



# CAPS Newsletter

Spring 2005

Issue 2



## ***Community Alliance for Positive Solutions Inc.***

*Representing 300+ supporters, 70+ paid members and growing.....*

### **CAPS Goals Revisited**

ALCOA will own one third of Yarloop as a buffer zone and the growth area is restricted from further subdivision: we are seeing the demise of this town. Their expansion will increase health and environmental impacts, as well. Therefore, one of our proposed solutions to the upheaval that this presents to residents is to construct a new town site. This town would offer a similar lifestyle and help preserve at least part of the community that we once knew.

As some residents have expressed concern about relocating the town, we want to assure the community that we want ALL people impacted by the pollution to be fairly compensated. Our goal to relocate the town remains as one possible solution to compensate those affected.

Therefore, CAPS propose that:

1. The recommendations of the CSIRO Research study of July 2003, as approved by the community, be implemented by ALCOA as soon as possible, with emphasis on health and social impact.
2. The entire towns of Yarloop/Hamel be designated a buffer zone, which will require total relocation of the towns, and all impacted residents to be compensated. The choices for compensation will encompass:
  - a. No resident of any impacted area to be out of pocket for any expenses incurred in the relocation. Value of the new residence and features of the property will be the total replacement value of the current residence and property, plus compensation and relocation costs.
  - b. Residents remaining in impacted areas until the buffer zoning is completed will be compensated with necessary transport, financial assistance, and other support needed to maintain their quality of life.
  - c. The construction of a new town, including buildings and infrastructure, for the residents of impacted areas who wish to remain as a community intact, offering a similar lifestyle to that which they are accustomed, located within 20 km of their current locations.
  - d. Residents who wish to relocate to a community other than the new location will receive total replacement, relocation costs and compensation.

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## CAPS is now INCORPORATED

As of 30 March 2005, we are officially known as the **Community Alliance for Positive Solutions Inc.** Along with allowing CAPS to act as an official organisation, incorporation also allows us to apply for grant money for projects. Members may access our constitution to read, but in summary, the rules of incorporation follow the standard rules as provided in the application process. We also included additional guidelines to members regarding representing CAPS. These are:

- No acts of civil disobedience will be tolerated and will result in release from membership.
- All CAPS activities will be transparent and documented.
- Before any CAPS member speaks on behalf of CAPS, the individual must seek approval from the chairs.
- The dissemination of misinformation to benefit a member or CAPS is strictly forbidden, and may result in expulsion.
- Sensitive information concerning residents or the incorporated body should be kept confidential between members and the Committee until such time that appropriate actions can be taken or the information further researched.
- Members of CAPS who are ALCOA employees or contractors are asked not to bring CAPS issues into their workplace.

### **Toward a Common Future – a community empowerment workshop**

On the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of May, Dr John Croft led a group of about 30 people through the process of Successful Project Planning, creating a vision for the future of the Yarloop area. The workshop was sponsored by CAPS and the Dept of Local Government and Regional Development. Refreshments were donated by Harvey Fresh, Harvey Cheese, and Dewson's.

Dr Croft explained the four stages of a successful project- dreaming, planning, doing and celebrating, and four types of people- dreamers, planners, doers and celebrators. He helped the group create a common vision, and to discover how each person can fit into the greater picture, knowing what type of person they are and how they can best contribute to the plan.

The outcome of the workshop was a map that outlined steps of several projects, including events to bring together people in the community and those who have left, information gathering, finding funding, and dealing with health issues.

A group called WHYCH, representing Waroona, Hamel, Yarloop, Cookernup, and Harvey was formed to establish working parties to put the plans into action.

Anyone interested in finding out more about WHYCH can contact CAPS at 9733 5011.

### **What's happening???**

- **CAPS submission to the EPA regarding ALCOA's ERMP.**
- **Investigation initiated by CAPS through the State Ombudsman alleging the Government's cover-up of the report by Dr Croft detailing the results of his interviews with Yarloop area residents.**
- **Four Corners investigative report, interviewing local residents and ALCOA about what's happened in the communities surrounding Wagerup and Kwinana.**

A group of local residents have set up a weekly protest site in the park across from the Wagerup refinery on South West Highway. The protestors meet on Sunday from 10-2 at the park. They invite you to stop by and show your support. You can also get the message out by wearing a black ribbon on your lapel, or tying a black bow on your front door or letter box to signify your mourning for the loss of what our community used to be.



### **Minutes of CAPS Membership Meeting 22-8-05 (summary)**

- CAPS has applied for several grants, but has not been successful to date.
- A broad outline of the constitution was presented. Members may view the full document.
- CAPS' submission to the EPA regarding the ERMP was described, and all contributors were thanked. 244 submissions were received by the EPA.
- A representative from WHYCH gave report about workshop 21-22 May facilitated by Dr Croft.
- Letter to the Ombudsman regarding the withholding of Dr Croft's report was discussed.
- Report on CAPS meeting with Judy Edwards with Dr Croft, where Dr Croft presented his report.
- A group of community members are staging weekly protests across from the Wagerup entrance. Also discussed a protest at Parliament House on 24 August. A bus has been organised.
- The article about ALCOA on the front page of the Yarloop Yarning was discussed, and a suggestion that people write letters to the editor.
- The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$257, after purchases of office supplies, advertising and printing costs.
- Fundraising ideas were presented and a request for volunteers to form a fundraising committee.
- There are currently 70 paid members, but need to have a membership drive.
- Apologies from editor of newsletter for delay of new publication due to illness.
- We have the support and assistance of the Greens.

### ***Are your human rights being violated? You be the judge!***

In 2001, Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme, stated to the Commission of Human Rights that: "Human Rights cannot be secured in a degraded or polluted environment. The fundamental right to life is threatened by soil degradation and deforestation and by exposures to toxic chemicals, hazardous wastes and contaminated drinking water...Environmental conditions clearly help to determine the extent to which people enjoy their basic rights to life, health, adequate food and housing, and traditional livelihood and culture. It is time to recognize that those who pollute or destroy the natural environment are not just committing a crime against nature, but are violating human rights as well."

The UNEP International Declaration on Cleaner Production clearly states a commitment to "...the continuous application of an integrated, preventive strategy to processes, products and services in pursuit of economic, social, health, safety and environmental benefits." The Western Australia Sustainable Industry Group (WASIG) is a signatory of the UNEP declaration. ***ALCOA is on the steering committee of WASIG.***

Public relations may earn ALCOA environmental and social awards, but PR will not clean up the mess that has been made of your community, your health and your life. It's time to hold them accountable!

If you believe your human rights are being violated by ALCOA, contact WASIG, c/- Centre of Excellence in Cleaner Production, Curtin University of Technology, GPO Box U 1987, Perth WA 6845. Tell them your story and ask for accountability.

For more information about corporate accountability or human rights violation through environmental damage, check out these websites:

[www.earthrights.org](http://www.earthrights.org)

[www.corpwatch.org](http://www.corpwatch.org)

[www.cedha.org.ar](http://www.cedha.org.ar)

<http://members.ozemail.com.au/~actall/>



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Watch for our new  
Website soon!

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## ***Membership to CAPS – what it means to you***

**“United we stand, divided we fall...”** The Community Alliance for Positive Solutions Inc. aims to maintain solidarity amongst the members of the impacted community, presenting a united front to ALCOA and the Government. We ask that the community be treated fairly; that the true state of environmental, social, and health issues be properly assessed and addressed; and that ALCOA and the Government be held accountable for how they have mishandled the situation in the Yarloop area. We do not ask for ALCOA to close down. We want to them to operate with integrity.

By becoming a paid member of CAPS for just \$10 per person, you become a part of the solution. Your membership dues are used to produce and mail this newsletter to keep residents informed of our activities; to promote and host events; to share vital information in newspaper ads; and to cover the costs of expert consultation. Meetings are held to make decisions and to keep members up-to-date. Donations of office supplies, postage, and manpower have also assisted CAPS in reaching out to the affected community.

The growing numbers of supporters have also helped to impress upon State and Local Government that our community stands up for what we believe is right...and will stand together against what is wrong. Join our team today by calling 9733 5011 or 9733 5244 for more information.

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

**TO THE HOUSEHOLDER**

