

Pisolite Hills and Bertiehaugh Cattle Station aka "Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve" Misunderstandings and Facts

Misunderstanding

Cape Alumina plans to mine a wetland conservation reserve.

"Steve's Place"

Cape Alumina plans to mine 15% of Bertiehaugh Cattle Station

Cape Alumina will mine pristine rainforests

Cape Alumina will mine the springs, river and wet lands

Bauxite is the source of water for springs

The springs are unique

Fact

Cape Alumina has no plans to mine any wetlands. Bertiehaugh Pastoral Lease is mostly a dry land 100 year old **cattle station** of 135,000Ha which continues to be run as a cattle station under Mrs Irwin's ownership (from mid 2007) with plans to significantly **increase beef production** through capital improvements including the construction of **31 new dams**.

It is **Traditional Aboriginal Land**. It is not a gazetted "Steve's Place" or a "reserve". That is only a name given by Mrs Irwin.

Total planned mining areas and all related infrastructure will represent around **1.7%** of Bertiehaugh Station and will be fully rehabilitated progressively over the life of the mine.

Cape Alumina will not mine any rainforests. The proposed mining area is open dry stringybark country - it has been a **cattle station** for over one hundred years and is classified under the Vegetation Management Act as "**Not of Concern**".

Cape Alumina has no plans to mine nor harm any springs, river or wetlands. Cape Alumina plans to mine only on the elevated **dry stringybark country** 35 km from the coast, 60 m above sea level and approx 5-10 km from the Wenlock River.

The Bauxite is not the source of water for the springs and the bauxite does not act like a "Sponge" or "Water Filter". The bauxite is very porous and does not hold any rain water for any prolonged period of time. The bauxite layer is separated from "the aquifer", which is the source of spring water, by a thick clay barrier. This has been clearly demonstrated by detailed hydrological studies.

The Springs are not unique – Ecologists have now mapped over **100 evergreen springs** in the region north of Weipa.

Misunderstanding

Cape Alumina will draw massive amounts of water from the river

Mining bauxite will destroy the Springs

Springs are the Headwaters of the Wenlock River

We don't need the jobs that Pisolite Hills can provide

Cape Alumina's project will create a small number of short-term jobs

Fact

There will be negligible to no effect on the river. Pisolite Hills will utilise the most efficient water recycling technology and will **draw less than 0.3%** of the mean annual flow of the Wenlock River. It will not draw water during the late dry season or when river flows drop below a pre-determined level. **This is a very small fraction of the amount of water used in Cairns.**

Proposed mining operations will have negligible to no effect on the springs. The Queensland Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is unlikely to issue Cape Alumina an Environmental Authority (and Cape will therefore not be granted a Mining Lease) if the springs are shown to be threatened and can not be properly protected. The EPA will assess the Environmental Impact Study, which will be undertaken over a 3 year period at a cost of over \$3-4 million.

The Headwaters of the Wenlock River are **150 km upstream** from Pisolite Hills. Hydrology studies have revealed that the main springs and catchment in the Pisolite Hills area contribute between 0.24% and 1% of the Mean Annual flow of the Wenlock River and that **these springs DO NOT contribute significant wet or dry season base flows to the Wenlock River.**

The aboriginal communities of Cape York are some of the most disadvantaged people in Australia with limited opportunities for education, training, employment and business development that others take for granted. The Aboriginal Trustees, Traditional Land Owners and the Cape York Land Council have stated their desire to ensure DUE PROCESS is followed to potentially create jobs and business opportunities.

Cape Alumina has already provided dozens of jobs in the past five years. The construction phase will create up to 500 jobs while the mine operation itself will employ up to 350 people directly and many more indirectly. Many of these jobs will go to local Indigenous workers and there will be a trickle-down effect for local workers and businesses. The project has **potential to generate billions of dollars in export revenue for Queensland** and hundreds of millions of dollars in taxes and State royalties.