

## From the Power Station Manager

As we move towards our final month of operation, our two key focus areas remain assisting people with their career transition planning and running the mine and power station safely.

Our team of 85 people has been participating in a range of activities including career counselling, resume writing, sponsored training, financial planning and government services workshops.

Most importantly we are focussing on the physical safety and emotional wellbeing of our team and their families during this difficult time.

Operationally, our facility continues to run to the same high standards, and planning for the

technical shutdown of the power station is well underway.

I was pleased to provide an update to our CCN meeting on 13 July about the shutdown process and the site's future decommissioning and rehabilitation. Highlights from the meeting are contained in this article.

As always we welcome the community's attendance at our CCN meetings; the next meeting will be held on Monday 10 August.

**Warren Sharp,**  
**Anglesea Power Station Manager**



## Technical shutdown

Alcoa has set an approximate date of 25 August to cease power generation to allow time to ensure the site is appropriately secure and operations are shutdown safely prior to the official shutdown date of 31 August. Other key activities include ceasing coal mining activities, removing the emergency coal stockpile, and covering exposed coal on the mine floor with overburden.

On 31 August the site will be handed over to Alcoa's Asset Planning and Management group for future decommissioning and rehabilitation. Alcoa has considerable Australian and international expertise in industrial site and mine rehabilitation and remediation activities and has committed \$US40 - \$US45 million to asset retirement and environmental remediation.

## Future fire risk mitigation

Fire prevention continues to be a fundamental consideration in our operations. We have always taken this very seriously and are proud that in our 46 years of operation we have not had any significant fire events.

Part of the shutdown plan is to further minimise the already low risk of a coal mine fire.

Forty-one hectares of exposed coal will be covered with overburden by 31 August.

Alcoa will retain an excavator, dozer and 60,000 litre water cart onsite as a precaution in the unexpected event of fire.

Alcoa continues to engage directly with the Country Fire Authority (CFA) to review existing fire plans and onsite water sources.

An area on the mine's west wall will remain

uncovered in the short term due in part to the existence of a Heritage Management Plan running right along its boundary and the associated logistical issues in accessing this site.

This is a temporary measure and Alcoa anticipates that this area will be covered in 18 months to two years during the rehabilitation process.

Sections of this wall have been exposed for up to 28 years without any spontaneous combustion events and the area will be closely monitored until the coal is covered.

## The Anglesea River

Alcoa recognises the community interest in how the Anglesea River will be affected once the power station closes.

Following a request from government, the company has agreed to maintain its water flows into the river over the coming summer at levels similar to recent years.

This will allow time for the government and the community to understand and work through the issues associated with the river's long term future.

Advancing each generation.



## Environmental considerations and rehabilitation of the mine

The most recently endorsed 'Work Plan' of 2011 (available to view on Alcoa's website) provides a basis for mine closure and rehabilitation. Whilst the plan refers to intended closure in 2061, the key principles are relevant, including a commitment to engage the community as part of the decision making process. Environmental values are also specifically referenced. The 'Mine Closure Concept' represents a sound starting point for development of the final closure plan. Alcoa has mined approximately 325 hectares

of land and has already progressively rehabilitated 115 hectares.

Following technical reviews, site assessments and an agreed community engagement process, it is anticipated that physical works will commence in 2017.

The Earth Resources division of the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) Regulation will oversee this process and Alcoa is already in close liaison with them.

## Decommissioning of the power station

EPA Victoria will oversee this process based on the appropriate National standards. The endorsed Work Plan refers to several aspects of decommissioning, including treatment of the asbestos landfill, demolition of the facilities, as well as appropriate site remediation. A timeline will soon be developed for these activities which are expected to run in parallel to the mine activities.

## Future use of the site

Alcoa leases approximately 7,300 hectares of Crown land. This area, and the greater Anglesea Heath area, comes under the jurisdiction of (and will ultimately be returned to) the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

In addition, Alcoa owns a freehold area of approximately 143 hectares. The company is yet to make any decisions about the future of its freehold land.

## Ongoing community consultation

Alcoa has a long history of community engagement in Anglesea, including the well established Community Consultation Network (CCN) that is open for any community member to participate in. Alcoa intends to continue the CCN as a key community engagement activity.

The most recent CCN was held on 13 July. Fifty people attended including representatives from Alcoa, the community, and local and

state government. A summary of discussions is outlined in this article and is also available on our website; alternatively, please email Alcoa for a copy of the 'meeting snapshot'.

The next CCN meeting will be held on Monday 10 August, 6pm-8pm at the Anglesea Senior Citizens Club in McMillan Street. To RSVP please contact Alcoa.

As always should you have any questions for Alcoa, please contact us via email or telephone, visit our website, or come along to a CCN meeting.

### Alcoa Anglesea Power Station and Mine

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