

ASX release

12 February 2014

Cape Alumina to appear as a witness at a public hearing

Graeme Sherlock (Cape Alumina's Managing Director and CEO) has been invited to appear as a witness at a public hearing in connection with the Regional Planning Interests Bill 2013. The hearing is being organised by the Queensland State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee.

Graeme's input into the public hearing will commence about 11:10 am today and may be viewed via live broadcast at the Queensland Parliament website: www.parliament.qld.gov.au (click on the "Work of Committees" tab and then click on "Live Broadcasts" or "Archives").

The invitation to appear as a witness at the public hearing follows Cape Alumina's detailed submission on the Regional Planning Interests Bill 2013 (Submission no. 12). Cape Alumina will present further arguments why the decision to ban mining in the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve (SIWR) should not have been taken as a choice between the environment and mining. Mining can be successfully undertaken in this area, the environment can be protected and traditional owners can have the opportunity for employment and economic prosperity.

The decision on the SIWR has not been enacted and Graeme will implore the Committee to question why the decision was made and whether full consideration has been given to the consequences of the decision for Queensland and Australia, including (in nominal dollars):

- a loss of **\$600 million** in state royalties and payroll taxes from the Pisolite Hills Mine & Port Project which could have gone directly to either paying down State debt or used in Royalties to Regions programs to help transform the Cape York economy;
- a cost to the Queensland economy of over **\$3 billion** in economic activity over the next 15 years, much of this in far north Queensland which is desperate for opportunities;
- a cost to the Australian economy of over **\$500 million** in lost Federal Government taxes; and more importantly
- destruction of the hopes and dreams of the Traditional Owners of this land of breaking the welfare cycle through employment, creating sustainable businesses and direct royalties. The traditional owners have lost over **\$375 million** directly in royalties and employment.

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