

Port Augusta Operations

Newsletter - July 2025



Port Augusta Site Revegetation

The revegetation of the Port Augusta site continues to progress with the majority of the Ash Storage Area revegetated. The last annual monitoring survey conducted by Succession Ecology found that the vegetation across the Ash Storage Area consists of a mix of small, medium and large shrubs, herbs and grasses with the distribution of plants being consistent with other arid landscapes. This developed ecosystem now has 53 identified native plant species supporting an abundance of fauna, including, kangaroos, emus, birds and insects. The overall condition of the site continues to successfully meet the revegetation criteria targeted in the site completion plans.

Despite the hot and dry conditions and unfavourable rainfall conditions over the last 18 months, the vegetation remains resilient with plants displaying an abundance of seed. Recent rain is expected to provide a surge in growth.



Northwestern section of the Ash Storage Area (June 2025)

As advised previously, the strategy adopted to assist with revegetation of the Polishing Pond has been to deposit organic material, which allows for the capture of seeds, and provides a better base for plant growth. This approach had proven successful in earlier trials and it is now being actively pursued. An arrangement with the Port Augusta City Council has resulted in over 43 tonnes of clean organic material being placed on the Polishing Pond over the last 12 months.



Council organic material delivered to site



Vegetation growth despite dry conditions (June 2025)

Dust management

The site continues to be managed in accordance with its Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Licence and associated management plans. Areas that are at risk of dust lift-off continue to reduce and are managed through the use of a number of techniques, including, application of dust suppressant, surface roughening, application of water using water carts, or through the use of sprinklers on the former coal stockpile planted area. Forecast high winds trigger response plans, with water carts and personnel available to respond.

EPA approved monitors strategically placed around the site, Lea Memorial Oval and Stirling North, are used to monitor occurrences of raised dust. Recorded exceedances above a prescribed level are then investigated and assessed against wind speed and direction, and camera footage, to determine the origins of any dust. Dust exceedances are reported to the EPA with all relevant investigation findings.



An Ecotech technician carrying out scheduled maintenance on a dust monitor.

Recent strong winds have resulted in regional dust events, particularly winds from North to North-westerly directions. The Port Augusta site has been managed well with minimal liftoff from the site. On several occasions, regional dust and dust from adjacent areas, including the salt pans, is incorrectly attributed to the former power station site. Where appropriate, such observations are included in Port Augusta Operations' (PAO) reports to the EPA.

Port Playford development

The port development is progressing with engineering consultants preparing detailed site drawings. Several other aspects of the project continue to be worked through with investment partners, financing and regulatory planning.



Port Playford site

Port Playford Wharf Interim Works

Given the extended time required to complete project planning and approvals, PAO will be undertaking interim maintenance work on two sections of the Port Playford wharf/sea wall. This work will reduce safety and environmental risks on areas of the wharf. The EPA has been consulted regarding the purpose and scope of the work, and is supportive of the work being undertaken.

The work is to be conducted by McMahon Services Australia and will be overseen by PAO's consulting engineers. All work will be conducted from PAO's land with no entry into the gulf water required. The work will commence in late July 2025 and will extend over a period of up to three weeks (weather permitting).

Additional signage will also be placed along the wharf fence line to inform the public of the need to not enter the wharf area from the gulf.

Site safety

The site remains an industrial site with several inherent dangers, hence access to the site is only permitted for authorised personnel. Unfortunately, the site is regularly accessed by trespassers on motor bikes, who not only endanger themselves, but also damage areas of the site, including tracks across the Ash Storage Area. Damaged tracks are repaired once identified.

PAO continues to remind local residents that fishing from the site is prohibited.

Green Cement Project

PAO continues to work with the Hallett Group to support its development of the exciting new Green Cement Project on the site. The project will provide significant economic benefits for the region.

For further information or enquiries:

PAO Website: portplayford.com

Cu-River Port: curiverport.com.au (site environmental data and reports)

General enquiries: enquiries@eyreas.com.au