



Residents for Responsible Mining

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EPA orders public review of Bindoon bauxite Mine

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PERTH (miningweekly.com) – ASX-listed Bauxite Resources on Monday requested a trading halt as its stage-two development in Bindoon, which would be subject to a six-week public review.

The Western Australia Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) on Monday declared the six-week public review period, saying that the stage-two development could have a potential cumulative impact on environmental factors.

Last year, Bauxite Resources completed trial mining on a farm in Chittering, and shipped around 128 000 t of ore. The company applied to increase its level at the trial mine site and sought EPA approval to extract up to 1,2-million tons of bauxite production during the second half of the year.

The EPA said that factors, such as noise and dust emissions, vegetation and catchment management, had to be addressed in a public process.

In its trading halt, Bauxite said that it would make a market announcement regarding a regulatory decision that could impact on the company's future activities.

Trading in Bauxite shares would resume on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the Residents for Responsible Mining (R4RM) applauded the EPA's decision to set the highest assessment level of public environmental review (PER) for the stage-two mining proposal.

R4RM spokesperson **Clair Medhurst** described that the EPA ruling was a "win for responsible mining" in the Darling Scarp. "For the first time, affected residents will have the opportunity to make submissions about the environmental and social impacts which they have actually experienced during Bauxite Resources' stage one operations; and which they are likely to experience from any future mining stages," Medhurst said.

"We are, however, disappointed that the PER will only address Bauxite Resources' proposed stage two operations, which we believe encompasses only 1,2-million tons of the company's stated plans to mine up to 30-million tons in the area."

Medhurst said that it was critical that ongoing issues such as the sourcing of industrial water, transport infrastructure, salinity risks and noise and dust emissions were properly analysed and that environment, agricultural and tourism investment and amenities were protected.