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## Premier of Western Australia

Our Ref: 24-565416/JH

Mr Vince Puccio and Mr Merv McDonald  
Co-Chairs  
Community Alliance for Positive Solutions Inc.  
PO Box 69  
YARLOOP WA 6218

Dear Mr Puccio and Mr McDonald

Thank you for your response of 10 August 2015 to my recent correspondence to you regarding your request for a buffer zone around Alcoa's Wagerup Refinery.

For many years, various State Governments of both political persuasions have not opposed the five kilometre voluntary buffer zone imposed by Alcoa. The Deed of Undertaking (State Agreement) imposed by the Carpenter Government requiring Alcoa to purchase the property of residents wishing to relocate out of the area was very popular with many residents inside the existing buffer, and many residents subsequently chose to take the opportunity to relocate. Consequently, there is no intent by the Government to vary or modify this existing buffer. I understand this information has been conveyed to your members by the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Environment Regulation on a number of occasions. This advice was also available at the time the Carpenter Government made its decision to allow Alcoa's proposed expansion ("Wagerup 3"). This particularly relates to recommendations arising from the Medical Practitioner's Forum and, additionally, from the DOH's submission to the Environment Review Management Program in 2005, information which is now considered to be somewhat out of date.

You also raise the issue of the State Planning Policy 4.1, which is presently under review. The results of this review will not be known for some time, and it would be imprudent of me to speculate on the outcomes at this stage.

I understand the DOH has also responded separately to your members on the outcomes of the CRC Care Report 2009. The Study was conducted under strict laboratory conditions and I am informed its conclusions cannot and should not be applied to ambient air quality. This information is outlined in the Report itself, and there are no plans by the Government to either replicate or expand the Study.

In conclusion, I should point out that any Works Approval or Licence amendments are independently reviewed by the appropriate Government agencies. I have full confidence in the ability of these agencies to complete these tasks in a thorough and professional manner, taking into account the best interests of the entire community.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Colin Barnett'.

Colin Barnett MLA  
**PREMIER**

16 SEP 2015