



Community dialogue about Alcoa and bauxite in the SW workshop Hosted by Hon. Diane Evers, Greens (WA) 28 February 2018

Summary

1) Purpose of the event

This brief community dialogue about Alcoa and bauxite in the SW involved members of the organisation Community Alliance for Positive Solutions Inc. (CAPS), and other participants invited by Vince Puccio, Chair of CAPS. The workshop was a starting point to help the Hon. Diane Evers MLC get a deeper understanding of:

- The issues that matter to the participants most in relation to Alcoa and bauxite mining in the SW;
- The two or three top issues participants think we should focus on in 2018/19, and why they think we should focus on them;
- Participants' ideas for ways to make progress on the prioritised issues.

It was also an opportunity for Diane Evers to explain what tools she has at her disposal to help, and for Tonia Brajcich (Greens WA) to outline the results of her review of legislation and agreements.

The agenda included small group deliberations. There were 4 tables with 4-5 people on each. Each table considered the questions:

1. What are the things we would like to change about Alcoa's operations and bauxite mining in the SW of Western Australia?

2. (Looking at the Affinity Diagram), which are the most important issues or opportunities that we should we focus on in 2018/19 in relation to Alcoa and bauxite in the South West? Why? Each person voted on their top 3 issues.
3. What is your best idea for improving the current situation? Who would need to help and how?

There were two presentations between question 1 and 2:

- Hon. Diane Evers MLC: How I might be able to help; what I need to know to do my best; how we could collaborate.
- Tonia Brajcich – Findings of latest review of legislation. What opportunities does the legislation offer?

Participants also let us know whether they would like to be kept informed, and how they personally and/or their organisation would like to be involved in addressing these issues.

At the end of the workshop, participants completed a short feedback survey to let us know how the workshop went for them, and what we could improve for next time.

The outcomes of the sessions are shown below. We've left these in people's own words as much as possible.

2) Session 1

During Session 1, each person was given a few minutes on their own to write down their answers to the question: "What are the things we would like to change about Alcoa's operations and bauxite mining in the SW of Western Australia?" This was to make sure everyone had an equal chance to put their views across and think about their response before having to answer. All of the individual responses are listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Outcomes

Question 1	Individual comments
<p>What are the things we would most like to change about Alcoa's operations and bauxite mining in the SW?</p>	"No blame" attitude of ALCOA - not admitting to pollution impacting on community
	Stop the secrecy
	Frequency of trucks/trains
	Truck movements & size and amount
	Fair compensation for all people impacted from their operations
	Open government - keep the locals informed
	Encouraging continued settlement in Yarloop/Cookernup e.g. investing money; buying/renting homes
	Railway - new lines? Where?
	Apparently, land has been made compatible, not compatible before
	Trains every 8 minutes
	Health
	10km buffer zone
	Noise
	Alcoa extend its =A area to 5 km
	Change State Agreement Act
	Highest polluters in area
	10km buffer zone
	Health
	Alcoa made accountable
	Buffer around Alcoa
	Wagerup impacts - land, water, air, people
	Info sharing re government
	Singling out of buy up of homes and exclusion of others - all in community should have option of fair replacement
	To hold industry accountable in parliament via our representative
	Lack of community control over decisions affecting their region
	Projected traffic increase on rail line
	Govt/Alcoa to be open and accountable
	Communication with community
10km buffer zone radius	
What is the net benefit to the community \$value, amenity?	

3) Session 2

Next, each small group deliberated and wrote down ideas that the whole group suggested. A volunteer scribe wrote each idea on a post it note. The post it notes from all groups were placed randomly on an “affinity diagram” sheet on the wall. Two or three volunteer participants then spent 10 minutes grouping all the post it notes into themes which seemed to fit. This is just to make it easier to see the general themes that people are interested in, rather than a precise quantitative exercise. The group responses and the affinity diagrams the volunteers created are listed in the table below.

After a short deliberation each person voted for the issues they think are most important. The number of people who voted for each theme is also shown in the table below. The voting was to give a general idea of the areas of greatest significance to the group, to help Diane understand how best to target her efforts in the next 1-2 years.

Table 2: What we would most like to change about Alcoa’s operations and bauxite mining in the SW

	Affinity diagram categories	Group responses	Votes
What are the things we would most like to change about Alcoa's operations and bauxite mining in the SW? (group responses/affinity diagram)	Health/ pollution (19 votes total)	Rail noise - increasing with increase of train frequency	2
		Air pollution	4
		Dust	2
		Train traffic	
		Noise	2
		Health impacts	7
		Lack of ownership/blame/follow-up of ill health effects/claims - cancers, death and ongoing pollution	1
		Pollution. Trains every 8 minutes? Stop the secrecy. Height of mud lakes Increase of caustic deposits into lakes	1
		TOTAL VOTES	19
	Buffer zone (10 votes total)	Buffer Zone	10
		Alcoa increase A area to 5km	
		No buffer - lack of stringent guidelines, no adherence	
		TOTAL VOTES	10
Better engagement with the community/	Engagement beyond consultation = community control		
	Lack of consultation and transparency in (previous), current and future planning	4	
	Full transparency i.e. SW development plans	2	

	accountability (6 votes total)	Accountability		
		TOTAL VOTES		6
	Change State Agreement Act (4 votes total)	Change State Agreement Act		4
		TOTAL VOTES		4
	Community benefits? (4 votes total)	Why are we selling bauxite and not making it into alumina - less royalties?		3
		What is the net benefit to the community?		
		Community benefits		1
		TOTAL VOTES		4
	Community safety - env. accidents, road accidents (3 votes total)	Potential for a catastrophic environmental disaster. People feel trapped. Real estate prices stagnating or falling		3
		Increase in road haulage - impact on road condition; increase road accidents occurring		
		TOTAL VOTES		3
	Drain on resources (2 votes total)	Water consumption - should be using recycled or desal. Who does underground water testing?		2
		Water consumption - drainage on resources		
		Drain on/depletion of resources - forests, water; (*N.B. Water contamination was also suggested as an issue by a participant after the workshop)		
		TOTAL VOTES		2
	Detrimental impact on community (2 votes total)	Devalue of assets/property/lifestyle - replacement offers limited and not open to all in community (zones) + lack of consistency in purchase of properties and undervalued in many cases		1
		Fair compensation for all people impacted from the operations; land compatibility; truck movements including size and weight; info sharing; railway new lines		1
(road/trains) bypassing towns - impact on town's economy, due to normal traffic flow redirected				
TOTAL VOTES		2		

Table 3 – Individual worksheet comments about the most important issues on the Affinity Diagram

Question	Individual comments
<p>Looking at the Affinity Diagram, which are the most important issues or opportunities that we should focus on in 2018/19 in relation to Alcoa and bauxite in the South West? Why?</p>	I get noise and dust for the past 10 years
	<p>Environment - increase in pollution levels, e.g. noise from refinery, trains, potential for mud lakes to overflow due to increase in production; air quality degradation; Social: community involvement does not exist. No future for Yarloop, unknown whether school will remain open; Financial - real estate values decreased since fires and will lower further with the increase in pollution and social degradation.</p>
	<p>Blatant, unrestricted stripping of valuable, irreplaceable resources - water, forests. All of SW/great Southern Forest strip mined - should not be allowed; Enforcement of buffer zone and full and fair compensation offered to all in buffer zone; Transparency and openness of all agreements: past, present and future</p>
	Buffer zone; health impacts; media involvement
	Recognition of emotional pain & financial pain - health caused by the mud lakes - noise, trains & movement of houses; Loss of house prices
	Change State Agreement Act; Buffer; Heath
	Fair compensation for all affected by Alcoa operations e.g. health, land values
	Put buffer zone; move people out of harm's way; media exposure
	Noise (refinery, road train) - measurement of exposure levels; Dust - measurement of exposure levels where people live; 10 km buffer zone; community engagement. What should be done? Make it a regional debate!
	Buffer, water
	Buffer; government or Alcoa for full compensation
	Community engagement as it is relevant for entire SW region; Net benefits - discussion at state level about true cost accounting and mapping to SDGs; Noise as it is beyond refinery level and affects road and train use
	Noise and dust; 10 km buffer zone

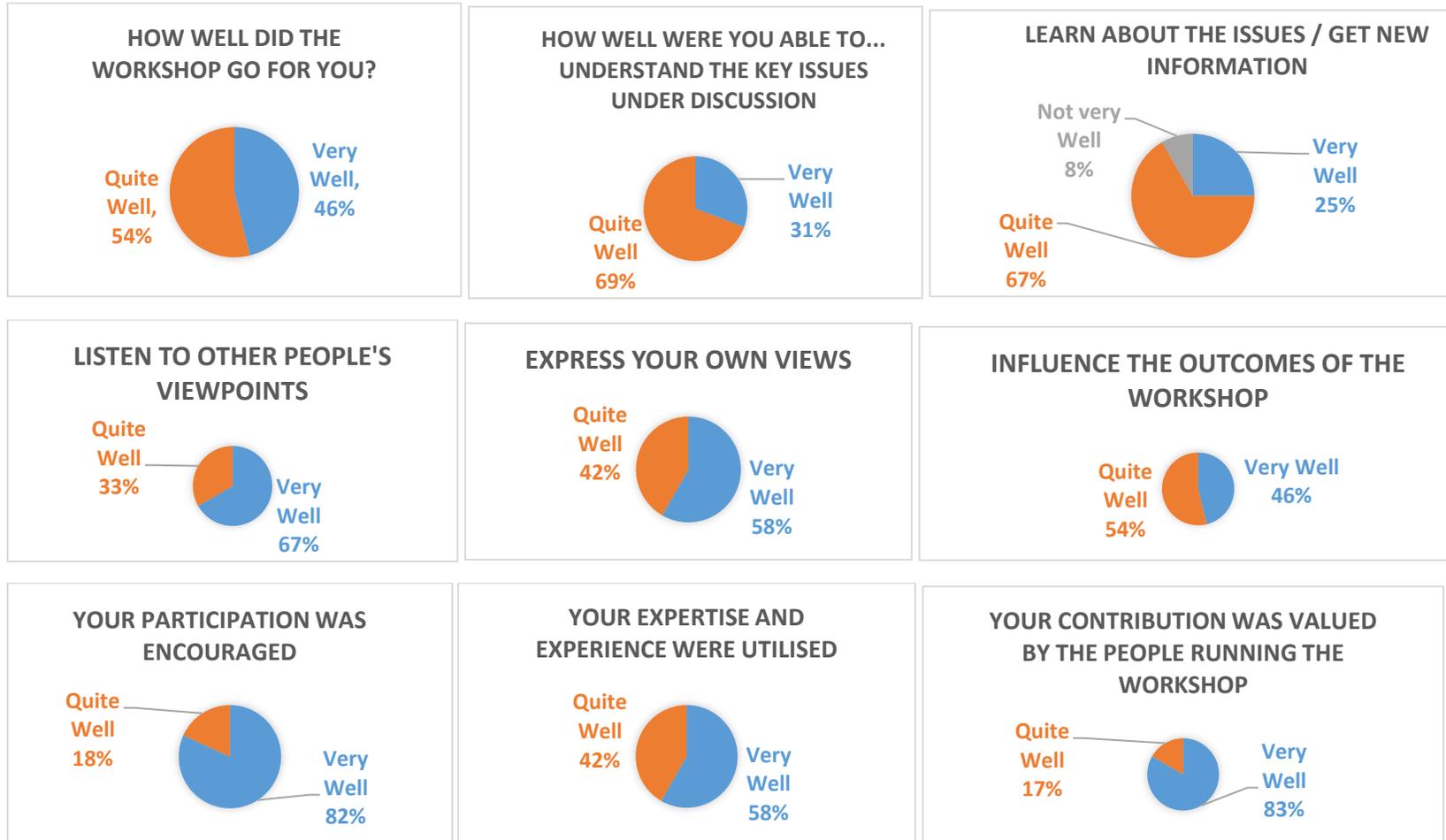
4) Session 4

Finally, we ran an “Open Space Technology” session, in which participants self-organise to suggest ideas they would like to pursue and talk about them in groups. Three ideas were suggested in this session, as shown in Table 4 below. Participants select which issue they would like to talk about and join in the group discussion. Participants can move between groups to talk about more than one idea, if they would like to, or even sit on their own and write down ideas if no one else is interested in the same topic on that day.

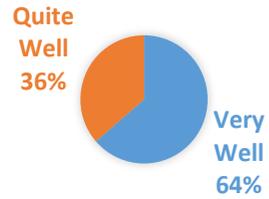
	Idea	Group comments
Open Space question: What is your best idea for improving the current situation? Who would need to help and how?	Publicity	Choices taken away
		Who is really behind all this?
		CITIC Chinese buying
		Check Cuballing Shire minutes for information
		e.g. new rail/road diversion line, who is paying for it?
		Water/forest depletion
		Pollution build up - disposal. Risks - leaks; dust pollution
	Info on train line - make available to public	Fact - are 2 train lines coming? Who is paying?
		Times between trains?
		Impact on towns with crossing?
		Noise pollution
	Widen the circle of stakeholders and galvanize people, have dialogue	Train, road - noise, traffic
		Who is paying for it?
		Where is the information?
		Images and diagrams as tools, as info, campaign material
		Regional development for the people
		How to develop this campaign?
		Who can resource and drive this?

5) Evaluation

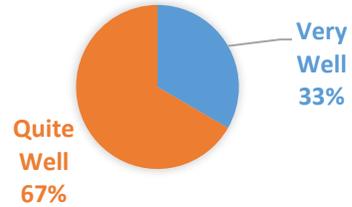
At the end of the workshop, participants agreed to fill in an evaluation sheet to say how well the workshop went for them, and give suggestions for how to improve future workshops. The survey *results are shown in the diagrams below.*



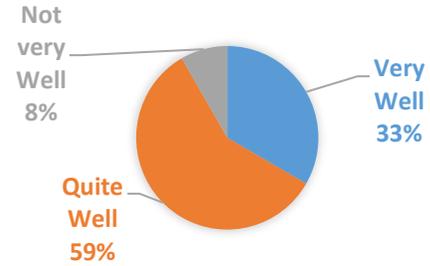
YOUR CONTRIBUTION WAS VALUED BY THE PARTICIPANTS ON YOUR TABLE



THE OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP REFLECT YOUR OWN VIEWS



THE OUTCOMES REFLECT YOUR TABLE'S VIEWS



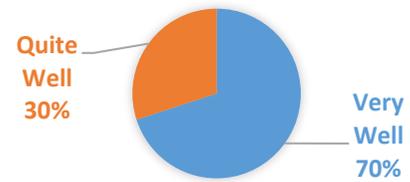
THE WORKSHOP PROCESS RESULTED IN USEFUL CONCLUSION AND OUTCOMES



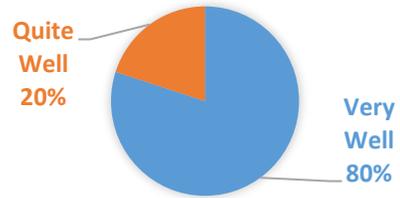
OUTCOMES REFLECT ON THE COMMON GROUND OF THE ROOM



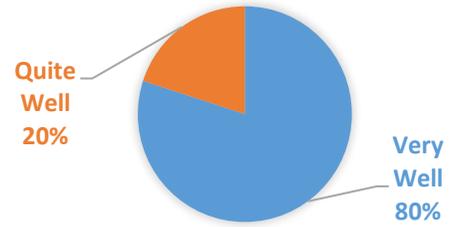
DID THE FACILITATOR STAY NEUTRAL?



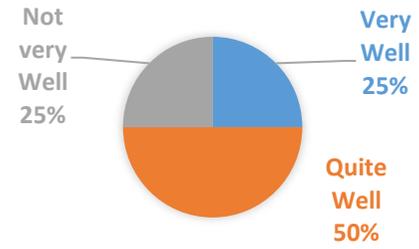
DID THE FACILITATOR HELP EVERYONE PARTICIPATE?



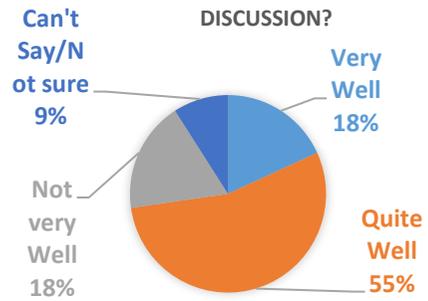
WERE THE PROCESSES USED FAIR?



WERE ALL ASPECTS OF THE TOPIC COVERED?



TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU THINK THAT YOU CHANGED OR BROADENED YOUR VIEWS AS A RESULT OF THE WORKSHOP DISCUSSION?



6. Next steps

First steps from here will include:

- Many of the issues raised by workshop participants can be followed up by directing questions to appropriate Ministers, via Questions without notice, Questions on Notice or direct contact to the Minister's office asking for a response or a briefing. We'll look at the best way of obtaining information (some methods take longer than others, but get a more detailed response, for instance). We'll advise CAPS and other workshop participants who left their contact details of questions we submit and answers that come back.
- Other sources of information have been identified, such as Cuballing Shire website, so we will explore these to see what we can find.

There may also be opportunities for this office to access the media to gain publicity for these issues and engage a broader spectrum of people and stakeholders.

We can also lobby for a more collaborative, accountable and transparent process of engagement and decision making between the community, stakeholders, governments and Alcoa, for instance.

This workshop was one step in an ongoing process of engagement with CAPS, and the SW community in general in relation to bauxite mining.

For more information, please contact:

Margaret Gollagher

Research Officer for Diane Evers MLC

E Margaret.Gollagher@mp.wa.gov.au P [(08) 9486 8070]



E southwest.evers@mp.wa.gov.au

P 08 9486 8070

A Ground Floor, 7 Harvest Terrace, West Perth WA 6005

P PO Box 949, West Perth WA 6872