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Bauxite appeals EPA decision

Wednesday, 31 March 2010
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BAUXITE Resources says it will appeal the Environmental Protection Authority's decision that its proposed 1.2 million tonne bauxite mining operation near Bindoon in Western Australia will require a public environmental review.

The company said today it had taken advice, considered its options and decided to appeal the EPA decision.

"The board considers the decision is irregular and disproportionate and that there are strong grounds to seek a review of the EPA decision," the company said today.

Bauxite has publicly stated it will initially produce 1.2 million tonnes per annum over a six-month period from July to December from Hare's farm near Bindoon, before ramping up to 2.4Mtpa next year, and ultimately reaching 6Mtpa from state-owned lands.



Bauxite Resources ore being loaded onto a ship bound for China

The company said today the EPA decision appeared to have been taken on the basis of its future projects rather than by reference to the relatively small scale impact mining project on 23 hectares of parkland-style farmland referred to the EPA for consideration in December.

"If this decision to set the level of assessment based on future aspirations is allowed to stand, it would put in jeopardy the timing of numerous resource development projects in Western Australia," Bauxite managing director Dan Tenardi said.

"It would certainly undermine confidence in the regulatory system."

According to Bauxite, the average time taken in 2009 to complete PER's was around 2.4 years.

Tenardi said the company was being asked to go through a potential two-year approvals process for a six-month mining project.

A PER level of assessment requires the company to prepare an environmental scoping document, then a PER document.

The public would then have six weeks to review the proposal.

Shares in Bauxite are currently suspended and were last trading at 80c.