

Alcoa Anglesea Update

Spring 2023



Early spring sightings throughout our west wall topsoil revegetation

Welcome to Alcoa's regular community update where we share the latest news about our former mine and power station site activities.

Maintenance and Monitoring

Our monitoring and maintenance program is a key part of our objective to ensure a safe, stable and sustainable landform.

This program includes extensive weed management, erosion repairs, stability monitoring and regular geotechnical and vegetation expert inspections. We expect these activities to continue over the next five to 10 years.

Throughout winter our weeding contractors pushed ahead with a variety of activities, including:

- Woody weed removal works targeting sallow wattle and boneseed on our power station south freehold land area;
- Kikuyu grass and broadleaf weed (clover and medic) treatments within the mine grasslands; and
- An exotic grass herbicide trial targeting exotic grass weeds such as Fescues in the mine grasslands, in consultation with our ecologists.

Since 2019, we have completed targeted weed removal and management treatments on more than 250 hectares, both within and external to the mine site.

Mine Water Filling Strategy

The bi-monthly mine water body level survey conducted in early August revealed a small expected increase to -16.03m, up from -16.27m as a result of natural factors. The water body is now approximately 18 per cent full by volume.

Filling the mine pit with water is a key enabler to finalise the Anglesea Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan, and we continue to explore the possibility of using groundwater as part of the mine water filling strategy. The rigorous, science-based process is overseen by Victorian government agencies and departments, and to date has involved more than three years of work.

While we are encouraged by the positive results from the groundwater pumping test, we will not make a decision about a potential licence amendment application for the use of groundwater longer term, until the current technical process is complete.

Part of this ongoing work is updating the Anglesea Groundwater Model, in conjunction with Barwon Water, which is underway. The model will be independently peer-reviewed by a government-appointed Technical Review Panel. We also then plan to undertake a further groundwater impact and environmental risk assessment, which will help inform a future potential decision to seek a licence amendment.

Importantly, when these steps are completed, we will run community engagement activities to share the analysis, seek your feedback and further understand any concerns.

Our latest bi-monthly geotechnical inspection was completed by Alcoa's geotechnical consultant in early August with no significant issues identified.

A review is currently underway of erosion on the mine's lower slope, a site subject to regular repair campaigns caused by surface water run off from rainfall events. Our geotechnical consultant has engaged a leading erosion management specialist to assist with the review, with intent to develop a strategy that will reduce lower slope erosion over time.

Environment, Health and Safety

Passersby our power station entrance may notice the installation of additional fencing, gates and cameras. We've had to implement these measures in response to an increase in unwanted and illegal behaviour including rubbish dumping, wood theft, and hoon activity from both cars and trail bikes.

This type of behaviour is disappointing and impacts not only us but the wider community's ability to respectfully enjoy their surrounds.

We will continue to proactively respond and encourage you to get in touch if you see any of this behaviour on Alcoa managed land.

Landfill Closure

Since 1992, we have safely landfilled asbestos used in the power station's construction under a licence with EPA Victoria. Guided by EPA regulation and inspected regularly by the EPA-appointed auditor, works to construct a specially designed permanent capping system were completed in June this year.

Works included installation of a new geosynthetic liner, subsoil, topsoil and compost application, hydroseeding and installation of a new perimeter fence. The initial hydroseed treatment comprised a fast developing Ryecorn to stabilise the surface, however this will be replaced with a more suitable grass cover in the longer term.



Ryecorn germination across capped landfill site

Construction as-built reporting for the project has been completed as part of the regulated process for any landfill and submitted to the EPA-appointed auditor. Once verified by the auditor, the finalised report will then be submitted to EPA Victoria.

Power Station Remediation

Our Remediation Action Plan for the power station site was verified by the EPA-appointed auditor, with the Plan and Verification Report recently submitted to EPA Victoria.

Planning has now commenced for completion of the required minor remediation works, largely made up of onsite bioremediation and re-use of identified hydrocarbon impacted soils in several small and localised areas. All onsite remediation works will continue to be compliant with the site Environmental Action Notice.

Keep Informed

Our revegetation works will be on show at the upcoming Angair Wildflower and Art Weekend between 16 and 17 September. Our display provides a recap of our topsoil and native grassland revegetation works to date through a series of photographs.

As always, we welcome your ongoing feedback and questions to angleseaps@alcoa.com.au.

Visit www.alcoa.com/australia/en/anglesea to read more about our activities.

Scan the QR code with your mobile or email us at angleseaps@alcoa.com.au to sign up to our regular e-updates mailing list.



Best wishes,
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