

Community update

Anglesea



Welcome to Alcoa's regular community update where we share the latest information about the Anglesea mine and power station including ongoing opportunities for the community to be engaged in our activities.

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

Working in a safe and environmentally compliant manner, we have reached many milestones onsite including the decommissioning and removal of the power station, and the completion of the major earthworks program and vegetation strategy works in the mine.

Mine void water filling strategy

Filling the mine void with water remains a key enabler for both the Anglesea Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan and the Eden Project Anglesea concept.

To enable further investigation of using groundwater to commence the filling process, a 12-month groundwater pumping test will begin next month, following installation of additional groundwater monitoring bores and approval of the required water monitoring plan by Southern Rural Water.

The test will provide additional information to Alcoa, the regulators and the community to better inform us about the potential use of the groundwater in the longer term and determine if a sustainable extraction rate can be established.

Monitoring bores

Fifteen of sixteen monitoring bores have been installed around the periphery of the mine. The last is expected to be completed next week.

These bores will support long term groundwater monitoring and the upcoming 12-month groundwater pumping test. They are installed in pairs and range between 30 metres and 150 metres in depth.

Surface water drains

Works to complete nine surface water drains have recently finished, with all drains working effectively during recent rainfall events.

Extending from the mine's crest to the floor, the drain structures are up to 250 metres in length to allow water from catchments above the crest of the mine to travel safely into the waterbody and minimise damage to the reprofiled slopes.

Monitoring and maintenance

While major mine rehabilitation activities have been completed, a proactive monitoring and maintenance program is now in place to support the works completed so far.

Regular inspections are conducted by Alcoa, technical consultants and the regulator - Earth Resources Regulation. This includes inspections and removal of weed species from topsoil and grasslands rehabilitation which is establishing well. It also involves erosion repairs on the reprofiled slopes where required.

This month will see another milestone achieved when the environment assessment report for the power station site is submitted to EPA Victoria.

I am also pleased to report that we are positively progressing the mine water filling strategy. In May we will begin a 12-month groundwater pumping test to further investigate using groundwater to commence the mine void filling process. We look forward to keeping the community regularly informed about the test.

As always, I encourage you to reach out to the Anglesea team at angleseaps@alcoa.com.au or visit www.alcoa.com.au/anglesea with any questions or feedback.

Best wishes,
Warren Sharp, Anglesea Site Asset Manager

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 will include extensive monitoring and monthly reporting to Southern Rural Water and other key referring agencies. The monthly report will track key indicators such as extraction rates and groundwater levels. It will be posted on www.alcoa.com.au/anglesea and emailed to the Alcoa community database.

Read more about the groundwater pumping test here: <https://www.alcoa.com/australia/en/pdf/anglesea-fact-sheet-uevf-pumping-test-april-2020.pdf>.

Power station environment assessment

A significant milestone will be reached this month when we submit the environment assessment report for the power station site to EPA Victoria.

The report is the culmination of a preliminary site investigation, a comprehensive sampling and analysis program and a detailed site investigation. It has been developed with oversight by the EPA appointed Auditor and conducted in parallel with onsite decommissioning activities.

Importantly, there have been no environmental non-compliance incidents or unacceptable risks identified.



Left: A completed pair of monitoring bores.



Left: The topsoil revegetation on the mine's west wall continues to establish well.



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

An update from the Eden Project

Greetings to all our friends in Australia! I write this update feeling enthused about the possibilities the coming months will bring. Over here in the UK, we are making tentative but hopefully permanent steps out of our third lockdown, our Eden Project in Cornwall is preparing to re-open next month and the warm spring weather offers us a tantalising glimpse of what summer might bring.

Enthusiasm continues to be an abiding theme for our work in Anglesea and, while our frustration at not being able to visit in person must continue for a little longer, work has continued apace and we have been collaborating remotely but closely (only in strange times like these could such an oxymoron make sense) with our Alcoa partners to keep the project moving behind the scenes. The beginning of the pumping test, which has already been approved, is imminent and will go a long way towards resolving the issue of how best to fill the mine void with water.

Water is of course an incredibly important feature of the Eden Project Anglesea plans and, while we know that the delays in resolving this issue will have frustrated some of our supporters, we would ask for just a little more patience. It will be worth the wait! After all, a project broadly themed around the extremes of the elements wouldn't be complete without a stunning water centrepiece.

We are grateful as ever to our friends at Alcoa for their continued commitment to this project and to all the project's supporters in the community, government and business. We were delighted that the Governor of Victoria, the Hon. Linda Dessau AC, and her husband Mr Anthony Howard AM QC paid the site a visit recently – we hope you enjoyed your time there, Governor, and we look forward to welcoming you in person next time!

Best wishes,
David Harland,
CEO Eden Project International

eden project

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