

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE FOR



POSITIVE SOLUTIONS INC. (CAPS)

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Hon. J. H. D. Day MLA
Minister for Planning
13th Floor, 2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

22nd March 2012

Your Ref.33-15666

Dear Minister Day,

ALCOA WAGERUP REFINERY – INDUSTRIAL BUFFER ZONE

Thank you for your letter of 2nd March 2012, re the establishment of a Buffer Zone around the Alcoa Wagerup facility.

We wish to bring to your attention the following points which seem to be in conflict with your answers.

1. ***EPA Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors, Separation Distances between Industrial and Sensitive Land Uses:*** The recommendation for a buffer around Electric Power Generation of **20 megawatts** or more for Natural Gas & **10 megawatts** or more for other fuels, is **3000 – 5000 mtrs.** The Wagerup Co-Generation runs on both Gas and Diesel fuel, noted for PM2.5 emissions. The *Impacts* listed are Gaseous NOx & SOx, Noise and Dust. Remember that the Wagerup Co-generation is currently **350 megawatts**, with a capacity to produce 480MW, with the expansion it will increase to 700MW with the capacity of 960 megawatts. Therefore all of the listed *Impacts* are multiplied many times over those of a 10 or 20 megawatt plant.
2. The same guidelines show the need for a buffer of up to 5,000 mtrs. for an Intensive Piggery, listing *Impacts* as just Noise and Odour. You state there is no need for a buffer around the Wagerup Co-generation, nor the entire Refinery and its Toxic Residue Storage Area. The odours and noise produced by the Wagerup facilities can be as intense as a piggery and can impact quality of life. However, the toxicity the fumes from a refinery and the dust from the residue storage have health impacts. In your letter you give no consideration for what is most important - the health of the community.
3. ***Western Australian State Planning Commission's, State Industrial Buffer Policy, 4.1 Planning Criteria, 4.2 Environmental Criteria & 4.3 Environmental Protection Policies:*** define clearly the need for an Industrial Buffer as assessed, the criteria to be applied and the boundaries determined.

Yarloop
Waroona
Hamel
Harvey
Cookernup
Wagerup
Other Impacted Areas

4. The WA Dept. of Health have previously stated the need for a Buffer Zone around the Wagerup Refinery, and bearing in mind all the above, as have the EPA. So we ask why are you still seeking advice from these agencies? Are they likely to have changed their collective determinations while Wagerup continues to impact the health and quality of life in surrounding areas, more and more every day?

We request a meeting with you to discuss these issues at your earliest possible convenience, as the community's situation has become most dire. And, again, we thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

Vince Puccio
Co chairs Community Alliance for Positive Solutions Inc.

Merv McDonald AFSM