



Alcoa

Alcoa Anglesea

Community Engagement Report

A summary of the feedback Alcoa received from open house sessions related to a potential mine water filling strategy

Published July 2024



Alcoa acknowledges Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of the land where we operate and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Kuarka Dorla Dja, (Anglesea) is a place where Wadawurrung ancestors came to fish for mullet.

Bounded by intricate waterways flowing out to the Warri (salt water), sand dunes steeped in heritage, and the high point of country the Anglesea Heathlands, where the Mirri (sun) rises on the Warri (salt water) and sets across the heath.

We acknowledge Bunjil as the Creator Spirit, who continues to watch over the land and guide us all on our journey and responsibility to heal country.

Artwork © Billy-Jay O'Toole, 'Kuarka Dorla Dja', 2023.

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Executive summary

Between 23 and 25 May 2024, Alcoa hosted three open house sessions in Anglesea, providing opportunity for local community members to learn about the company’s potential plans to fill its mine pit with groundwater, and hear the latest on rehabilitation of the former mine and power station sites.

The sessions were part of a comprehensive community engagement initiative, which leveraged a number of communication channels to generate community awareness and attendance. In total, 102 members of the local community dropped in to the sessions, seizing the opportunity to discuss the technical findings with Alcoa representatives and their technical experts, demonstrating strong community interest.

The feedback collected was mostly positive in nature, with 88 per cent of attendees feeling more informed about the Anglesea Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan and 86 per cent feeling better informed about the viable options for filling the mine pit.

Sentiment analysis of the feedback collected revealed approximately 14 per cent of responses were negative, with the majority neutral (54 per cent) or positive (32 per cent).

While some attendees provided feedback about the technical nature of the information presented, the majority of attendees reported that they appreciated the detailed technical information and valued the opportunity to engage directly with Alcoa’s team.

Positive comments highlighted the sessions’ informative nature, the professionalism of the presentation, and the accessibility of the representatives.

Many attendees expressed support for Alcoa’s efforts and a desire to stay informed about the next steps, and also expressed an interest in site tours.

Introduction

After 46 years of operation, Alcoa's Anglesea Power Station and Coal Mine was permanently closed in August, 2015.

Following extensive consultation with the community, Alcoa published the draft Anglesea Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan in 2017, underpinned by key geotechnical, hydrological and vegetation technical studies undertaken by experienced consultants.

Since then, major earthworks and revegetation activities completed in 2020 have delivered a safe, stable and sustainable landform, which will require ongoing monitoring and maintenance over the next decade.

Alcoa have a regulatory obligation to deliver the final Anglesea Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan, and in order to achieve this an approved strategy to fill and maintain the mine pit with water is required.

A range of potential options to support filling the mine pit in a timely manner have been investigated and of these, the only two currently feasible options are the use of groundwater from the Upper Eastern View Formation (UEVF) which would see the mine pit filled in seven to 10 years, or natural fill which is estimated to take approximately 50 years.

Mine water filling strategy

Approximately 18 gigalitres of water is needed to fill the mine pit. As at April 2024, there is approximately three gigalitres of water present.

Alcoa's preferred option is to fill the mine pit over seven to 10 years, achieved through supplementing natural filling of the mine with a combination of UEVF groundwater and potential peak flows from Salt Creek. Note: the current focus is the potential use of UEVF groundwater, with potential peak flows from Salt Creek not currently being explored.

Extensive technical work undertaken over more than three years has not identified any adverse impact on groundwater dependent ecosystems, including the Anglesea River.

Alcoa understands the community's interest in the Alcoa site, and has continued to actively engage with the Anglesea community and key stakeholders.

This report outlines the feedback Alcoa received during the open house sessions related the potential use of UEVF groundwater to support the mine water filling strategy.

A copy of the information boards displayed at the open house sessions are provided within Appendix 1.

The journey to now

2016 | Shared vision

Community engagement undertaken to capture the community's views and aspirations for future land uses.

Considerate of the feedback, the shared vision including five guiding principles were developed to inform development of the draft Anglesea Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan.

2017 | Draft Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan

The shared vision was incorporated into the draft Anglesea Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan, which was then presented to the community.

The feedback revealed high levels of support for the plan, including for the re-profiling of slopes, re-vegetation with native species, and the creation of a large water body.

Considerate of the feedback, the draft Anglesea Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan was submitted to the Victorian Government in September 2017.

2018 - 2020

Major earthworks program and vegetation strategy deliverables of the draft Anglesea Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan were implemented and delivered a safe, stable and sustainable landform.

A number of potential mine water filling options were explored during this period including recycled water, seawater, and the use of the deeper LEVF aquifer – each ultimately determined to be unfeasible for a variety of reasons.

2021 - 2024

Extensive technical work undertaken to explore the possibility of using UEVF groundwater to fill the mine pit as part of the mine water filling strategy.

This included analysing historical groundwater behaviour, review of independent historical studies, comprehensive geological studies, a 2021 groundwater pumping test with active regulatory oversight, and development of the Anglesea regional groundwater model in collaboration with Barwon Water.

May 2024

With the technical work nearing completion, the local community were invited to discuss the resultant findings and share their feedback on the potential strategy to fill the mine pit.



Community engagement snapshot

A total of 102 community members dropped in to one of three, two-hour sessions hosted at the Anglesea Bowling Club, with many spending a significant period of time reading the information boards displayed around the room and conversing with Alcoa representatives and their technical experts.

Session dates, times and attendee breakdown:

Thursday 23 May
4:00pm to 6:00pm

24



Friday 24 May
10:00am to 12:00pm

16



Saturday 25 May
10:00am to 12:00pm

62



Alcoa

How the sessions were advertised

A multi-channel approach was adopted to inform the community and stakeholders about the open house sessions. Copies of the advertising collateral are provided within Appendix 2.



979

email invitations to individual Alcoa database subscribers.



507

visits to a dedicated web page advertising open house sessions and featuring FAQs.



Three

event listings on the Surf Coast Shire's website event calendar.



One

advertorial in the Surf Coast Times.

One

editorial in the Armstrong Creek Times, resulting from an Alcoa issued media release.



Multiple direct outreaches

to local community and interest groups, resulting in numerous Facebook posts and a dedicated Anglesea Community Network newsflash (e-newsletter).



Multiple direct outreaches

to key stakeholders including local and state government representatives, authorities, and regulators and ongoing engagement with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners group.



One

off-page Facebook and Instagram campaign - high level results displayed to the right.

A full breakdown of the campaign content and results is provided within Appendix 3.

Metric	Results
Reach Number of accounts/users who saw content at least once	3,819
Frequency The average number of times each account saw the ads	2.8
Impressions Number of times the ads were on screen	13,945
All Clicks The number of clicks, taps or swipes on the ads	103
Link Clicks The number of clicks, taps or swipes within the ad that led to the dedicated website	32
Engagements Number of actions people took involving the ad.	732

Feedback summary

Alcoa engaged independent communications agency, Keep Left, to capture community feedback throughout the sessions via a simple questionnaire - comprising three questions.

Prior to leaving the sessions, community members were invited to provide feedback, by completing the questionnaire themselves, or verbally while one of the two Keep Left representatives recorded the response.

Of the 102 attendees, more than half (65) chose to provide feedback.

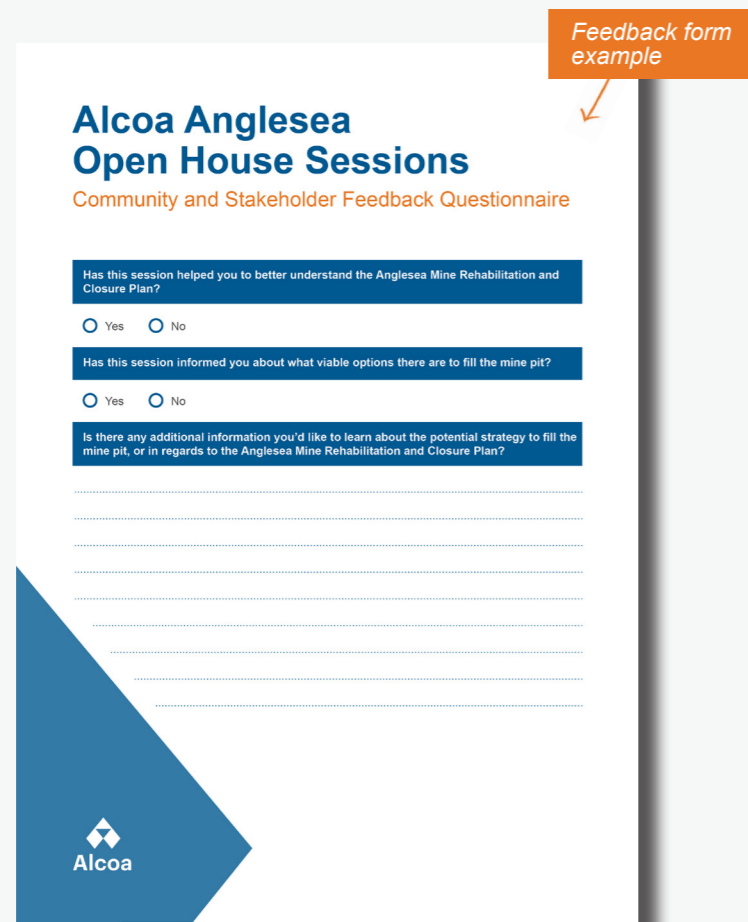
The following data analysis aims to summarise the feedback provided, including categorisation of common themes and sentiment.

A copy of the completed feedback forms are provided within Appendix 4.

Considerations when reading this report

Several factors influenced the gathering and analysis of the quantitative data and qualitative feedback and should be considered before reading. These include:

- The information presented in this report was collected from voluntary feedback and therefore the sample is not necessarily statistically representative of Anglesea population.
- The collation and analysis of data has been undertaken by Keep Left.
- The comments referenced within this report are often a direct quotation of feedback provided by respondents within their feedback. The accuracy of content provided within this feedback has not been assessed, and therefore should not necessarily be viewed as a statement of fact, but rather a representation of the opinions and perceptions of respondents.
- Feedback quoted in this report may have been edited to correct spelling and grammar to aid readability. Care has been taken not to change the sentiment, tone or context.



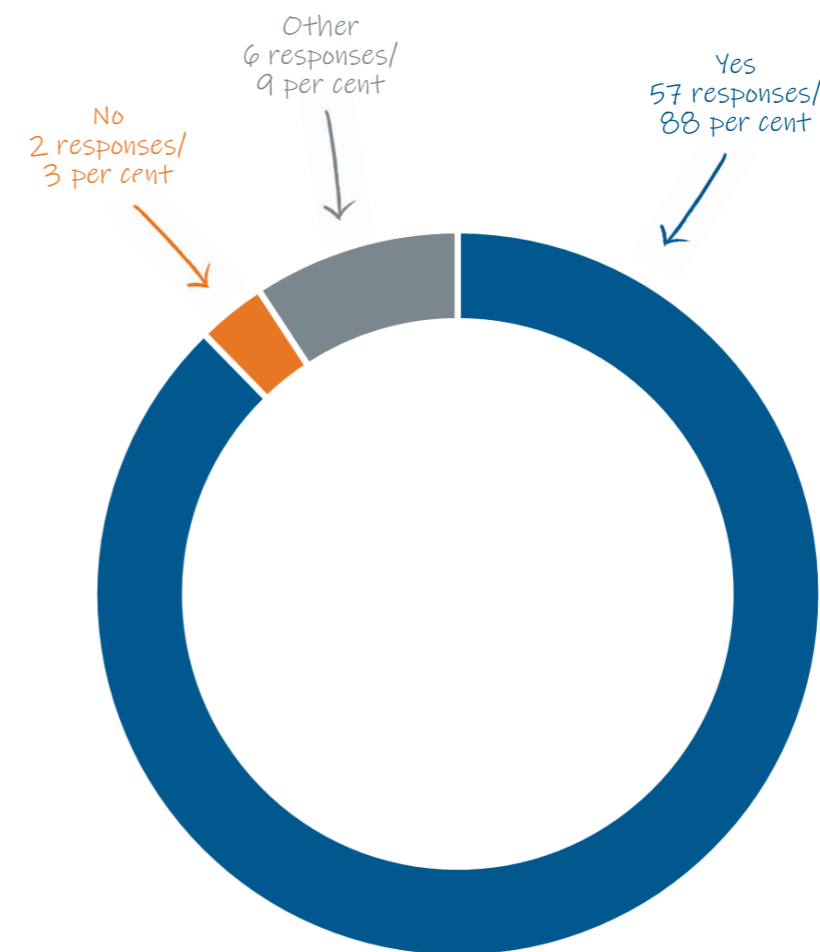
Question one

Has this session helped you to better understand the Anglesea Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan?

Yes No

Insights

- The vast majority (88 per cent) of attendees responded **yes**
- Some respondents (9 per cent) didn't provide a clear response or made an alternative option, such as **maybe** - for the purpose of this analysis, these have been categorised as **other**
- Only two attendees (3 per cent) responded **no**



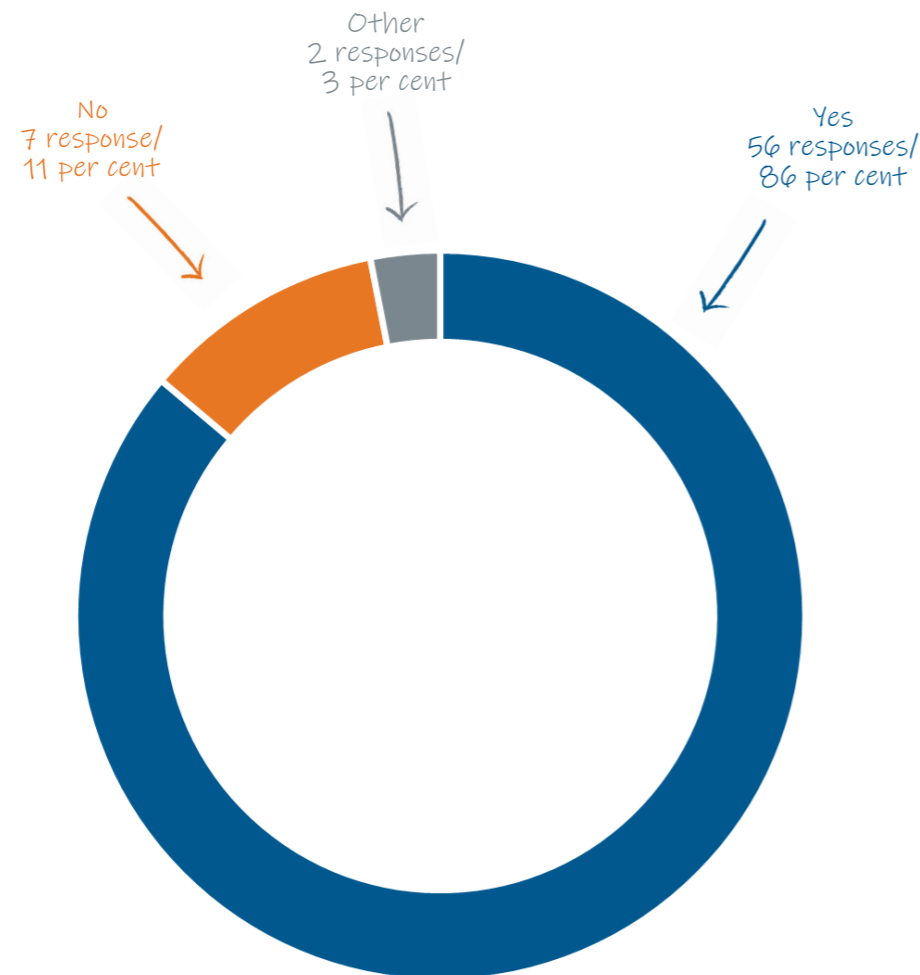
Question two

Has this session informed you about what viable options there are to fill the mine pit?

Yes No

Insights

- The vast majority (86 per cent) of attendees responded **yes**
- Seven respondents (11 per cent) responded **no**
- While two were categorised as **other**



Question three

Is there any additional information you'd like to learn about the potential strategy to fill the mine pit, or in regards to the Anglesea Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan?

Insights

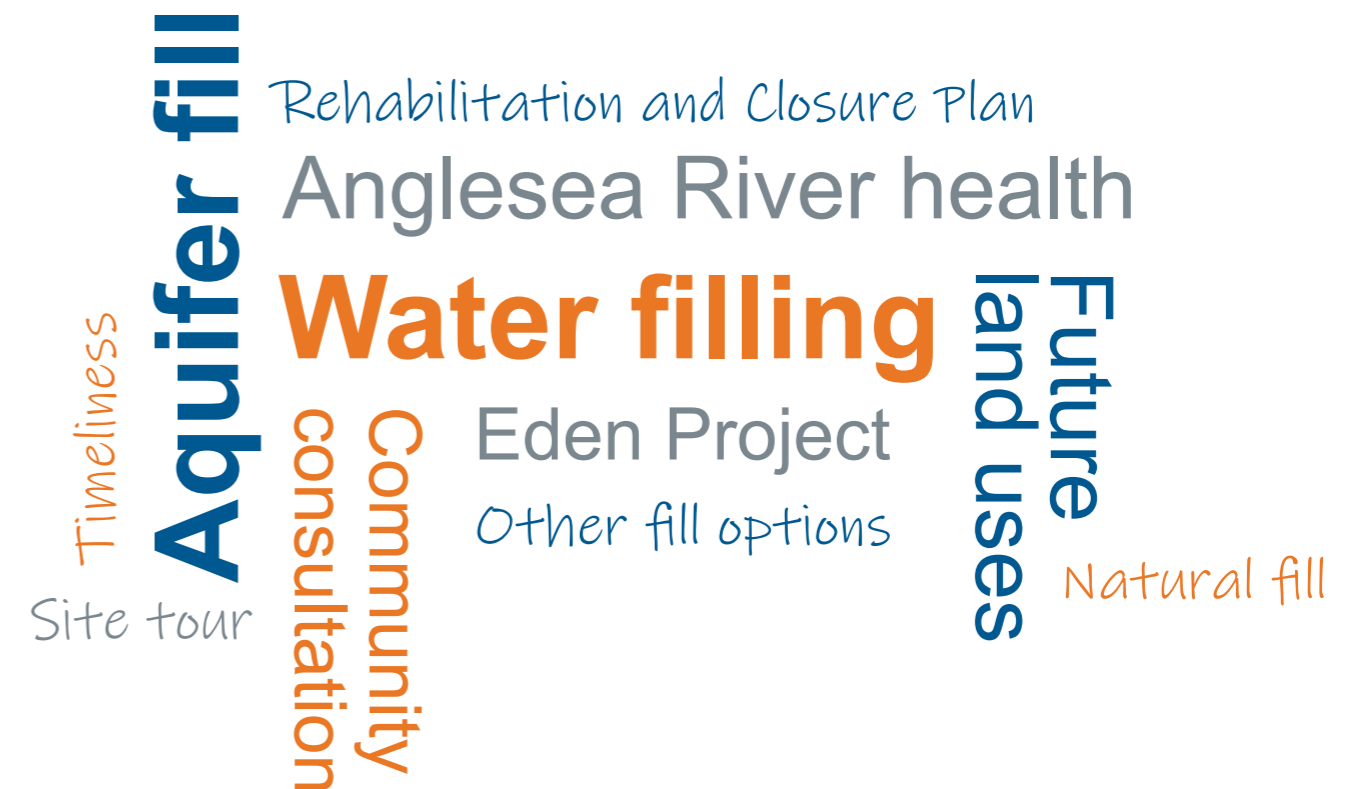
The nature of this question prompted respondents to say what **additional** information they would like regarding the mine water filling strategy and broader Anglesea Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan, whilst also providing opportunity for general comments or feedback.

While some respondents directly answered this question by specifying the exact information that they would like, many others used the free text field as an opportunity to provide their views and opinions about the project.

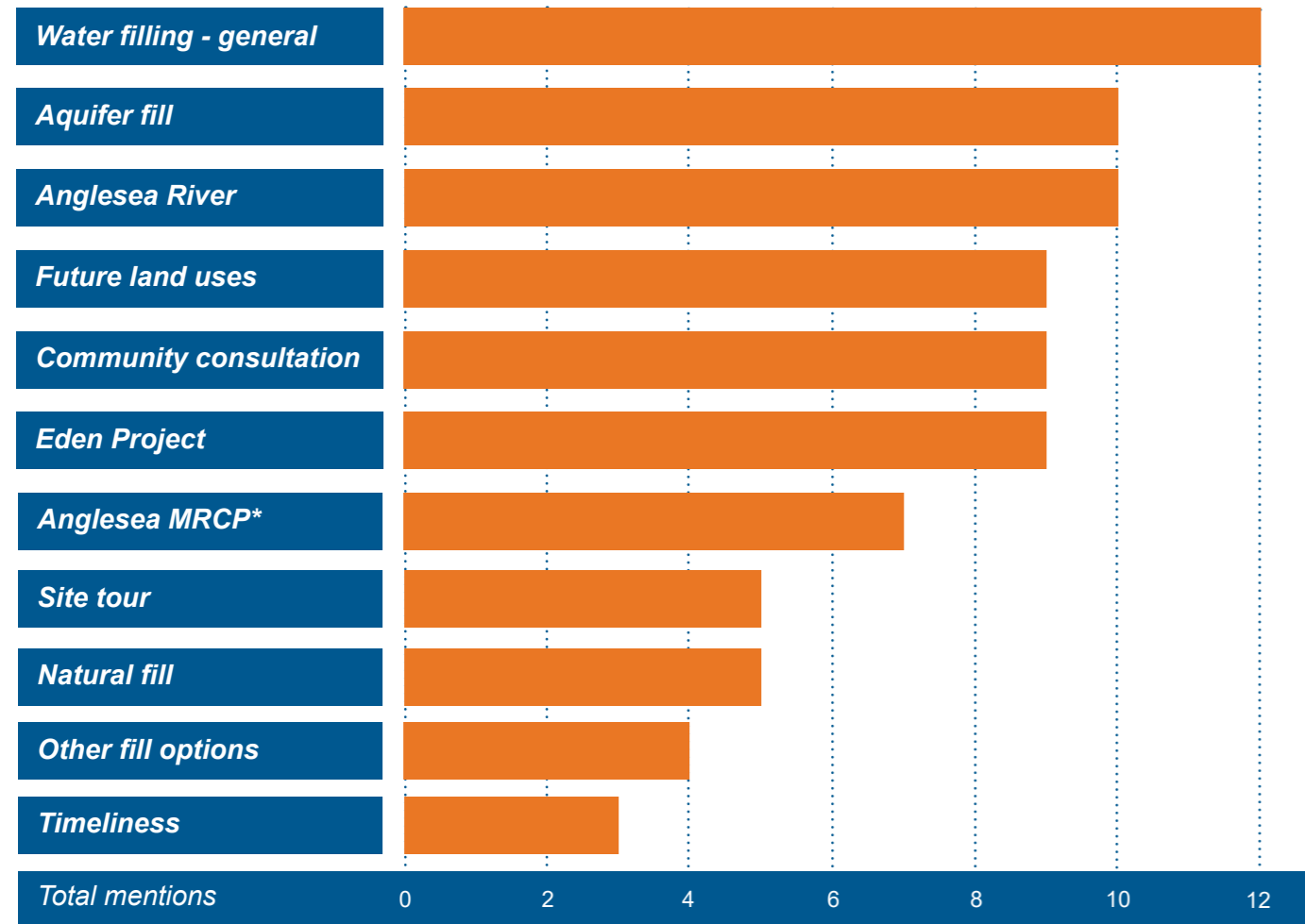
Given the level of detail provided by respondents to this question, Keep Left has undertaken some additional analysis to assess sentiment and categorise the most common themes.

Most responses to the question referenced multiple topics or themes. As a result, most individual feedback forms were tagged as addressing multiple categories.

Only two respondents chose not to respond to this question at all.



Feedback themes



*Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan

Water filling

The mine water filling strategy was the most common theme of feedback for question three, which is unsurprising given the topic was the focus of information provided at the open house sessions, and the subject of most discussions. Comments collected were categorised as being either general in nature (**Water filling - general**), or as indicating a preference for an **aquifer fill** or **natural fill**. Comments about water filling were often connected to commentary around local waterways, which were categorised as **Anglesea River**.

Examples of water related feedback include:

"How can we fill it quicker. Found it fascinating how much water there it under there. If people understand how much water there is underground it will help them understand."

"Recycled water and sewerage. What is the quality of the water from the Anglesea sewerage plant, couldn't that be used?"

"There is a lot to digest, lots of good information. Not convinced about aquifer but appreciate being able to talk about option, with teams."

"Happy with the info about the river history."

"For someone who doesn't understand water it was well presented with helpful people around."

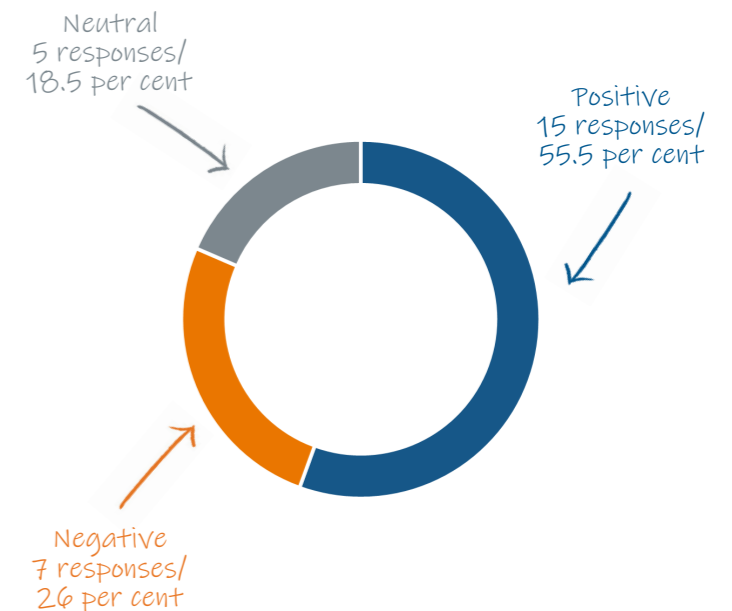
There were also a number of comments from attendees expressing a feeling that there was too much information provided and that it was too technical in nature, despite Alcoa's attempt to explain what by its very nature, is a complex and technical project.

Given many respondents had feedback about the level of detailed information provided, this was assessed as a sub-category.

Examples of the differing opinions regarding information complexity include:

"Graphs were too technical, graphs need to be better explained, also labelled... would like to see more progression and plans moving forward."

"Well presented - for someone that doesn't understand water it was well presented and helpful people around."



Information detail and complexity

A high-level of detailed information was provided about pumping tests, groundwater, aquifers, hydrology and geology at the sessions. This was supported by explanations from Alcoa representatives and their technical experts.

Many respondents expressed appreciation about the level of detail provided, which was reflective in many attendees spending a considerable amount of time digesting the information and chatting with representatives.

Given the majority of feedback regarding information complexity was categorised as either positive or neutral, it is reasonable to assess that Alcoa did a good job of presenting the community with a significant amount of information, in a way that enabled attendees to be able to make their own assessments.

Presenting all of the research data, while also seeking to educate attendees about this complex project is a challenge, and it's reasonable to err on the side of providing more information, than to not present all of the detail and facts.



Future land uses

Respondents seeking more information about future land uses, including the Eden Project for Anglesea concept and broader Anglesea Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan (MRCP), were the next most common feedback themes.

Examples of future land use related feedback include:

"Interested in Eden Project or if there are viable alternatives. Also interested in what progress to make sure water is provided and has the right impact. Also, why do you want water, not soil?"

"Not at this stage. Will there be a block of land for housing? Interested in Eden Project."

"Displays really good - balance of technical and well explained. Good doing three sessions to inform community."

"I'd like to get an update on Eden Project and in regard to the filling."

"Good overall - would like more info on Eden Project update."

Other

Other feedback included requests to participate in tours of the former mine site, to see the rehabilitation activities first hand, or were more general about the overall consultation process.

Examples include:

"I would love to participate in a site tour."

"Looking forward to a tour of the area."

"Where is Torquay's storm water going to go? Would be good to do tours & have a better understanding and information Get the kids involved a teach them about the aquifer."

"Thinks session is good - important to engage the community. Fantastic to have the team that actually work on the project here - especially Chris for technical details. Wants to do a tour overall supportive."

Sentiment analysis

In terms of sentiment, the majority of feedback (56 per cent) was assessed as being either neutral in tone, or that no sentiment could be gleaned from the respondent.

Many of these were responding to the question as it was intended, simply providing areas where more feedback would be appreciated.

Examples of neutral feedback include:

"I'm already informed as a member of the River Advisory Council and Angair, but it's an opportunity to see all the detail as I attend a lot of community information sessions."

"Much more technical than I thought it would be. I would like to see more of a timeline and progression too."

"I feel like you guys know more about this than I do and I'm a local. I'm just interested to see what's happening."

Just under a third (32 per cent) of respondent feedback was assessed as being positive in nature.

Examples of positive feedback include:

"As Mr. Nike says, 'Just do it'."

"Opportunities galore. Well-presented and supported."

"People seem very knowledgeable."

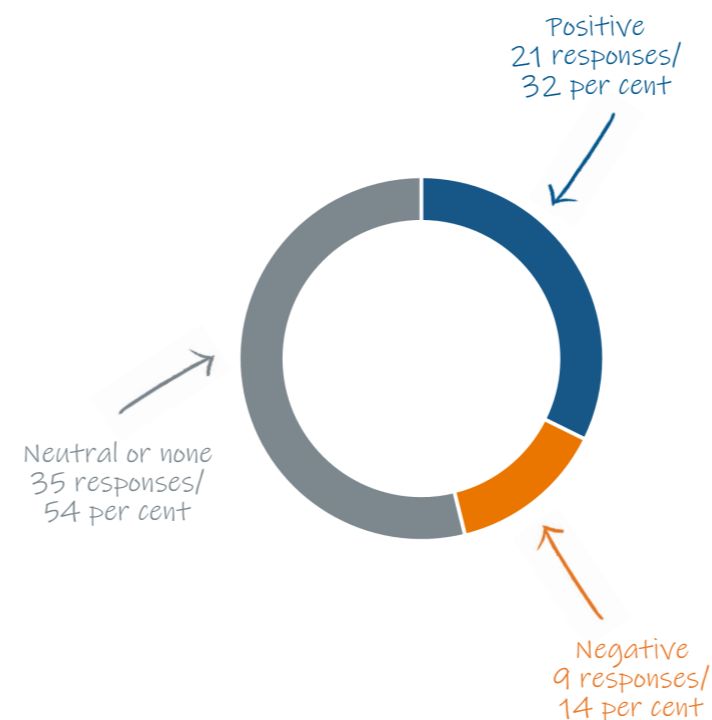
"Over the years since the mid-1960s I have supported everything Alcoa has done for the town. From employment of locals to support of almost all locals around town clubs and organisations in the form of donations. Their commitment to rehabilitation of the mine site to demolition of power station and the ongoing attention to water mine filling, reshaping the mine and monitoring the nature drainage has been commendable."

Feedback from nine respondents (14 per cent) was assessed as being negative in nature.

Examples of negative feedback include:

"Doesn't understand why Alcoa wants to 'fill so quickly'. Don't like Eden Project, doesn't want it to be turned into hotels and conference centres. No benefits for Anglesea Community."

"The information provided was relatively complex and would require further examination to fully understand Alcoa Arguments. Too much information - too little time. I am most concerned that Alcoa is suggesting that climate change is a major driver of reduced flows and acidity in the Anglesea River without considering the impact of the mine void (and cone of depression on the river)."



Post-it board

Attendees were invited to provide additional feedback on post-it notes to be placed on a board for others to see.

Only a few attendees chose to provide feedback on the board. However, Keep Left took a selection of quotes provided in early feedback forms to write up on the board to encourage more respondents.

General observations

While not captured in the feedback collected, a number of general and positive observations were noted during conversations Alcoa representatives and technical experts had with attendees.

These observations touched on topics such as Coalmine Road access, freehold land, affordable housing options and the suitability of the Anglesea Sewage Treatment Plant for filling the mine pit.

Conclusion

Thanks is extended to all of the community members who took the time to drop in to a session and hear firsthand how the technical work is informing Alcoa.

Throughout the sessions, Alcoa representatives and technical experts engaged in numerous constructive conversations with individuals who showed genuine interest in the work being undertaken.

Many were equally as appreciative of the opportunity to be informed, with positive comments highlighting the sessions' informative nature, the professionalism of the presentation, and the accessibility of the representatives.

This notion also aligns with the majority sentiment gleaned from the feedback forms and from the data analysed.

A summary of all the feedback collected during the open house sessions is detailed below:

- 88 per cent of feedback received indicated that attendees felt they better understood the draft Anglesea Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan
- 86 per cent of the feedback received indicated that attendees felt informed about what viable options there are to fill the mine pit
- The majority of feedback (56 per cent) was assessed as being either neutral in tone, or that no sentiment could be gleaned from the respondent, while 32 per cent was positive and 14 per cent negative
- Community members remain interested in a variety of other aspects related to the future of the site

Stay informed and involved



Sign up to Alcoa's email mailing list by scanning the QR code below or by emailing angleseaps@alcoa.com.au.

To contact the team directly, reach out via angleseaps@alcoa.com.au.

To learn more about Alcoa's work, visit alcoa.com/australia/en/anglesea.

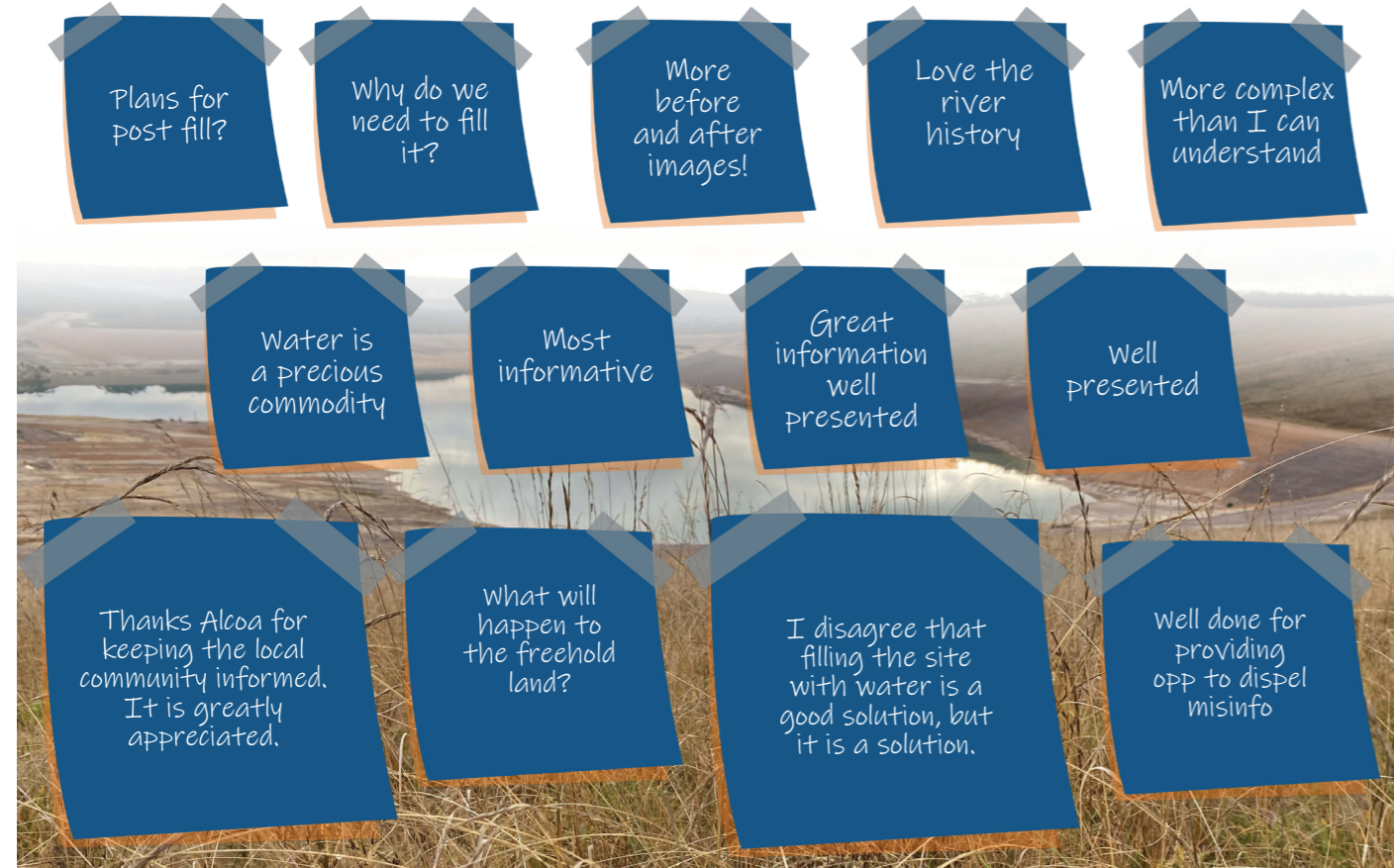


Scan me

Feedback

Let us know what you thought about today's open house session and the information presented.

Digitised version of the feedback board





Alcoa Anglesea

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