



Residents for Responsible Mining
www.r4rm.com

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• **‘SECRETS & LIES’ AS BAUXITE WORKSHOPS FAIL TO REVEAL A PROJECT**

Residents for Responsible Mining (R4RM) today published residents’ feedback on the public Workshops arranged by Bauxite Resources (BRL) for its controversial 2 million tonne per year (mtpa) bauxite mining proposal at Bindoon.- the subject of a Public Environmental Review (PER) being conducted by the EPA.

R4RM collated feedback from notes taken at the Workshops and from emails and conversations with many residents who attended.

R4RM Co-convenor Clair Medhurst said: “The residents’ response to the Workshops was overwhelmingly negative. Most residents were frustrated and angry that the project is still undefined and BRL won’t disclose a concept plan. Even the products they want to mine change regularly. Residents believe the company is on a fishing expedition and that continuing uncertainty will damage the local economy for another 2 years. Residents are even more determined to protect the local environment and their businesses and rural lifestyles.”

Ms Medhurst stated: “Several ratepayers who are very experienced miners attended the Workshops and all think the project so lacks definition it is impossible to assess. No resource was defined and there was no concept, development or mine plan. The estimates for water usage lack any credibility and they have disclosed no water source.”

A Review of the Workshops and Summary of Residents’ Feedback can be viewed on the R4RM website at www.r4rm.com

Important points to come out of the Workshops include:

- BRL admitted there will be few jobs and their promises of jobs were misleading
- the water use estimate of 150ML pa for a 2mtpa operation lacks credibility – the true figure is likely to be at least 400ML pa
- the water source is not known (most suspect Gingin will be the source) but collecting local agricultural surface water is an option
- the company did not collect any environmental data to assess the impact of its Stage 1 mining trial conducted from September 2009 to February 2010
- a 2mtpa operation would produce at least 80,000 x 50 tonne haul trucks per year on Great Northern Highway to Kwinana, excluding water and service trucks

Commenting on the information provided at the Workshops, Derek Gascoine Co-convenor of R4RM said: “It reminded me of the award winning film, Secrets & Lies. First of all there were the secrets: The mine pits and the haul roads were not described or shown but would be perhaps produced at a later date. The quantity of water estimated for dust suppression and for processing had no basis. The source of this water remains a secret even though BRL attempted to commence mining over 18 months ago.



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Then there were the lies. BRL's presentation slide describing the "procedure" by which it would obtain rights to commence mining was misleading. It suggested that once the EPA process was concluded the Minister for Mines would grant a mining lease. In fact because the proposal is on Minerals to Owner land* the process is quite different requiring either amendment of the local Town Planning Scheme or bringing the land under the Mining Act – either way residents have significant rights in the process."

Mr Gascoine added: "New CEO, Scott Donaldson's strange claim that 250 people attended the Workshops is yet another falsehood. BRL planned for only 70 registration places at the 4 Workshops. In fact about 120 members of the public attended the Workshops because they refused to be turned away, and several of them attended twice. Many will remember in July 2010 Barry Carbon claimed on Radio that 200 people attended a public meeting in Bindoon when no more than 70 were actually counted. Well the leopard hasn't changed his spots and we are getting more of the same deception."

**Minerals to Owner land means land granted as freehold land before 1 January 1890 which is excluded from the Mining Act 1978.*

- **R4RM WELCOMES SHIRE'S STAND AGAINST MINING**

R4RM welcomes Chittering Shire Council's statement on the BRL mining proposal and its intention of maintaining the prohibition on mining in the Shire's Town Planning Scheme. The Shire has also labled the BRL consultation workshops as "a clever marketing strategy targeted at obtaining a specific result".

Clair Medhurst said "Many residents are relieved to discover this project is not a "done deal" which is the impression some people get from BRL's glossy brochures and relentless local advertising. There are serious environmental, economic and social problems with imposing large-scale open cut mining on an established, productive agricultural and tourism-based residential community and I think the Shire wants to reassure residents that it is not a foregone conclusion."

The Shire's statement issued on 2 March 2011 takes a strong stand against the BRL bauxite project and states that the Shire does not intend to amend the Town Planning Scheme to allow mining. The Shire's letter can be viewed at www.r4rm.com

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R4RM is a residents' group formed in September 2009 in response to BRL's Stage 1 bauxite mining operation starting up in the Shire of Chittering under a gravel Extraction Licence despite the Town Planning Scheme not permitting mining, and without public consultation and environmental assessment.