

Community Update

Anglesea



Mine earthworks

A significant milestone in the Anglesea mine's rehabilitation was reached this month with the south wall reprofiling completed, marking the end of the major earthworks program.

Across two years more than three million cubic metres of material, or the equivalent of two MCGs, has been moved around the mine to reshape the slopes to ensure a safe and stable landform.

The focus is now on completing the hydroseeding of 50 hectares of native wallaby grasses on the south wall by the end of June.

On the north and west mine walls the native heathy woodland top soil rehabilitation established last year is progressing well.

Water filling strategy update

As regular readers of this update would know, filling the mine void with water is a key enabler for both the Anglesea Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan and the Eden Project Anglesea concept.

Alcoa and Eden's preferred fill strategy is a combination of surface water including potential peak flows from Salt Creek and groundwater. There is also longer-term potential to investigate recycled water.

In last month's Community Update we outlined our current focus is the potential use of Alcoa's existing Upper Eastern View Formation (UEVF) groundwater licence as a source of water to commence the mine void filling process.

To further evaluate this option Alcoa has applied to Southern Rural Water to undertake a 12-month pumping test, inclusive of extensive monitoring and public reporting.

As part of the initial community consultation about the proposed test, Alcoa received some questions from the community including:

Will the bore sites be selected with guidance from Southern Rural Water and Barwon Water? Yes, both Southern Rural Water and Barwon Water are part of the stakeholder group we are closely consulting with. Other key referring agencies are the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning, EPA Victoria and Corangamite Catchment Management Authority and Earth Resources Regulation.

What data will be shared with the community? Monthly groundwater reports will be produced inclusive of extraction rates (daily volume, daily limit, total volume year to date and yearly limit), groundwater levels and a trigger update. This is in line with the information Barwon Water provides for their activities.

Will Salt Creek be re-directed at the same time as the pumping? No, at this point in time we do not have approval from the Victorian Government to re-direct Salt Creek into the mine void.

Does drawing water from the UEVF contribute to low pH levels in the Anglesea River? Independent studies have shown no link between the UEVF and the low pH level of the Anglesea River, and it is anticipated the pumping test will further confirm this. If at anytime during the test an impact is shown, the test will be stopped.

Why has pumping been limited to 1.5 Gegalitres per annum? We are choosing to be conservative to ensure that we have minimal impact on the UEVF aquifer and so as not to interact with the developing water body in the mine. The pumping test and the associated monitoring will enable us to confirm this.

For a report of all of the community feedback received to date, you can download the expanded fact sheet from www.alcoa.com/australia/en/pdf/anglesea-fact-sheet-UEVF-pumping-test-April-2020.pdf or email the Alcoa team on angleseaps@alcoa.com.au with any questions or feedback.

As part of the assessment process Alcoa understands that Southern Rural Water will publicly advertise the proposal to provide further opportunity for community feedback.

Coalmine Road relocation works

The works to relocate a previously closed section of Coalmine Road, as part of the mine's south wall earthworks, is nearing completion.

Due to recent heavy rain and COVID-19 disruptions, the works are now expected to be completed in June.

The Department Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) and Surf Coast Shire will determine the long-term use and management of Coalmine Road and Messmate Track.

In the meantime, sections of Coalmine Road and Messmate Track will continue to remain closed to ensure the safety of the community. The public is reminded that the area is an active construction zone and entry is strictly prohibited.

Keep informed

As always should you have any questions or feedback for Alcoa, please email angleseaps@alcoa.com.au or visit www.alcoa.com.au/anglesea.

Stay safe and well at this time.

Best wishes
Warren Sharp
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28 May

Edition | 2020

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