

Webinar presentation by MD and CEO

Aluminium Can....Do more.... for Australia, with the right policies and support

A couple of weeks ago, I took the opportunity to visit Australian Parliament House in Canberra along with colleagues from the Australian Aluminium Council (AAC), to meet with a number of Federal Ministers as well as other Government and Opposition representatives to highlight the importance of bauxite in the mine to market aluminium value chain in Australia and the policy settings that will enable the industry to remain competitive and grow into the future. The key points and **the reason that they are important to Metro** are laid out below:

- Aluminium is a critical metal and demand will likely double by 2050: It is defined as such by the World Bank and many jurisdictions around the world, not just for continued improvement in infrastructure, buildings and food storage but for the rapid changes occurring in energy generation (renewables/storage), transmission (grids) and transportation (EVs/batteries) and its recyclability. **For Metro: This underpins the long term growth in demand for bauxite and critical mineral status in Australia would improve Metro's access to funding support, attention from regulators and a wider pool of global capital allocated to critical minerals.**
- Australia has a unique advantage in the existence of the entire aluminium value chain combining \$18B of value add domestically and more than \$15B in export revenue. **For Metro: Whilst most of our bauxite is exported, this may not always be the case, and we benefit from domestic technical, operational and regulatory expertise in extracting bauxite.**
- The aluminium value chain employs 20,000 direct employees and further 55,000 indirect/induced full-time jobs at wages 160% above the manufacturing average, which are almost all in regional and remote areas. **For Metro, as our direct/contractor employees surpass 400 with our expansion, 80% of those wages stay in Far North Queensland which, together with the indirect offsite support jobs, directly benefit our host communities. This is a win-win.**
- The whole of the integrated value chain is at risk if one of the elements fails. Timely and sensible bauxite approvals and the underpinning of competitive and cleaner energy are very important. **For Metro, federal and state environmental approvals as we explore and grow our business will be crucial. Certainty and consistency of process will underpin our investment in our future. We also plan to reduce our dependency on diesel at site to reduce costs through access to latest technology.**

We had a good reception from the likes of Minister the Hon Chris Bowen MP, Minister for Energy and Climate Change, Minister the Hon Ed Husic MP, Minister for Industry and Science, the Treasurer's and Resource's Minister's Offices, Meryll Swanson MP and Dan Repacholi MP and also the Opposition's Friends of Resources group including the Hon Sussan Ley MP, Senator Susan MacDonald and Mr Rick Wilson MP. There was collective acknowledgement of how important the sector is to



Australia in terms of value add, exports and regional employment.

By the same token, in the near term there is a need for industry and government to come together to make the sector more competitive in the face of industry wide shifts and competition from other locations with cheap energy, lower standards and lower barriers to entry. If this can be done, then there is opportunity to grow the industry. **For Metro, we are already ramping up our expansion to 7 million tonnes per annum capacity as global alumina production continues to grow and we are restarting exploration.**

If you want to know more about what Aluminium Can Do, go to our website and click on the [AI](#) button.

I will be holding a webinar to cover some additional perspectives on the aluminium and bauxite market and answer any questions you may have.

Details of the webinar are as follows:

When: Thursday 12th September

Time: 3.00pm AEST

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_E1bL7yf1TFynv0WCQ5R-pA

This announcement has been approved by the MD and CEO, Mr Simon Wensley.

ENDS.

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About Bauxite and Metro Mining

Bauxite is the ore used to make aluminium, a critical and strong growth metal in the energy transition. Metro Mining is an independent bauxite producer and explorer, with its 100% owned Bauxite Hills Mine operating on the Weipa bauxite plateau approximately 95k, North of Weipa, near the coast on the Skardon River. Metro Mining produces a high alumina bauxite, shipping direct to customers in very large ore carriers. Metro Mining recognises and has productive agreements with the traditional owners of the land on which it operates and is proud of its high percentage of indigenous employees and the economic impact it has in Cape York and Far North Queensland.