



**eden project**

## **1,300 jobs projected for Eden Project Anglesea concept**

**Friday 30 August:** More than 1,300 new jobs are among the economic benefits of Eden Project Anglesea to be presented at today's G21 Geelong Regional Alliance Stakeholder Forum.

Economic modelling shows that Eden Project Anglesea would generate \$350 million in the Surf Coast Shire in the first 10 years of operation.

The eco-tourism destination would create more than 500 ongoing full-time jobs with 300 at the site and an additional 200 jobs supported in the wider region. This represents almost four times the number of workers at Alcoa's former power station and mine.

Meanwhile direct construction investment for the project is estimated to be \$150 million, with 170 direct construction jobs anticipated. An additional 700 jobs are expected to be created in the G21 region during the construction phase of the project.

Following an overwhelming response of support and enthusiasm from the Anglesea community since the concept was first presented in May, Eden and Alcoa are now looking to build further on the support of regional leaders and key government stakeholders.

Chief Executive of Eden Project International David Harland, who is presenting at today's G21 Forum said: "Anglesea is a fantastic place and we want Eden Project Anglesea to enhance what the town already provides to locals and the wider region.

"The project will offer greater tourism opportunities, bring more jobs to the local economy and build on Anglesea's history of strong environmental stewardship.

"The economic projections for the Surf Coast region are similar to what we have achieved in Cornwall through our commitment to partnerships with the local community.

"While the economic benefits are hugely significant, our engagement with the Traditional Owners of the land, building our partnerships in biodiversity and continuing our involvement in active community engagement and consultation remain priorities at this time."

Alcoa's Anglesea Site Asset Manager Warren Sharp said: "Alcoa's goal is to leave a legacy that benefits the Anglesea community economically, environmentally and socially.

"Eden Project Anglesea will be a key part of achieving this vision with the job projections well exceeding the permanent Alcoa positions at the former mine and power station site."

The critical next steps for Alcoa and Eden are the resolution of the water strategy to fill the mine void and determining the relevant planning process for the next phase.

In addition to his attendance at the G21 Geelong Regional Alliance Stakeholder Forum, David Harland will be in Victoria this week to meet with other regional and state stakeholders, to continue driving momentum for Eden Project Anglesea.

-ENDS-

#### **Notes to Editor**

The projections have been prepared using Surf Coast Shire and Victorian Government data and assumptions.

#### **Further information:**

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

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#### **Background on Eden Project Anglesea**

In May 2019 Eden Project and Alcoa of Australia released a concept for a world class ecotourism attraction within Alcoa's former mine site in Anglesea, Victoria.

Set within the landscape of the Anglesea Heath, it showcases a vision to transform an area within the former coal mine into a destination for immersive education and experiences which celebrate the local ecology and tell a story of sustainability.

Eden Project Anglesea presents an opportunity to showcase the site's unique natural values while making a significant and lasting contribution to the region for generations to come.

The project brings to life the guiding principles Alcoa developed in partnership with the Anglesea community to shape the transformation of the former mine site, which closed in 2015.

#### **Background on Eden – [www.edenproject.com/](http://www.edenproject.com/)**

The Eden Project in Cornwall, UK, is a global garden featuring spectacular geodesic domes, known as Biomes, situated in a former china clay quarry. Eden is the home of the largest rainforest in captivity, known as the Rainforest Biome, as well as the beautiful Mediterranean Biome and extensive outdoor gardens.

Eden has contributed more than £2 billion to the regional economy and welcomed more than 21 million visitors since it opened in 2001.

Eden Project International Limited (EPIL) is the global wing of the Eden Project, whose ambition is to create projects inspired by the original Cornish vision in every habitable continent on earth. It is currently working on projects in China, Dubai, the USA and the UK.

**Background on Alcoa – [www.alcoa.com.au/anglesea](http://www.alcoa.com.au/anglesea)**

After 46 years of operations, Alcoa's Anglesea power station and mine was permanently closed in 2015. Decommissioning of the power station site and remediation activities in the former mine site are well underway.

With landholdings framed by the Great Otway National Park, Anglesea Heath, Anglesea River, the Great Ocean Road and the Anglesea township, the site presents a once in generation opportunity to create outcomes of significant value to Anglesea and the broader region.

Following extensive community engagement, Alcoa published a concept master plan for its freehold landholdings in 2018 with a vision to connect people to Anglesea valued landscapes; create a new tourism destination for Anglesea and the Great Ocean Road; and create economic opportunities for Anglesea and the wider region.