



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

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## **MINING WARDEN REFUSES BAUXITE EXPLORATION TO PROTECT STATE FOREST AND AGRICULTURE**

Residents of the Shire of Chittering have welcomed last Friday's decision by the Mining Warden to refuse the grant of three bauxite exploration licences sought by a subsidiary of Bauxite Resources Limited (ASX:BAU) to conduct bauxite exploration in State Forest and farm land between Manjimup and Bridgetown.

The Mining Warden, Magistrate Wilson, heard the objections of 3 Pemberton residents last year and issued his decision citing the public interest in State Forest and productive farmland.

Clair Medhurst, co-convener of Residents for Responsible Mining (R4RM), a Chittering based residents group said "This is a breakthrough decision for farmers, tourism operators and rural residents who oppose the expansion of bauxite mining into prime agricultural land in the South West. We are delighted that the Mining Warden has recognized that trying to "retro-fit" bauxite mining into areas prized for food growing and eco-tourism is against the public interest.

We urge the Minister for Mines, Norman Moore MLC to accept the Mining Warden's recommendation."

Bauxite Resources has blanket-pegged exploration tenements over 25,000,000Ha (>25,000km<sup>2</sup>) of land in the south west of the State, including Shires like Chittering and Toodyay whose Town Planning Schemes do not permit mining.

For over 2 years Chittering residents have been battling a proposal by Bauxite Resources and its Chinese partners to mine bauxite from agricultural land on Bindoon Hill and adjacent to Julimar Conservation Park, less than one hour from Perth. Residents say such a development would threaten agricultural production and tourism and destroy the fragile environment.

Ms Medhurst said: "The Warden's decision is very significant for Chittering. The Bauxite Alumina JV doesn't have an exploration licence over most of the land they are trying to mine at Bindoon because it's very old farmland – granted pre 1899. It cannot be mined under our local laws and the Warden's decision strongly supports the case that the JV should not be granted a mining tenement over the properties – the traditional land uses and residential density are clearly incompatible with bauxite mining".

"Like every other industry or community, farmers and tourism operators need certainty – not endless speculation over low margin mineral projects that threaten the local economy and lifestyle. Rural Shires will now be more active in objecting to mining tenement applications whereas many have felt it was pointless to object".

"R4RM is continuing to develop its proposal for permanent protection of agricultural shires from large scale mining. We've had positive encouragement from Nationals and Greens MPs for a policy solution that gives certainty for agricultural/tourism communities and miners, and will end the speculation in rural areas where large scale mining threatens farming, tourism and residential amenity".



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**Background Facts:**

- Bauxite Alumina JV (Bauxite Resources Limited ASX:BAU and its Chinese partners) are proponents of a 2 million tonne per annum bauxite mining proposal for 5 years from prime agricultural land north of Bindoon in the Shire of Chittering, WA, less than one hour from Perth. The project is strongly opposed by neighbouring farmers and an overwhelming majority of the community.
- Since September 2010 the Bindoon proposal has been subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (Public Environmental Review) under the *Environmental Assessment Act 1986*. 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 (1970s, 1980s) at the same location were abandoned as being environmentally, technically, economically and socially unfeasible.
- 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 Venture's 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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