

# ALCOA ANGLESEA COMMUNITY CONSULTATION NETWORK

## JUNE 2019 MEETING SNAPSHOT

**Meeting purpose:** A CCN meeting was held on 17 June to provide an opportunity for attendees to discuss the site's decommissioning and rehabilitation and the ongoing community engagement processes.



### Introduction

The meeting was independently facilitated by Jen Lilburn.

51 people attended, including representatives from community, local and state government, local authorities and Alcoa .

FIGURE 1

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## Environmental Health and Safety

**Warren Sharp** (Anglesea and Point Henry Site Asset Manager) reported that there had been one minor injury and no environmental non-compliances since the last meeting. One security incident involving unauthorised entry to the power station had occurred. **Nicci Marris** (EHS Manager, Alcoa) outlined the works that have been completed at the power station site between March and May 2019 as part of the site's EPA Clean Up Notice requirements. Alcoa submitted its quarterly report to the EPA on 31 May 2019, available at <https://www.alcoa.com/australia/en/pdf/ang-201906-quarterly-report-to-EPA.pdf>.

## Mine Sump Water

The water level at 10 June was sitting at approximately 7.5% of the proposed eventual total volume with a pH of 3.3. The water body is being filled by groundwater and rainwater only at this stage.

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## Decommissioning and Rehabilitation

### Power Station Activity Update

**Dean Schmidt** (Project Engineer) updated the meeting on the power station decommissioning works, advising that recent rains had slowed progress slightly and that works are anticipated for completion by end July 2019.


### Transmission Line Removal

Dean advised that Beon Energy Solutions has removed 77 of the 103 towers and associated concrete footings along the 40 km section of transmission line infrastructure that runs between Point Henry and Anglesea.

## Draft Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan Update

Warren updated the meeting on Draft Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan activities. The west wall and south-west corner re-profiling are complete and works are currently underway along the south wall. Approximately 3 million m<sup>3</sup> of earth is being moved during this process. It is scheduled for completion by the end of 2019.

### Coalmine Road relocation - 3 stages of works



- As part of the south wall reprofiling earthworks, Alcoa will be relocating a section of Coalmine Road that will be removed.
- Works are in line with draft Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan (2017) and Work Plan Variation (2018).
- Stage 1 road relocation expected to be completed by end June 2019 (shown in orange).
- Working Party (Alcoa, DELWP, Surf Coast Shire, Parks Vic. And Barwon Water) currently finalising design.
- The future use of this road will not be determined by Alcoa.




FIGURE 2

As part of the south wall earthworks, Stage 1 of the Coalmine relocation has commenced, involving a new link track from the existing Coalmine Road to a junction at Messmate Track (shown in orange in Figure 2). Stage 2 works are scheduled for July/August and Stage 3 works, depending on gaining cultural heritage approval, are expected to occur late 2019/early 2020. All three sections will be sealed with bitumen, as directed by the Surf Coast Shire. The T-intersection at the junction of Stages 1 and 3 will see approximately 100m of Messmate Track also sealed south of the junction (as shown in blue), consistent with general road design treatments.

## Water

Warren provided an update on Alcoa's proposal to re-divert Salt Creek along its original course through the mine, thereby accelerating the filling of the water body. In response to questions, Warren advised the Draft Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan proposes a water quality in the water body of pH 5, which can be achieved sustainably through the establishment of microbiological conditions that can help correct high acidity levels. The draft Plan does not propose that the water body will be suitable for recreational activities and the Australian Guidelines state that pH 5 is not good enough for primary contact.

Salt Creek and Marshy Creek represent about 25% and 75% respectively of the water flow into Anglesea River and have similar characteristics and pH issues. Therefore, re-routing Salt Creek back through the mine void won't necessarily correct the River's pH levels. Alcoa has considered the potential impacts on the river downstream from a 25% reduction in water flow and has a contingency built into the draft Plan which can restore the existing diversion channel with 2-3 days' notice if required. Barwon Water has leased the water storage pond on the power station site to support the management of the river until the end of the coming summer.

**Dr. Greg Woodward** (Senior Manager Waterway Health, Catchments, Waterways, Cities & Towns Division, DELWP) updated the meeting on river management issues. During the 2018-19 summer, Alcoa offered the water in the mine sump to DELWP to assist in managing the Anglesea River levels but DELWP was unable to capitalise on that offer. DELWP will continue to work with Alcoa and EPA Victoria to investigate future feasibility of supplementing the additional flow with mine pit water.

DELWP's lease on the pond will continue for another year. Water can be extracted from the river between 1 July – 31 October 2019 and Barwon Water will aim to fill the total 126 ML allocation. DELWP is looking at alternative water storage sites as, at some point, Alcoa will need to commence rehabilitation works on the pond.

In response to questions, Greg advised that accessing water from the Barwon Water bores is possible but expensive and complex, and treatment of the water would be necessary.

SCS and CCMA manage the estuary entrance and river openings, based on threats to major infrastructure. Opening can only be undertaken under certain tidal conditions. In Victoria, the policy is to allow estuary mouth openings to occur naturally where possible. DELWP's modelling results indicate that estuary mouth management would not resolve river water level issues over summer periods.

**Keith Baillie** (Chief Executive Officer, SCS) advised that Council has an annual \$20,000 budget to manage river openings for the purpose of protecting assets and infrastructure. There is no available council funding to manage river openings for environmental purposes.

The water issue relating to filling the mine void is a complex matter between all of the relevant agencies and Alcoa and there are several unresolved issues with a lot of work being undertaken but, as yet, no agreed solution. Council understands that this is also a major issue for the Eden Project and is actively trying to encourage a resolution.

## Freehold Concept Master Plan

### Eden Project Anglesea

Warren introduced **Tim Lele**, Head of Corporate Communications and **Georgia Harrison**, Account Manager from Keep Left, a communications agency that was engaged to manage the recent community engagement process on the Eden Project Anglesea concept. The process was aimed at gauging community interest in the concept and understanding any major issues and concerns within the community. Alcoa and the Eden Project were also keen to gather local ideas that could inform the project's future development and to generate a contact list for ongoing discussion, information transfer and engagement.

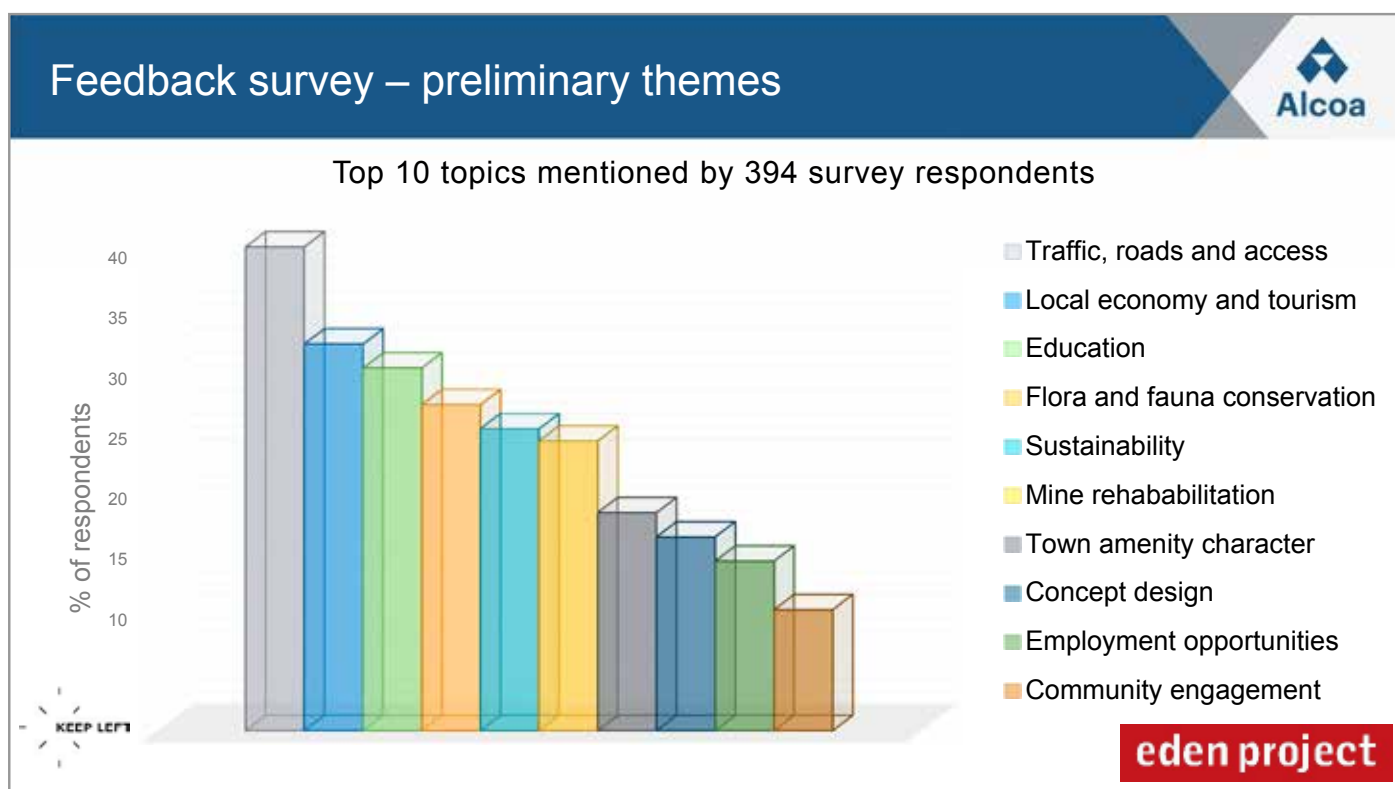


FIGURE 3

Although the feedback is still being analysed, Tim and Georgia presented a high-level summary of the preliminary findings to date. Over 700 people attended at least one of the drop-in, invitation-only or round-table events and there were over 3,000 hits on the project website. Three key questions were asked within the feedback survey, these being which elements of the project were seen as most beneficial, which project elements could be improved and which aspects required more information. The feedback has been grouped into 22 themes.

Just over 40% of respondents mentioned traffic, roads or access in their comments, a lot of those being questions regarding intended traffic management plans. Current traffic issues in the area, particularly over summer and along the Great Ocean Road, were also commonly identified within this theme.

Impacts of the project on the local economy and tourism formed the second most common theme, followed by education-related benefits associated with the project. A final report of the feedback of community feedback will be available at the end of July.

**David Harland** (Chief Executive Officer of Eden Project International Limited) joined the meeting via video link. David thanked everyone for their engagement to date and said that the feedback has generally been very positive with a variety of issues raised that Eden and Alcoa think are very solvable. Eden looks forward to further engagement with the Anglesea community.

In response to questions, David outlined that Anglesea appears to be experiencing the disadvantages of tourism without the advantages. The Eden Project would try to encourage visitors to stop and stay, bringing the local economic and social activity benefits of tourism. Traffic issues featured heavily in the conversations when the Eden Project team visited the region and David stressed the need to use the Eden Project development to deliver what the local community wants in terms of road and infrastructure and to determine, with the community, the level to which visitors to the site are encouraged to also access Anglesea.

During the recent visit to Anglesea, local community members took the Eden Project team on a tour of the local environment, including the Anglesea Heath and marine environments. It would be wrong not to showcase these ecosystems and to demonstrate that we are a part of nature, not apart from it.

The Eden Project has to work within the planning and regulatory framework that exists. Projects of this scale need planning and regulatory certainty and there are some outstanding conditions that are necessary for the project to move forward. Whilst the Eden Project team believe these issues can be dealt with, they require a will and desire from a number of people to make that happen and the team needs to see forward movement on all of those points. If it is still merely a concept in 12 months' time, it will have failed.

David believes that the Eden Project and the quiet coastal Anglesea township can co-exist either through creating connections that allow people to come into Anglesea so that the town can reap the benefits or through lessening those connections. Given that there are opposing views on this issue, a solution that works for both will need to be found.

The Eden Project had been approached a number of times about the Anglesea site as well as by mining companies in other Australian locations. However, in scrutinising Alcoa's Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan, the team considered that Alcoa is taking its legal obligations seriously. Furthermore, the proposed creation of a water body provides a backdrop to the project that is different from other sites that have been offered. This site has other attractive conditions, including its distance from Melbourne, the number of visitors travelling down the Great Ocean Road, an interesting geography, biodiversity and story to tell and working with a company such as Alcoa that is trying to do the right thing.



**FIGURE 4**

**NEXT MEETING: Monday 12 August 2019, 6pm at the Senior Citizens Club, McMillan St, Anglesea  
ALL WELCOME**

The purpose of this document is to give community and other stakeholders a summary of what took place at the CCN meeting on Monday 17 June. For a full account of discussions at the meeting, email [angleseaps@alcoa.com.au](mailto:angleseaps@alcoa.com.au) requesting a copy of the minutes.

The CCN, established in 2001, provides advice and feedback on issues relevant to Alcoa and assists it to be responsive to the needs and concerns of the community. For further information about Alcoa and any of the topics in this snapshot, visit [www.alcoa.com.au/anglesea](http://www.alcoa.com.au/anglesea)