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Cape Alumina and Bertiehaugh Cattle Station

Emerging bauxite producer Cape Alumina Pty Ltd will work closely with all key local stakeholders in the development of environment management plans for its Pisolite Hills bauxite project and reaffirms it has no intention of mining in wet land areas of Cape York.

Cape Alumina CEO, Mr Paul Messenger said today the Company was aware of comments by members of the Irwin family, the new lessees of the Bertiehaugh cattle station, regarding the proposed bauxite mine, 50km north of Weipa.

"We have no plans to develop in sensitive wet land areas of Cape York," Mr Messenger said. "Our project is very much centred on a dry bauxite plateau," he said.

"Cape Alumina has spent the past four years undertaking a range of studies including field research, environment surveys and monitoring in preparation for an Environment Impact Statement (EIS).

"I believe we agree with many stakeholders - including representatives of Bertiehaugh cattle station - that the region requires a number of environment management programs, chief among them working together to remove feral pigs and to protect natural springs.

"Springs occur throughout Cape York and the Bertiehaugh Cattle Station, often on the margin of some bauxite areas. Most are in areas we neither have permits for or wish to operate in.

"Work by our environment consultants indicate that the area we wish to mine is 'not of concern' under the Queensland Government EPA's biodiversity classifications or the Vegetation Management Act. Nevertheless, we recognise the Weipa Bauxite Plateau does have a number of distinctive features.

"Our primary focus is not Bertiehaugh cattle station. It just so happens that exploration permits granted to us by the Government in 2006 overlap a portion of the far western side of Bertiehaugh cattle station adjacent to the existing RioTinto Alcan leases.

"Our mining and rehabilitation work would affect 200 hectares of the Weipa Bauxite Plateau each year - a small fraction of the entire 135,000 hectare Bertiehaugh cattle station.

"The EIS we will undertake during 2008 and 2009 will be the most comprehensive environment study ever undertaken in the area and I am sure subjects of environment interest can be addressed through continued consultation.

"Cape Alumina has forged strong ties with Traditional Owners and has a number of agreements in place. We will continue to work closely with all stakeholders, as we have for the past four years," Mr Messenger said.

For further enquiries please contact

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