



Residents for Responsible Mining

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MEDIA RELEASE

EPA RULING 'A WIN FOR RESPONSIBLE MINING'

Residents for Responsible Mining (R4RM), the residents' group with 100 household members in the Shire of Chittering is delighted that the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has set the highest assessment level of Public Environmental Review (PER) for Bauxite Resources Limited's (BRL, ASX: BAU) Stage 2 mining proposal in Bindoon, in accordance with environmental legislation.

Clair Medhurst, a spokesman for the group said the EPA ruling is 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 BRL's Stage 1 operations; and which they are likely to experience from any future mining stages," Ms Medhurst said.

"We are however disappointed that the PER will only address BRL's proposed Stage 2 operations, which we believe encompasses only 1.2 million tonnes of BRL's stated plans to mine up to 30 million tonnes in the area.

"37 Shires in the Darling Ranges are affected by BRL's blanket tenement pegging over agricultural and lifestyle areas.

"To protect Chittering and the other affected communities from the anxiety, uncertainty and huge expenditure that goes with dealing with piecemeal mining proposals on private land, we urge Government to implement a regional environmental assessment of large scale, low margin strip mining in the Darling Ranges, together with a comprehensive land use and social impact assessment of target areas to identify where and to what extent bauxite mining is compatible with existing agricultural/horticultural and tourism investment.

"Residents deserve to know the big picture of what BRL's future plans are in the region so that the full and cumulative impacts can be assessed and clearly understood.

"It is critical that ongoing issues such as sourcing of industrial water, transport infrastructure, salinity risks and noise and dust emissions are properly analysed and that our environment, agricultural and tourism investment and amenity are protected.

"This said, considering that only 6 months ago residents were faced with a 9 million tonne bauxite mining proposal before the Shire Council, without an EPA assessment, we feel we have come a long way and that common sense has prevailed.

"R4RM will work as required with the Environmental Consultants presently being appointed by the Shire of Chittering to assist the assessment process."

ENDS

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