



STUART GRIMLEY MP

Member for Western Victoria
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party



MEDIA RELEASE

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Support for Eden Project: Government Needs to 'Come to the Party'

Stuart Grimley MP has today asked the Government to 'come to the party' in supporting Anglesea's Eden Project, which is being held back by one issue; a water body that needs to be filled.

Mr Grimley used Question Time to ask "what steps the Andrews Government is taking in order to ensure that the water body is not left to fill by itself over a 50 year period?"

Without the water body being filled, it is feared that the Eden Project and its investors will look at an alternative suitable site in another state that will be financially assisted by its respective Government.

The Western Victoria MP, who would be 99 years old when the water body is estimated to be filled naturally, said it was a matter of months – even weeks – before the Eden Project made the decision to look at alternative locations for their next eco-park investment.

Mr Grimley understands that a business case is being completed by Barwon Water which considers the possibility of using the [Black Rock Reclamation Facility](#) to pump water into the Anglesea water body. It is understood that this business case is now with the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) to assess.

Further, if the pipeline was funded, it is thought that it would be able to service communities along the way. The estimated cost of the project is not public knowledge.

This means the Eden Project need State Government departments to approve this pipeline in the coming weeks to ensure investor interest remains in the quiet coastal hamlet.

The large water body at Anglesea's former Alcoa site is estimated to take 50 years to fill naturally according to current landowners Alcoa, with good rain forecasts.

Anglesea's proposed Eden Project forecasts 500 full time ongoing jobs (300 on site and 200 externally) with overwhelming support from locals.

Eden Project Anglesea is an educational eco-park concept, based on its established counterpart in Cornwall (UK), but with a theme of 'The Elements'.

Stuart Grimley MP said in Parliament:

"A major concern for the project is how the eco-park and the water body would be filled. If we leave it to fill naturally we'll be waiting over 50 years and that is with good rainfall.

Currently a business case is being drafted by Barwon Water which will consider other possibilities, including using Black Rock's Reclamation Facility to fill the water body.

Eden and its eco-investors need the Government to 'come to the party' and it would be great to overcome this hurdle as soon as possible."

Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:

"The Eden Project is such an amazing concept and in my eyes, is the best result for the mine site in Anglesea.

The Anglesea and broader Surf Coast communities are very environmentally-conscious but are embracing Eden, its values and the transparency and consultation provided by Eden and Alcoa."

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