



MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT; WATER

Our Ref: 42-15517

Mr Vince Puccio & Mr Merv McDonald
Co-Chairs
Community Alliance for Positive Solutions Inc.
PO Box 69
YARLOOP WA 6218

Dear Mr Puccio and Mr McDonald

Thank you for your letter dated 6 June 2012 regarding the extension to the substantial commencement time limit for Statement 728 (Wagerup Alumina Refinery).

As you are aware, the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) is an independent authority established to assess proposals that, if implemented, are likely to have a significant effect on the environment. When the EPA assesses such proposals it publicly reports its findings and its recommendations. Recommendations made by the EPA reflect an independent, fair, and transparent assessment process.

I requested the EPA to inquire into the matter of the application to extend the substantial commencement time limit of Statement 728 having regard for the requirements of section 46 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (the Act) and condition 4 of Statement 728. In its report to me the EPA recommended that as the environmental factors of the proposal had not significantly changed, and no new factors had emerged since the initial approval, the time limit be extended a further five years.

In my capacity as Minister for Environment, and after careful consideration of the many comments I personally received and following consultation with the Ministers for Health, State Development and Mines and Petroleum, I accepted the recommendations of the EPA and made the decision to extend the substantial commencement time limit by amending condition 4 of Statement 728. The Act does not provide for appeals by third parties against such amendments.

The issues you have raised are by no means trivial, but as determined by the EPA they are not new environmental factors or significant changes to existing environmental factors. The State Government understands that these issues are still of concern to some members of the local community.

I take this opportunity to reaffirm the Government's commitment to working with Alcoa and local stakeholders to ensure that present Wagerup Alumina Refinery operations and the proposed expansion are managed in a sustainable manner with minimal impacts on the environment and the surrounding community.

I trust this response addresses your concerns

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Marmion". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**HON BILL MARMION MLA
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT; WATER**

17 JUL 2012