

Professor Tarun Weeramanthri  
Executive Director  
Public Health & Clinical Services Division  
Environmental Health Directorate  
PO Box 8172,  
Perth Business Centre  
WA 6849

11<sup>th</sup> June 2015

## Alumina Refinery Buffer Zones

Dear Professor Weeramanthri

Two recent items of correspondence have prompted us to again raise questions on this issue.

Over time we have constantly been led to believe that your department has no part in, or responsibility for, the implementation of a buffer zone around the Alcoa Wagerup Refinery. If this is the case can you please explain the following statements, which appear to contradict your claims?

1. According to Dr Gail McGowan, Director General, W.A. Dept. of Planning 4<sup>th</sup> May 2015: "The West Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) can implement buffers through various planning mechanisms. But neither the WAPC nor the DoP have the necessary technical expertise to determine the size or scope of buffers. This advice is provided by the DER and DoH." Dr McGowan states further that: "My Department has engaged with the DER and DoH over the past two years to seek more information and advice on separation distances and public health around the Alcoa Wagerup refinery."

"The EPA Bulletins 1215 & 1223 of 2006 prepared in response to Alcoa's licence application provided specific advice on the proposed separation distances and environmental conditions they must undertake to meet their licence approvals."

Dr McGowan also states that: "DoH has also undertaken a Public Health Survey in Yarloop and provided advice on major health issues in the area"

***In light of the above statement we ask why after nine years a buffer has not been implemented? Also is the DoH advice and the results / findings of the abovementioned mentioned Public Health Survey available to the public?***

2. Peter Canterbury, CEO & Executive Director, Bauxite Resources, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015 speaks to the siting of a proposed Alumina Refinery for the Felicitas & Fortuna deposits: "From work we have already done we can confirm that it (the refinery) will not be in the region surrounding the Felicitas & Fortuna Deposits. The reason for this is that any **proposed refinery will need a buffer zone of approximately 5km.**" and "Any refinery site will be **subject to appropriate buffer zones** and strict environmental requirements."

**Why is it that this proposed development, the location of which is as yet undetermined, is subject to what appears to be a statutory 5km Buffer Zone? If such requirements/standards exist, why has no buffer been implemented at Wagerup? Also, what steps are currently being taken with regards to the implementation of such a buffer at Wagerup?**

Again we thank you for your attention and in anticipation of an early reply.

Yours sincerely



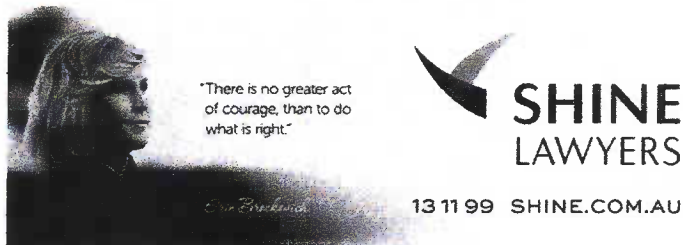
**Vince Puccio**

Co-Chairs: Community Alliance for Positive Solutions Inc

*For & on behalf of the below  
A Jovanovich S.P. 7110.*

**Merv McDonald, AFSM**

Proudly supported by:

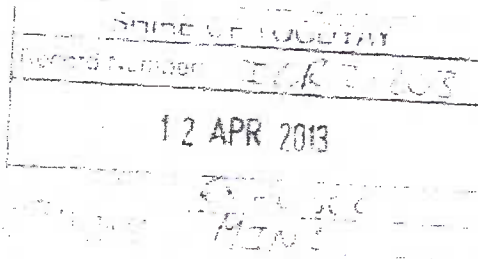


Cc; Hon Colin Barnett MLA, Premier, Hon Albert Jacob MLA.

Attachments(1)



**Bauxite Alumina  
JOINT VENTURES**



10 April 2013

Mr Stan Scott  
CEO Shire of Toodyay  
& Mr Kevin Hogg  
President Shire of Toodyay  
PO Box 96  
TOODYAY WA 6566

Dear Stan and Kevin

I am writing to you with a quarterly update as per our commitment on communication regarding the Bindoon Bauxite Mining Proposal.

In the time that has passed since our last communication, BAJV has completed a community survey in this district of the Wheatbelt and has progressed the Bindoon project studies and feedback to date into a revised concept for the Bindoon project. This revision is looking at the effect of reducing the assumed mining rate from 2 million tonnes per year to 1 million tonnes per year. We expect this can bring benefits by:

- Reducing the annual requirement for water
- Reducing the size and frequency of truck movements
- Ensure the social and economic opportunities provided by the project are more within the reach of local businesses and are longer lasting

<b>Consultation Activity</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Stakeholders</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
<b>Community discussions</b>	One on one discussions with relevant stakeholders	Proposal landowners, Shire of Chittering, Bindoon Community Consultative Committee (BCCC) and Chamber of Commerce.	June 2013
<b>Letter</b>	Update on project and Bindoon concept study review – invitation to a workshop	Chittering households, key stakeholders.	July 2013
<b>Workshops</b>	Information update/ invitation to ask questions or comment	Broader community.	July –Aug 2013

**Felicitas Resource:**

BAJV are aiming to identify a bauxite resource suitable for local refining by the end of 2013. Our current assumption is that a refinery development will have a capacity of 1.1 million tonnes per year of alumina, with a feed of about 3.5 million tonnes of bauxite per annum and an economic life of 50 years.

Further exploration drilling in Toodyay and Northam is continuing on private properties. Diamond drilling commenced mid-March 2013 and is now complete, providing samples that will confirm the density characteristics of the ore deposit and allow more accurate resource modelling for the Felicitas resource. This exploration work is progressing well with good results from the drilling. The characterisation work will improve our understanding of processing economics. These are the first

BAUXITE ALUMINA JOINT VENTURES (11) 111 APR 04 10:51:59.7

Manager for Bauxite Resource Joint Venture & Alumina Refinery Joint Venture

Level 1, Building 5, The Larder Office Park, 459 Scarborough Beach Road, OSBORNE PARK WA 6012

PO Box 1802, OSBORNE PARK, WA 6012. Phone +61 (0)8 9304 6300 Fax +61 8 9200 6300 www.bajv.com.au

steps towards conversion of the resource to a reserve. Completion of these programs will position BAJV to undertake the detailed technical and economic studies for the Felicitas bauxite.

We expect to significantly increase the size of the Felicitas resource and resource announcements will continue to be forwarded to you as announced. We are just starting to think about potential sites for a refinery in the region and there will be further evaluation during feasibility studies over the next 2-3 years. We anticipate that a refinery site will be approximately 2km<sup>2</sup> (200 Ha), plus a residue storage area approximately 15km<sup>2</sup> (1,500 Ha), a buffer zone of approximately 5km to residences and very importantly good access to rail and major highways, energy and water.

It is early stages for this development and we have not commenced site selection studies yet. But we do think this long term project could have some significant social and economic opportunities for this region. We will continue to provide you with quarterly updates for Bindoon and our Felicitas exploration program. We envisage meeting with you again in the latter half of 2013 to assess how far the resource has progressed and next steps.

If you have any further questions or points you wish to discuss in the interim then please do not hesitate to contact myself or Bill Moss, General Manager.

Yours sincerely



Chantelle O'Sullivan  
External & Public Affairs Manager