

# Community update

Anglesea



Welcome to Alcoa's regular community update, where we share the latest information about the Anglesea mine and power station including ongoing opportunities for the community to be engaged in our activities.

There is no doubt that 2020 was an extraordinary year in many ways, both personally and for business, but despite the challenges we achieved a great deal onsite.

I am pleased to share some of the highlights in this update including a link to a short video showcasing our mine rehabilitation activities.

On behalf of the Alcoa Anglesea team, I wish you a safe and healthy year ahead and look forward, hopefully, to the resumption of our CCN meetings this year.

Kind regards, Warren Sharp,  
Anglesea Site Asset Manager



A view from the south-west corner of the mine highlighting the completed earthworks, thriving grasslands and developing waterbody.

## Major rehabilitation milestones achieved in 2020

In line with our approved Work Plan Variation for progressive mine rehabilitation works to ensure a safe, stable and sustainable landform, and consistent with the variety of COVID-19 restrictions in place, we reached a number of major milestones in 2020 including:

- completion of major earthworks including reprofiling of the western and southern slopes after an almost two-year program of works;
- completion of 53 hectares of native wallaby grass hydroseeding on the southern slopes of the mine;
- continued establishment of the topsoil subsoil vegetation on the western slopes of the mine;
- relocation of 1.2 kilometres of Coalmine Rd;
- installation of surface water drains and additional groundwater monitoring wells around the periphery of the mine; and
- approval from Southern Rural Water to conduct a 12-month groundwater pumping test as part of the mine water filling strategy.

At the former power station site, we continued to progress the environmental site assessment, with the full report due to EPA Victoria in March.

Importantly, all our activities were conducted in a safe and environmentally compliant manner.

## Mine rehabilitation video

To provide you with an overview of what has been accomplished we have had the drone up and the cameras out. We are really proud of our efforts and we hope you enjoy our video – you can view it here:

<https://youtu.be/YBj2mK8azWc>

## Mine void water filling strategy

This year a key focus will be the groundwater pumping test, to enable further investigation of using groundwater to commence the mine void filling process. The 12-month test is expected to begin in April, following the completion of the additional groundwater monitoring wells and approval of the required Water Monitoring Plan by Southern Rural Water.

The test will provide additional information to Alcoa, the regulators and the community to better inform us all about the potential use of the groundwater in the longer term and determine if a sustainable extraction rate can be established.

During the test a total of 1.5 gigalitres of groundwater will be extracted from the Upper Eastern View Formation aquifer. This is less than half the historical annual extraction rate for the power station over 46 years of operation, and is significantly less than our current licence limit of 4 gigalitres per year.

The test will include extensive monitoring and monthly reporting to Southern Rural Water and other key referring agencies. The monthly report will track key indicators such as extraction rates and groundwater levels. It will also be posted on [www.alcoa.com.au/anglesea](http://www.alcoa.com.au/anglesea) and emailed to the Alcoa community database.

Read more about the groundwater pumping test here: <https://www.alcoa.com/australia/en/pdf/anglesea-fact-sheet-uevf-pumping-test-april-2020.pdf>

The current water level of the waterbody is at RL -21 metres, rising slightly since December with rainfall. The volume is approximately 10% of the proposed eventual total, and the pH remains at around 3.4.

## Other mine activities

The next two months will see the completion of the surface water drains and additional groundwater monitoring wells. The drains will help protect the reprofiled mine slopes, and the monitoring wells will support long term groundwater monitoring and the 12-month groundwater pumping test.

Importantly, the monitoring and maintenance of the mine rehabilitation works completed so far will continue throughout 2021. Activities will include regular inspections by Alcoa, technical consultants and Earth Resources Regulation, as well as weeding for revegetated areas and erosion repairs to the lower slopes as required.

## Eden Project Anglesea concept

Filling the mine void with water remains a key enabler for Alcoa's Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan, and also the Eden Project Anglesea concept.

The Eden Project team continues to support Alcoa's efforts to confirm the mine water filling strategy so that detailed design and planning processes, including progressing traffic and infrastructure planning, and further community engagement, can commence.

## Thank you

Finally, I want to thank you for your continued interest in our activities. Although we haven't been able to hold our bi-monthly CCN meetings since February 2020, our regular Community Updates have continued and we have appreciated the ongoing feedback and interest.

As always, we are committed to keeping you informed about our ongoing activities and giving you the opportunity to provide us with your feedback. Please continue to reach out on [angleseaps@alcoa.com.au](mailto:angleseaps@alcoa.com.au) or visit [www.alcoa.com.au/anglesea](http://www.alcoa.com.au/anglesea) with your feedback or questions.

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