

ASX Announcement

7 August 2023

## WA EPA opens public comment period

As previously announced, Alcoa of Australia Limited (Alcoa) has been working with relevant state government agencies to support Alcoa's annual mine approvals process for its mines in Western Australia.

In addition, a third party referred Alcoa's current and next rolling five-year plans to the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) for assessment under the WA Environmental Protection Act 1986 (the Act).

Alumina Limited (ASX:AWC) notes that the EPA today opened a public comment period on whether to conduct an environmental impact assessment into parts of Alcoa's current and next rolling five-year plans for its mines in WA.

Following public consultation, the EPA will decide whether to conduct an assessment into parts of these mine plans – known as the 2022-2026 and 2023-2027 Mining and Management Programs (MMPs) – and, if so, at what level. There is no set timeframe for the EPA's determination.

Given the uncertainty of an impending EPA assessment decision, if any, and the potential impacts on its mining and refining operations, Alcoa is currently unable to estimate the financial impact of a potential EPA assessment.

Alcoa continues to mine lower grade bauxite at the Huntly mine in areas approved under the existing statutory approvals process to extend ore supply while it works through the approvals process.

Further information on the EPA process can be found on its website (<https://consultation.epa.wa.gov.au/seven-day-comment-on-referrals/bauxite-mining-darling-range/>).

We note the statement today from Alcoa (attached).

This ASX announcement was approved and authorised for release by Mike Ferraro, Chief Executive Officer.



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# Media Release

7 August 2023

## **Alcoa reaffirms its commitment to modernise its mining approvals**

Aluminium producer Alcoa has reaffirmed its commitment to modernise the approvals framework for its bauxite mining in Western Australia as the State's Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) seeks public comment on the matter.

The EPA today opened a public comment period on whether it should conduct an environmental impact assessment into parts of Alcoa's current and next rolling five-year plans for its mines in the south-west of WA. The plans were referred to the EPA for assessment by a third party in February.

Following public consultation, the EPA will decide whether to conduct an assessment into parts of these mine plans – known as the 2022-2026 and 2023-2027 Mining and Management Programs (MMPs) – and, if so, at what level. There is no set timeframe for the EPA's determination.

Alcoa Australia President Matt Reed said the public comment period, which closes on 15 August, was an important step forward in the EPA process and therefore gaining clarity on the Company's WA bauxite mining.

"Our utmost focus remains on securing certainty for our current and future bauxite mining operations. We firmly believe we can continue to operate safely and responsibly under both our existing robust statutory approvals framework set under our WA State Agreements and the more contemporary EPA approvals framework we are committed to transitioning to over a reasonable timeframe," Mr Reed said.

The annual MMP review process involves expert input by a host of government departments and agencies, and approval by the Minister for State Development in consultation with other ministers.

Mr Reed said Alcoa's referral in 2020 of its next major Huntly mine regions – Myara North and Holyoake – for EPA environmental impact assessment was a demonstration of the Company's commitment to modernising its approvals framework.

"There must be a reasonable transition period during which we will continue to work collaboratively with various stakeholders and regulators to meet evolving requirements and expectations," Mr Reed said.

"We are increasing controls to protect drinking water, stepping up mine site rehabilitation and enhancing the management of social impacts including recently announced no mining zones around the towns of Dwellingup and Jarrahdale.

"We are proud of our environmental track record and economic and social contributions to WA over the last 60 years and firmly believe we can continue to operate safely and responsibly."

Alcoa continues to mine lower grade bauxite at the Huntly mine in areas approved under the existing statutory approvals process to extend ore supply. Given the uncertainty of an EPA

assessment decision, if any, and the potential impacts on its mining and refining operations, the Company is currently unable to estimate the financial impact of a potential EPA assessment.

Alcoa's two bauxite mines supply the Company's three alumina refineries in WA. Combined, these operations employ about 4,300 people in the State and produce about 50 per cent of Australia's alumina, the feedstock for aluminium, which is an increasingly important element in a world working to further decarbonise.

In 2022, Alcoa paid about \$700 million in wages and benefits in WA and spent \$1.7 billion with some 920 local businesses.

## **ENDS**

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### **EDITOR'S NOTE:**

#### **About Alcoa in Australia**

Alcoa has a proud history in Australia which it aims to continue by adding value to the communities where it operates, providing jobs for future generations and protecting and preserving the environment via world-leading research and rehabilitation programs.

- Alcoa's Australian operations have been contributing to the nation's economy since 1963, investing more than \$14.7 billion over 60 years.
- Alcoa employs 4850 people in Australia. Approximately 4300 live in Western Australia.
- In our 60 years, Alcoa has taken on more than 2600 apprentices, trainees and graduates.
- In 2022, 84 per cent of Alcoa Australia's revenue stayed in Australia through wages, local spend, taxes, royalties and dividends to Australian shareholders. Our Australian operations:
  - Invested \$2.6 billion with 1560 Australian suppliers;
  - Paid \$425 million in local, state and federal government taxes and royalties;
  - Paid \$763 million in Australian wages, salaries and associated benefits; and
  - Made \$4.9 million in community contributions.

Discover more by visiting [www.alcoa.com/australia](http://www.alcoa.com/australia), or follow us on our Australian social media channels: [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

#### **About Alcoa Corporation**

Alcoa (NYSE: AA) is a global industry leader in bauxite, alumina and aluminium products with a vision to reinvent the aluminium industry for a sustainable future. With a values-based approach that encompasses integrity, operating excellence, care for people and courageous leadership, our purpose is to Turn Raw Potential into Real Progress. Since developing the process that made aluminium an affordable and vital part of modern life, our talented employees have developed breakthrough innovations and best practices that have led to greater efficiency, safety, sustainability, and stronger communities wherever we operate. Discover more by visiting [www.alcoa.com](http://www.alcoa.com), or follow us on our global social media channels: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#)