

# 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.

During these uncertain times we want to let you know Alcoa is committed to safeguarding our people and doing what we can to minimise any impact of COVID-19 on communities close to where we operate.

We all have a part to play to ensure the best possible outcomes and as a business and community member, we will continue to do what we can.

Presently, work is continuing at the mine and power station with appropriate protocols in place to protect

our workforce, suppliers, contractors and community. Measures include social distancing, work-from-home where possible, and other protective actions aligned with best practice guidance.

Considering the current situation, we cancelled this month's Community Consultation Network meeting. While we cannot meet in person, we will maintain our community engagement through regular Community Updates and feedback opportunities.

We continue to closely monitor the dynamic situation related to COVID-19 and look forward to keeping you informed. Stay well and safe!

Kind regards,  
Warren Sharp, Anglesea Site Asset Manager

## Activities update

### Mine rehabilitation works

Completion of the reprofiling of the south wall in May will mark the end of an almost two-year major earthworks program in the mine and a significant milestone in the mine's rehabilitation plan.

In total, contractor Mibus Bros will have moved more than three million cubic metres of material, or the equivalent of two MCGs, around the mine to reshape the slopes to ensure a safe and stable landform.

Grassland hydroseeding works are progressing on the south wall. Approximately 50 hectares of native wallaby grasses is being established to protect against surface water erosion with a target completion date of May.

### Coalmine Road

As part of the south wall earthworks, a previously closed section of Coalmine Road is being relocated by Alcoa, with works expected to be completed early June. Parts of Coalmine Road and Messmate Track remain closed

to ensure the safety of the community. The public is reminded that the area is an active construction zone and entry is strictly prohibited.

The Department Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) and Surf Coast Shire will determine the long-term use and management of Coalmine Road and Messmate Track.

### Environmental assessments

As part of the onsite environment assessment work, environmental consultants have completed soil and groundwater sampling at the power station and former mine workshop and are now reviewing results in order to develop the site assessment report for auditor review.

The environmental assessment report is on track to be submitted to EPA Victoria by 30 September 2020. To date no unacceptable risks to human health or the environment have been identified.

Alcoa's publishes a quarterly report to EPA Victoria which is also posted on [www.alcoa.com.au/anglesea](http://www.alcoa.com.au/anglesea).



After a two year program, the earthworks to reprofile the mine slopes are expected to be completed next month.

## eden project

Well, who could have imagined how the world has changed since we last met in Anglesea back in February? It's a certain irony how a near-invisible virus can have demonstrated quite both how interconnected we all are across borders and how the natural world has a habit of biting us all when we least expect it. As you'd expect, the Eden team are all in isolation and either furloughed or working from home here in the UK. However, that doesn't mean nothing is happening.

We remain totally committed to Eden Project Anglesea and our focus has been to ensure that this period maximises any preparatory works and actions that can happen in these restricted times.

Most important is that we ensure that the water solution for how the mine void fills is resolved in this period. This requires multi-agency working and Invest Victoria are at the forefront of ensuring that this happens, such that we can bring the project to fruition. If we don't use this next six-month period effectively to identify the water solutions together with government and the community, then it really will have been a wasted period.

Understandably, all governments around the world remain somewhat pre-occupied. That being said, we know that we will get through this crisis eventually. As such, discussions continue with Invest Victoria (on behalf of the Victorian Government) who remain supportive of the project. It is clear that investments will be required after the crisis has passed to ensure that economies can be rebooted. We need to ensure that we are ready for that and most importantly, that we create a project that demonstrates and supports clean growth, sustainability and whatever brave new world that awaits all of us.

Best wishes,  
David Harland, Chief Executive,  
Eden Project International

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

## Water filling strategy update

As we have reported in previous community updates, Alcoa and Eden Project International are seeking an in-principle agreement from the Victorian government on the strategy to fill the mine void with water.

The creation of a waterbody is a key enabler for both the Anglesea Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan and the Eden Project Anglesea concept.

The mine void needs approximately 18 gigalitres of water to fill, with approximately 1.5 gigalitres currently in the void.

Alcoa and Eden's preferred fill strategy is a combination of surface water including potential peak flows from Salt Creek and groundwater. There is also longer-term potential to investigate recycled water.

### 12-month groundwater pumping test

As outlined at the February CCN meeting, the current focus is an option to use Alcoa's existing Upper Eastern View Formation groundwater licence as a source of water to commence the mine void filling process.

Alcoa has a licence to extract up to 4 gigalitres per year from the Upper Eastern View Formation and while operating the power station extracted approximately 3.5 gigalitres per year. The current licence expires in 2024.

To further evaluate this option, Alcoa is seeking approval from Southern Rural Water to undertake a 12-month pumping test. The test, that we aim to start mid-2020, would include extensive monitoring and key stakeholder reporting.

The first six-month period of the test will establish various aquifer parameters, update the groundwater model, and determine a sustainable extraction rate.

The second six-month period will provide additional confidence of the method, further validate the updated groundwater model and input to the associated risk assessment.

In total, approximately 1.5 gigalitres would be extracted during the test.

The pumping test will be undertaken by a specialist contractor and results will be independently reviewed.

To ensure groundwater extraction is not threatening groundwater dependent ecosystems that may be in connection with the aquifer underlying and surrounding the mine, Alcoa will install up to 16 additional groundwater observation bores and data loggers to monitor extraction rates, with conservative trigger levels set against these.

Alcoa will keep the community updated through monthly groundwater reports inclusive of extraction rates, groundwater levels and a trigger update.

As part of the approval process Southern Rural Water will publicly advertise the proposal to provide further opportunity for feedback.

### Do you have any questions/feedback about the groundwater pumping test for Alcoa?

For further information, and to provide feedback on the proposal, visit [www.alcoa.com.au/anglesea](http://www.alcoa.com.au/anglesea) or email the Alcoa team directly on [angleseaps@alcoa.com.au](mailto:angleseaps@alcoa.com.au)