



**Jarrahdale Forest Protectors Inc.**

ABN 792 319 216 21

**"SAVE OUR JARRAH"**



## **HOW TO WRITE A LETTER TO AN MP**

Politely express your concerns about the threat of mining in the Northern Jarrah Forests, and its negative impact on our local environmental, water, social, cultural, and economic health if approved.

Ask the MP for support and help with the issues you raised.

AN EXAMPLE LETTER TEMPLATE IS PROVIDED ON THE LAST PAGE

## **WHY WRITE, AND WHY NOW?**

- ALCOA have proposed an expansion of the Huntly mine which will impact forest east and south east of Jarrahdale. The expansion will seek to strip mine forest on the Northern side of Serpentine Dam and impact on more of the Reservoir Protection Zone that they have already started mining out in 2021/2022. [See below]
- Your personal stories of care and concern are crucial and a steady stream of concerned letters from you and your neighbours over the coming weeks and months will grab the government's attention.

We need to let MPs know how important the forests of Jarrahdale are.

## **YOUR LETTER WILL**

Help us secure a healthy future for our local environment, water storage, society, culture, and economy.

Please write to the some or all the MPs and WA Government Ministers listed below.

**Below is a list of relevant WA Government Ministers.**

Hon Roger H Cook, BA GradDipBus (PR) MBA MLA	Premier; Minister for State and Industry Development, Jobs and Trade, Public Sector Management; Federal-State Relations	<a href="mailto:wa-government@dpc.wa.gov.au">wa-government@dpc.wa.gov.au</a>  and  <a href="mailto:kwinana@mp.wa.gov.au">kwinana@mp.wa.gov.au</a>
Hon Reece Whitby, MLA	Minister Environment, Climate Action, Racing and Gaming	<a href="mailto:Minister.whitby@dpc.wa.gov.au">Minister.whitby@dpc.wa.gov.au</a>
Hon Bill Johnston, MLA	Minister for MINES and Petroleum, Energy, Corrective Services, Industrial Relations	<a href="mailto:Minister.johnston@dpc.wa.gov.au">Minister.johnston@dpc.wa.gov.au</a>
Hon Simone McGurk, MLA	Minister for Training, water, Forestry, Youth	<a href="mailto:Minister.mcgurk@dpc.wa.gov.au">Minister.mcgurk@dpc.wa.gov.au</a>
<b>LOCAL MP'S</b>		
Hugh Jones, MLA	Darling Range	<a href="mailto:Hugh.jones@mp.wa.gov.au">Hugh.jones@mp.wa.gov.au</a>
Matt Swinbourn, MLC	East Metropolitan Region	<a href="mailto:Mathew.swinbourne@mp.wa.gov.au">Mathew.swinbourne@mp.wa.gov.au</a>
Robyn Clarke, MLA	Member for Murray- Wellington	<a href="mailto:Robyn.clarke@mp.wa.gov.au">Robyn.clarke@mp.wa.gov.au</a>
<b>WA SHADOW MINISTRY</b>		
Mr. Shane Love MLA	Leader of the Opposition	<a href="mailto:shane.love@loop.wa.gov.au">shane.love@loop.wa.gov.au</a>
Hon Elizabeth Mettam, MLA	Shadow Minister Health, Disability Ser, Domestic Violence.	<a href="mailto:libby.mettam@mp.wa.gov.au">libby.mettam@mp.wa.gov.au</a>
Hon Tjorn Sibma	Environment, Metronet, Defence	<a href="mailto:Tjorn.sibma@mp.wa.gov.au">Tjorn.sibma@mp.wa.gov.au</a>
<b>FEDERAL GOVERNMENT</b>		
The Hon Madeleine King MP	Minister for Resources & Northern Australia	Phone 08 9527 9377 Rockingham Office Phone 02 6277 4354 Canberra Office

**SUGGESTED LETTER TEMPLATE BELOW** – You can copy and paste from a PDF file.

Please follow the guide below as a start point and remember these are only suggestions. It's to help you form your own ideas. Personalise it, and please be polite as our community is seeking assistance from a place of care.

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### **Key points to remember.**

1. Introduce yourself, your name, title, role in the community, groups you associate with, and your constituency.
2. Introduce the issue you are concerned about.
3. Use already compiled info (see below) to draw attention to the negative impact mining has, on the environment where you live and how it may affect you.
4. Tell the MP what you would like them to do.
5. Below is a **SAMPLE** LETTER. Feel free to add or detract what YOU would like to say, but feel free to use what you like.

Date: 01/11/2023

Honourable Roger Cook MLA  
Premier of Western Australia,  
Contact details: [wa-government@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:wa-government@dpc.wa.gov.au)

Dear Premier Cook,

**Re: Alcoa and other mining company's proposals to explore/mine the forests around Jarrahdale.**

My name is Mr Fred Smith, I am a resident of Serpentine Jarrahdale, my children go to the local Jarrahdale Primary School. My family is involved in local community organisations and also the Jarrahdale Fire Brigade.

My family and I are very concerned with the potential expansion of mining north of the Serpentine Dam, the potential threat of contamination of local waterways, drinking water and the threat to our culture, way of life and business opportunities.

We are concerned that the devastating wholesale forest clearing will exacerbate the changing local climate with the escape of carbon into the atmosphere, not only due to the bulldozing of vegetation but then the burning of huge windrows of dead trees and bushes.

You must be aware that the rainfall has diminished a great deal over the past 30 to 40 years. Now 74% of Perth's water comes from desalination and increasingly stressed groundwater supplies. There may not be enough to re-grow a rehabilitated area to anywhere near what it was, as evidenced by rehabilitation attempts that have already been undertaken by Alcoa.

This removal of top soil, together with blasting the earth changes the water courses which the forest has relied on for eons, so what remains standing dies due to the water being redirected, and/ or the extra water required by fresh planted seedlings. Then when it does rain the water often floods downhill causing unknown amounts of erosion and ending up in ponds where it was not before, this can result in the death of vegetation not used to sodden ground.

The clearing of the forest must contribute to a great deal of carbon escaping into the atmosphere, together with the BURNING of the windrows of Jarrah and other forest vegetation. Apart from large millable logs the rest is bulldozed into big rows, just burnt! What a waste!

It is unbelievable that an agreement struck 60 years ago is still in force given the huge changes to the Mining Act and the introduction of the Environmental Protection Act, surely this state agreement should be made null and void and that modern laws should apply to every business whether it be in mining or any other type of development?

My family and I enjoy living in a clean environment, we fear not only the continued decrease in rainfall but the possibility of dust storms during the dry periods, which can only get worse as the rainfall decreases.

We enjoy the bush, walking and cycling regularly, if this mining goes ahead, we may be locked out of the forest for many years.

We are also very concerned that a forest eco system, that protected endangered animals and plants is being utterly destroyed and the so-called rehabilitation does not provide refuge or habitat for the endangered animals for decades to come, if at all. In the time Alcoa has been mining the Darling Range,

two iconic species, Numbats and Western Ringtail Possums, have become effectively extinct in the Northern Jarrah Forest and now Black Cockatoo populations are plummeting for lack of nesting sites and food sources. We are fearful that the situation will be very much worse if the mining is not stopped.

I ask that you:

- a) Support and respond to our community's and Jarrahdale Forest Protectors call for a stop on bauxite mining - both exploratory or active mining – north of the Serpentine Dam and, in recognition of the Northern Jarrah Forest's importance for threatened species and ecological communities, such as quokkas and cockatoos. And to STOP all mining in the RPZ (Reservoir Protection Zone)
- b) Repeal or severely restrict Alcoa's 7,000 sq km Mining Lease ML1SA 1961
  - Mining operations that clear thousands of hectares of biodiverse ecosystems are not acceptable with the changing climate we are experiencing today.
  - Alcoa has a mining lease of 700,000 hectares.
  - Only 10% of the lease contains accessible bauxite and that area contains our good Jarrah Forest. Retaining any standing forest is important for its major contribution to carbon storage.
  - Revise and/or repeal The Alumina Refineries State Agreement Act 1961 and associated legislation that allows Alcoa to operate with exemptions from Environmental Protection Act 1986, and legislation protecting drinking water catchments and make the company comply to the same laws that apply to all other companies in Western Australia.
  - In 2023 we should seek to prevent mining and exploration occurring in all environmentally sensitive areas and drinking water catchments by ANY mining company.

Thank you for your time, I await your response with anticipation

Sincerely