



## KEEPING IT COOL

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### Helping International Power Hazelwood Preserve its local environment.

PARASYN is working with International Power Hazelwood (IPRH) in Victoria to help preserve the ecosystem in the Morwell River catchment. IPRH operates a combined coal mine and power station complex in Gippsland's Latrobe Valley, 150 Km southeast of Melbourne. It contributes a massive 1600 megawatts of power to the National Electricity Grid, that's around 25% of Victoria's current electricity requirement, and although built back in the 1960's Hazelwood Power Station's important role as a major power generator has recently seen its working life extended until 2030.

IPRH actively conducts a socially responsible policy of wherever possible minimising the environmental impact of all its operations, and in the course of electricity generation it utilises an artificial lake rather than unsightly cooling towers to process the enormous quantities of hot water from the power station's turbines. Water is pumped out into the cooling pond where the excess heat escapes safely into the atmosphere before the water's reused to cool plant equipment such as pumps and motors. The lake, known as Hazelwood Pondage, has the added benefit that the local community of nearby Morwell can enjoy an all-year-round water playground with lake temperatures even in mid-winter a balmy 23 degrees!

The company's Environmental Review Committee works closely with the local community and part of its remit is maintaining the quality of aquatic life downstream from the power station. One of its major concerns is the danger of over heating the Morwell River system into which excess water from the cooling pond flows. To minimise any possible impact on the fragile riverine ecosystem a small cooling tower was constructed in 1998 to remove excess heat before water's discharged into the river. Built at a cost of \$1million the cooling tower reduces the temperature of water discharged from the Hazelwood Pondage by up to 10 degrees. PARASYN are in the process of upgrading the telemetry to monitor the cooling tower, its outflow and the condition of the Morwell River downstream from the power plant. The cooling tower monitoring system should be operational early in 2007 and will be integrating with a new Allen Bradley RSView SCADA installation which is being implemented at the power station's control centre.