

Vivien Akerstrom  
Office of the Information Commissioner  
Albert Facey House  
469 Wellington Street  
PERTH WA 6000

8<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Dear Vivien

**Request to Activate External Review as per our email with attachments 26<sup>th</sup> of September 2018**

As per attachment, our request to the Department Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) FOIA Department for an internal review for applications 18/0942 and 18/0943 attached has been declined.

As we see it, the facts are that Alcoa's three sites, Kwinana Pinjarra and Wagerup are not only using vast amounts of already scarce freshwater resources, their dry residue areas (i.e. mudlakes) are also leaching toxins into the groundwater (further information attached).

Due to climate change and drier winters this should not only be a concern for the communities surrounding Alcoa's Wagerup operation but for the public at large. Hence our FOIA applications in a bid to achieve transparency and accountability from the Government and Alcoa.

The fact that we are forced to reduce the scope to our FOIA applications in order to get some semblance of information makes a mockery of the FOIA system, again placing the community at a disadvantage and seemingly protecting big business.

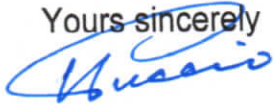
The DWER's response to our FOIA Application - DER 18/0943 showed redacted pages referring to Alcoa's Bunbury operations, and thus we have no way of knowing whether the Department is adequately policing Alcoa's operations and have lost faith in industry oversight by the Department. Notwithstanding, we are well aware from previous reports that Alcoa operations in Bunbury are contaminated.

If you are able to confirm that the redacted pages apply only to the Bunbury site, we would be happy for you to close the file on this application.

FOIA Application 18/0942, here again the DWER FOIA agency replied in the negative, failing to demonstrate whether the department can confirm or otherwise the veracity of Alcoa's reports by way of independent analysis and peer-review; again,

this is of grave concern to us and hence the FOIA applications and our request for external reviews to be activated.

Yours sincerely



**Vince Puccio**

Chairman: Community Alliance for Positive Solutions Inc.

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