

We are pleased to provide our regular update about the rehabilitation of the mine and power station site, as we continue to progress key activities to deliver a safe, stable and sustainable landform.

The year has started off positively and productively onsite, with work focusing on the groundwater pumping test and the ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the mine's rehabilitation.

Alcoa groundwater pumping test

As regular readers of our updates will know, an approved long-term strategy to fill the mine void with water remains a key enabler for both the Anglesea Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan and the Eden Project Anglesea concept.

In May 2021 we commenced a groundwater pumping test to further investigate the use of groundwater to support the mine void water filling strategy.

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

The test is being undertaken by expert hydrogeologists, with oversight by a co-regulator technical working group comprising representatives from Southern Rural Water, Department of Land Water and Planning, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, EPA Victoria, Earth Resources Regulation; and Barwon Water.

Test results will be independently peer-reviewed.

The test is being undertaken in two six-month stages. Stage one was successfully completed on 8 December 2021.

The test has run in accordance with the licence, and we are pleased with the progress to date.

The pumping is currently paused as specialist consultants collate, analyse and validate the data collected during stage one to determine if there is a sustainable pumping rate.

Analysis of the data so far has not identified any adverse impact on groundwater dependent ecosystems including the Anglesea River.

Stage two will commence when the required analysis and regulatory assessments have been completed.

Importantly, the aquifers and bores continue to be closely monitored and information shared with community and regulators via regular updates emailed to our community database and published on our website: www.alcoa.com.au/anglesea.

Mine rehabilitation monitoring and maintenance

The monitoring and maintenance program in the mine continues for the earthworks and revegetation areas including stability monitoring, erosion repairs and extensive weed management.

The heavy rainfall in late January impacted the mine site with some minor erosion damage to surface water drains and the lower slopes. Repairs are underway.

Woody weed removal activities continue in and around the mine site with treatment of a significant area of Sallow Wattle and Boneseed recently completed between the west wall and Bald Hills Roads.

Eden Project Anglesea

The next critical step for the progression of the Eden Project Anglesea concept is resolution of the long term mine water filling strategy.

Once resolved, the Eden Project team can proceed with next steps including more detailed design work and traffic and infrastructure planning, together with further community engagement.

From David Harland, CEO Eden Project International:

Many of us have been eagerly waiting for the results of the pump test in the former mine at Anglesea... none more so than the team at Eden. While we await the final results, the early signs are looking positive. In the meantime, we value our continued engagement with the local community, Alcoa and Invest Victoria to assist in progressing the Eden Project in Anglesea during 2022.

Stay informed, ask questions

We are committed to sharing updates about our activities and engaging with the community to understand your interest areas, feedback, questions or concerns.

While our hopes for a February Community Consultation Network (CCN) meeting were dashed with the reality of the ongoing pandemic, we still hold some hope that we will re-connect in a face to face capacity this year.

As always, we welcome your contact about our activities. To contact the Anglesea team or sign up to our regular Community Updates, please email angleseaps@alcoa.com.au or visit www.alcoa.com.au/anglesea for further information.

Best wishes,
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