



## Minister for Transport; Planning; Lands

Our ref: 72-02261/2; 72-02261/3; 72-02261/5; 72-02883

Mr Vince Puccio  
[caps6218@yahoo.com](mailto:caps6218@yahoo.com)

Dear Mr Puccio

### **ALCOA WAGERUP**

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the above matter. I apologise for the delay in responding.

I sympathise with the situation you face, however the existing land use planning controls in the area around the Alcoa Wagerup are consistent with the broader strategic planning for the area. This strategic planning does not recommend any further expansion to nearby towns such as Hamel, Yarloop and Cookernup. The planning framework in the vicinity of the Wagerup refinery is predicated on the notion that there is no intensification of sensitive land uses in the area.

Buffers can be used to control development or restrict intensification of land uses that are considered incompatible or inappropriate. However, buffers do not, of themselves, result in compulsory acquisition of property.

While reference being made to the encouragement of a formalised buffer in the *Shire of Waroona Local Planning Strategy, 2009*, by its nature, a strategy does not pre-determine further consideration of the merits of imposing a statutory buffer.

The imposition of a buffer as a planning control measure in relation to the Alcoa refinery will not be progressed by the State Government. In this respect, I note that there are no buffers for similar standalone refineries elsewhere in Western Australia.

Existing planning mechanisms are complemented by Alcoa's Wagerup Refinery Land Management Plan, enabling people living in the immediate vicinity of the Wagerup refinery to sell their property to Alcoa. This is not mandated by the State Government and it would not be appropriate for the State to attempt to mandate expansion of a private organisation's voluntary scheme.

In contrast to Alcoa's Wagerup refinery, the Western Trade Coast is a strategic industrial area that supports a range of strategic and heavy industry uses and where there is pressure to increase the intensity of sensitive development. Even so, a statutory buffer requiring the resumption of private properties has not been imposed.

While emissions and licencing of the refinery fall outside planning processes, these are strictly controlled and monitored under statutory processes.

I realise that this is not the outcome you may have hoped for but I do appreciate you raising your concerns with the State Government.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by a long horizontal stroke that loops back under the 'R'.

**HON RITA SAFFIOTI MLA  
MINISTER FOR PLANNING**

- 9 JAN 2010