



Anglesea Community Consultations – Sunday 28 June 2015

Anglesea Memorial Hall, Civic Centre Precinct, 5 McMillan Street, Anglesea

The Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry Board (Board) is required to report on the “sustainable, practical and effective options that could be undertaken by the mine operator to decrease the risk of fire arising from or impacting the Anglesea Mine for the 2015/2016 summer season, noting the impending closure of the mine on 31 August 2015”.

Community consultations were held for the Anglesea community to raise its views on the above. Local groups were represented by 18 participants in the first session from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm, and 12 participants in the second session from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm.

The Board provided an overview of the Inquiry and invited participants to discuss the following:

1. Concerns about potential fire risks close to or inside the mine for the 2015/16 fire season after mine closure; and
2. Additional information required in relation to the impending closure of the mine on 31 August 2015.

Key points of discussion:

- The community discussed fire history in Anglesea and the mine site, including Ash Wednesday and the escaped planned burn in 2009.
- The community requested information on differences in coal properties between Anglesea mine and Hazelwood mine in terms of fire risks.
- With regards to Alcoa’s proposed strategy of covering coal batters, the community asked:
 - Whether this is a short or long term strategy
 - If this strategy is adequate in reducing fire risks
 - If this strategy is supported by technical information
 - If this strategy can be completed by 31 August 2015
 - How does this strategy compare to international best practice for mine closure.
- For fire risks in relation to mine closure, the community enquired about:
 - The sufficiency of Alcoa’s Fire Management Plan for the site after 31 August 2015
 - Firefighting equipment and personnel available on site after closure
 - Availability of water from the dams in the mine site after closure
 - An Alcoa contact person or liaison for the mine after closure.
- For fire management in Anglesea, the community queried if:
 - There will be changes to the Anglesea Township Protection Plan, CFA Pre-Incident Plan and the role of CFA for the 2015/16 fire season as a result of the mine closure
 - Planned burns will continue after mine closure
 - Phoenix modelling can be run for fire scenarios in Anglesea after mine closure.

Key points of discussion (continued):

- The community requested for a communication strategy that will:
 - Inform both the local community and transient visitors about general fire risks
 - Enable access of information from Alcoa, CFA and government agencies.
- The community questioned if the mine site will be secured for public safety after closure.
- The community needed confirmation that governance of the mine site will continue after closure, with agreed roles and responsibilities across local and government agencies.
- The community requested for the public submission date to be later than 10 July 2015.
- The community raised other matters including:
 - Wildlife living in the mine site
 - Peat fires in the heath area
 - Water quality and quantity in the river
 - Continuation of tourism and recreational activities
 - Health risks resulting from fires
 - Rehabilitation plans for the mine site.

The Board closed both sessions by thanking attendees for their participation.