

Alcoa Anglesea Update

Autumn 2024



Hello, 2024!

We've had a productive and safe start to the year as we continue momentum with rehabilitation activities across our former mine and power station sites.

While we have come a long way, we recognise there is still much to do to lock in the progress we have made, including completing the technical work associated with the Mine Water Filling Strategy and the assessment of potential use of groundwater. We anticipate these activities will be complete during the first half of the year and when they are we will invite the community to come and share their views on any proposed strategy.

The outcomes from our discussions with the community, through planned engagement activities, will help inform any final decision about a potential groundwater licence amendment application to support the Mine Water Filling Strategy.

Once this strategy is finalised, the Alcoa Anglesea team and I are looking forward to working towards finalising the Anglesea Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan, that will continue to deliver a safe, stable and sustainable landform.

Warren Sharp | Anglesea Site Asset Manager

Maintenance and monitoring

Woody weed removal activities set our 2024 maintenance and monitoring program in motion, focussing on completion of the power station freehold area and beginning re-treatments of areas within the mine.

During 2023 we completed comprehensive weed management across more than 120 hectares of both rehabilitated and native vegetation areas, and we look forward to continuing to make a positive impact in this area.

Meanwhile, a bi-monthly geotechnical inspection of the mine was completed in early February by our expert geotechnical consultant with the results reported to Earth Resources. Pleasingly, no significant issues were identified.

Eden Project for Anglesea

The Eden Project is currently in the process of evaluating the best way forward for the proposed project, and as soon as new information is available, the community will be updated. The future of the Eden Project for Anglesea is independent of the Mine Water Filling Strategy.

Environment, health and safety

With successful completion of the asbestos landfill cap construction works last year and approval from EPA Victoria confirming the authority is satisfied that all construction requirements have been met, our focus has shifted to completing the final soil remediation works across the power station and the former mine workshop areas.

Soil remediation works

Consistent with the EPA-appointed auditor approved Remediation Action Plan, soil remediation works are underway across the designated remediation areas.

The works involve excavation and recovery of hydrocarbon impacted soils, construction of biopiles and treatment with an amendment to encourage the bioremediation process.

Similar to composting, the process takes advantage of naturally occurring microorganisms in the soil that consume and break down the hydrocarbons. We expect a large majority of the treated soils will be safely reused onsite once the process is complete.

The hydrocarbon impacts themselves are confined to a number of small and well understood footprints and are associated with historical facilities such as workshops or fuel tanks in both the power station and mine areas.

The biopiles are carefully prepared including lining and bunding to contain the soils during the process, ensuring there are no adverse impacts on the environment.



Excavation of hydrocarbon soils (foreground), and biopile treatment in progress (background).

Mine Water Filling Strategy

The water body remains at approximately 18.4 per cent full by volume.

As regular readers would know, filling the mine pit with water is a key enabler to finalise the Anglesea Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan, and so we continue to explore the possibility of using groundwater as part of the strategy.

Part of this ongoing work includes updating the Anglesea Groundwater Model in conjunction with Barwon Water and undertaking a groundwater impact and risk assessment.

Engaging with the community

With these steps of the technical process nearing completion, we anticipate we will be in a position to engage with the community around May.

During planned engagement activities, we are looking forward to providing the community with a more detailed update as well as hearing feedback and understanding any concerns. This will include the opportunity to chat directly with members of our team.

We will also continue to inform the community about the activities through community updates published on our website and distributed to our email mailing list. Additionally, advertisements will be published in the local paper and around town.

The feedback collected will help inform any final decision about a potential groundwater licence amendment application to support the Mine Water Filling Strategy. To ensure you're kept in the loop about when these activities kick off, sign up to our email mailing list by scanning the QR code or emailing us at angleseaps@alcoa.com.au.



Scan me