



Messrs V Puccio and M McDonald, AFSM
Co-Chairs
Community Alliance for Positive Solutions Inc.
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Dear Messrs Puccio and McDonald

Proposed Buffer for Alcoa's Wagerup Refinery

Thank you for your letter of 11 June 2015 on buffer zones for alumina refineries and your follow up query dated 6 July requesting information on the Yarloop Health survey.

Alcoa's Wagerup refinery operates under the State Government legislative approval provided in 1978 under the *Alumina Refinery (Wagerup) Agreement and Acts Amendment Act 1978* and subsequent amendments. Alcoa is also required to comply with all other Commonwealth and State Government legislation related to their operations including health, environment, and occupational safety and health legislation.

This Act did not specifically require Alcoa to formally implement a buffer as a requirement. It did state that it would operate under any environmental Act as it stood at that time.

Subsequent to this, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in its Bulletin 1215 *Wagerup Alumina Refinery - Increase in Production to 4.7 Mtpa; and Wagerup Cogeneration Plant* of January 2006 provided the following recommendation amongst others in relation to addressing health issues in the locality surrounding the refinery:

"The Government establish a formal land management scheme for the area, with the principle that there be no intensification of residential development within the 5km health management zone, and the objective of ensuring land uses compatible with the operation of the refinery within this area."

The Department of Planning is considering a range of options for establishing this management zone. There are a number of statutory and legal issues that form part of the deliberations including the management zone being located within the boundaries of two separate local governments and within two separate regions of the State. The refinery is also the subject of a legally binding Act of the State Government. My Department will keep you updated on this process.

The Yarloop health survey you requested can be found on the Department of Health website under "Wagerup and Surrounds Community Health Survey".

Yours sincerely



Sue Burrows
ADirector General

22/7/2015