



Residents for Responsible Mining
www.r4rm.com

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BAUXITE/ALUMINIUM DUST CONTAMINATES BINDOON DRINKING WATER

R4RM announced today that Bindoon resident and R4RM Co-convenor, Derek Gascoine has advised the results of laboratory tests of his drinking water collected from his roof into a tank.

The tests, conducted by Chem Centre, showed the rainwater collected this year contained 0.19mg/L of aluminium. This compared to water in another tank from previous years with an aluminium content of 0.037mg/L. **Test results attached.**

The most logical source of this new contamination is aluminium-rich dust blown by the strong easterly winds from the property at Lot 7 Toy Road on top of Bindoon Hill adjacent to Mr Gascoine's farm and house.

"Following winter rains this year I noticed that my No 2 rainwater tank which was connected to the house at the time of those rains was discoloured a pale yellow. This hadn't happened in 25 years of collecting water so I had the water tested and was shocked when I got the results" Mr Gascoine said, "I checked the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines to discover that 0.2mg/L is the maximum advisable limit for aluminium in processed tap water and my fresh rainwater is at the limit. It also means my home grown vegetables, the natural food chain and the air we breathe are all contaminated with higher aluminium levels."

Mr Jonathon Dwyer, the owner of Lot 7 Toy Road is an employee of Bauxite Resources Limited (ASX:BAU). In September 2010 Mr Dwyer was granted a new Extractive Industry Licence in controversial circumstances by the Shire of Chittering enabling the development of new gravel pit areas that Shire officers had already approved.

"I stood in front of the Shire Council and told them my drinking water was polluted by dust – I didn't know it was aluminium-rich dust at the time" Gascoine said. "I also pointed out that Lot 7 Toy Road is included in the Public Environmental Review announced by the EPA for BRL's 2mtpa bauxite + gravel proposal, and that the Extractive Licence application had not been properly advertised and that gravel extraction in this location breaches Town Planning Scheme 6 - but all of these very valid reasons for not granting the licence were shrugged off. I have now sent the water test results to the Shire demanding urgent action to revoke the licence. As of today I haven't had a response from the Shire".

R4RM believes that Bauxite Resources' 2mtpa proposal is irresponsible and unsustainable due to the environmental sensitivity of the area and the likely impacts on agriculture, tourism, residents' amenity and the beauty of the region. Bindoon Hill at the top of the Darling Range hosts many tributaries of the Brockman River and is surrounded by a large number of small to medium farms mostly growing grapes, citrus, stone fruit, nuts and livestock breeding on some of the most productive soils in the State.



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“There is a very rich pod of bauxite on top of Bindoon Hill as shown on Department of Mines’ maps right where Mr Dwyer’s new ‘gravel pit’ is located - so we believe part of the real purpose of the new Extractive Licence is probably to access bauxite for BRL.”

An aerial photograph (copy attached) of the linear pit taken on 15 August 2010 by a member of R4RM was described by an experienced independent mining engineer as “definitely not” a gravel pit, but a costean or trench used to extract bulk samples of minerals.

“Whatever is being extracted is polluting my water with high aluminium levels. This demonstrates our point – there is no such thing as “minimal impact mining”. It is not feasible or appropriate to conduct gravel or bauxite extraction in this location and apart from any other objections, it’s clearly a serious health risk to the community and the environment.” Gascoine said.

Attached: Chem Centre water test results for D Gascoine from Lot 14 Wells Glover Rd – October 2010

Aerial photograph, costean at Lot 7 Toy Road Bindoon – 15 August 2010

Link: National Health and Medical Research Council: Australian Drinking Water Guidelines – Fact Sheets:
http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/_files_nhmrc/file/publications/synopses/adwg_11_06_fact_sheets.pdf

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R4RM is a residents’ group formed in September 2009 in response to BRL’s Stage 1 bauxite mining operation starting up in the Shire of Chittering under a gravel Extraction Licence despite the Town Planning Scheme not permitting mining, and without public consultation and environmental assessment.