

# Community update

Anglesea



Welcome to Alcoa's regular community update, where we share the latest about the Anglesea mine and power station including ongoing opportunities for the community to be engaged in our activities.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact on our everyday lives, we remain committed to safeguarding our people and doing what we can to minimise any impact of COVID-19 on the local community.

With comprehensive measures in place aligned with government requirements, work is continuing onsite and mine rehabilitation activities are progressing.

## Mine rehabilitation activities

As part of the mine rehabilitation work to ensure the reprofiled mine slopes are safe, stable and sustainable, significant activities are underway to protect the reprofiled slopes from erosion.

One of the key activities is establishing a native grassland on the 50-hectare southern slopes.

Over the past four months specialised contractors have been hydroseeding a native wallaby grass seed mix containing five species. Around 46 hectares have been completed with the remaining area now due for completion in September. The process involves laying coarse sand and compost to prepare the surface before spraying wood fibre mulch and grass seed mix onto the area, all to a defined specification.

The grass is establishing very well and germination is closely following the hydroseeding pattern (from west to east) allowing for some slower development during the recent colder months.

We have also commenced a weeding program to remove invasive species that may compete with the wallaby grass as it establishes. We expect that, where required, this will become part of the broader site weed management plan into the future.

Temporary fencing will enclose the area over the next two to three years to keep grazing animals, particularly kangaroos, away from the grass as it matures.

To provide further long-term protection of the reprofiled slopes from erosion, five engineered surface water drains are being installed on the south and west slopes. Water surface drains are also being designed for the north and east slopes.

The drains extend from the mine's crest to the floor to allow water from catchments above the crest of the reprofiled slopes to travel safely down the slope.

## Mine water filling strategy

As outlined in previous Community Updates, Alcoa is proposing to conduct a 12-month pumping test of the Upper Eastern View Formation aquifer to further investigate the option to use groundwater to commence filling the mine void. An application was submitted to Southern Rural Water in May with an expected three-month assessment period.

Unfortunately, the Alcoa Community Consultation Network meeting planned for August was cancelled due to ongoing government restrictions. We will continue to keep you informed with monthly updates and provide opportunities for online feedback.

As always should you have any feedback or questions for Alcoa, please do not hesitate to contact the Anglesea team via [angleseaps@alcoa.com.au](mailto:angleseaps@alcoa.com.au) or visit [www.alcoa.com.au/anglesea](http://www.alcoa.com.au/anglesea) for more information.

Stay safe and stay well.

Warren Sharp,  
Anglesea Site Asset Manager

During the pumping test a total of 1.5 gigalitres would be extracted and discharged into the former mine. This amount represents less than half the historical annual extraction rate for the power station over the 46 years of operation and is significantly less than the current licence limit of 4 gigalitres per year.

The pumping test will determine a sustainable extraction rate and include extensive monitoring and key stakeholder and community reporting, and ultimately provide the information required to better inform us all about the potential use of the groundwater in the longer term.

## Coalmine Road relocation

The surfacing of around 1,200 metres of Coalmine Road is underway, marking the final stage of the relocation works.

The activity has been hampered by recent rains and is now expected to be finished next month.

Upon completion of the works by Alcoa, management of the road will be transferred to the Surf Coast Shire who will determine its future use.



Above: A close up of the native grassland, 130 days after seeding.

Below: An aerial of the mine looking south. The green moving from right to left on the mine slope is the developing grassland.

## eden project

### An update from the Eden Project

The world has changed in ways no one could have predicted when Eden Project Anglesea was announced in May 2019.

At the time we shared a vision of a place of extraordinary experiences, fusing science and wonder to immerse visitors in the extremes of the elements – earth, air, water, fire – and in so doing, creating a must-see prelude to a journey on the Great Ocean Road and demonstrating the extraordinary natural world that we are a part of.

While the pandemic hasn't changed our confidence in realising this vision, it has obviously affected everyone's lives in profound ways.

Many of the positive impacts of lockdowns - a greater connection to nature on your doorstep, hearing the birds singing, seeing the nature flourish and stronger communities - are the kind of things Eden has been talking about for years.

We get the distinct impression that no one wants to go back to "normal" as we knew it and Eden is well-placed to be part of a positive change.

So where are we at? Resolving the mine's water strategy is our current focus. We all want a solution that works for the community and the environment, and that drives new opportunities for people and communities as well. Healthy and thriving lands equate to healthy and happy people! We are supportive of Alcoa's application to Southern Rural Water and we are hoping for a resolution soon.

Our team are ready, we know that we have widespread support, willing partners locally, regionally and nationally and moreover, we think that this project is significant for Australia and will be an exemplar of how we should be looking after our home.

It is a genuine sadness not to be able to get out to see you all in person, however, those times will return. Until then...

Best wishes,  
David Harland, CEO, Eden Project International

[www.edenprojectanglesea.com.au](http://www.edenprojectanglesea.com.au)



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