



Bauxite talks in Bindoon continue

About 100 people attended the Conversation with the Community meeting held by Bauxite Resources Limited (BRL) at the Bindoon Town Hall recently to hear information and ask questions about BRL's proposed bauxite mining operations in the Bindoon area.

Derek Gascoine, Convenor of Residents for Responsible Mining (R4RM), the community group formed to address concerns about the impacts of BRL's mining in the Shire of Bindoon said the majority of questions and statements from attendees were hostile to the concept of further bauxite mining in the Shire.

"Major concerns expressed by community stakeholders present included the sourcing of industrial water, dust and noise emissions, die-

back spread, salinity, trucking frequency, road safety, road degradation and the complete lack of information about BRL's plans after Stage 2," Mr Gascoine said.

"The consensus of R4RM members present is that the meeting was a token gesture on the part of BRL. It was held out to be an information session and a 'workshop' but it was conducted improperly.

"The information provided by BRL tended to be incomplete and in some instances inaccurate, with insufficient or incorrect facts provided. For example, no maps, plans or other information about the subject matter was provided to participants prior to, or even at the meeting other than a brief PowerPoint presentation which did not address the valid concerns of the community."

"No map was provided of Lot M2110 (approximately 70 Ha) – the proposed site of BRL's next mine (Stage 2) which has been referred to the EPA for assessment. The Stage 2 site was described by BRL's officers as having very few trees and not being near the Julimar Conservation Park. However R4RM distributed a map to the meeting attendees which clearly showed the block to be both heavily forested and adjacent to the park."

"We trust that EPA will withhold approval until such time as BRL adequately addresses the serious and negative impacts of its operations, such as those suffered by Bindoon residents during BRL's first mining phase," Mr Gascoine said. ■