

# ALCOA ANGLESEA COMMUNITY CONSULTATION NETWORK

## DECEMBER 2019 MEETING SNAPSHOT

**Meeting purpose:** A CCN meeting was held on 16 December to provide an opportunity for attendees to discuss the site's decommissioning and rehabilitation and the ongoing community engagement processes.



### Introduction

The meeting was independently facilitated by Jen Lilburn.

More than 115 people attended, including representatives from community, local and state government, local authorities and Alcoa.

FIGURE 1

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### Mine Sump Water

The water level at 9 December was approximately 8% of the proposed eventual total volume with a pH of 3.4.

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### Decommissioning and Rehabilitation

#### Power Station Activity Update

**Dean Schmidt** (Project Engineer) advised that works at the former power station site have been completed. Transmission line removal works are almost complete with the final section between Forest Road and Anglesea Road in Bellbrae scheduled for removal in early 2020.

Following EPA approval of the asbestos landfill cap design, Alcoa will permanently cap the landfill.

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## Draft Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan Update

Warren Sharp (Anglesea and Point Henry Site Asset Manager) advised that major re-profiling works around the mine are expected to be complete by March 2020. Warren clarified that the rehabilitation works required at the site to make it safe and stable will be undertaken regardless of whether the Eden Project proceeds. Following a two year native grasslands trial, the technical specification for the soil construction profile has been finalised which will support the planting of a native Wallaby Grass seed mix on a 50 hectare south wall site during Autumn 2020. The site will be protected by kangaroo proof fencing for 3-5 years to enable the grasses to become established.

Coalmine Road relocation Stage 1 works are complete. Planning approval has been received for Stage 2 and works will commence on that section shortly. Stage 3 is expected to be undertaken early in 2020. Warren confirmed Alcoa's understanding that Messmate Track will be closed off at the point where it meets the relocated Coalmine Road in order to avoid the creation of a defacto ring road. He reiterated that Alcoa is not the decision maker for local roads. The Messmate Track closure sign on Coalmine Road will be updated to reflect the extended construction period until March 2020. Emergency service vehicles will have access over the construction period as needed.

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## Eden Project Anglesea

Warren introduced **David Harland** (Chief Executive Officer of Eden Project International Limited) who provided an update on the Eden Project Anglesea concept. Whilst the Eden team has been focusing on the priority areas of working with Traditional Owners, biodiversity, funding, economic benefits and community engagement, the water issue is still outstanding. As part of this current visit to Australia, David and senior Alcoa personnel have met daily with senior state government representatives to progress the water body filling discussions. These discussions are progressing positively and David is hopeful of a resolution before the end of 2019, even if the finer details are not determined. Aside from the natural fill option, David believes there are three key options available; these being Salt Creek restoration, groundwater from the Upper Easter View Aquifer (UEVF) and recycled water from the Breamlea Treatment Plant.

Detailed consideration of how the water body will fill has revealed that, at 50% full (approximately 8-9 gigalitres), the water body will provide a sufficient backdrop to enable the Eden Project to tell the story. The rest of the water body can fill thereafter. The modelling assumes a combination of Salt Creek restoration, groundwater from the UEVF and rain/runoff to fill the water body at approximately 1.5 gigalitres/year (Figures 2-5).

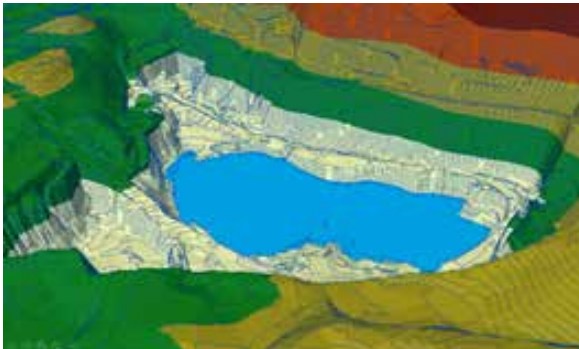


FIGURE 2

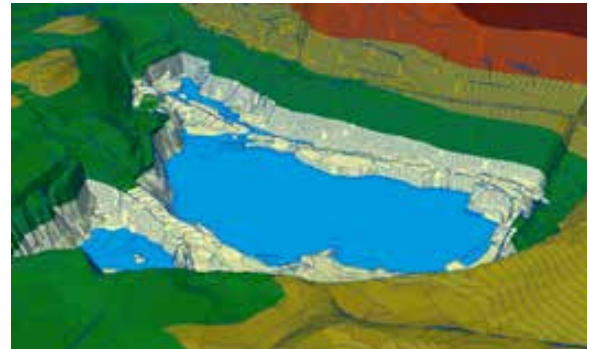


FIGURE 3



FIGURE 4



FIGURE 5

**Dr. Greg Woodward** (Senior Manager Waterway Health, Catchments, Waterways, Cities & Towns Division, DELWP) acknowledged the significant amount of work that Alcoa has put into the consideration of the water body filling options. However, DELWP does not consider Salt Creek restoration to be a viable option based on the environmental impacts it would create in the estuary and the amount of water available.

Questions and comments were raised by meeting attendees, particularly in relation to gauging the community's support for the project, water body filling options, the planning process, impacts to Anglesea and community consultation.

In response, David acknowledged the diversity of views within the community regarding the Eden Project and reiterated that the Eden Project has no intention of coming to Anglesea if the majority of the local community don't want it. However, in reading all of the feedback from the community engagement process undertaken in May/June, David believes that there is very strong support for the concept from the community subject to the resolution of a number of issues. In working through the process, the Eden Project will continue to engage with the community to address those concerns in order to bring the benefits, rather than the dis-benefits, of large visitation numbers to the local and broader community. He added that other locations do not offer the same opportunities for the Eden Project.

David advised that the 50% full water body option became apparent in response to previous questions regarding a staged or partially filled water body. Modelling how the water body will actually fill revealed that there will be enough water for the project's operations when it is 50% full. However, the water body filling solution still needs to be resolved very soon in order for the project to proceed.

Any development that requires a planning permit goes through a planning application process which includes a public consultation period. In this particular case, the planning authority will be either the Surf Coast Shire or the Minister of Planning and they will determine whether a permit will be issued, based on a number of factors, including submissions received from the community. The planning authority will advertise the public consultation process and the community will be invited to make submissions to the planning process.

David advised that the water issue needs to be resolved first to confirm that there is a real project to drive forward. Following that, the design team will work through the project elements and offsite impacts with the community through a variety of engagement methods. The current concept design allows connectivity (or not) to the township. Some people will want more connectivity some will want less. Traffic issues are another critical next step that will need to be worked through, both in terms of managing bushfire risk but also in managing visitation and associated traffic movements to the Eden Project site.

**Gary Worrall** (Editor, Surf Coast Times) advised that the Surf Coast Times newspaper is committed to covering all sides of the conversation around the Eden Project in its capacity as a free independent media. It will also keep everyone informed regarding the planning process and any project developments.

**Tom Scarborough** (Senior Water & Catchment Officer, Barwon Water) and **Hayley Vinden** (Estuaries and Environmental Water Project Officer, CCMA) advised that Barwon Water has pumped the 127 megalitres permitted under its licence from the Anglesea River into the storage pond leased from Alcoa and will work with relevant agencies to determine the optimum times to release water back into the river over the summer period. The main objective of storing water in the storage pond is to maintain the river level sufficiently to avoid activating potential acid sulphate soils in Coogoorah Park.

**Cr Tony Revell** (Anglesea Ward, SCS) advised that SCS has undertaken a substantial amount of work regarding who will take the role of the planning authority for the Eden Project planning process. Following resolution of the water issue, the report will be tabled at the next available Council meeting,

**Kerri Erlen** (Acting Regional Director Barwon South West, RDV, within DJPR) advised that a cross-agency working group is meeting fortnightly to look at the key issues including water and planning. A key task currently underway is to design the planning process such that it will give surety to Alcoa, the Eden Project and the community that it will be transparent. Site master planning and detailed design will also form part of the formalised planning process. Government is working hard to ensure that there is a succinct message being communicated to Alcoa, the Eden Project and the community.

**NEXT MEETING: Monday 24 February 2020, 6pm at the Senior Citizens Club, McMillan St, Anglesea.**

**ALL WELCOME**

The purpose of this document is to give community and other stakeholders a summary of what took place at the CCN meeting on Monday 16 December. For a full account of discussions at the meeting, email [angleseaps@alcoa.com.au](mailto:angleseaps@alcoa.com.au) requesting a copy of the minutes.

The CCN, established in 2001, provides advice and feedback on issues relevant to Alcoa and assists it to be responsive to the needs and concerns of the community. For further information about Alcoa and any of the topics in this snapshot, visit [www.alcoa.com.au/anglesea](http://www.alcoa.com.au/anglesea)