

Mr. J. Gardner
Environmental Manager (Mining)
PO Box 252
Applecross
WA 6953

22 Lindsay Place
Glen Forrest
WA 6071

February 14th 2006

Dear Mr. Gardner,

Re: Alcoa's future Mining Plans in the Northern Jarrah Forest, Western Australia

In February 2004 I wrote to the company with regard to the possibility of Alcoa relinquishing what is known as the "Alcoa Access Corridor" which divides the Helena National Park into two sections making the area inconsistent with the concept of continuity of land functioning as a wildlife corridor / safe habitat.

In a letter dated 19th May 2004, signed by yourself, Alcoa declined as the company considered that: -

....a balanced compromise has been reached that satisfies the objective of effective wildlife conservation.....

It was also stated that: -

...the areas referred to as Helena coupes 02 and 03 and the Beraking coupes contain substantial bauxite reserves.

In a paper, Gardner J, Stoneman G, Bauxite Mining And Conservation Of The Jarrah Forest in South-West Australia presented, in 2003, to the IUCN/ICMM workshop in Switzerland, it is stated that: -

Each year Alcoa submits for approval, rolling 5-year mine plans to a State Government committee known as the Mining and Management Program Liaison Group....

The company also submits 25 year indicative mine plans on a regular basis (p 4)

Development of mine plans is a complex and lengthy processBefore any drilling for exploration and ore definition commences surveys are undertaken to map the distribution of dieback disease in the forest. (p 5)

Clearing (of the forest) is preceded by salvage logging operations.....Clearing notice is usually given two years in advance of mining....(p 7)

In light of the above information, and in view of the increased demand for alumina:

1. Is Alcoa in a position to advise the Eastern Hills Branch of the Wildflower Society (WA) Inc. what stage of the planning process has been reached with regard to a mining operation in Helena coupes 02 and 03, and Beraking coupes?
2. When does Alcoa envisage (generally or specifically) commencing mining operations in this area?

Yours sincerely

Laurie Maddison
Member, Conservation Committee
Eastern Hills Branch of the Wildflower Society (WA) Inc.