

# Broadcast Media Monitoring

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**ABC Midwest Wheatbelt (Geraldton)**  
**Rural Report - 31/03/2010 6:40 AM**  
**Karen Hunt**

Hunt explains that the Residents for Responsible Mining Group in Bindoon have claimed victory over a mining proposal put forward by Bauxite Resources Ltd. She explains that the company sought to mine on private land, of which the title dates back to before 1899. She notes that the company was therefore not required to undergo the usual environmental approvals process and Claire Medhurst expresses concern regarding the resultant noise, traffic and social impacts of the mine. She explains that the trial was operating under the licence of a gravel pit and became aware of the project after asking questions of the shire and various Govt Departments. She suggests that the shire unknowingly granted the licence under the impression that it would be used to extract gravel. Medhurst reminds that mining is not permitted under the Town of Chittering Town Planning Scheme and reveals that the shire has rejected the company's application on this basis. She adds that Bauxite Resources have put a proposal before the EPA for a 1.2 million ton mine in an adjacent area, claiming that the project may affect land salinity and water resources. Medhurst objects to the company's 'approach by stealth', refusal to disclose information and assumption that public infrastructure can be used without notice. Hunt explains that the EPA will now review the plans under a high level of scrutiny and Bauxite Resources has declined to comment, as the company has entered a trading halt on the Australian Securities Exchange. She adds that Managing Director Dan Tenardi has been quoted in the print media as being 'shocked' over the decision made by the EPA. Chairman Dr Paul Vogel assures that a number of considerations led to the determining of the high level of review, acknowledging that the project is part of a much larger mining proposal over the Darling Ranges. He notes that regulatory processes have yet to be determined regarding the mining and transport of bauxite, while a high level of public interest has been generated in the proposal. Hunt relays suggestions that it is an unfair level of review and Vogel reminds that the company can appeal to the Minister for Environment.

**Interviewees:** Claire Medhurst, Residents for Responsible Mining Group;  
Dr Paul Vogel, Chairman, EPA

**Duration:** 9.11

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