



**Minister for Environment; Disability Services
Deputy Leader of the Legislative Council**

Our Ref 62-03569

Mr John Harris
elanjae76@yahoo.com.au

Dear Mr Harris

Thank you for your email dated 10 September 2017 regarding Alcoa's Wagerup Alumina Refinery.

As you have noted, the application to increase the production limit is currently under appeal with the Office of the Appeals Convenor. As I will be responsible for making a determination on the appeals once the Appeals Convenor has completed her investigation, it is not appropriate for me to comment any further on the matter at this time.

I am, however, aware of the longstanding community concerns regarding the refinery. I understand that in a separate process, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) has recently initiated a review of the licence in accordance with its new Regulatory Framework.

I am advised that you are registered as a direct interest stakeholder for the refinery and that all direct interest stakeholders will be consulted as part of the review. I also understand that the review will consider all relevant existing reports and documents, including the 2006 winter study. In this respect, I recommend that you continue to engage directly with the DWER during the consultation processes established under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

The McGowan Labor Government is committed to working with the local community, as well as Alcoa, to ensure that operations at the refinery are managed in a sustainable manner, and that impacts on the environment and the surrounding community are minimised.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

Hon Stephen Dawson MLC
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

- 3 OCT 2017