

Summer 2024

# Alcoa Anglesea Update



Visiting local gives our rehabilitation works the prick of approval!



## Welcome to Alcoa's latest Anglesea community update

### Maintenance and monitoring

**Our extensive maintenance and monitoring program is integral to achieving our objective of a safe, stable and sustainable landform.**

This program includes extensive weed management, erosion repairs, stability monitoring, water monitoring, and regular geotechnical and vegetation expert inspections – activities that are expected to continue over the next five to 10 years.

Throughout spring our focus on weed treatment remained strong and involved a number of activities across the former mine and power station site, including:

- Removal of woody weed varieties and other varieties guided by the 'Weeds of the Surf Coast Shire' booklet using manual intervention and machine mulching
- Treatment of broadleaf and exotic weeds within the grasslands, including ongoing trials showing effectiveness in targeting exotic weeds without impact on native Wallaby grass species

Spring also saw the completion of multiple lower slope erosion reduction strategies, which aim to reduce runoff generated erosion of the lower slopes.

These works included the installation of several new engineered intercept drains along the 1:10 shallow water zone, a number of new engineered batter drains to better capture and direct rainwater runoff, and the trial application of a sterile Kikuyu grass (Kendra) on three separate one-hectare sections of the lower slopes. This grass has been purposely selected for trial given it's sterile and cannot spread by seed distribution.

Observations of grasses beginning to shoot from the sprigs are indicating promising trial outcomes.

### Mine water filling strategy

In late November we received initial feedback from Southern Rural Water (SRW) regarding our formal groundwater licence amendment application submitted to the regulator in July 2024.

Some clarifications have been requested in order for Alcoa's application to be deemed 'complete', and before SRW can commence formal assessment of the application. Alcoa is reviewing the feedback and anticipate responding early in the new year.

The amended application seeks 1.5 gigalitres per year for up to 10 years, a volume that represents less than 0.1 per cent of the aquifer's total groundwater content and 60 per cent less than the company's historical extraction rate.

Read more about our mine water filling strategy and FAQs by visiting [www.alcoa.com/australia/en/anglesea/mine-water-filling-strategy](http://www.alcoa.com/australia/en/anglesea/mine-water-filling-strategy).

### Environment, health and safety

Most importantly our work on site continues to be completed safely, with no significant injuries recorded this year by our workforce and contractors. Of equal importance, no environmental non-compliances have been recorded and we continue to report regularly to the EPA.

A regulatory two-monthly geotechnical mine inspection was completed by Alcoa's geotechnical consultant in October, bringing the yearly total to five, with no significant issues or concerns identified.

### Power station remediation

Consistent with our Remediation Action Plan for the power station site, our remediation contractor has made significant progress in recovering and treating impacted soils to facilitate onsite re-use.

A large portion of the open excavations have been backfilled with remediated soils, with fertiliser and mulch mixed into the remaining biopiles to assist with breakdown of hydrocarbons.

Where the recovered soils are deemed not amenable to remediation, offsite treatment and/or disposal will be undertaken.

All onsite remediation works continue to be compliant with the site Environmental Action Notice, are progressing steadily and are expected to be complete by early-2025.

### Community

Alcoa was pleased to participate in the Annual Angair Wildflower Weekend and Art Show, during which we spoke with many interested community members about the remediation works that are underway across site.

We also recently met with representatives of the Angair plant propagation group to see how we could assist in their efforts to obtain local seed sources for the propagation of indigenous species.

In September a group of Alcoa retirees visited for a site tour, all of whom were thrilled to see firsthand the significant amount of work undertaken onsite. The day was equally enjoyed by Alcoa's current staff, sharing a story or two over lunch.

Our collaboration with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation continues, most recently working to facilitate a Cultural Values Assessment of the Alcoa freehold land in the power station and mine. We expect the assessment to be completed early in the new year and look forward to being better informed about the cultural values of the site.

### Keep informed

If you have any feedback or questions for Alcoa, please do not hesitate to contact the Anglesea team via [angleseaps@alcoa.com.au](mailto:angleseaps@alcoa.com.au). To read more about our activities including previous updates, visit our website [www.alcoa.com/australia/en/anglesea](http://www.alcoa.com/australia/en/anglesea).