



Wednesday, 15 September 2010

## Media Release

### Key facts about Cape Alumina's Pisolite Hills project

A report broadcast on the Ten Network's *The 7pm Project* on September 13 contained a number of inaccurate assertions in relation to Cape Alumina's proposed Pisolite Hills mine and port project located in western Cape York, Queensland.

The report contained extensive footage of the Wenlock River, and interviews with the Irwin family by the side of the river claiming that the river and its ecosystems were "at risk" as a result of the project.

Cape Alumina's proposed mine lies between 2.8 and 15 kilometres away from the Wenlock River and the company's plans do not involve mining or harming any springs or rainforests.

The proposed mine site is located on an area of open, dry, Darwin Stringybark country, which is characterized by low nutrient soils and is common throughout Cape York and northern Australia.

The proposed mine site is partly located on the Bertiehaugh Cattle Station, where cattle grazing commenced in the late 1800s and continues today.

The Bertiehaugh Cattle Station was repeatedly and wrongly referred to as a "Reserve" when, in fact, it is a pastoral lease.

Cape Alumina's Application for Mining Lease (MLA) 20572 covers 12,360 hectares of Bertiehaugh Cattle Station. This equates to 9.16 per cent of the overall pastoral lease.

The actual land on the Bertiehaugh Cattle Station pastoral lease that is proposed to be mined is 2,053 hectares. This equates to 1.5 per cent of the overall pastoral lease, which will be fully and progressively rehabilitated and revegetated throughout the life of the mine.

While it is true that some water will be drawn from the upper tidal reaches of the Wenlock River to support the mine, the total volume of water is estimated to be 2,200 ML per year which is equivalent to 0.07% of the mean annual flow of the river and this will have minimal environmental impact.

Importantly, Mrs Terri Irwin confirmed in her interview with *The 7pm Project* that Cape Alumina's exploration lease pre-dated the \$6.8 million grant from the taxpayer to Mrs Irwin's private company to purchase the Bertiehaugh Cattle Station pastoral lease, and Queensland's Natural Resources Minister confirmed on the program the Company's pre-existing rights to mining exploration activities on the site.

David Claudie from the Chuulangun Aboriginal Corporation is not a Traditional Owner of the land on which the Pisolite Hills project would be constructed and does not speak for that land. About 80 per cent of the Aboriginal people of Mapoon, including the real Traditional Owners, support Cape Alumina's project and want to work in the mine.



The project would provide the Traditional Land Owners and Aboriginal people of Mapoon a rare opportunity to gain social and economic independence and prosperity.

Cape Alumina's studies show that the proposed 7 Mtpa Pisolite Hills project would boost economic activity by \$1.2 billion, in Net Present Value (NPV) terms, and create or sustain more than 1,700 jobs over the mine's 15-year life.

The boost to the Far North Queensland economy alone would be more than \$600 million in NPV terms and 1,300 jobs.

Cape Alumina has spent three years and around \$5 million conducting a comprehensive Environmental Impact Study. The Company is confident that the Wenlock River and its associated springs and tributaries will not be harmed by the proposed mining activity.

Cape Alumina has no plans to mine any wetlands, rivers, springs or areas of high conservation value and that the Wenlock River will be fully protected under the Company's operational and environmental management plans.

This land will be fully and progressively rehabilitated to its pre-mining condition. The project should not have a material impact on the future intentions of the adjoining landholders. And, in fact, Cape Alumina's proposal is consistent with the prevailing economic development plans for the region.

Cape Alumina believes the decision to declare the Wenlock River Basin a wild river was based purely upon political motivations rather than the application of good public policy that would benefit all Queenslanders, in particular the Traditional Owners and Aboriginal people of Mapoon and western Cape York.

Minister Robertson has acknowledged that his decision to declare a 500-metre exclusion zone for the Pisolite Hills project contradicted the advice of experts in his own department, who recommended a 300-metre zone.

While Cape Alumina has indicated it will not appeal the Queensland Government's decision to declare the Wenlock a wild river, the Company reserves the right to pursue all options to restore value for shareholders, and that includes legal action if necessary.

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