

HON Stephen DAWSON MLC  
Minister for Environment; Disability Services  
12th Floor, Dumas House  
2 Havelock Street  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

9<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Your Ref: 62-02245

Via Email: [Minister.Dawson@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:Minister.Dawson@dpc.wa.gov.au)

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter (via email) dated 16 August 2017 to our correspondence and also for redirecting matters that don't fall within your portfolio. We are disappointed that there was not one aspect of your response that showed any credence for the issues we were identifying. Therefore, we have needed to write again to urge you to show some recognition that this is a contested matter and there is more than one side to it that needs to be placed on the table for discussion and inclusion in the way forward.

We wish to draw your attention to the following points, referring to sections of your letter:

**Para 3.**

Successive Governments and Government Departments to date have not addressed our concerns.

We are still awaiting replies from various departments especially from DER/DWER regarding the CAPS appeal against the Alcoa Production Increase dated 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 2015 and still no indication as to when a reply will be forthcoming.

The CAPS appeal time is 21 days to respond, the then DER now DWER have yet to reply, this is far from good business ethics and is one-sided.

**Para 5.**

It would seem that you have been misinformed, we are well aware and well versed that W.A. does not have smelters, all our correspondence for the last 20 plus years have never mentioned or suggested smelters emissions in any form, all correspondence relates to Alcoa Wagerup Alumina Refinery operations. We agree that there needs to be uniform laws for the whole state regarding greenhouse gases and all other toxic emissions, however the alumina industry also produces greenhouse gases. Attached for your convenience, please see the SKM/Alinta Wagerup Cogeneration Impact Statement June 2006. Specifically, see pages 19, 20, 25, 27, 46, 60, 61, 62, 63, & 86 (highlighted) - in particular page 61 where current greenhouse gases are approx. 1.425mtpa. This will increase to 2.757mtpa with the expansion of the refinery and Co-Generation plant, this is for Wagerup alone. There are 3 other alumina refineries in W.A. i.e. Kwinana, Pinjarra and Worsley, with the exception of Kwinana the other two are producing twice the amount of alumina which have twice the

output of greenhouse gases. Therefore, combining the 4 sites there is a significant amount of GHG per annum and growing.

**Para 6.**

Alcoa Kwinana uses the same process as Wagerup, Pinjarra and Worsley i.e. the Bayer process. This process concentrates all heavy metals caustic and radiation as explained in the attached for your information - *Managing Health in the Aluminium Industry* 26 October 1997.

The fact that Alcoa intervened to stop the encroachment of development close to its mudlakes says it all as there are potential health problems from the emanating toxic emission from the Alcoa Kwinana operations. Hence as the Department of Health stated there should be no further intensification at Wattleup, which is the same statement made by Alcoa/Government/DOH for Yarloop.

**To put things in perspective**, some of the following individual pollutants, emissions from all emission points, expressed as both concentrations (e.g., mg/m<sup>3</sup>, ppb) and total emissions (kg/day): (1) PM<sub>2.5</sub>; (2) the following Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (**PAHs**) - Benzo[a]pyrene, Benz[a]anthracene, Chrysene, Benzo[b]fluoranthene, Benzo[k]fluoranthene, Dibenz[a,h]anthracene, and Indeno[1,2,3-cd] pyrene; (3) and the following heavy metals - Mercury, Arsenic, Uranium, Thorium, Radium, Cadmium, Beryllium, Chromium, Lead, Manganese, Nickel. Radioactive gases Radon and Thoron should be mandatory reportable. (4) each of the Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) identified as "Priority VOCs" in the licence (see attached also *Wagerup and Surrounds Health Study 2008 Summary*).

Further to this, we are of the understanding that you are yet to make a decision on the Wattleup case.

There needs to be uniform laws in regard to buffer zones around all industries for the state as this will give certainty to industry and protection to communities and the environment from their operational impacts.

Alcoa Wagerup should be legally required to implement a 10km buffer around its operation to protect the health, well-being and the environment of Yarloop and surrounding communities.

**Para 7.**

In regard to your statement regarding the rebuilding of the Township of Yarloop, there is no logic in this statement. Yarloop town is completely destroyed. Alcoa own over 70% of the town, will not rebuild houses that they own which burnt down in 2016 fire, there is no infrastructure, no social fabric, the property value is nonexistent, some residents are selling their properties at a loss and walking away, some are trapped and forced to rebuild in a town with no future. Both the Government and Alcoa have stated there is to be NO further intensification in Yarloop, most of current residences are retirees/pensioners with few young families which means the primary school will close some time in the future, the post office is open 3 hours per day with the exception of Thursday. Our current information is that the One



Stop Shop is about to close, and to our knowledge there have been approximately 12 new homes built in nearly 2 years. There are 4 other mining companies looking at mining mineral sands in this same town. There are people hanging in limbo, waiting for the Government to make a decision on implementing a 10km buffer zone around Yarloop and surrounding communities. On top of all of this, the health of communities and the environment is being impacted by the Alcoa Wagerup/mudlakes operations 24/7 and there is worse to come with the future expansion. For example, the imminent exporting by Alcoa of raw bauxite from Willowdale mine site will compound the problems exponentially.

The implementation of a 10km buffer zone will give an exit strategy for all people who wish to leave, having the same formula for the buffer zone as Area A, i.e. market value for properties based on the Harvey, Waroona index plus 35% compensation plus \$7000 relocation costs, (NB: farms/ business will have a different relocation costs, depending on the size of farms/business). This would protect people from having to put their hands in their own pocket and we anticipate that approx. 90% of the residents would leave.

We believe the precautionary principle has not been exercised for the local environment or the people during the last 15 years and it is a matter of natural justice at stake here.

We would appreciate that you revisit our correspondence and rethink your reply/replies, further in order to bring you up to date, we request a meeting as soon as possible, to resolve the plight Yarloop and surrounding communities as this saga has gone on for far too long.

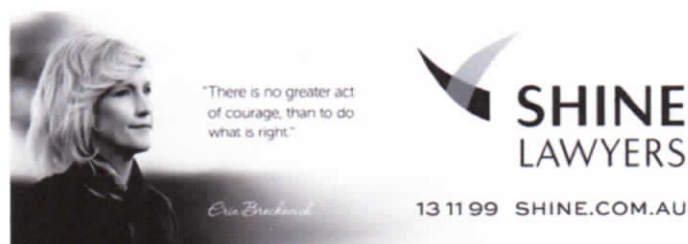
Looking forward to an early and favourable reply

Yours sincerely



**Vince Puccio**  
Chairman: Community Alliance for Positive Solutions Inc

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Attachments:

- (1) The Wagerup and Surrounds Community Health Survey June 2008  
Summary: BY Geoff Pain and Kingsley Dyson.
- (2) Managing Health in the Aluminium Industry 26-29-10-1997
- (3) SKM/Alinta Wagerup Cogeneration Environmental Impact Statement June 2006