



Government of **Western Australia**  
 Department of **Environment Regulation**

Your ref: B000024  
 Our ref: CEO1268/15  
 Enquiries: Chris Malley  
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Mr Michael Parker  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 Shire of Harvey  
 PO Box 500  
 HARVEY WA 6220

Registration Number:	15/20223
<b>SHIRE OF HARVEY</b>	
8 JUL 2015	
Retention/Disposal:	1
Dept/Officer:	PLANNING
File Number:	B000024 (3)

Attention: Mr Simon Hall

Dear Mr Parker

**ALCOA WAGERUP ALUMINA REFINERY**

I refer to the letter dated 17 June 2015 from Mr Simon Hall, Manager of Planning Services, regarding correspondence received by the Shire of Harvey from the Community Alliance for Positive Solutions Inc. (CAPS) in relation to the Wagerup Alumina Refinery.

The Department of Environment Regulation (DER) licenses the Wagerup Alumina Refinery under Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Licence L6217/1983/15 requires Alcoa to undertake a range of environmental monitoring of its emissions from the refinery and also monitor the ambient environment. This includes monitoring point source air emissions, ambient dust, groundwater quality and surface water quality. The licence requires Alcoa to report its environmental monitoring data to DER on an annual basis. The Department is satisfied that licence L6217/1983/15 adequately regulates emissions and discharges from the refinery to protect public health and the environment from harm.

DER notes that the matters raised in the letter dated 27 April 2015 to the Department of Health (DoH) primarily relate to public health issues, and is aware CAPS is engaging with DoH on these issues. Alcoa is currently in the process of reviewing its current volatile organic compound (VOC) and odour emissions through a VOC and Odour Monitoring and Modelling Plan. This may include a review of any changes against the existing Wagerup Health Risk Assessment, which will be submitted to DER and reviewed in consultation with DoH.

Should your staff have any further queries, please contact DER's A/Senior Licensing Officer, Mr Chris Malley, on 9333 7484 or by email at [chris.malley@der.wa.gov.au](mailto:chris.malley@der.wa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

  
 Jason Banks  
 DIRECTOR GENERAL

3 July 2015



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Health**  
Office of the **Director General**

Mr Simon Hall  
Manager of Planning Services  
Shire of Harvey  
PO Box 500  
HARVEY WA 6220

Registration Number:	13/21565
<b>SHIRE OF HARVEY</b>	
22 JUL 2015	
Retention/Disposal:	.....
Dept/Officer:	HALL
File Number:	8000024(3)

Dear Mr Hall

**COMMUNITY ALLIANCE FOR POSITIVE SOLUTIONS**

Thank you for your letter of 17 June 2015 enclosing correspondence from the Community Alliance for Positive Solutions regarding Alcoa's Wagerup Refinery.

Please find attached a copy of the response sent to Mr Puccio and Mr McDonald by the Assistant Director General of Public Health, Professor Tarun Weeramanthri.

In addition, I confirm that monitoring of emissions from the Refinery is conducted by both Alcoa itself and the Department of Environment Regulation (DER) for compliance with Alcoa's license.

The Department of Health does not monitor emissions, providing comment to the DER only when invited by that agency to do so; usually under circumstances where some evidence exists confirming that adverse health concerns are likely.

Should you require any further information in regard to the licensing process, I would respectfully refer you to the DER.

Yours sincerely

Professor Bryant Stokes  
**A/DIRECTOR GENERAL**

15 July 2015

Att.

189 Royal Street East Perth Western Australia 6004  
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Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Health**  
Public Health Division

**COPY**

Ref: EHB-00973  
Contact: L Gillam 9388 4961

Mr Vince Puccio and Mr Merv McDonald AFSM  
Community Alliance for Positive Solutions  
PO Box 69  
YARLOOP WA 6218

Dear Mr Puccio and Mr McDonald

### **CRC CARE REPORT 2009**

Thank you for your letter of 27 April 2015. I apologise for the delay in response, however as your group has provided a significant amount of correspondence recently, this has served to extend our usual response timeframes.

In your correspondence you reference the CRC Care Report 2009 (the Report), requesting an update on the status of the Report and other issues.

You will be aware that the Report, "*Adsorbed Organic Species on Respirable Alumina Particles*", was produced by the Chemistry Centre Western Australia (CCWA) in conjunction with the Department of Environment Regulation. As stipulated in the Report, work undertaken by the CCWA related only to testing under laboratory conditions. I am informed that this and other gaps identified in the study were the subject of a submission to Alcoa for provision of funding to undertake further work, primarily related to alumina particle size, however Alcoa subsequently declined to fund this proposal and no further work has since been considered.

You have also inquired about whether the Report was peer reviewed, and processes which might have been included as part of this review. As you will understand, as the Department of Health (DOH) did not commission the original work or play any major role in the work undertaken I am unable to provide further information in this regard. You should contact the Chemistry Centre Western Australia for these inquiries. The necessary details for this are included in the Report which I note has been referenced on the Community Alliance for Positive Solutions Inc. website.

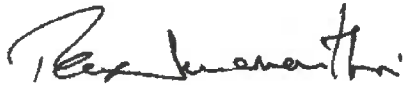
With respect to initiating a formal industrial buffer zone, establishing an area of the magnitude suggested, and compensating "affected people", is not a decision which would be made by any one Government agency. This is a process which would need to be considered by the Government of the day due to the significant community disruption and associated costs. Government agencies would then be approached for

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comment as part of this process. As you have forwarded copies of this correspondence to a number of Parliamentary Members, I expect your requests will be addressed at this level.

Thank you once again for your ongoing correspondence on these matters. Please note that officers of the DOH are working hard to prepare draft responses to the many individual matters your group has raised with me.

Yours sincerely



Professor Tarun Weeramanthri  
**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION**

15<sup>th</sup> June 2015