

T.A. Cockerham
P.O. Box 5146
FALCON WA 6210

Ombudsman Western Australia
PO Box Z5386
St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6831

Dear Sir

Complaint about the failure of the Department of Environmental Regulation (DER) to set up a Technical Advisory Panel for the Alcoa Bauxite Refinery in Wagerup.

As a former local resident with some expertise in Community Resources Development, I have taken an interest in the production of bauxite at the Wagerup Refinery for many years. Some time ago I served as a member of the Alcoa Consultative Committee Network (CCN) and have been involved in community capacity building and consultations in the region since the 1990s.

I have been looking forward to becoming a member of the upcoming Technical Advisory Panel (TAP), flagged in the Appeals Convenors report and was disturbed to find out that there seems to be no plans for the establishment of such body despite the advice provided to the Appeals Convenor during the appeal process around the production increase in 2013. In this process the TAP was designated as a place to address further health and environmental concerns, giving it an important role.

My complaint alleges that DER failed to establish a Technical Advisory Panel or failed to supervise and guide Alcoa in establishing a TAP. Having exhausted all other avenues for addressing my complaint only to meet with a range of misleading and contradictory information, a practice which seems to be the norm for the DER when dealing with all things Alcoa, I have decided to bring this issue to your attention.

I have already communicated extensively with the Department and the Minister around this matter and attach the correspondence for your information. I took the liberty to highlight the relevant passages in these documents.

Thank you for considering my complaint. I am able to provide additional information by phone or email, should that be required.

Yours sincerely

T.A. Cockerham