

Your Ref: 62-08723/1

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

26<sup>th</sup> July 2018

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

Dear Minister

**Alcoa Wagerup Refinery - Noise Regulation 17**

Thank you for the letter from your Chief of Staff dated 19 July 2018 in response to our submission against Alcoa noise regulation 17.

We are concerned with the unacceptable and unreasonable time it is taking for approvals to be determined by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER).

Alcoa's original exemption under regulation 17 was due to expire in December 2015. An extension was sought by Alcoa, which means that the 2013 approval continues to have effect. Alcoa's extension has been submitted since at least mid-2015.

From 2016 to 2018, CAPS have forwarded to date on Des Busher's behalf 107 complaints with video attachments to the Department. To date we have received no response from the Department.

CAPS has been asked to check the Department's webpage for an update on the assessment. The webpage states –

*"DWER's risk-based assessment of Alcoa's noise approval application is underway. It will take account of the submissions received during the public consultation period. The assessment is scheduled to be completed towards the end of 2018."*

In addition to the time it has taken for this assessment, we are concerned that there has been no recent, genuine or reliable monitoring at Des Busher's residence, and that there has been no independent, monitoring program which the public have been consulted on or advised of. How can an assessment occur without monitoring data?

We ask that you give consideration to requesting the Department to ensure that their assessment has been based on a robust, evidence-based and independent and monitoring regime, which includes affected residences such as Mr. Busher. We also ask that you request the Department to ensure that the monitoring data is made publicly available, so that the assessment is genuinely transparent and is peer reviewed.

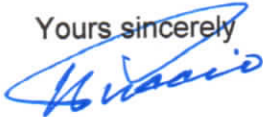
Mr. Busher is very unwell, and because of the noise impacts from Alcoa, is not able to sell his house. The noise from Alcoa has directly caused severe difficulties sleeping, which in turn, have contributed to further declines in Mr. Busher's health. We ask that you consider some form of immediate intervention to ensure that Mr. Busher's health is protected.

We would also like an explanation as to why it has taken such a significant period of time for the Department to progress this assessment and whether you consider this to be acceptable best practice for the Department.

We would like to meet with you to discuss these issues and to understand what actions your Government is taking to regulate Alcoa effectively, to ensure that the unacceptable impacts on residences are being properly addressed.

We look forward to your response and hope you agree to our meeting request.

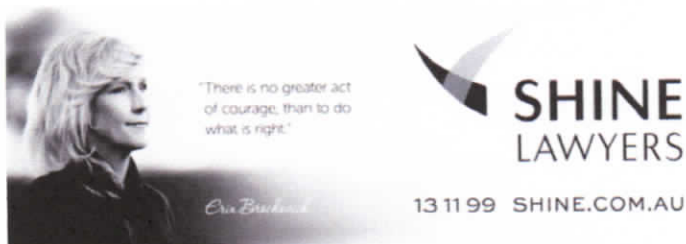
Yours sincerely



**Vince Puccio**

Chairman: Community Alliance for Positive Solutions Inc.

Proudly supported by:





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

Our Ref: 62-08723/1

Mr Vince Puccio  
Chairman  
Community Alliance for Positive Solutions Inc.  
caps6218@yahoo.com

Dear Mr Puccio

Thank you for your correspondence, received in this office on 29 June and 2 July 2018, regarding noise emissions from Alcoa of Australia Ltd (Alcoa) Wagerup Refinery. The Minister for Environment, Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, has asked me to respond on his behalf.

I have been advised that Alcoa holds approval under regulation 17 of the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997* (Noise Regulations) to vary the allowable noise levels from its Wagerup Alumina Refinery from the prescribed standard.

The approval for the Wagerup Alumina Refinery was granted recognising that Alcoa could not reasonably or practicably comply with prescribed standards in the Noise Regulations despite the controls it had put in place. However, as part of the approval, Alcoa is required to implement several strategies and studies regarding the management of noise impacts from the refinery, including the Noise Amelioration Plan, Land Management Plan, and ongoing noise monitoring.

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), on the Minister's behalf, is currently assessing an application made by Alcoa for further approval under regulation 17 of the Noise Regulations for the Wagerup Alumina Refinery. The assessment will consider the information gathered to date through the existing approval and from monitoring carried out in Yarloop and Hamel.

Submissions on the noise application from both the Community Alliance for Positive Solutions Inc. and Mr Busher will be taken into consideration in the assessment.

Updates on the status of the assessment of Alcoa's application for further approval can be found on DWER's website at [www.der.wa.gov.au/our-work/community-updates/463-alcoa-wagerup-alumina-refinery](http://www.der.wa.gov.au/our-work/community-updates/463-alcoa-wagerup-alumina-refinery).

Yours sincerely

Louise Holding  
**CHIEF OF STAFF**

19 JUL 2018