



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Communities vs Rio Tinto in Perth Mining Warden's Court**

**Perth, Western Australia - 3 February 2023**

Community objections to Rio Tinto's application to explore for lithium and other minerals in the Northern Jarrah Forests continue today in the Perth Mining Warden's Court.

Rio Tinto has applied for an exploration license covering over 100,000 hectares of native forest in the Northern Jarrah Forest region, between Perth and Collie.

WA Forest Alliance (WAFA) is one of nine groups representing environmental, public interest and scientific concerns which have formally objected to Rio Tinto's applications, along with the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council and Shires of Waroona and Murray.

The matter is listed for a mention hearing in the Perth Mining Warden's Court in the Central Law Courts today at 10am.

### **Comments attributed to Jess Beckerling, WAFA convener**

"The idea of Rio Tinto smashing down old-growth Jarrah forests, including spectacular forests right near Dwellingup and along the Nanga Brook is just outrageous - particularly with everything we know about climate change and the value of intact forests.

"This week, the Minister for Water announced a significant reduction in Alcoa's water license in recognition of the 23 per cent drop in rainfall the region has suffered in recent decades.

"The last thing we need is a major new mining company in the region threatening local water supply.

"Climate change is having profound impacts on this incredibly diverse and precious part of the world and there can be no new mining in these forests.

“The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has identified the region as one of a handful of Australian ecosystems most at risk of climate collapse and recommends stopping clearing to reduce this risk.

“We cannot keep clearing forests and using up scarce water resources and expect regions to stay in good shape.

“Communities are objecting to this application because of the social, environmental, health, economic, cultural and wellbeing impacts Rio Tinto’s plans would have if they were to go ahead.

“It simply goes against the public interest and that’s why we’re seeing this scale of opposition from local communities.”

**ENDS**

**MEDIA INFORMATION:** For questions relating to this media release, please contact Jinni Wilson [media@wafa.org.au](mailto:media@wafa.org.au) and 0459 709 216

**ABOUT THE WA FOREST ALLIANCE:** WAFA was established in 1990 to provide an umbrella organisation for the many community groups working to protect WA’s South West forests. We represent 26 groups concerned with forest conservation in our effective advocacy and education programs. Since formation, we have worked towards our ultimate goal of the full protection of WA’s native forests and woodlands from logging and clearing.

For more information, visit: [wafa.org.au/](http://wafa.org.au/) or find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.