

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE FOR



POSITIVE SOLUTIONS INC. (CAPS)

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Klaus Kleinfeld
Alcoa Global Centre
390 Park Avenue
New York, IN WHY 10022 USA

11th June 2014

Dear Mr. Kleinfeld

We last wrote to your predecessor on 18th of December 2006 asking him to help resolve the ongoing issues surrounding Alcoa's Wagerup Refinery that have long been affecting residents' in Yarloop and surrounding districts in Western Australia.

Since then little has changed; in fact the situation has worsened. Alcoa now owns more than half the town, which is no longer sustainable. Some 90 per cent of the businesses and services have closed; the towns' infrastructure and social fabric have been destroyed, while health and environmental impacts of the refinery's chemical and noise emissions continue to grow. To illustrate, CAPS have logged over 210 cancer cases in recent years. While we are not suggesting that all these cases are attributed to Alcoa operations, the rate is well above average.

There are now fewer farmers in the area, which means rural industry and the food bowl is disappearing.

Alcoa will increase water usage as it increases its production. The refinery currently uses in excess of 10 gegalitres per annum. With the proposed Unit 3 expansion, consumption will rise 15 gegalitres per annum and further still with the planned construction of Unit 4. This occurs against the backdrop of diminished rainfall owing to climate change, resulting in local residents and farmers facing chronic water restrictions. With declining rainfall and increased industrial water usage, where is this water going to come from?

The refinery's RSAs (mud lakes) currently cover over 1500 acres. This area will increase to 3000 acres and to a height of 80 m with the Unit 3 expansion. Land area aside, the growth of RSAs further adds to groundwater contamination.

The refinery has a number of unmonitored and unlicensed emission points, as shown in the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) 2006 Winter Study. The fact that these sources are unmonitored and not part of the licence conditions means that the reports produced by Alcoa for Australia's National Pollutant Inventory (NPI) including reports to the State Government are flawed. This is demonstrated in the attached documents.

The refinery expansion will see many more people displaced due to greater health and environmental impacts. The community has already witnessed the departure of over 80 per cent of long-term residents and more will leave in the face of persistent on growing refinery impacts.

The above issues are just a small sample of the many problems that have, and continue to affect people living in this area. The community has never been about closing Alcoa down but about making Alcoa accountable. CAPS have been seeking this accountability for the last 20 years and have put forward a number of possible solutions which are addressed in the attached document (*Submission Regarding Alcoa's Wagerup Alumina Refinery Noise Amelioration Plan 18th of April*

Yarloop
Waroona
Hamel
Harvey
Cookernup
Wagerup
Other Impacted Areas

2014). We would hope that common sense can prevail to resolve these issues in order to achieve a win-win outcome for both Alcoa and the community.

CAPS executive would be happy to meet you and your board members, the people who we know are in a position to make decisions that can resolve this matter.

We thank you for your attention and in anticipation of an early and favourable reply.

Yours Sincerely

Vince Puccio
Co-Chairs Community Alliance for Positive Solutions Inc.

Merv McDonald, AFSM

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Cc; Premier Colin Barnett MLA

Attachments:

1. Appeal Against Licence Renewable Approval L6217/1983/15 Alcoa Wagerup.
2. Submission Regarding Alcoa's Wagerup Alumina Refinery Noise Amelioration Plan.
3. Appeal Environmental Protection Act 1986, Part V-Proposed VOC Amendments To Works Approval.