

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Alcoa greenwashes operations

In a classic example of “greenwashing”, The Alcoa Foundation is partnering with Birdlife Australia to deliver the \$421,000 (\$US300,000) Alcoa Community Cockatoo Recovery initiative over the next three years as an “extension of the many years of work the company had invested in understanding and protecting these iconic species and regular visitors to the State’s jarrah forest, near where it operates,” according to Alcoa of Australia chairman and managing director Michael Parker.

Birdlife Australia project manager Vicki Stokes said land use changes had dramatically impacted black cockatoos through the loss of food, roost and nest resources.

“For example, more than 70 per cent of the Swan Coastal Plain has been cleared of banksia woodlands which are vital food sources for the cockatoos,” she said.

Ms Stokes neglected to mention that the jarrah/marri forests which Alcoa dig up to mine the underlying

bauxite, are major sources of food, roosting and nesting sites for the cockatoos.

This forest destruction has accelerated since Alcoa started mining an extra 2.5 million tonnes of raw bauxite for export in addition to the bauxite it mines as feed for its Wagerup refinery.

The additional bauxite is hauled from Wagerup to Bunbury in truck/trailers at a rate of five per hour, seven days a week up to 7pm.

These trucks will join the 100 truck/trailers per day on South West roads, carting lithium from Greenbushes to Bunbury and Fremantle. Tourists and local drivers will not be favourably impressed.

The Greenbushes operation will also destroy jarrah/marri forest cockatoo habitat.

The Forest Products Commission is asking for tenders to obtain 100,000 tonnes of marri logs over the next year, which will make the survival of cockatoos precarious.

John Vukovich, Bunbury



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Bunbury's Moorabinda Croquet Club captain Janine Hawker gives Brunswick Bowling Club member John Exton a few pointers, bowling club life member Neil Campbell watches on with Moorabinda members Debbie and Rob Bowling and club president Murray Hawker. Picture: Jacinta Cantatore

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a day of croquet**