



For immediate release

4th April 2023

No room for Alcoa's strip-mining in a sustainable future

The community have turned out in force to voice opposition to Alcoa's strip-mining and refinery operations at the Peel Regional Growth and Major Projects conference in Mandurah today.

Rob Bear, Vice President of Operations for Alcoa Australia gave a presentation titled '60 years of value creation in the Peel Region,' outlining a company 'vision to reinvent our industry for a sustainable future.'

Community opposition to broad-scale forest destruction is mounting after recent media exposes revealed that Alcoa has not rehabilitated a single hectare of the more than 28,000 ha of forest it has cleared for bauxite, and is currently seeking access to another 9,723 ha.

Wafa campaign director Jess Beckerling said, 'Alcoa has a very long way to go to reinvent a sustainable industry from such a low basepoint.'

Alcoa's high-risk mining has been described by the Water Corporation as a 'very significant intergenerational risk' to nine drinking water catchments in the Perth-Peel region.

The latest documents released under FOI reveal that 250,000 people in Perth rely solely on the Serpentine dam for their drinking water, which they would have to boil to make safe, or rely on bottled water, in the event of contamination by Alcoa's mining.

In a briefing note released under FOI, the Water Corporation blames the failure of regulation on the out-dated State Agreement Acts, 'due to limitations associated with the outdated management framework associated with the relevant State Agreements.'

Jess Beckerling, campaign director of the WA Forest Alliance said that:

'The special treatment that Alcoa has enjoyed was never appropriate, but especially now that the company has shown itself to be so untrustworthy with our forests and our water, we need to act fast to scrap the old-world State Agreement it operates under, and engage in a thorough assessment of how we want to care for the precious and vulnerable Northern Jarrah Forests.'

'The community has made it very clear in Mandurah today, there is no room for Alcoa's strip-mining in a sustainable future,' said Ms Beckerling.

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