



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

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## **R4RM RECEIVES COMMUNITY AWARDS .... BUT THE BAUXITE THREAT PERSISTS**

Residents for Responsible Mining and one of its conveners, Clair Medhurst, were presented with Achievement Awards at the Shire of Chittering's 2012 Premier's Australia Day Award Ceremony held last week at Bindoon Town Hall.

Local residents nominated R4RM citing its co-conveners, Derek Gascoine and Clair Medhurst as having:

“... worked tirelessly for the past two years to address the concerns of the community about mining activities in the Shire. [R4RM] stands up for the community and the environment by providing a voice on the subject of mining”.

Responding to the Awards the co-conveners of R4RM have issued the following statement:

“It was a great surprise and a humbling experience for us to be honoured in this way. The Bindoon community is determined to prevent speculative bauxite mining from destroying our agriculture and tourism businesses, our clean environment and peaceful lifestyle in this beautiful area less than 1 hour from Perth. Because the Public Environmental Review process has drifted on for so long, many residents think the threat of bauxite mining has gone from Bindoon but it hasn't - the process is still going on despite no meaningful information describing the project.

Over 26,000 square kms of WA's agricultural region including some of our most scenic rural communities in the Hills and south west are now at risk, indefinitely, from mining by Chinese Government-controlled companies. This is a 'first' – the idea of large scale, low margin mining in the Hills and the agricultural region is a product of the mining boom. It is highly speculative and targets mostly private agricultural land. Nobody in Government seems to be asking 'Should we be turning the food bowl into a mining region?' – even though it's a hot topic in the eastern states.

At the moment the Government is officially taking a “wait and see” approach. This is creating a massive imbalance where cash-poor rural communities will be forced to spend the next 30 years facing Chinese corporations with bottomless finance, tied up in repetitive, complex Government assessment processes in an attempt to protect their water, their health, their lifestyle and their property rights from the degrading impacts of bauxite mining. R4RM's experience is living proof of this. It is a gross imposition on the rural sector and the balance needs to be rectified. Just as Margaret River's wine and tourism industries prevailed over coal mining, agriculture and tourism in the Darling Ranges and agricultural region must be given priority over bauxite mining. It has been WA's prime agricultural region for over 100 years and we need to protect it for the next 100 years.

“We propose very simple legislation which would rectify the balance and regain certainty for residents in our prime agricultural, tourism and rural residential communities.”



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**Background Facts:**

- Although Bauxite Resources Limited (ASX:BAU) has no mining title, in August 2010 it initiated an assessment process under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* asking the Environmental Protection Authority to assess a proposal to mine bauxite for export from prime agricultural land at Bindoon Hill, within a few hundred metres of neighbouring residential farms. The EPA has ordered a Public Environmental Review (PER)
- The PER has moved at a snail's pace with no meaningful information about the mining proposal provided to the Shire or the community
- Mining is not a permitted land use in the Shire of Chittering. Previous mining proposals (1980s) at the same location were abandoned as being environmentally, economically and socially unfeasible.
- R4RM and other mining experts have criticised the lack of economic feasibility of the mining proposal and the potentially dire financial, social and environmental impacts on individual farmers and the general community
- Bauxite Resources has handed management of the PER assessment process to the Chinese Government controlled Bauxite Alumina Joint Venture.
- the State Government recently signed an MOU with the Chinese Government agreeing to confidential discussions about investment in mining projects in WA. Through this MOU, our elected government can now prevent its citizens from finding out under FOI laws the scope of discussions between the WA and Chinese Governments about mineral projects on private agricultural land
- Bauxite Resources is the subject of a proposed class action by ex-shareholders for misleading and deceptive conduct. Refer to IMF Australia Limited (ASX:IMF) which is funding the action.

**The background to Bauxite Alumina Joint Ventures' 2 million tonne per year Bindoon mining proposal and previous R4RM Media Releases can be viewed at [www.r4rm.com](http://www.r4rm.com)**

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