

Community update

Anglesea



Eden Project Anglesea's Water Concept – a wondrous centrepiece rising from the water body..

Eden Project Anglesea update

Eden Project and Alcoa recently hosted a community update meeting to seek further input and feedback about the Eden Project Anglesea concept.

Held on 11 November in Anglesea, 135 participants heard the latest information about the concept, shared their views and asked questions to members of the project team.

Eden Project International CEO David Harland and Alcoa Anglesea Site Asset Manager Warren Sharp reported that most key aspects of the project have been progressing well including engagement with Traditional Owners, community engagement, biodiversity, funding, and economic and job projections.

David said Eden was pleased with the engagement from all quarters of government, as well as the wider community in Anglesea and the region.

“At last week’s community meeting I was heartened to see that the vast majority of the audience remains overwhelmingly supportive of the concept and hopeful that the project can continue on its development path.”

“There are, of course, some in the community who have concerns. Our level of engagement with the community is such that we feel that the most topical issues, such as traffic and the connectivity of the Eden site with the town of Anglesea, will be able to

be worked through together with the community. We also believe solutions can be found that can deal with some longer-term issues facing the Great Ocean Road more generally.”

“Furthermore, there are also some who like the Eden concept, but would like it not to be in Anglesea – simply, the opportunity for an Eden Project remains in Anglesea and it would be a huge disappointment to move our considerations away from Victoria,” David said.

At the community meeting both Warren and David reported that despite progress in many key aspects, the strategy to fill the mine void with water remains unresolved, and that they had hoped to be further progressed by now.

Warren said that Alcoa is seeking an in-principle agreement from government regarding a strategy to fill the mine void with water as a key enabler for both the mine rehabilitation closure plan and the Eden Project Anglesea. He said the company continues to work with government to evaluate all options.

David said that Eden has been very clear that the water strategy (alongside the planning process) needs to be resolved by the end of this year to maintain momentum and to allow investment decisions to be made.

“This has not changed. However, we recognise the multi-departmental work that is happening with government and are hopeful that this will result in a solution for all parties imminently,” David said.

“Ultimately, our interest remains in the creation of a world class destination on the former Alcoa Anglesea coal mine site, which we believe can act as an exemplar for Victoria and Australia’s economic and environmental transition.”

The Eden Project Anglesea concept continues to draw interest locally, regionally and across the country.

Since May this year when the concept was released for community feedback, more than 1,000 people have participated in community consultation activities and a further 4,000 people have participated online.

For more information about the Eden Project Anglesea concept:

Visit:

- www.edenprojectanglesea.com.au
- www.alcoa.com.au/anglesea.

Send an email to:

- angleseaps@alcoa.com.au to register for project updates and community consultation notifications.

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