As an Anglesea community member, after the recent announcement of closure of the Alcoa operated power plant and mine I a have a keen interest in Alcoa’s process of rehabilitation. It seems that proper fire management is directly linked to an appropriate rehabilitation of the site, and it is important that the interests of the community are heard with regard to fire and other community processes of consultation for the site. A key component is ensuring that the risk of fire to the Surf Coast is minimised in terms of how the mine is rehabilitated and protected from fire.

**Proposals:**

1. **Ensure best practice coverage and shaping of the mine to militate against a fire starting in or entering the pit.**

The historical experience of fire along the Surf Coast suggests that fire predominantly comes from the north or the west. To this end the following steps should be taken:

* Deep coverage of the mine with a non-flammable material to prevent a fire from catching on the highly flammable coal batters and base.
* Developing a protocol for the optimal forming of the edges of the mine with fire retarding barriers around the pit and clearing of forest to form a buffer around the mine.
* Replanting the mine with Anglesea Heath species which would keep vegetation low and thus be less of a propellant for fire.
* Alcoa Anglesea should ensure that best practice mine rehabilitation in regard to fire risk be carried out.

1. **Ensure fire protection measures are in place adjacent to the mine**

The Anglesea mine exists within the Great Otway National Park and is ringed by forest. Regular planned burning of this forest near the mine and other peat areas such as near the Anglesea River would reduce risk. This program is already in place and carried out by DELWP and should be adjusted to include the rehabilitated mine site. Anglesea is listed as one of 52 towns highly vulnerable to fire. Coal dust has settled in houses and other buildings over 45 years making them more combustible. Many houses are also constructed from flammable materials. The town nestles in amongst the forest woodland described above. Without, thorough and proper management this is a disaster waiting to happen.

1. **The State of Victoria ensures that Fire protection Recommendations 3 and 4 made after the Hazelwood Mine fire Enquiry be mandated for the Anglesea mine. These are:**

RECOMMENDATION 3. to develop and implement regional and municipal fire management plans.

RECOMMENDATION 4. to facilitate the requirement that approved work plans specifically address fire prevention, mitigation and suppression; and acquire the expertise necessary to monitor and enforce compliance with fire risk measures adopted by the Victorian coal mining industry under both the mine licensing and occupational health and safety regimes.

The economic and social impacts on the town in the event of a Hazelwood type fire would be devastating. The economic drivers of the town derive from tourism and recreation. The Great Ocean Road currently attracts over 10% of international visitors to Australia, and over a million annual overnight domestic stays.  Employment is based on tourism and nature-based education. Tourism and recreation based businesses include nature-based companies and service providers.  In addition to general tourism, there are currently four camps in Anglesea that attract thousands of school students and other groups each year, as well as a growing number of nationally significant triathlon, marathon and cycling events held annually, among other businesses and events. All of this would be negatively impacted by a devastating mine fire. When employment is based on a town’s natural assets it can take many years before the region recovers.

As an active member of the community of Anglesea, with a young family,I need reassurance on the following:

* How does the Anglesea coal mine compare with the Hazelwood mine in terms of fire potential –in the pit and around the mine?
* Which aspects of emergency management of this site will be improved and what systems will be in place that will prevent a major coal fire at Anglesea.