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A major win for forests: Rio Tinto announces it will not be mining in the Northern Jarrah Forests

Rio Tinto has today announced that it will be withdrawing its applications to explore for minerals in the Northern Jarrah Forests.

“This is a big win for the forests,” said Jess Beckerling, director of the WA Forest Alliance.

“Rio Tinto applied for 10 tenements, covering 107,000ha of forest ecosystems in February 2022.

“There was an immediate and powerful response from the community to Rio’s applications.

“There is no social license for new mines in the forests, and Rio Tinto has made the right decision in withdrawing its applications.

“We want to thank and congratulate all the people who worked so hard to remove this threat from the forests.

“It is critically important that we protect the remaining native forests. There should be no new mining contemplated in these precious ecosystems. We need them to be formally, securely protected.

“In recent months FOI documents released to WAFA have shown that government entities responsible for water quality and supply do not consider it safe or appropriate for mining to be further developed in the highly sensitive water catchments in the Northern Jarrah Forests.

“Other mining companies, principally Alcoa, South32 and Telupac, must follow suit and acknowledge that there is no support for new mines in the Northern Jarrah Forests.

“We are delighted that this significant threat is no longer hanging over the forests.

“We are urging the State Government to act decisively to securely protect these forests in a network of National Parks and Nature Reserves,” said Ms Beckerling.

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