

# Alcoa Anglesea Update

December 2022



Welcome to Alcoa's regular community update where we share the latest information about our activities at the former mine and power station site. In this edition we provide a wrap up of our 2022 activities and a look into 2023.

## Mine water filling strategy

Throughout the year we have provided regular updates about the potential use of groundwater to fill the mine pit, and specifically the pumping test.

The data collated from the pumping test is being used to update the Anglesea Groundwater Model to assist in determining if a sustainable pumping rate can be achieved.

Importantly, the data gathered during the test, which has now concluded, did not identify any adverse impacts on groundwater dependent ecosystems, including the Anglesea River.

The groundwater model development is currently going through a rigorous independent peer review process by the government appointed Technical Review Panel. Following this, Alcoa will also undertake a further groundwater impact and environmental risk assessment.

We expect these steps, which will determine if Alcoa applies to Southern Rural Water for a licence amendment to support the filling of the mine pit with groundwater, will be completed in the new year.

The recent significant rainfall has seen the waterbody rise over 400mm in the past month. The water level is RL -16.3 metres which represents approximately 18 per cent of the proposed full volume. (Relative level, or RL, is the water level in metres below sea level.)

## Monitoring and maintenance program

Across the year, monitoring and maintenance activities continued in the rehabilitated mine areas, including extensive weed management, erosion repairs, stability monitoring and regular geotechnical and vegetation expert inspections.

These activities are key to our objective to ensuring a safe, stable and sustainable landform.

The recent challenging weather conditions have been keeping our weeding team particularly busy, and the earthworks team has just commenced lower slope erosion maintenance repairs.



In November, a team of experienced ecologists (pictured above) undertook a grasslands assessment to evaluate the extent and health of established grass cover, invasive weed species, and soil condition.

Works will continue with their guidance to ensure the continued development of the native wallaby grasslands.

These regular inspections are instrumental in the development and sustainability of the vegetation, and we were pleased to share this progress with Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation representatives at a recent site visit.

## Landfill closure

At the power station, contractors recently commenced works to permanently and safely cap and close the onsite landfill in accordance with EPA Victoria licence requirements.

Since 1992 under a licence with EPA we have managed a landfill for the disposal of asbestos used in the power station's construction. The materials were progressively removed during major maintenance activities while the site operated and during decommissioning activities after site closure.

Specialised consultants developed the cap design that complies with EPA's 'Best Practice Environmental Management' standards. An EPA appointed auditor also reviewed and verified the cap design and construction.

The final landform will be a gently sloped grassed area, and the proposed long term land use a public open space.

We expect this work to be completed in mid-2023.

## Stay informed

As always, we welcome your feedback and questions about our activities.

To contact the Anglesea team or sign up to our regular Community Updates, please email [angleseaps@alcoa.com.au](mailto:angleseaps@alcoa.com.au) or visit [www.alcoa.com.au/anglesea](http://www.alcoa.com.au/anglesea) for further information.

Best wishes,

Warren Sharp  
Site Asset Manager  
Alcoa Anglesea

*Alcoa Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands where we operate, the Wadawurrung People, and pays respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.*