



**Residents for Responsible Mining**  
[www.r4rm.com](http://www.r4rm.com)

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## **BAUXITE RESOURCES CONTINUES TO MISLEAD ON IMPACTS OF MINING**

Chattering based action group Residents for Responsible Mining (R4RM) today published a photo gallery of Bauxite Resources Limited's (BRL) (ASX:BAU) Stage 1 "rehabilitated" trial bauxite mine area on agricultural land in north Bindoon. The land was improperly mined between September 2009 to January 2010 under an extractive industry licence for gravel granted by the Shire. The product was exported to China. BRL mined Stage 1 without an EPA assessment and without consulting the local community and have consistently claimed "mining will improve your farmland".

R4RM Co-convenor Clair Medhurst said "We're publishing this photo gallery to expose the stark contrast between BRL's misleading claims that bauxite mining will improve farmland and the reality of the treeless dustbowl that has been left behind 18 months after mining. R4RM has carefully monitored the Stage 1 site from the air and the ground. Apart from clearing about a dozen 40m high mature eucalypts, the two "preserved" trees on the exposed site and several mature trees on the western ridge appear to be dying. Since we took the latest photo on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2011, the site has been re-seeded and fertilized for the third time in 18 months. All the surrounding unmined pastures are emerald green."

The Stage 1 mine site is located on scenic agricultural woodland pasture about 230m above sea level in the Brockman River catchment (part of the Swan-Avon river system) on land zoned "Agricultural Resource" (denoting prime agricultural land). The eastern edge of the mine site is about 150m from Julimar Conservation Park and the property is surrounded by other small to medium food-producing residential farms.

BRL's current 2mtpa bauxite mining proposal covering 10 small agricultural properties on the Darling Scarp in north Bindoon is subject to a Public Environmental Review announced by the Office of the EPA in September 2010. If approved, the bauxite would be exported to China using more than 80,000 road-trains per year hauling to and from Kwinana via Great Northern Highway, the Swan Valley and Perth suburbs. It is the first stage of BRL's plan to mine bauxite from agricultural land and forests throughout the Darling Ranges. The company has more than 24,000,000 hectares (24,000 sq km) of land blanket pegged on behalf of its Chinese majority owned joint ventures covering the entire south west food bowl of WA from Moora to Pemberton.

R4RM Co-convenor Clair Medhurst said: "Given the obvious failure of rehabilitation of Stage 1, and BRL's admission that it didn't do any environmental monitoring of its Stage 1 trial, it is remarkable that the company continues to publish misleading photos and baseless claims that bauxite mining in a prime food growing and tourism region will have environmental benefits. Most of the Bindoon farmers who've been

approached to co-operate with environmental testing for BRL's PER have told the company they are not interested. Residents are especially angry since BRL's public Workshops in February 2011 when the company couldn't or wouldn't give residents information about the Bindoon project, which is clearly unprofitable. BRL has no credibility in this community but its PR machine continues to work overtime whilst its shareholders are in the dark as to the true position.

We are concerned that farmers in other Shires targeted by BRL are made aware that BRL is not telling the truth. Farmers in the Shires of Toodyay, New Norcia, Bakers Hill, Northam, York, Gidgegannup, Moondyne, Williams, Manjimup, Boyup Brook and Bridgetown are being told bauxite mining will improve their land when the opposite is true."

***Background on BRL's 2mtpa Bindoon mining proposal:***

R4RM has consistently stated that large scale, low margin, bauxite mining is unsustainable in the Darling Ranges, including the Chittering food bowl on environmental, social and economic grounds. Critical impacts include:

- the vast quantities of local agricultural groundwater that mining will consume
- soil erosion, land salinity, groundwater impacts and other risks to food security from clearing hilltop remnant vegetation
- the increased salinity to the Brockman and Swan rivers which are already saline
- the traffic issues from more than 80,000+ road trains per year on arterial roads, Perth highways and tourist routes
- the human health risks from bauxite dust which can cause lung ailments and is potentially neurotoxic in rainwater
- noise and dust emissions
- risks to endangered and protected flora and fauna and biodiversity
- the spread of dieback to currently dieback free areas
- loss of residential amenity and collapse in property and business values

R4RM has also stated that BRL will face a major challenge converting the Bindoon land from Minerals to Owner land (which cannot be mined under the Chittering Town Planning Scheme) to Mining Act land because the farmers and food growers who will be adversely impacted will fight to prevent the appropriation of their property rights, their residential amenity and their businesses which are currently protected from mining.

**For further information, please contact:**

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## STAGE 1 PHOTO GALLERY



October 2009 : Stage 1 trial bauxite mine – note the healthy 40m mature tree “preserved” on the right and the health of background trees



15 August 2010: Stage 1 rehab: after seeding and fertilizing twice note the sparse pasture compared with unmined areas

## STAGE 1 PHOTO GALLERY



20 February 2011: Stage 1 rehab – an 8 hectare dustbowl with no pasture, no topsoil, mature trees dying within the mining area and on the western ridge



5 June 2011: Stage 1 rehab after the autumn rains – not a blade of grass when all around is green. Note the previously healthy tree (refer first photo) now dying

## STAGE 1 PHOTO GALLERY



5 June 2011: Stage 1 rehab after the autumn rains – no pasture, no topsoil and trees on the western ridge now dying

**Compare the reality to this.....**

*Picture: Bindoon trial operation site rehabilitated, September 2010.*



Published June 2011: BRL's publicity photo of the Stage 1 rehab taken in September 2010 – worm's eye view of pasture to give the impression of lush growth, trees looking only slightly sick. Compare this to the 15 August 2010 photo for the truth as at this date.