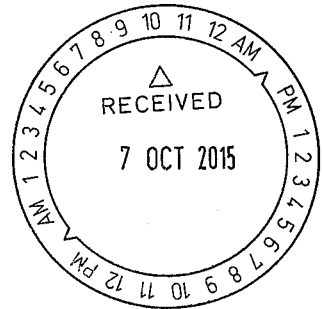




MINISTER FOR FINANCE; MINES AND PETROLEUM

Your Ref: Petition No 92
Our Ref: 42-72965



Hon Simon O'Brien MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Chairman

Simon

PETITION NO. 92 – BAUXITE MINING

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the terms of Petition 92 and the submission from the principal petitioner.

Companies and individuals who hold validly granted exploration titles in Western Australia have the legal right to apply for mining lease(s) over any part or parts of the exploration licence (whilst it remains in force) and to have the mining lease or leases granted subject to due process under relevant legislation including the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*.

The grant of a mining tenement however does not give the holder any right to mine or disturb the ground until secondary approvals have been granted after a rigorous and comprehensive process pursuant to various State legislative procedures that involves public consultation.

I consider the environmental, water, noise, dust, etc. issues identified within the petition should be appropriately assessed as part of the environmental approval process required for all mining operations.

This secondary approval process includes (but is not limited to) assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, *Mining Act 1978* and *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*.

Yours sincerely

Bill Marmion

**HON BILL MARMION MLA
MINISTER FOR FINANCE; MINES AND PETROLEUM**

4 OCT 2015