



**Residents for Responsible Mining**

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### **BRL'S PLAN TO MINE BINDOON LANDMARKS**

At a Public Meeting on 20 July 2010 at Bindoon Town Hall, Barry Carbon, Executive Chairman of Bauxite Resources Limited (BRL) revealed the company's new plan to mine 2mtpa of bauxite and gravel for at least 5 years from farmland at Bindoon Hill and along the Bindoon Escarpment.

BRL's presentation showed the target land follows a 5km arc along the top of Bindoon Hill and Bindoon Escarpment straddling Great Northern Highway in locations previously identified by R4RM as BRL's mining targets.

Derek Gascoine, local resident and co-convenor of R4RM, said "It is amazing that after 2 abandoned proposals and repeated denials, BRL has put up a mining plan which closely resembles what R4RM has been showing on its website since January 2010". "The locations proposed for mining are landmarks, including heavily treed areas on the top of Bindoon Escarpment - these are some of the most beautiful vistas in the district and are surrounded by producing farms, cattle studs, horse properties, orchards and residences. Finally BRL has revealed its proposal to industrialise this area into one huge bauxite and gravel quarry. The fact that BRL has suddenly become a bauxite-and-gravel company is very telling – we can only wonder where to next?" Mr Gascoine said.

Mr Gascoine said "It is self-evident to most people, especially to those with experience of mining, that this is an ill-considered proposal which is incompatible with existing agricultural and tourism investment, environmental values and the population density of the area. BRL sees the North Bindoon area only as "degraded farmland" and mounds of bauxite – residents see it very differently and R4RM will continue to work to protect our beautiful environment, our investment and our lifestyle from irresponsible, large scale, low margin mining proposals".

#### **Presentation "incoherent"**

Ron Renton, a 30 year veteran of the bauxite industry described the BRL presentation as "possibly the most incoherent and uncohesive that I have ever seen". Mr Carbon repeated the thesis that bauxite is common gravel and stated that the company would extract about 1mtpa of bauxite ore for export to China, and about 1mtpa of gravel for local use. "Bauxite ore is NOT gravel and to say in some way that it is "high quality gravel" is technically incorrect" said Renton, "We know that a raw bauxite business is not going to be profitable – this would appear to be all about an alumina refinery".

BRL has announced plans to undertake a feasibility study for an alumina refinery initially at Kemerton, but now thought to be targeted at Manjimup using bauxite ore from its southern tenement application areas. It has blanket pegged more than 3,200,000 Ha of land in the State's south-west, more than 3 times the combined area held under tenement by Alcoa and BHP Billiton for bauxite mining.



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## **No feasibility, more backflips and fudging**

Responding to questions from residents at the meeting Mr Carbon said:

- There would be no feasibility study conducted of the 2mtpa bauxite direct-shipping-ore and gravel extraction proposal, and if there was it would not be made public. This confirms R4RM's contention that the proposed DSO operation is not financially viable and is being done to save face and keep Chinese investors interested in a Refinery proposal.
- Even though rail transport via Mooliabeenee Siding was not viable, he would not rule out going back there

Mr Carbon gave no satisfactory response to the major problems of dust and noise that would be generated by the proposal, and fudged the transport figures. At 2mtpa R4RM estimates that there would be at least one road-train every 4 minutes on average. Nor would Mr Carbon confirm where the company would source the water required for ore processing and dust suppression except to say that it would be "brought in"

## **Is Carbon seeing double?**

About 80 people attended the public meeting (as counted by an R4RM supporter) including BRL personnel and employees. The overwhelming majority of those present spoke out strongly against the mining proposals. "Barry Carbon's claim on ABC Radio that there were 200 people at the meeting and that the proposal was well-received are more untruths which we have come to expect from BRL" said Mr Gascoine

## **Accusations against R4RM**

Mr Carbon used the meeting to accuse Derek Gascoine of lying at the previous February 2010 public meeting over claims there was evidence that BRL had extracted more than the permitted 130,000 tonnes in its Stage 1 operation. Mr Gascoine stood by his claim based on a professional estimate done in the absence of any monitoring of quantities by the Shire and authorities. Mr Carbon also accused R4RM supporters of a "criminal act" by exercising their right to lodge a petition with the WA Legislative Council seeking an inquiry into the permitting of bauxite mining in Chittering contrary to the Town Planning Scheme and without environmental assessment.

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