

Chimney felling goes to plan

The Morwell Power Station's two southern chimney stacks were successfully felled on Sunday.

EBAC Remediation General Manager, Barry Dungey, said it was a professional team effort where everything went exactly as planned.

The weather was extremely kind to the project crew, which allowed for the two stacks to be felled smoothly and safely, without incident.

The 94-metre high chimney stacks have been part of the region's skyline for decades and it was no surprise that many turned out to witness the demolition. EBAC had recommended interested people use the former EBAC employees' carpark to view the fell which saw around 80 cars at the first morning fell and around 150 cars at the second fell.

Although the chimneys do not contain asbestos, the demolition project's independent hygienist, Prensa, managed and monitored dust suppression during the chimney fell as an extra precaution and reported clear results throughout the day.

If people have any questions or concerns about the chimney stack demolition, they are welcome to contact Barry Dungey directly on 0419 354 408, Delta Group Communications Manager, Damien Hanger, on 0403 609 379 or email damien.hanger@deltagroup.com.au or EBAC Communications Consultant, Lynne Smith, on 0437 918 234.



The sequence of photos shows the felling of the first chimney stack. Photos by Ned Meldrum

Project's first milestone

The felling of the two southern chimney stacks was the first key milestone in the demolition of the former Morwell Power Station.

Each chimney stack was 94.18 metres tall, 8.5 metres diameter at the base and 5.5 metres at the top. They were steel walled, bolted to concrete plinths and lined with refractory bricks.

Dust suppression techniques were used to prepare the fell site. Specialist plant and equipment was used to saturate the site with water and drainage controls were in place to minimise sediment and surface water run-off.

Extensive dust suppression measures and extra air monitoring controls were in place to ensure the safety of all workers as well as neighbouring residents and businesses.

The chimneys did not contain asbestos, but the independent hygienist managed and monitored dust suppression during the chimney fell as an extra precaution.

Delta Group's approved mechanical felling technique, known as induced collapse, was used. Detailed cuts were made at the base of each chimney stack and heavy duty cables were drawn by an 87 tonne excavator to pull the chimneys down.

A 150-metre radius (1.5 times the chimney height) exclusion zone was strictly enforced to ensure the safety of all site workers.

Redundant plant and equipment within the former Morwell Power Station will be dismantled, broken down and recycled as scrap steel.

The two chimneys after their successful felling.



First key milestone

The felling of the two southern chimney stacks was the first key milestone in the demolition of the former Morwell Power Station.

The future milestones include:

First boiler collapse: September - November 2019

- Building collapse: April 2020
- Last two chimney collapse: June 2020
- EBAC Demolition complete: September 2020

Not much will be seen externally from now until the planned boiler collapse in September as crew work diligently within the structures to continue to remove asbestos and dismantle infrastructure.



As the EBAC demolition project moves into the next phase, it is important residents and businesses within the Latrobe Valley have a direct line of contact with those managing the demolition process.

All of the partners involved in the EBAC Demolition project appreciate the importance of discussing your concerns in 'real time with a real person' and would like to encourage anyone interested to contact the following people:

- Delta Group Communications Manager, Damien Hanger on 0403 609 379 or email damien.hanger@deltagroup.com.au
- EBAC Communications Consultant Lynne Smith, 0437 918 234.