

Alcoa Anglesea Update

December 2023



ANGAIR and Friends of Eastern Otways members on tour with Site Asset Manager Warren Sharp.

Welcome to the Anglesea Community Update for December, 2023.

Reflecting on the year that was, gearing up for 2024 and festive season best wishes.

Throughout the year we made steady progress on rehabilitation activities across our former mine and power station sites, whilst ensuring environmental, health and safety compliance.

Our comprehensive work to determine if groundwater can be used as part of the Mine Water Filling Strategy continued, with a focus on updating the Anglesea Groundwater Model ahead of further groundwater impact and environmental risk assessment work, earmarked for Q1 2024.

We continue to value our relationship with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, including this year receiving a fantastic piece of artwork produced by local Wadawurrung Traditional Owner and artist Billy-Jay O'Toole. The piece 'Kuarka Dorla Dja' is reflective of the land on which Alcoa Anglesea operated in Kuarka Dorla and our commitment to heal Country.

We also enjoyed welcoming a number of groups to site to witness our transformation works first-hand, including ANGAIR (Anglesea, Aireys Inlet Society for the Protection of Flora and Fauna), Friends of Eastern Otways, Sacred Heart College - Geelong, Cranbourne Friends - Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, and the Anglesea Men's Shed.

Lastly, on behalf of the Alcoa Anglesea team I wish to thank the community for their continued interest in our work throughout the year and we look forward to collaborating further in the new year.

Have a safe, healthy and happy festive season ahead.

Warren Sharp | **Anglesea Site Asset Manager**

Environment, health and safety

Most importantly given the significant amount of work onsite, we worked safely with zero injuries recorded by our workforce and contractors in 2023. Similarly, no environmental non-compliances were reported.

As required by the Environmental Action Notice, six-monthly status reports were submitted to EPA Victoria in June and December with no concerns raised. These reports can be viewed on our website.

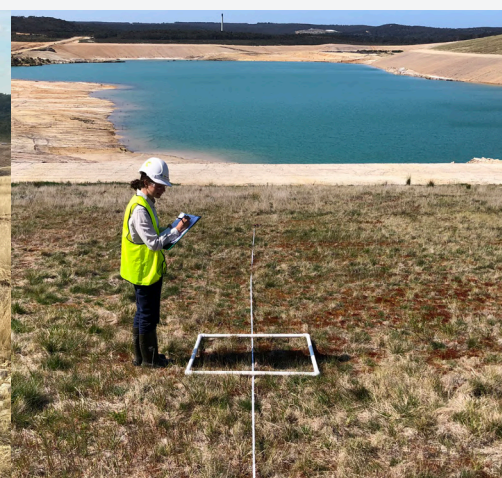
Reflecting on the year that was

A busy 2023 saw the following activities commence, conclude or progress across our former mine and power station site:

- Works to construct a specially designed EPA approved permanent capping system on the asbestos landfill were completed;
- Soil remediation work on the power station site commenced, consistent with the EPA-appointed auditor approved Remediation Action Plan;
- Stability monitoring and regular geotechnical and vegetation expert inspections continued along with lower slope erosion maintenance repair works to ensure we are on track toward our objective of achieving a safe, stable and sustainable landform;
- Progress was made toward Alcoa's target of achieving 100 per cent coverage of the grasslands area within three to five years from its initial seeding in 2020 - currently sitting at approximately 97 per cent after completing re-hydroseeding repairs;
- Weed treatment focus remained strong, with our weeding team continuing work in and around the mine and power station to remove a variety of invasive species including Pampas, Sallow Wattle and Boneseed;
- A number of community groups witnessed transformation works first-hand through site tours, during which our very first orchid was spotted in the 2019 topsoil revegetation area, a Rabbit Eared Sun Orchid (*Thelymitra antennifera*), along with a rare Scarlett Sundew (*Drosera glanduligera*); and
- A commissioned piece of art from Wadawurrung Traditional Owner and artist Billy-Jay O'Toole was received.



Re-hydroseeding grasslands area.



Exotic grass herbicide trial.



Spotto! Rabbit Eared Sun Orchid (*Thelymitra antennifera*).

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Looking ahead at what 2024 has in store

Heading into the new year, we will continue to work toward our objective of achieving a safe, stable and sustainable landform through:

- Completing the planned groundwater impact and risk assessment and engaging with the community on this strategy;
- Completing soil remediation work for the power station and former mine workshop sites consistent with the EPA-appointed auditor approved Remediation Action Plan;
- Continuing expert geotechnical and vegetation assessments of the mine site area;
- Continuing mine lower slope erosion repair maintenance works where required, including implementing strategies to reduce surface water erosion where possible;
- Continuing weed management and treatment across the power station and mine site areas; and
- Maintaining and improving the mine grassland's quality and total surface cover through selective weeding, soil amendment if required and repairs.

Artwork for Anglesea

Early in the year we commissioned local Wadawurrung Traditional Owner and artist Billy-Jay O'Toole to create a piece of artwork reflective of the land on which Alcoa Anglesea operates.

The piece 'Kuarka Dorla Dja' was delivered in early-May and has since been framed for display in the Anglesea Site Conference Room and digitised for use on polo shirts and Acknowledgement of Country signage, planned for installation early in the new year.

It was an absolute pleasure working with Billy-Jay.



Mine Water Filling Strategy

The water body is now approximately 18.4 per cent per cent full by volume.

We have a regulatory obligation to develop the final Anglesea Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan, inclusive of the community's expectation that rehabilitation of the mine is completed in a timely manner.

Regular readers will know that filling the mine pit with water is a key enabler to finalise the Plan, and so we continue to explore the possibility of using groundwater as part of the 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 nearing completion. 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.



Artwork © Billy-Jay O'Toole, 'Kuarka Dorla Dja', 2023.

Engaging with the community

It is anticipated that these steps will be completed in early 2024 and in preparation community engagement planning is underway.

We commit to actively engaging with the community, listening to concerns and providing opportunities to give feedback.

To ensure you're kept in the loop about when these activities kick off, sign up to our e-updates mailing list by scanning the QR code to the left or by emailing us at angleseaps@alcoa.com.au.



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