

Community update

Anglesea



Since closing operations in 2015 Alcoa has been actively progressing the rehabilitation of the Anglesea mine site to deliver a safe, stable and sustainable landform.

An approved long term strategy to fill the mine void with water is required to finalise the Anglesea Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan. Two major milestones were achieved in 2020 with the completion of the major earthworks program and vegetation strategy.

Filling the mine void with water also remains a key enabler for the Eden Project Anglesea concept.

In May we commenced a 12-month pumping test to investigate the use of groundwater to support the mine water filling strategy. The test was approved by Southern Rural Water as an amendment to Alcoa's existing groundwater licence and is underpinned by a comprehensive monitoring plan.

The outcomes of the test will determine if a sustainable extraction rate can be established and inform decisions about the potential use of groundwater in the longer term.

During the test a total of 1.5 gigalitres of groundwater will be extracted from the Upper Easter View Formation aquifer. This is less than half the historical annual extraction rate for the power station over 46 years of operation and is significantly less than our current licence limit of 4 gigalitres per year.

The test is progressing well, and in accordance with licence conditions, with a high level of oversight by a co-regulator technical working group. Inclusive of both groundwater and rainfall, the waterbody has risen 1.8 metres and is now approximately 13% full.

You can read more about the test at www.alcoa.com.au/anglesea.

Power station remediation

As part of the former power station site's remediation, work is progressing on the permanent closure of the onsite asbestos landfill.

Since 1992 and under a licence with EPA Victoria, we have managed an onsite landfill for the disposal of asbestos used in the construction of the power station.

The landfill will now be permanently capped and closed in accordance with EPA licence requirements, with public open space the proposed long term future land-use.

The proposed cap design has been developed by specialised consultants and complies with EPA's 'Best Practice Environmental Management' standards.

The capping system will be placed on top of the existing soil cover and include a geosynthetic clay liner covered by subsoil, then topsoil and grass, to create a gently sloped grassed area.

The design has been assessed and verified by an EPA appointed auditor and has recently been submitted to the EPA for approval. Construction is expected to commence in early 2022.

To facilitate future management of the closed landfill we propose to extend Alcoa's title boundary to fully incorporate the landfill on Alcoa freehold land, as outlined in the Alcoa Freehold Concept Master Plan 2018.

Celebrating NAIDOC Week

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

As part of NAIDOC Week celebrations last month, Wadawurrung woman Corrina Eccles performed a moving Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony at the crest of the mine.

This year's theme - #HealCountry! - called for stronger measures to recognise, protect, and maintain all aspects of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage.



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