

Broadcast Media Monitoring

ABC Midwest Wheatbelt (Geraldton)
Rural Report - 9/04/2010 6:40 AM
Karen Hunt

Hunt reveals that Bauxite Resources will appeal the environmental assessment level handed down by the WA Environmental Protection Authority for its project near Bindoon. She adds that the company was informed 10 days ago that it would be subject to a public environmental review, adding that Chair Dr Paul Vogel labelled the level of assessment as 'justified'. She plays an excerpt of a previous interview with Vogel, during which he claimed that the project is part of a larger mining proposal across the Darling Ranges [Excerpt]. Hunt notes that the company would be required to prepared an environmental scoping document and public environmental review document. Direct Shipping Ore General Manager Terry O'Connor suggests that the process may take up to two years to complete and reminds that the EPA is expected to assess based upon the referral. Hunt questions whether the company plans to mine nine million tons of bauxite from the Darling Ranges and O'Connor explains that the miner seeks to establish multiple pits in multiple shires in order to minimise the impact on the local environment. Hunt asks whether this is 'salami slicing' the project and asks whether a lack of communication has caused opposition. O'Connor agrees that the company has not truly engaged the community in the past, detailing the establishment of a community consultative committee. He claims that the 'small' group of activists do not speak for the majority after receiving 200 applications for 30 jobs.

Interviewees: Dr Paul Vogel, Chair, EPA [Excerpt]; Terry O'Connor, General Manager, Direct Shipping Ore

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