



# CAPS Newsletter

Summer 2010

Issue 11

## Community Alliance for Positive Solutions Inc.

*Representing 410+ supporters, including 210+ paid members, and growing...*



### Serving

Yarloop

Waroona

Hamel

Harvey

Cookernup

Wagerup

Other  
Impacted  
Areas

### Inside:

- Under Corporate Skies order form
- More South West refineries & mining
- Yarloop's Alcoa case still active
- CAPS report
- Air Care Australia



### Yarloop Study Published as Book

*Under Corporate Skies* is about what happens to communities when they stand in the way of corporate profits. It is the story of a small Western Australian town pitted against a strong corporate neighbour: Alcoa World Alumina.

These are real stories told in the words of the residents, Alcoa management and government officials. A story of local heroism, the book celebrates the achievements of community members who have stalled the political process in their quest to be heard. As we live under expanding "corporatised skies", this book shows that profits matter, but not more than people and place.

*See inside newsletter for order form.*

**Order your copy of  
UNDER CORPORATE SKIES  
now!**

*"In a time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act."  
-- George Orwell*



## ALUMINA REFINERIES PREDICTED FOR MANJIMUP AND BRIDGETOWN

From the Bauxite Action Group

[www.NoMining.com](http://www.NoMining.com)

Plans for an alumina refinery presented by Bauxite Resources Limited at a public meeting in Bridgetown on 1 July have led opponents of bauxite mining of State forests and farms to predict the initial alumina refinery will be at Manjimup and then could be followed by another at Greenbushes. They say a 'buyer beware' stamp has been thumped on the South West corner of WA for people wanting to move to Pemberton, Manjimup and Bridgetown for a tree change and rural lifestyle.

Barry Carbon, chairman of Bauxite Resources Limited (BRL), told the public meeting that BRL had backing from a Chinese investor for 75% of the one to two billion dollar cost of construction of an 800,000 tonne alumina refinery. On questioning, Mr Carbon said it was likely the refinery could grow beyond 800,000 tonnes annual production, but would not commit to whether it would be located at either Manjimup, Collie or Kemerton. Mr Carbon said the bauxite to be refined to alumina would be mined from State forest and farmland in the South West.

Neil Bartholomaeus, convenor of the Bauxite Action Group based in Manjimup, Pemberton, Bridgetown and Nannup, said the BRL presentation by three ex Alcoa employees was like a nightmare for local people who valued rural lifestyle and the forests of the South West.

"Barry Carbon and fellow ex Alcoa employees are applying the same bauxite mining and alumina refining template to the South West that has proven to be ecological suicide in the Northern Jarrah forest and water catchments of the Darling Range, and rural areas near refineries.

"Mr Carbon gave evidence to a State Parliament committee of inquiry in 2002 that the Wagerup alumina refinery was in a 'pretty lousy' location which caused 'fumigation' pollution conditions and that he had been involved in the review of the environmental planning.

"We have no confidence that the next alumina refinery Mr Carbon sets up in the South West will be any less polluting than the product of bad environmental planning at Wagerup that has forced local farmers and the inhabitants of Yarloop to flee the pollution," Mr Bartholomaeus said.

Mr Bartholomaeus said that on repeated questioning at the public meeting, Mr Carbon would not say where in the Shire of Manjimup BRL had identified possible sites for the alumina refinery, and the Shire President who was present at the public meeting didn't offer any information for the 200 people present. He suspected the Shire had invited the refinery in, just as they did with the biomass power plant.

"We challenge the Shire of Manjimup and BRL to say whether or not there is a plan to locate an alumina refinery at Manjimup on the extension of the natural gas pipeline from Bunbury to Albany, promised by the Liberal Party in the 2005 and 2008 State Elections.

"The area now covered by tenements relating to the bauxite rush in the South West is greater than the bauxite mining lease operated by Alcoa in the Darling Range.

"In our view, the alumina refinery at Manjimup could grow beyond 800,000 tonnes annual production to 4 million tonnes, similar to the Pinjarra and Wagerup alumina refineries," Mr Bartholomaeus stated. "Based on the Alcoa example BRL appear to be following, we predict there could be a refinery at Manjimup, and another at Greenbushes, 50 kilometers apart, just as at Pinjarra and Wagerup."

Mr Bartholomaeus said the emerging plan for bauxite mining and alumina refining in the Pemberton, Manjimup, Bridgetown, Nannup and Balingup areas will have an immediate devaluing effect on rural properties because people would not want to live amongst the mines and polluting alumina refineries.

"A buyer beware stamp has been thumped on the South West corner of WA," Mr Bartholomaeus said.

**IMPORTANT:** Remember to fill in your Yarloop Bucket Brigade log sheets when you are impacted by pollution. Return the log sheets to PO Box 69, Yarloop 6218 or phone 9733 5011.



## **CARBON MISINFORMS PUBLIC MEETING ABOUT ALCOA CASE**

At a public meeting in Bridgetown on 1 July, Barry Carbon, Chairman of Bauxite Resources Limited, told 200 people attending that he understood the Brockovich/Shine Lawyers class action in the US against Alcoa in relation to Wagerup had been dropped.

The day prior to Mr Carbon's misleading comment to the public and press, Erin Brockovich appeared in the US, denouncing Alcoa's environmental record and speaking in support of a public trust to control the Yadkin River's dams (see <http://www.salisburypost.com/News/063010-Erin-Brockovich-speech-qcd>). During a press conference at Wake Forest University, Brockovich said Alcoa Power Generating Inc. needs to address the environmental damage done to Badin Lake and other waterways. Brockovich said Alcoa disposed of hazardous waste that has affected local waterways, and the company hasn't done enough to fix the damage. "We need to hold them accountable," she said.

The article goes on to state, "She (Brockovich) has...started a consulting firm and works on a variety of environmental projects, including a class action lawsuit involving Alcoa's Australian operations. Brockovich said residents of a town in Australia called Yarloop are reporting health effects that they believe are caused by emissions from Alcoa's Wagerup refinery."

The case against Alcoa Wagerup is still **ACTIVE**.

## **CAPS Report**

Members of CAPS met with Mike Schramm, Director of the South West Planning Commission, to discuss the CAPS New Town proposal. Mr Schramm outlined the DPI's role in the production of the South West Regional Scheme (SWRS) to identify future land use in the area from Capel in the south to Yarloop in the north.

Mr Schramm said that the SWRS included information contributed by local authorities in their Local Planning Strategies, and that the Harvey Shire had been asked in June 06 to update the unresolved buffer issue at the Wagerup refinery and policy statements for the Yarloop Precinct, in light of the recent approvals for the expansion/increase of Wagerup output.

Both of these issues, he said, needed to be resolved before the DPI could define land uses in the Yarloop Area.

Mr Schramm was shown the extent of the Area A Boundary, which is the current informal buffer zone, and its shortcomings were explained.

CAPS presented their new town proposal and Mr Schramm indicated that he could see the merit of the plan, in particular the strategic placement of services and facilities between Mandurah and Bunbury. He stated that the CAPS proposal was worth taking into account in future planning as there may be little opportunity for Yarloop to remain viable as a residential settlement in the future.

## **AIR CARE AUSTRALIA –**

*addressing air quality issues across the country*

**The Townsville Bucket Brigade** has not been active for some time because the community won their battle with Chalco over the proposed alumina refinery in Townsville. The Chalco bauxite mine/alumina refinery deal has collapsed. An article in the local newspaper does not specifically mention the Bucket Brigade, but talks of "considerable opposition to the project on environmental grounds." For a while it looked like Townsville's win would be at the expense of Bowen, a town 200 km south, where a proposal placed the alumina refinery downwind of the town, but on Ramsar wetland and upwind of a large market gardening area. The Bucket Brigade connected with people in Bowen who were organising opposition to the site. Now Chalco is trying to get out of the refinery deal, citing low world prices for aluminium, so hopefully Bowen will be spared, too. People power works! There are other air quality issues in Townsville: a nickel refinery associated with an unusually high rate of cancer in dogs and respiratory problems in humans, as well as a zinc refinery. There is an ongoing need for the Bucket Brigade and it may be resurrected.

Communities in **South Australia** and **Tasmania** have contacted Air Care Australia (CAPS) for assistance with their environmental concerns. Residents of **Chittering Shire (WA)**, as well, have requested assistance regarding Bauxite Resources Limited (BRL) who intend to mine the southwest area (approx 15000sq km) and possibly build another refinery and smelter, in the Kemberton, Manjimup, Bridgetown areas.

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**Visit our website often-**

**[www.caps6218.org.au](http://www.caps6218.org.au)**

**it's updated frequently!**

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## Alcoa Pollution Worldwide on Google Maps

### Visit

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&oe=UTF8&msa=0&msid=102598348612852638673.00045dcbcf0e14e0ade7f>

This webpage was compiled by Dean Naujoks, the Yadkin Riverkeeper, when he was doing a search regarding Alcoa's Badin Smelting Works in North Carolina. You may also access this webpage by visiting the CAPS website at [www.caps6218.org.au](http://www.caps6218.org.au) and clicking on Useful Links.

*Protecting your privacy* It is our duty of care to protect the privacy of our members. There are still a few people who are not sympathetic to our cause or compassionate towards those suffering health effects, and these people have, at times, been confrontational. To protect the privacy of our members, we will only publish names with expressed consent. You may meet other members, supporters and the executive committee in person at CAPS Membership Meetings. Questions concerning this policy can be addressed by co-chairs Vince Puccio 9733 5011 or Merv McDonald 0409370235.

***A healthy environment for living and working is your basic human right.***

***Are you relocating? Please keep us informed by phoning or emailing us with your new contact details!***

