

Vittoria Wilkin
Freedom of Information Coordinator
Legal Services
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Level 4, The Atrium, 168 St Georges Terrace, PERTH WA 6000
Locked Bag 33, Cloisters Square, PERTH WA 6850

27th March 2018

Dear Vittoria

Freedom of Information Application - DWER 2017/0250 – Further Scope Reduction

Thank you for your email today 27 March 2018. We wish to proceed with our application for documents as per your suggested letter yesterday, being:

- Alcoa's six monthly status update for known contaminated sites; and
- Emails (and correspondence) between the agency and Alcoa, concerning the Alcoa Wagerup Contaminated Sites Status Update.

Given that this significantly reduces the scope of CAPS' request, CAPS trust that this revised scope will not result in an unreasonable diversion of agency resources.

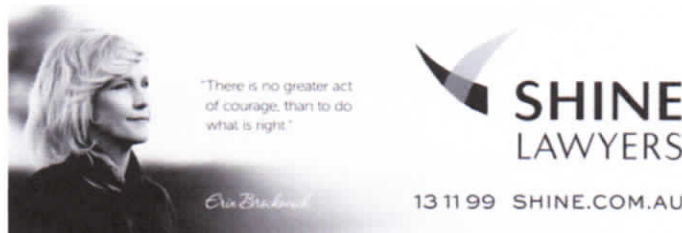
Yours sincerely



Vince Puccio

Chairman: Community Alliance for Positive Solutions Inc.

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Clara Starobinski

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Freedom of Information Application - DWER 2017/0250 – Further Scope Reduction

Vittoria Wilkin vittoria.wilkin@dwer.wa.gov.au

To: Vince Puccio

27 Mar. at 9:33 am

Good morning Vince

I have received confirmation from our Contaminated Sites Unit that the 'Alcoa six monthly status updates for known contamination sites' is a brief spread-sheet style update which highlights the progress of contamination sites investigation and reporting for each of the Alcoa sites being regulated under the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003*; this includes Alcoa's Wagerup Refinery.

The 'Alcoa's Annual Review of Ground and Surface Water Management Report', is produced to satisfy licence requirements under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* and *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* and does not include the type of information provided in Alcoa's six monthly status updates.

As such, please advise whether you wish to proceed with your application with the documents suggested in my letter yesterday, being:

1. Alcoa's six monthly status update for known contaminated sites; and
2. Emails (and correspondence) between the agency and Alcoa, concerning the Alcoa Wagerup Contaminated Sites Status Update.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Vittoria

Vittoria Wilkin
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RE: CAPS Response DWER - Freedom of Information Application - DWER 2017/0250 – Further Scope Reduction

Vittoria Wilkin <vittoria.wilkin@dwer.wa.gov.au>

To: Vince Puccio

26 Mar. at 3:45 pm

Dear Vince

As discussed today, I am currently seeking confirmation that 'Alcoa's six monthly status updates for known contamination sites', which includes information concerning the Wagerup Refinery, is information that is also included in 'Alcoa's Annual Review of Ground and Surface Water Management Report'.

I will be in touch once I have received a response from the relevant Business Unit.

Thank you.

Kind regards

Vittoria

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Mr Vince Puccio
Chairman
Community Alliance for Positive Solutions (CAPS)
PO Box 69
YARLOOP WA 6218

Email: caps6218@yahoo.com

Dear Vince

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPLICATION - DWER2017/0250

I refer to your FOI application received by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) on 8 February 2018, requesting access to the following documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1992 (FOI Act)*:

'...All documents including notes, meeting minutes, briefing papers, correspondence, reports, investigations including draft documents, relating to any suspected or actual groundwater contamination as per the attached Alcoa Wagerup map...'

I make reference to my letter of 23 March 2018, in which a request was made to you to reduce the scope of your application. On this date, you revised your scope of application to the following:

1. Alcoa's 'Annual Review of Ground and Surface Water Management' Reports to January 2016 to June 2017;
2. Alcoa's six monthly status update for known contaminated sites;
3. Consultant Reports commissioned by Alcoa;
4. Internal memorandums;
5. Internal emails (excluding administrative types); and
6. External emails (in relation to Alcoa Wagerup operations).

As stated in my letter, there are approximately 2450 pages relating to the scope of the application. By reducing Item 1 from a four (4) year time-frame to two (2) years and excluding administrative type emails and correspondence between the agency and CAPS, does not significantly reduce the scope to a reasonable level. Please note that for Item one (1) alone, there are approximately 550 pages in each report, which amounts to 1100 pages.

As such, a second request is made to you, to reduce the scope of your application, in accordance with Section 20, which states:

20. Agency may refuse to deal with an application in certain cases

- (1) *If the agency considers that the work involved in dealing with the access application would divert a substantial and unreasonable portion of the agency's resources away from its other operations, the agency has to take reasonable steps to help the applicant to change the application to reduce the amount of work needed to deal with it.*

In this letter, I will not repeat the reasons provided in my letter of 23 March 2018, to reduce the scope of your application, however, we are still looking at approximately 1500 pages in the revised scope.

In consideration of the above and the information provided in my letter of 23 March 2018, please consider reducing the scope of your application to the following:

- Alcoa's six monthly status update for known contaminated sites; and
- Emails (and correspondence) between the agency and Alcoa, concerning the 'Alcoa Wagerup Contaminated Sites Status Update'.

Please note that reducing the scope of the application is not an indicator that the document/s in the revised ambit of application will be released. The documents in question would still be required to be assessed under the *FOI Act*.

Notwithstanding the above, if you require assistance in reducing the scope of your application, I am available for consultation.

A response to this correspondence is required as soon as possible or no later than **29 March 2018**.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully



Vittoria Wilkin
Freedom of Information Coordinator
Legal Services

26 March 2018