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**Alcoa World Alumina
Australia**

**A global alliance between
Alcoa and Alumina Limited**

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19 May 2004

Ms E M Maddison

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
22 Lindsay Place
GLEN FORREST WA 6071

Dear Ms Maddison

I refer to your enquiry relating to the proposed boundaries for the Helena National Park and Alcoa's future mining plans.

As you correctly point out in your letter, these boundaries were investigated and agreed upon during negotiations for the Regional Forest Agreement for the South West Forest Region of WA. The proposed Helena National Park more or less dissects Alcoa's mineral lease from west to east and hence potentially cuts off effective access to future ore reserves to the north. For this reason, the proposed Helena National Park boundaries were drawn to retain an "access corridor" for Alcoa's future mining requirements. At the same time the area within the "corridor" was designated CAR informal reserve status, thereby protecting the forest from future logging. This forest classification will ensure that the forest remains a functional wildlife corridor, consistent with the community's and your group's stated objectives. Under these arrangements, Alcoa considers that a balanced compromise has been reached that satisfies the objective of effective wildlife conservation, and Alcoa would not support a change of classification for land in the "corridor".

In relation to the other areas referred to in your letter; I have met with officers of CALM to discuss the prospects for consideration of your requests. As I understand it, all three of the areas referred to are currently available for logging and contribute to the new Forest Management Plan's estimates of sustained timber yields. At the time of writing this response, I have not received from CALM a position on the prospects for any of the areas to be removed from the sustained yield calculations, and following this, consideration of alternative land tenures. If this advice is received, Alcoa will give your proposals due consideration. However, I feel that I should point out that the areas referred to as Helena coupes 02 and 03 and the Beraking coupes contain substantial bauxite reserves. Alcoa is therefore unlikely to support relinquishing this commercially valuable bauxite and agreeing to these areas being added to the formal reserve estate.

As an outcome from a number of assessments of the conservation estate in the Northern Jarrah Forest, spanning three decades and encompassing the Conservation Through Reserves process, three iterations of Forest Management Plans and the Regional Forest

Agreement, Alcoa has relinquished about 15% of its bauxite reserves through supporting the establishment of a comprehensive, representative and adequate reserve system. Alcoa believes that further biodiversity conservation and wildlife protection within its mineral lease in the Northern Jarrah Forest should be carried out under a range of management strategies, without the need for further reclassification of land tenure and sterilization of bauxite reserves. I enclose with this letter a copy of a paper, prepared and presented last year at an IUCN/ICMM¹ Workshop on Biodiversity and Mining in Gland Switzerland, which describes some of the history about the establishment of conservation reserves in the Jarrah Forest.

I apologise for taking so long to respond to your letter, although I know that through my conversations with Jael Johnson you have been kept informed on the actions I have taken. I also only read your latest letter this week, on my return from an overseas business trip. I hope this letter provides you with the information to present to your committee.

Yours sincerely



John Gardner
Environmental Manager Mining

Encl:

Gardner J and Stoneman G. (2003) Bauxite Mining and Conservation of the Jarrah Forest in South-West Australia

Copy to: J. Radisich MLA Member for Swan Hills
L. Pratt MLC Member for East Metropolitan Region
J. Day MLA Darling Range
J. Sharp Director of National Parks, Dept of CALM
G. Rundle Conservation Commission of WA
M. James Chair MMPLG Dept of Industry & Resources

¹ IUCN – The World Conservation Union. ICMM – International Council for Mining and Metals