

# ALCOA ANGLESEA COMMUNITY CONSULTATION NETWORK

## APRIL 2019 MEETING SNAPSHOT

**Meeting purpose:** A CCN meeting was held on 29 April 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. 29 people attended, including representatives from community, local and state government, local authorities and Alcoa.

**Warren Sharp** (Anglesea and Point Henry Site Asset Manager) advised that Chris Rolland (Mine Rehabilitation Supervisor) retired on 22 March 2019. Warren recognised Chris's 35 years of service to Alcoa and thanked him for the solid foundation he has left at Anglesea from which to complete the site rehabilitation works.

FIGURE 1

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## Environmental Health and Safety

Warren reported that there had been no injuries or environmental non-compliances since the last meeting (Figure 1). Three security incidents involving unauthorised entries to the mine site have occurred. Nicci Marris (EHS Manager, Alcoa) outlined the works that have been completed December 2018-February 2019 as part of the site's EPA Clean Up Notice requirements. Alcoa submitted its quarterly report to the EPA on 1 March 2019 (<https://www.alcoa.com/australia/en/pdf/ang-201902-quarterly-report-to-EPA.pdf>). Barwon Water will continue to lease the onsite water storage pond to assist in the provision of water to release into the Anglesea River over the 2019/20 summer period as required.

## Fire Risk Mitigation

Warren reminded meeting attendees of the fire risk mitigation measures in place at the site. The remaining exposed coal was completely covered in March 2019 as part of the west wall re-profiling works, thereby removing the last of the coal fire risk.

## Mine Sump Water

The water level at 26 April was sitting at approximately 7.2% of the proposed eventual total volume with a pH of 3.2.



## Decommissioning and Rehabilitation

### Power Station Activity Update

**Dean Schmidt** (Project Engineer) updated the meeting on the power station decommissioning works, advising of its final stages with works expected to be completed by mid-2019 (Figure 2). The photo in Figure 2 shows the power station site (looking toward Powerline Track) as it looks currently.

FIGURE 2

#### Power station decommissioning - final stages



- Works on the final stages of the power station decommissioning and removal are progressing as planned.
- Principal contractor Industrial Demolition Services has completed the removal of roadways and concrete foundations to a nominal one metre below ground level.
- The removal of underground services such as water piping and electrical cables, and crushing the remaining concrete will mark the conclusion of the project.
- The work is expected to be completed by mid-year.



## Transmission Line Removal

Dean advised that Beon Energy Solutions has removed 68 of the 103 towers and associated concrete footings along the 40 km section of transmission line infrastructure that runs between Point Henry and Anglesea. The steel towers and aluminium and steel conductors are all recycled.

## Draft Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan Update

Warren updated the meeting on draft Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan activities. West wall re-profiling is complete and works are currently underway in the south-west corner. Upcoming works include the relocation of a section of Coalmine Road to enable re-profiling and rehabilitation of the south slope.

#### Coalmine Road relocation - 3 stages of works



The Coalmine Road works will be staged with the new linking section scheduled for May/June 2019 (Stage 1 shown in orange in Figure 3). Whilst a section of Coalmine Road has been closed to the public for many years, Alcoa has an obligation to maintain an active route around the mine for emergency services access.

Stage 2 works are scheduled for July/August (shown in green in Figure 3). Stage 3 works (shown in blue) are dependent on gaining cultural heritage approval and will include upgrading of Messmate Track to the standard of Coalmine Road (and possibly sealed, depending on Surf Coast Shire (SCS) requirements). It is anticipated that Stage 3 will occur late 2019/early 2020.

FIGURE 3

## Freehold Concept Master Plan

Warren outlined that whilst much of Alcoa's Freehold Concept Master Plan and DELWP's Anglesea Futures Land Use Plan are consistent, there are some components of the plans that differ regarding potential future uses, such as the Betleigh/Wilkins St area. Alcoa has decided to 'park' the Betleigh/Wilkins St area for the time being and to progress with the former power station and mine (Areas 3 and 6) and the Fraser Avenue sites of the Freehold Master Plan which closely align with the Anglesea Futures Land Use Plan.

Warren stressed that this does not mean that Alcoa has received approval to commence any works nor does it mean that any rezoning application will necessarily be successful.

Alcoa is seeking clarity as to whether SCS or state government will ultimately act as the planning authority for the rezoning application process.

Before the commencement of any potential rezoning application process, Alcoa will undertake further broad community engagement covering issues such as potential land uses, built form, infrastructure, traffic management etc. at a greater level of detail than was in the Freehold Concept Master Plan.

It is proposed that this next round of community engagement will commence over the next three or four months and will be similar to the previous engagement process involving forums for residents and the general public such as open houses, specific key stakeholder discussions and CCN meetings. The preparation of a rezoning application will take approximately twelve months and will include technical studies such as traffic, infrastructure, limitations on built form etc.

In response to questions, Warren advised that there is no intention to release the detailed results of the next community engagement process. As per previous rounds, Alcoa will produce a summary. Through the consultation process, Alcoa gets both positive and negative feedback from the community on its proposals. However, Alcoa reserves the right to make decisions about its property and, in that respect, is no different from any other private landowner. Alcoa believes that it has been a good corporate citizen for a long time and will ultimately be judged on the legacy it leaves behind. Alcoa is trying to achieve a result that provides a net community benefit.

## Anglesea River

### **Questions and comments relating to the Anglesea River included:**

- **What is Alcoa's position on the current health of the river?**
- **Has a decision been made on the proposed Salt Creek diversion?**
- **Given that the long term intention is not to support recreational uses in the water body, what is the reason for filling the pit?**
- **What would the environmental and recreational impacts on the river and downstream wetlands be should the diversion go ahead?**
- **Given the current low water levels, what is the possibility of another fish kill event occurring if the pH drops?**

In response, Warren advised that it was not appropriate for Alcoa to comment on the river's health or management as it is not Alcoa's responsibility. As part of the Draft Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan submitted in September 2017, Alcoa proposes to re-divert Salt Creek into the water body. Alcoa believes that it will be a usable water body in assisting to provide a long term solution for the management of the river. The technical research suggests that filling the water body faster will result in a better quality of water which can then be discharged back into the river with water quality of pH 5 which is as least as good, if not better than, the current background levels in Salt Creek (pH 3 – 6).

Alcoa is working with DELWP on a range of options associated with this proposal. DELWP's primary consideration is to ensure that unacceptable risks are not posed to the environment or users downstream should the proposal proceed. This is a complex issue and DELWP is, understandably, not rushing their decision. However, Alcoa hopes to get resolution on the issue within the next couple of months. In the meantime, Alcoa is providing assistance through the provision of onsite water storage ponds, which will continue to be available into the future.

As part of its technical research, Alcoa found that approximately 90% of the water in the Anglesea River comes from the Upper Anglesea River/Marshy Creek catchment. So taking the water from Salt Creek, particularly when it is raining, won't impact the river. Alcoa's proposal includes the ability to shut the re-diversion off within 24 hours if there are concerns that the river is suffering.

**Tom Scarborough** (Barwon Water) advised that there is a number of acid inputs and oxidised acid sulphate soils within this catchment so, when we get rainfall events, there is always a strong possibility that pH levels will drop further and we will experience further fish kill events. This is an ongoing problem that we have to continually manage. Whilst acid sulphate soils can be a naturally occurring phenomenon, it is exaggerated within this catchment.

**Matt Taylor** (SCS) advised that Council has engaged Senversa to undertake a 'Anglesea River Public Health Investigation'. This study will look at risks to public health and will set a decision making framework for recreational use of the river and recommendations for ongoing monitoring programs. It will be completed by the end of June and SCS will update the CCN on its outcomes at the next meeting.

**NEXT MEETING: Monday 17 June 2019, 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 29 April. 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)