



**Residents for Responsible Mining**

[www.r4rm.com](http://www.r4rm.com)

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION

R4RM's Reply to Scott Donaldson, CEO of Bauxite Resources Ltd

Dear Mr Donaldson

22 July 2011

### Bindoon Bauxite Mining Proposal

What a surprise to read in your recent letter to us that the Bindoon Bauxite Mining Proposal would involve the employment of 30-50 people locally, with traineeships and riches showered on the community. This is very confusing because only in February at your "open and transparent" public Workshops to discuss your 5 year mining Proposal you told residents on three different occasions: *"there will be few jobs, and they won't be paying Pilbara rates"*; *"there will be a handful of jobs"*; *"promises of jobs were made when they shouldn't have been"*, and in July last year your Chairman Barry Carbon told residents at a public meeting that the project wouldn't be profitable.

Something mighty big must have changed for you to suddenly announce 30-50 jobs – that's a 1000% increase in employment numbers. Don't you think you should tell Chittering residents, BRL's shareholders and the Environmental Protection Authority about this major change in your plans?

The trouble is Mr Donaldson that the story changes every time BRL opens its corporate mouth. Your letter is another desperate attempt to get community support because you know the vast majority of Chittering residents are overwhelmingly against bauxite mining (refer residents' feedback at [www.r4rm.com](http://www.r4rm.com)) and do not want to turn Chittering into a mining region after more than 125 years as a prime agricultural and tourism region and, more recently, a highly valued lifestyle location. Yet BRL continues to hide the results of all public consultation after residents have participated at your request in 2 separate processes, to ignore the concerns of the worst affected residents, to withhold information and to divide our community.

Clearly BRL believes money will buy approval in Chittering even though you don't have a single government approval for your Bindoon proposal. What BRL never mentions is that the lives of well over 20 Chittering families will be wrecked if large scale open-cut mining starts in the Shire – from the direct impacts of dust, noise, collapsing land and business values, risks to human health, agricultural production and groundwater and the loss of a rural lifestyle that is priceless - as well as the impacts on the broader community, flora and fauna, our rivers, our roads, tourism and the Chittering brand. And that's just the beginning.

What residents, especially the neighbours, want to know is:

- how BRL intends to 're-zone' hundreds of hectares of prime agricultural land, which cannot be mined, into industrial mining use when our Town Planning Scheme doesn't permit mining?;
- where will BRL get more than 400 Gigalitres of agricultural groundwater per year within 40km of Bindoon to use for mining?;
- how can Chittering safely sustain more than 80,000 road trains per year hauling up and down Great Northern Highway to Kwinana, 1 extra road train every 2 minutes?; and
- will BRL be sued by its ex-shareholders for misleading and deceptive conduct?

On the subject of misleading conduct, you falsely claim that bauxite mining improves farmland and does not harm the environment. You've just published the photo below left of the Stage 1 rehabilitation (5/9/10) showing green tinted pasture when the reality of Stage 1 is shown on the right (5/6/11) – a dustbowl with dying trees after one month of rain (with green pasture everywhere else).

Picture: Bindoon trial operation site rehabilitated, September 2010.



Your excuse that "cattle ate the Stage 1 pasture" is about as good as "the dog ate my homework". BRL's publication of this information is a blatant lie and shows BRL's ethical standards and its attitude to Chittering residents have not improved at all.

About 30 years ago, reputable mining companies thoroughly explored and assessed Bindoon's bauxite deposits and decided it would be environmentally, socially and economically impossible to mine the scattered, small, low grade deposits and transport the bauxite profitably and responsibly. The area was too densely populated and the environment and existing land uses are incompatible with mining. Those companies walked away from Bindoon without trying to buy our community – a scenic, peaceful, rural community that's now much more densely populated and only 1 hour from Perth. We suggest BRL and its Chinese majority JV partners follow the example and go away.

Residents do not want bauxite mining in Chittering. That's why the community's message to BRL is: **WE WILL NOT SELL THE FARM!**

Yours sincerely

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