Reduces fire risk: covering the exposed coal with water reduces fire risk and helps limit the spread of fire across the site.

Opportunities for the region: in time, the lake may support activities such as fishing, boating and walking, and could create opportunities for the local community and economy.



Concept image of the pit lake at Yallourn looking southeast towards Morwell

Why a lake?

Lasting benefits, on site and on the downstream river system: the lake could provide habitat for birds, fish and other wildlife, alongside the existing conservation areas, wetlands and floodplains. Managed overflow to the Latrobe River would help support the health of the downstream system that connects to the Gippsland Lakes.

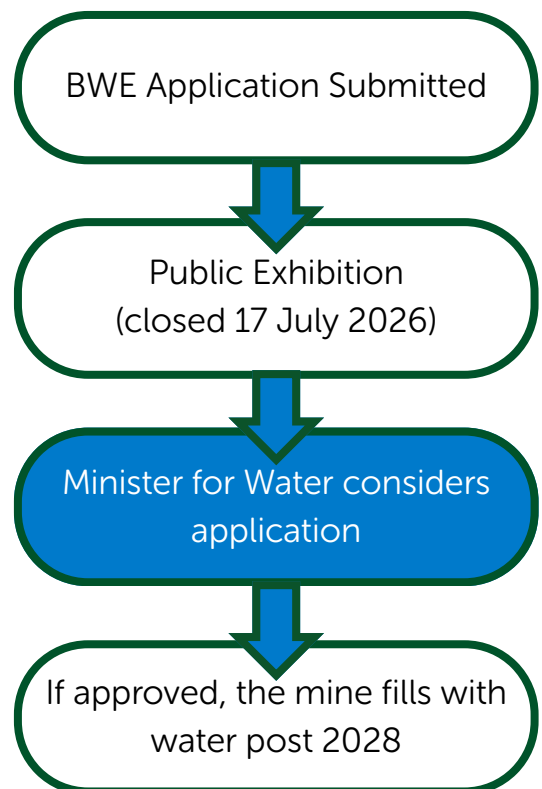
Public Exhibition Now Closed

Thank you to everyone who took part. Public exhibition of our Bulk Water Entitlement (BWE) application closed on 17 July 2026. The application now moves to the Minister for Water for consideration.

Visit the Morwell Community Hub, or read more at www.transformingyallourn.com.au/have-your-say/bulk-water-entitlement

**This is an application under assessment.
No decision has been made.**

What are the next steps?



Contact Us:

Visit us in person at our Community Hub - 228 Commercial Road Morwell
Open Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 10am-3pm, or by appointment.

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