



Residents for Responsible Mining

www.r4rm.com

MEDIA RELEASE : 14 October 2013

CHITTERING CELEBRATES BAUXITE MINER'S EXIT

Chittering residents celebrated at the weekend, elated at the news that Bauxite Alumina Joint Ventures (BAJV) has withdrawn its Bindoon bauxite mining proposal from the EPA's PER assessment process and is departing from the area.

It's the news we've been waiting for – it's been a long 4 years since Bauxite Resources Limited (BRL) arrived in our Shire "under the radar". R4RM never believed BRL's mining plans were realistic given the size, quality and location of the deposits so close to farms, homes and food-growing areas and with insurmountable challenges on water and transport.

This is a great victory for rural residents even though it has come at a significant cost – at least \$150,000 in residents' contributions to the initial fighting fund and four years of uncertainty and anxiety in our community whilst BRL and its offspring, BAJV postured and fiddle-faddled around pretending to have a project to the point where the PER process under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* had become a disorderly farce.

R4RM believes the "final straw" for BAJV was confirmation on 29 September 2013 that IMF Australia Ltd, the litigation fund, was going ahead with a shareholders' class action claiming misleading and deceptive conduct by BRL. R4RM's convenors have always claimed that BRL lied its way into Chittering in 2009 to start bauxite mining in breach of the local Town Planning Scheme which also means that potentially the company's shareholders were misled about the company's activities.

The news about the legal claim came out of the blue for R4RM – we had given up hope of it proceeding and we're overjoyed that BRL is finally having to face up to its actions. But we'd like to know: where was ASIC, the ASX and the Department of Minerals while this has been going on? Our formal complaints to these agencies have been fobbed off. Why is it left to a group of residents and company shareholders to fund the monitoring and policing of these rogues?

R4RM will be asking for confirmation from the WA Government that the withdrawal of the Bindoon mining proposal brings to an end, once and for all, attempts to mine bauxite in Chittering – bauxite which was found to be un-mineable as long ago as 1975. The Government needs to face the reality that these scattered deposits have been sterilised by 40 years of residential and agricultural investment.

Background Facts:

- Bauxite Alumina JV (Bauxite Resources Limited and its Chinese partners) were proponents of a 2 million tonne per annum bauxite mining proposal for 5 years from prime agricultural land north of Bindoon in the Shire of Chittering, WA, less than one hour from Perth. The project was strongly opposed by neighbouring farmers and an overwhelming majority of the community.



Residents for Responsible Mining

www.r4rm.com

- Since September 2010 the Bindoon proposal has been subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (Public Environmental Review) under the *Environmental Assessment Act 1986*. The PER has moved at a snail's pace with no meaningful information about the mining proposal provided to the Shire or the community.
- "Industry – Mining" is not a permitted land use in the Shire of Chittering. Previous bauxite mining proposals (1970s, 1980s) at the same location were abandoned as being environmentally, technically, economically and socially unfeasible.
- Bauxite Resources is the subject of a class action by ex-shareholders for misleading and deceptive conduct. Refer to IMF Australia Limited (ASX:IMF) who is funding the action.

The background to Bauxite Alumina Joint Venture's 2 million tonne per year Bindoon mining proposal and previous R4RM Media Releases can be viewed at www.r4rm.com

For further information, please contact:

**Residents for Responsible Mining
Co Convenors:**

**Clair Medhurst
Tel: 0411 492 769**

**Derek Gascoine
Tel: 0408 921 228**