



Residents for Responsible Mining
www.r4rm.com

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CHINESE GOVERNMENT ENTITIES TO CONTROL MINING IN SOUTH WEST WA

Chittering residents' group, Residents for Responsible Mining (R4RM), commented today that Bauxite Resources' recent announcement (22/9/2010) (ASX:BAU) advised of two planned joint ventures with entities owned by Chinese Provincial Government. In each case a majority controlling interest in a proposed alumina refinery and separately, in all of the exploration tenements held by BRL, will pass to a foreign sovereign government entity.

Derek Gascoine, co-convenor of R4RM, said "BRL has blanketed the South West corner of WA with tenement applications covering about 15,000,000Ha (15,000km²) of land including most of the Darling Ranges and key food production, tourism and lifestyle areas such as the Chittering Valley, Bridgetown and Manjimup which host prime agricultural land. These areas are vital for clean air, food, water and environmental biodiversity however no State or Federal politician has, as yet, commented on this unprecedented land-grab which should be a subject of concern and debate".

"Proposals by BRL and Chinese Government entities for large scale, low-margin strip mining of agricultural land surrounded by forests, rivers and world-renowned biodiversity is of great concern to all West Australians" Mr Gascoine said, "however our politicians have opted to sit back and let "the processes" take their course. This means farmers and communities face massive additional risks to their water supply, increased land salinity and the spread of dieback to agricultural areas to name a few. Is our government prepared for foreign-controlled mining to dominate land use in the SW at the expense of agriculture, tourism and social amenity, so that decades of investment are lost and future investment paralysed?"

R4RM is a residents' group formed in Chittering in 2009 after BRL commenced bauxite mining from agricultural land for export to China without appropriate environmental and regulatory approvals, under the guise of "gravel extraction". BRL has now proposed a 10mt bauxite and gravel extraction operation centred on Bindoon Hill at the north end of the Chittering Valley which the EPA will assess through a Public Environmental Review (subject to appeal). R4RM opposes mining in Chittering where there is any risk of impact on agriculture, tourism, the environment and visual and residential amenity.

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