

## Eden Project Anglesea concept community engagement Community ‘Roundtables’

As part of the community engagement activities for the Eden Project Anglesea concept, five Community Roundtables were hosted by Eden Project and Alcoa representatives in May 2019.

The intent of these forums was to give key community group representatives a tour of the Alcoa mine site specifically highlighting the area proposed for the Eden Project, to enable Eden Project team representatives to find out more about the community and to enable community members to speak directly with the Eden Project team.

Similar-type interest community groups were invited to nominate participants for these sessions based on the following themes:

- Community
- Recreation
- Economic
- Environment
- Local interest and advocacy groups

The sessions were attended by 49 individuals representing 25 organisations:

Group/Forum	Date (2019)	No. participants
‘Economic’ Roundtable	27 May	9
‘Community’ Roundtable	27 May	10
‘Recreation’ Roundtable	27 May	6
‘Environment’ Roundtable	30 May	14
‘Local interest and advocacy groups’ Roundtable	30 May	10

Overall, participants at the roundtable sessions expressed positivity about the Eden Project Anglesea concept and a strong desire to work with Eden Project and Alcoa to contribute as the concept progresses.

Attendees communicated a pride of the Anglesea town, its people and the local environment and wanted these values to feature in the Eden Project concept.

There was a focus on a number of key aspects of the concept with themes aligned with those raised in other forums, and a strong sense that these can be addressed successfully for the benefit of Anglesea if worked through openly with the community.

Attendees generally shared a clear desire to move forward with open communication and continued opportunities for meaningful contribution through good links to the many community and representative groups in Anglesea, and both permanent and non-permanent residents.

Present at the roundtables were:

### Representatives from Eden Project:

- Sir Tim Smit Co-Founder, Eden Project
- David Harland, CEO Eden Project International Ltd

- Jane Knight, Design & Project Development, Eden Project International Ltd
- Amy Payne, Project Manager, Eden Project International Ltd

**Representatives from Alcoa**

- John Osborne, Director Asset Planning and Management, Alcoa of Australia
- Warren Sharp, Anglesea and Point Henry Site Asset Manager, Alcoa of Australia
- Kate Betts, Senior Advisor Communications and Engagement, Alcoa of Australia (absent from Recreation roundtable)
- Mark Stiffler, Vice President Asset Management, Alcoa Corporation (attended the Environment and Local interest and advocacy group roundtables)

**Representatives from NAVIRE (consultants to Alcoa):**

- Dominic Arcaro, Director
- Andrew Iles, Director

*Please note: Meeting notes were taken by an Alcoa of Australia representative with the intention of capturing key comments and questions raised. They are not intended to be a transcript of the sessions. All care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information provided.*

## Meeting Notes

### 1. Economic Roundtable

**Monday 27 May 2019**

**Attendees were from the following groups:**

- Business and Tourism Anglesea (BATA)
- Baptist Camping
- Go Ride A Wave
- Great Ocean Road Regional Tourism
- Anglesea Paddleboats
- Surf Coast Shire

The Economic Roundtable attendees were keen to share their perspective of Anglesea and the current economic climate. Attendees were very positive about the Eden concept but stressed the need for the Eden Project team to understand the strong camping economy and provide connections from Eden to the existing local camp site providers and businesses.

The business community is aware of the opportunities of having the Eden Project as a drawcard and as a potential means to get visitors to stay on and spend more money within the community.

Attendees raised a potential tension between business owners who may support the Eden Project and residents who may oppose it because of the perceived or potential impact of increased tourism. It was seen as important to change the narrative about tourists from fleeting visitors who used the public toilets and left rubbish, to supporters of Anglesea who would help the community thrive.

Questions were raised about the Eden Project's retail plans. Eden Project representatives said that a strategy would be developed. Eden Project Anglesea will have a retail offer but not a normal tourist shop. It will have catering facilities but not to the detriment of local food offerings. The Eden Project would work to create linkages to the town to open it up as a destination. It sees its economic contribution as *'capitalism with a moral compass.'*

The need to engage non-resident ratepayers was raised.

In answer to a question regarding the proposed organisational structure, Eden Project representatives said that initial thoughts were to establish an Eden Charitable Trust - Eden Australia Pty Ltd with the appropriate tax status for deductibility.

Attendees also asked that information about the river/water strategy be shared widely.

Collaboration was seen as essential for success. Economic Roundtable attendees want to stay engaged and want to host Eden Project team representatives at their businesses during their next visit to the region.

*Sir Tim Smit asked 'How does the community imagine the future? Who is the community – we want to know our neighbours. We want to enrich each other.'*

## 2. Community Roundtable

**Monday 27 May 2019**

**Attendees were from the following groups:**

- Anglesea Baptist Church
- Anglesea Community House
- Anglesea Community Network
- Anglesea Historical Society
- Anglesea Lions Club
- Anglesea Men's Shed
- Anglesea Primary School Council

The Community Roundtable attendees were generally very positive about the Eden Project Anglesea concept. Their focus was on the opportunities that Eden would create.

Traffic management was raised as an issue, especially in times of emergency. Roundtable attendees were pragmatic in their approach to this and other issues - they were not considered to be showstoppers, they just needed to be resolved.

Attendees noted that many questions related to Alcoa's other landholdings. David from the Eden Project said that both the Eden Project and Alcoa and saw the power station opportunities as clearly linked.

The discussion acknowledged the importance of engaging holiday home owners. They were seen as bringing different skills and experience to the community and it was important for them to be brought into the conversation.

The roundtable discussion highlighted the need for both Traditional Owners and youth to be engaged, and for education to be central to the project.

Attendees noted that the community was changing and this brought both benefits and challenges. Both Roundtable attendees and Eden Project representatives saw the Eden Project as a catalyst for high quality opportunities and outcomes for the Anglesea community.

Sir Tim Smit said *'The only purpose for an Eden Project is to influence and excite people to live differently and do differently'*.

The need for an ongoing forum to continue engagement was seen as critical.

### 3. Recreation Roundtable

**Monday 30 May 2019**

**Attendees were from the following groups:**

- Anglesea Bike Park
- Anglesea Bowling Club
- Anglesea Surf Life Saving Club
- Surf Coast Mountain Bike Club

Attendees of the Recreation Roundtable said that transparency is crucial, they appreciated the openness to date and were grateful for the invitation to take part in the meeting. They expressed general support for the Eden Project concept and the opportunities for linkage with local recreational activities and offerings.

An Anglesea Surf Life Saving Club representative said that the Club has appreciated Alcoa's support since before the power station was operating and would look to an Eden Project to continue such community support.

Attendees spoke of the importance of links between Eden Project and the recreational use of the power station site. Eden Project and Alcoa representatives agreed that the two areas should be viewed holistically.

A question about where visitors will stay was raised, as was the crucial need for a fire escape plan.

There is a need to get the right balance between making Anglesea an exemplar township and retaining the character of the town.

It was noted that rising house prices are forcing locals to move away.

The Eden Project and Alcoa need to be fully cognisant of the Anglesea Futures Plan and mountain biking plans. Eden Project representatives emphasised that they would see the benefit of enhancing existing biking trails and facilities around the site, as has occurred in Cornwall.

#### 4. Environment Roundtable

**Thursday 30 May 2019**

**Attendees were from the following groups:**

- Anglesea, Aireys Inlet Society for the Protection of Flora and Fauna (ANGAIR)
- Anglesea Heath Consultative Committee
- Friends of the Eastern Otways
- Parks Victoria

Environment Roundtable attendees were very interested and positive about the Eden concept. Attendees expressed a desire to be key contributors moving forward.

ANGAIR members described a raft of research and information about the Anglesea Heath that they were willing to share with Eden. It noted that ANGAIR is developing a database of every living thing on the heath. ANGAIR has been talking about '*an Eden for Anglesea for 20 years*' and want to be a part of it. ANGAIR is looking to modernise and looks to the Eden Project for assistance in doing this.

Attendees noted that a major concern is access to Eden. Entrance and egress needed to be considered and developed to encourage people to stop and engage with Anglesea. Eden Project representatives said managing this and the increased traffic were very important especially in terms of meeting the needs of those who want everything to remain the same as well as those who are excited by change.

In terms of acknowledging Anglesea's diverse fauna and flora, Eden Project representatives committed to developing a research team with ANGAIR a key member of the team. Anglesea's famous orchid varieties were noted, as was the opportunity to showcase how the four elements of air, water, fire and earth work together.

Attendees were interested in the different technologies that could be used to engage visitors. The Gardens by the Bay project in Singapore was noted as a great way to raise awareness and send out a call to action. Eden Project representatives said that fibre optic cables had been used at Heligan. '*We need to provide a completely unusual way of experiencing this area. Give people a sense of the interrelated nature of living things.*'

Attendees noted that engagement with Traditional Owners was extremely important.

When asked whether the structures/exhibitions will be permanent, Eden Project representatives stated that the intent is that there will be a mix of permanent and temporary exhibitions - part of the business model is to invest and change exhibitions.

#### 5. Local interest and advocacy groups Roundtable

**Thursday 30 May 2019**

**Attendees were from the following groups:**

- Anglesea Community Energy
- Save Anglesea
- Surf Coast Air Action (SCAA)

- Surf Coast Energy Group

Most attendees expressed general support for the Eden concept, however there were questions and concerns about the future of the rest of the Alcoa land. Attendees were keen for Alcoa to approach the future of its land as an overall plan, not one piece at a time.

Attendees were excited about the potential for a carbon-positive project.

It was stated that no one has come up with a genuine description of 'affordable housing', and that there is not a shortage of housing. How far people will travel to here for work will be the question. One attendee stated that there was no need for any more housing in Anglesea.

There was a general call for transparency as community consultation progresses, with some criticism about previous survey results data not being made available. Attendees recognised the diversity in community opinion about the Eden concept and the open communication from Alcoa and Eden was seen as vital.

All attendees were very keen to understand how engagement would work moving forward. Attendees were interested in the potential for an advisory group model and wanted to know which/how community representatives would be engaged to participate.

Both Eden Project and Alcoa representatives were united in their commitment to open consultation and exploring all possibilities for both renewable energy and the future of the remaining Alcoa land.

Eden Project representatives said that everything is at an early exploratory stage with a focus on understanding if there is an appetite from the community for next step. They want to continue the engagement and work out the best model for understanding community needs.