

**Tuesday 21 May 2019**

## **Eden and Alcoa consult community on potential Eden Project in Anglesea**

The Eden Project (Eden), a UK-based educational and environmental charity and social enterprise, and Alcoa of Australia (Alcoa) have commenced community consultation to seek feedback on a concept for a world class eco-tourism attraction within Alcoa's former mine site in Anglesea, Victoria.

Eden's concept will be presented to the community over the next two weeks. Set within the landscape of the Anglesea Heath, it showcases a vision to transform an area within the former coal mine into a destination for immersive education and experiences which celebrate the local ecology and tell a story of sustainability.

Eden's concept amplifies the region's prized environmental and cultural attributes including the scenic Great Ocean Road and the Great Otway National Park, one of the richest and most biodiverse areas in the state.

David Harland, Chief Executive of Eden's global wing, Eden Project International Limited (EPIL), said: "We're incredibly excited to work together with the community on this concept, which could bring environmental, social and economic regeneration to Anglesea and the wider region, while re-imagining what's possible within Australian mine rehabilitation sites.

"We've envisioned a place of extraordinary experiences, fusing science and wonder to immerse visitors in the extreme elements – fire, air, earth and water - which have shaped the surf coast region and its inhabitants for millennia, creating a must-see prelude for a journey on the Great Ocean Road. This concept will be a global exemplar of sustainability and environmental excellence."

David added: "Our experience in Cornwall shows us it's possible to take a former mining landscape and create a place that celebrates our natural world and educates and entertains people from all walks of life, while providing a year-round positive impact for the community. It's our goal to speak with as many people as we can over the coming weeks to energise and inspire them to help us develop the ideas for what could be their Eden Project in Anglesea."

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“Initial projections show a world-class eco-tourism attraction of this type will support at least 300 full-time jobs and attract thousands of new visitors to Anglesea. Through all stages of analysis, planning, design and construction, the concept is estimated to cost approximately \$150 million. Following achievement of the relevant planning and rezoning approvals, we'd expect the construction to be complete within 18-24 months.”

John Osborne, Director Asset Planning and Management of Alcoa, said: “Alcoa is tremendously proud to work with Eden who are recognised globally for creating landmark eco-tourism facilities and experiences.

“This exciting concept brings to life the guiding principles Alcoa developed in partnership with the Anglesea community in 2016 to shape the transformation of the former mine site. It presents an outstanding opportunity to showcase the site's unique natural values while making a significant and lasting contribution to the region for generations to come.

“We look forward to receiving input from the Anglesea community and key stakeholders on this concept for the freehold mine site.”

Eden and Alcoa will share further details about the concept during community 'drop-in' sessions to be held on:

Monday 27 May – 2pm to 4.30pm, Anglesea Memorial Hall

Saturday 1 June – 11.30am to 2pm, Anglesea Memorial Hall

Feedback is also welcomed at [www.edenprojectanglesea.com.au](http://www.edenprojectanglesea.com.au).

ENDS

**Further information:**

[www.edenprojectanglesea.com.au](http://www.edenprojectanglesea.com.au)

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**Background on Eden - [www.edenproject.com/](http://www.edenproject.com/)**

The Eden Project in Cornwall, UK, is a global garden featuring spectacular geodesic domes, known as Biomes, situated in a former china clay quarry. Eden is the home of the largest rainforest in captivity, known as the Rainforest Biome, as well as the beautiful Mediterranean Biome and extensive outdoor gardens. ....more

Eden has contributed £2 billion to the regional economy and welcomed more than 20 million visitors since it opened in 2001.

Eden Project International Limited (EPIL) is the global wing of the Eden Project, whose ambition is to create projects inspired by the original Cornish vision in every habitable continent on earth. It is currently working on projects in China, Dubai, the USA and the UK.

**Background on Alcoa – [www.alcoa.com.au/anglesea](http://www.alcoa.com.au/anglesea)**

After 46 years of operations, Alcoa's Anglesea power station and mine was permanently closed in 2015. Decommissioning of the power station site and remediation activities in the former mine site are well underway.

With landholdings framed by the Great Otway National Park, Anglesea Heath, Anglesea River, the Great Ocean Road and the Anglesea township, the site presents a once in generation opportunity to create outcomes of significant value to Anglesea and the broader region.

Following extensive community engagement, Alcoa published a concept master plan for its freehold landholdings in 2018 with a vision to connect people to Anglesea valued landscapes; create a new tourism destination for Anglesea and the Great Ocean Road; and create economic opportunities for Anglesea and the wider region.

**Background on Anglesea**

Anglesea is a small town on the south coast of the state of Victoria, about 100 kilometre outside Melbourne. It has a permanent resident population of around 2,600.

The Great Ocean Road is the world's largest war memorial, having been built by former soldiers between 1919 and 1932. It is a 240+ kilometre stretch of road running along the south-eastern coast of Australia, between the cities of Torquay and Allansford.