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## Cape Alumina Ltd signs new land access agreement for exploration

**Emerging bauxite producer Cape Alumina Limited's approach to indigenous and environmental issues has been further endorsed by Traditional Owners with the signing of a new access agreement to explore Aboriginal land on Cape York.**

The agreement with the Mapoon Trustees gives Cape Alumina access for exploration over an area of approximately 15,000 hectares on Cape York.

It is the fourth exploration agreement between Cape Alumina and representatives of the Aboriginal communities in the western Cape York region over the past 4 years, and the second agreement with the Mapoon Trustees.

Cape Alumina CEO Dr Paul Messenger said the agreement covered the detail of how Cape Alumina planned to continue exploring for bauxite and how it will conduct operations in Cape York.

Dr Messenger said by signing the agreement, Cape Alumina has undertaken to respect the rights and interests of Traditional Owners, undertake environmental management and rehabilitation and protect local cultural heritage during planned exploration activities.

"I believe this new agreement is an endorsement of the Company's approach to important issues such as cultural heritage, Aboriginal employment and environmentally sound exploration practices," Dr Messenger said.

"Cape Alumina is committed to adhering to due and proper process as it conducts regional exploration and moves forward to the next stage of its Environmental Impact Statement at Pisolite Hills.

"But we also acknowledge that consent from the Trustees in this new agreement does not extend to mining.

"Separate negotiations, which are currently underway between the Trustees, relevant family groups and Cape Alumina, will need to be finalised before any mining activity can be contemplated. "

Dr Messenger said the first step of the agreement would involve working on an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage survey, to be done with Traditional Owners and used to develop a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP). The plan will outline how Cape Alumina will protect any sites that might be identified during exploration.

Cape Alumina has also made a commitment in the agreement to provide some employment for Traditional Owners, when undertaking Aboriginal Cultural Heritage surveys and also during exploration work.

The company will employ Traditional Owners to deliver a short Cultural Awareness Training course to employees involved in the exploration work, and to educate them about important issues for Traditional Owners.



"This agreement will allow Cape Alumina to evaluate another important area and provides support for us to continue with our exploration in the region," Dr Messenger said.

"It is another step forward for sensible sustainable development and is a demonstration of the open and transparent way that Cape Alumina does business in the region."

#### **About Cape Alumina and Pisolite Hills Bauxite Project**

Cape Alumina is a Brisbane-based, Cape York-focused emerging bauxite company. Cape Alumina has international support from Chinese alumina majors including Xinfu, one of China's leading independent aluminium and alumina groups. Cape Alumina proposes to develop the 7mtpa Pisolite Hills project during 2010 to meet increasing world bauxite demand. The first step in its development plans is an IPO this year, followed by development approvals and construction in 2010-11 with production planned for 2012.

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