Dwellingup Community Compact

Community Meeting

14 November 2017

Dwellingup Community Hall

OUTCOMES REPORT

Introduction

Approximately 100 stakeholders attended the Dwellingup Community Meeting to discuss the values of the town with respect to bauxite mining within the proposed Exclusion Zone / Green Belt for nature tourism.

By the end of the workshop, participants had:

- Heard the Dwelling Community Compact's proposal to implement a Bauxite Mining Exclusion Zone to protect Dwellingup values.
- Heard a presentation on the project plan update on the "Dwellingup Tourism Trails Hub".
- Commented on the Vision Statement for the town of Dwellingup, provided by the Dwellingup Community Compact.
- Provided comments and individual views towards some areas of exclusion of bauxite mining in and around Dwellingup to protect the town's values,
- Provided comments on the 12 actions provided in the local action plan.

Facilitation and reporting by Bevan Bessen and Kim Horwood of Tuna Blue Facilitation



Context

The Shire of Murray and Dwellingup Compact Group called a town meeting to be run by an independent facilitator to gain an appetite for the town of Dwellingup's views towards a proposal to implement a Bauxite Mining Exclusion Zone around the town of Dwellingup to protect Dwellingup values.

After initial feedback, the Shire presented an update of the current project plan on the "Dwellingup Tourism Trails Hub" and then a further feedback session was conducted.

The Long Term Fit of the Vision Statement to the Dwellingup Community

Participants were asked to provide comments on the Vision Statement provided by the Dwellingup Community Compact:

Protected, enhanced and maintained values to achieve Dwellingup's full National Adventure Trails Town potential with particular focus on nature based tourism, scientific study and education.

Key Messages overall

Most of the participants agreed with the vision, some felt changes could be made and a few wanted Alcoa to partner with the community.

All of the comments are provided below:

Is this a reasonable vision and if not, how can this be refined to better characterise a long term vision for the Town of Dwellingup?

- Vision should also include Nyoongar culture and knowledge;
- The unique nature of Dwellingup as a town and community must be set in legislation;
- Please no mining near the town for excessive noise levels and horrible dust, especially at night;
- If there is no exclusion zone, the current and future businesses in Dwellingup will suffer due to pollution, noise, dust, heavy traffic, habitat and water threatened... These things are simply not appealing to visitors...;
- House prices will fall;
- No community can survive long term solely based on tourism, that's Third World. There must be something solid to build the economy of the community on, but what is it?;
- Supplies environment for cyclists, kyaking, canoeing, bush walkers;
- All businesses will be affected by a drop in tourism;
- Create a vibrant events calendar;
- Should include the term 'unique';
- Diverse:
- Provides jobs;

- We want to live in a forest, not in a mine site! Alcoa's plans means for the next 20 years
 residents will be uncertain whether mining will occur near them, with resulting property value
 uncertainty;
- Will the tourism actually help with employment and contribute spending in town;
- Alcoa keeps exporting greater and greater amounts of unprocessed ore, so the amount they need to mine must increase;
- Adventure Trails town vision will create jobs, building a tourist industry... But a mining exclusion zone is vital for this to go ahead adequately;
- Employment;
- Nature based tourism supports the local economy and natural biodiversity;
- Yes, but it can be added to, in terms of protecting the actual town and the key aspects that attract residence;
- Yes it is a reasonable vision;
- Need some balance with triple bottom line of social, economic and environment;
- The destruction of a local lifestyle cannot be measured by business standards alone. There are values that go beyond purely economic measures, culture does not have a price;
- And historical and eco-friendly tourist areas that should keep growing with the growth of the metro area;
- If Alcoa partners the Dwellingup community they will be able to hold their heads up as environmental heroes instead of villains;
- Can Alcoa be part of this vision? Work together?;
- There is concern that the vision is dollar focussed, and not in the interests of the unique peaceful nature of living in Dwellingup. More focus on maintaining the quiet, unpolluted life here;
- Include arts and culture in the statement;
- It must include reference to maintaining a sustainable community, ie a population big enough to maintain all current facilities and more;
- Yes reasonable vision;
- Yes it is reasonable to have a significantly sized exclusion zone which will protect habitat, forest, tourism potential, environment;
- Yes but in relation to the trails, will dieback be managed to protect our forest;
- Yes;
- This table agrees that a five km buffer zone is not big enough because it doesn't include important agricultural areas;
- Need some balance, with triple bottom line of social, economic and environment;
- No community can survive long term solely based on tourism, that's Third World. There must be something solid to build the economy of the community on, but what is it?;
- Vision should also include Nyoongar culture and knowledge;
- The destruction of a local lifestyle cannot be measured by business standards alone. There are values that go beyond purely economic measures, culture does not have a price.

Individual Comments towards the Proposal of a Bauxite Mining Exclusion Zone to Protect Dwellingup Values

Participants were asked to work in groups to input their individual and/or group's comments towards the proposal of Bauxite Mining Exclusion Zone to protect the Dwellingup values.

Key Messages overall

Comments collected during the brainstorming session, reflected that many of those who attended the workshop desired the implementation of an Exclusion Zone to protect the natural and cultural heritage in the region. A small number of participants present at the meeting believed the Bauxite Mine's presence would bolster employment in the area.

General **trends** from the comments made, are grouped in the following categories:

- Exclusion Zone to protect flora and fauna for the future generations (protect the historical and natural value);
- Impact from dust and sound emissions of the mine;
- Positive impacts of the mine for the community;
- Impacts on tourism to the region;
- Respect and protect the cultural significance of the area;
- Impact on the water table.

Below are the comments made by the participants?

Is some area of exclusion of bauxite mining in and around Dwellingup important to protect these values and why?

Exclusion Zone to Protect Flora and Fauna for the Future Generations (protect the historical and natural value)

- As home owners, we need a large buffer zone to protect our unique environment and lifestyle.
- Protect the natural wildlife and endangered birds.
- Look at info from 1983? Exclusion zone was granted by Alcoa.
- Preserve the community and historic sites, 10 km exclusion zone.
- This protection zone is a long-term vision to protect the integrity and history of Dwellingup.
- To maintain the historical integrity and value of the town and its surroundings.
- To maintain the town's rural and natural ambience.
- Protect entire surrounds of Dwellingup.
- Unique wild flower and bird life.
- Protect the historical sites because history is important, and photos do not cut it.
- It is our obligation to protect our town for future generations.
- Protect the native wildlife, quokkas, red tailed cockatoos, etc.
- Fauna protection zones are at risk, areas are protected from everything except mining!

- Protect the Jarrah forest for its own sake, flora and fauna.
- Yes, important. Health and wellbeing are also important. Consideration also for future generations for future growth of population, employment, sustainable resources of land and water.
- Yes, the Jarrah forest is unique and nearly gone, this is the last Jarrah forest in the world and aluminium is totally recyclable. Eco-tourism is an intergenerational income producer, strip mining is one generation only. Dwellingup is also home to many people and cannot be considered in purely economic terms.
- Protect the natural biodiversity of Dwellingup.
- To maintain the essential character of the town and its natural surrounds.
- Jarrah forest is one of the most vulnerable ecosystems. The mining lease covers almost all the Jarrah forest, could this be lost.
- Jarrah forest is very vulnerable.
- To keep what we have, the peace and tranquillity.
- Yes, it is important as a sound buffer. Noise is already heard from mining.
- The area of exclusion should be expanded until residents cannot hear, see or smell the effects of bauxite mining.
- Yes, as a full consensus of the table.
- Old Holyoake town site, Marrinyup POW Site, outlying farms roads should be included.
- Amazing forest habitat, the big trees.
- Definite buffer zone!
- Yes, because it is vital to have protected forest and the forest is vital for shade cover.
- It will affect everything in town. Every business will be affected whether they realise it or not.
- Protect the fauna and flora.
- Fauna and flora protection.
- General consensus of the table is yes, it is very important to maintain the listed values.
- The unique nature of Dwellingup as a town and community must be set in legislation.
- Yes, but it can be added to, in terms of protecting the actual town and the key aspects that attract residence.
- Reference trees historic remnants of the forest from many years ago and cultural significance.
- Need to protect our animals and fauna.
- We want to live in a forest, not in a mine site! Alcoa's plans means for the next 20 years, residents will be uncertain whether mining will occur near them, with resulting property value uncertainty.
- Adventure Trails town vision will create jobs and assist in building a tourist industry. But a
 mining exclusion zone is vital for this to go ahead adequately.
- Absolutely!
- We don't want to view mining from our back yards.
- To keep the town alive.
- Dwellingup has a unique natural setting, so rare in our world we don't want to lose it.

Impact from Dust and Sound Emissions of the Mine

- Heavy traffic through town with no bypass, it's not a suitable line of traffic for residence.
- Please no mining near the town for excessive noise levels and horrible dust, especially at night.

- If there is no exclusion zone, the current and future businesses in Dwellingup will suffer due to pollution, noise, dust, heavy traffic, habitat and water threatened. These things are simply not appealing to visitors.
- Don't want noise pollution, we value the peace and quiet!
- Absolutely yes, to maintain the liveability of the town, the town's rural atmosphere is why we live here. We don't want the mad rush and noise pollution, machine pollution of other places. The aesthetics of the Jarrah forest is why we live here and why people visit.
- Residents from other areas that have told us of dust and noise from the mining in the area.

Positive Impacts of the Mine for the Community

- · Opportunities for our local kids.
- As long as operations are not seen or heard by locals and tourists.
- Please describe values. I believe the biggest value a person can have is a job. So why would we put an exclusion zone and jeopardise local jobs? Can't we work together? I don't see local business paying \$150k a year.
- The value of Alcoa support to local business, clubs, school, employment is crucial to some of the noted values being successful. This itself is a value.
- Diversity.
- Yes to mining, but no to it being so close to town.
- Employment.
- Provides jobs.
- Regardless of exclusion zone, business in the town will benefit. They are currently well supported.
- Minimal impact on trails, not moving them all the time.
- Employment.

Impacts on Tourism to the Region

- We need more tourists to the town.
- We want the town to prosper and thrive and for businesses to prosper. It's important for people to come into town and enjoy the natural environment that Dwellingup has to offer.
- Get behind major tourism providers in town, eg: HVR.
- We want visitors to the town to enjoy what we have to offer not see mining areas.
- Who wants to visit a mining town?
- Waterways are an opportunity for water sports.
- Shade for all tourist activities given by forest.
- Trails tourist sites to boost economy and job prospects for the future.
- The area supplies an environment for cyclists, kyaking, canoeing, bush walkers.
- Tourists will not want to stay or return to Dwellingup if mining can be seen and heard.
- All businesses will be affected by a drop in tourism.
- As a tourist option for the people of WA. The area is only a short drive from Perth. The area will become an increasingly important recreation destination, for tourists as well as adventure.
- Tourism will be impacted by mining, tourism is vital to keep businesses going. More jobs in tourism and greater potential growth.
- Tourist attraction and people come to visit the uniqueness.
- Nature based tourism supports the local economy and natural biodiversity.
- Walking tracks, all of them!

- Marinup Creek and all waterways.
- And historical and eco-friendly tourist areas that should keep growing with the growth of the metro area
- Preserve specific areas, like Lane Poole and Marinup for canoeing and carriage driving trails.
- More jobs will be created in tourism.
- Promote tourism but in a managed way to protect the forest.
- Dwellingup is set to become an important tourist hub for the region, Alcoa's activities can in no
 way impact or hamper the development of this vital industry. Dwellingup is known for its beauty
 not its bauxite.

Respect and Protect the Cultural Significance of the Area

- Keep and protect sacred sites of Nyoongar culture, safeguard the entire surrounds.
- The area is in the Nyoongar dreaming trail or songline. This must be protected.
- Protect the natural trails and Nyoongar land.
- Aboriginal significance, the forest is of sacred significance.
- Bibbulmun Track, Aboriginal cultural significance.

Impact on the Water Table

- When they remove the bauxite and go down to clay, the water doesn't penetrate through the clay when it rains.
- To maintain our underground water supply and resources.
- State forest and water catchment.
- Mining close to the neighbouring farms that rely on the natural water table, will be detrimental
 to farming. It will result in a loss of natural creeks that run through the properties. This will
 result in insufficient water to sustain orchards, give water to cattle and will affect drinking
 supplies to these properties.
- Impact on the water table and resources.
- Water resources because farms will become unsustainable.
- Tight regulations on the water used.
- We are concerned about the impact on the Water Table.
- Water.
- Waterways need to be protected because we need to avoid contamination, and manage erosion from mine sites.

Other

- State issue as well as Dwellingup issue.
- Dwellingup is a State issue not just for the people of Dwellingup.
- Rail is set, trails will be moved but the scenic roads will not be scenic.
- Hurry up and open Icy Creek.
- Educational resource, ie: Icy Creek.
- House prices will fall.
- Create a vibrant events calendar.
- Will the tourism helps with employment and contribute towards spending in the town?
- Alcoa keeps exporting greater and greater amounts of unprocessed ore, so the amount they
 need to mine must increase.

Presentation One: A Bauxite Mining Exclusion Zone to Protect Dwellingup Values

Chris Portlock from the Dwellingup Community Compact, presented the rationale and research behind the proposal for a Bauxite Mining Exclusion Zone to protect Dwellingup values.

Key Messages overall

The Dwellingup Community Compact are striving to implement a zone surrounding the town of Dwellingup to protect the values of the Dwellingup community.

In summary, this is to maintain the integrity of the natural and cultural heritage surroundings so that they may be protected for future generations but enjoyed by locals and tourists, and to capitalise on the value of the local natural asset (the forest) to bring tourists into the region to enjoy nature tourism activities (trail bikes, walking, kayaking, etc).

Presentation Two: Project Plan Update on the "Dwellingup Tourism Trails Hub"

CEO of the Shire of Murray, **Dean Unsworth**, presented a project plan update on the "Dwellingup Tourism Trails Hub".

Key Messages overall

The Shire of Murray has recognised the importance of biodiversity conservation in the region and recognises the natural asset value by seeking to enhance the area with a project called the "Dwellingup Tourism Trails Hub". The project will develop natural attractions to be utilised for trails for bikes, walking and kayaking (to attract tourists both locally and internationally), build a state of the art skate park and pump park, upgrade the facilities at the Dwellingup History and Visitor Information Centre, relocate the train line, and upgrade and develop an adventure space in Dwellingup. The entire project will create over 200 construction jobs and over 80 operational jobs for the area.

Comments on Action Items in the Comments in the Local Action Plan

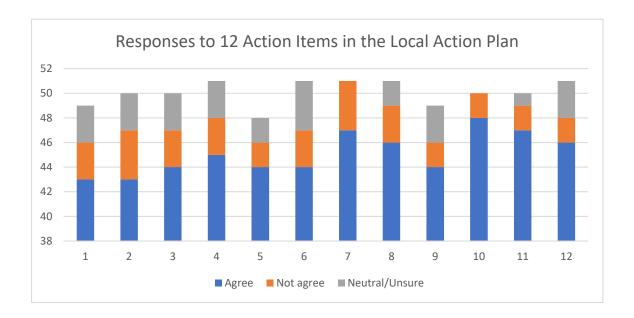
The participants were provided with an A3 copy of the 12 action items in the local action plan. This was the last item on the agenda for the evening and the participants were asked to take their time and reflect on each item.

Key Messages overall

In total, 51 participants submitted responses to the local action plan on the night. Some respondents are expected to submit responses to the Compact at a later date.

Responses to the 12 action Items within the Local Action Plan provided to the participants are shown in the table over the page.

The below graph depicts the general number of responses (in agreement / non-agreement or neutral) to each item. It should be noted that some line items were left blank by participants. The comments can be found in the table that follows this graph.



	Submission Statement	Agree	Not	Neutral	Comment							
			agree	/ Unsure								
1	Collate and bring on board all input, including peer review on the Draft Position Statement, along with conducting a Residents' Community Meeting to gain support for the Position Statement incorporating a Dwellingup Discovery Forest Reserve (Mining Exclusion Zone).	43	3	3	Who does this?	Yes, good idea for Dwellingup Discovery Forest Reserve.	All forest should include Bauxite mining exclusion zones. Bauxite is the most common element. Forests are rare. WA has the lowest grade Bauxite in the world.	Should include a statement in this submission about the townspeople who live here and are retired and enjoy living in the town and the surrounding bush.	Exclusion Zone – What are you going to do with the pockets of land which Alcoa own in your nominated exclusion zone?	What about some hep for the local business to develop with the town and the proposals.	It has to be done anyway.	
2	Require that the Premier, and relevant Minister or Ministers, extend the existing "indefinitely deferred zone" and amend or replace Ministerial Statement 728 as an interim measure to protect the proposed Discovery Forest area from the impacts of bauxite mining.	43	4	3	Protection for agricultural ground water concerns.	Long term position is preferred to interim measures.	Yes!	Needs to elaborate more about Ministerial Statement 728	Needs to be set in legislation.	Not enough detail here.		
3	Require that the State's Conservation and Parks Commission reactivate the Lane Poole Reserves Advisory Committee and through Amendment to the Lane Poole Reserve and Proposed Reserves Additions Management Plan, extend the proposed 5(1)(h) Reserve areas to include the Discovery Forest area. Currently portions of State Forest 14 and 23 provide for exploitation of natural resources allowing for some non-sustainable uses. It is more appropriate that these areas of State Forest become 5 (1) (h) Reserves under the care, control and management of the State's Conservation and Parks Commission, and are managed for a variety of purposes to include scientific study, education, recreation and conservation (Lane Poole Reserve and Proposed Reserve Additions Management Plan).	44	3	3	Essential to have input for a balanced view.	Should be no mining within Lane Poole Reserve.	Yes!	No this is 2017, Let's not go back 40 years. Everything has changed since then.				
4	Refer this Position Statement for assessment by the State's Conservation and Parks Commission and the Commonwealth Regional Forest Agreement Review Panel.	45	3	3	Cwth input is very important to retain some forest for future generations.	Though I do not trust Alcoa.						

5	Establish an Alliance with all primary, secondary and tertiary educational institutions who are stakeholders within the proposed Dwellingup Discovery Forest area.	44	2	2	At least keep them in conversation.	Reopen Icy Creek, Was it a co-incidence that Alcoa closed an outdoor education centre. If the young do not know what the forest is, how can they fight to protect it?	Tourism does not increase educational institutions, tourism does.	You can't establish an alliance with something that is still only a dream.				
6	Facilitate, in collaboration with Alcoa, the establishment of a Nature-based Tourism Research Centre at the Old Marrinup Nursery Site, and further activate the Alcoa Discovery Centre in Pinjarra to promote the historic steam train trips and other tours within the Dwellingup Discovery Forest area.	44	3	4	Is there a role for the Forest Heritage centre?	Could we do a nature adventure playground, as in Kings Park and down South?	Why does it involve Alcoa – they have different investment that does not support natural biodiversity.	No, Alcoa should be banished from the Southern Forests, by collaborating with Alcoa we are making a deal with the devil.	HVR cannot run a train into Pinjarra this needs to be addressed.	Alcoa should not collaborate in this venture. This should constitute a huge conflict of interest and Alcoa should not be promoted as having any environmental values.	Nature based Research Centre should be very close to the town. Look at the problem of the Wood school and it is 1/2 km from town.	
7	Subject to funding and collaborative efforts, establish research programs, including citizen science programs, for more intensive monitoring of tree decline, monitoring of mainland quokka populations within the fauna protection habitat zones, and a comparative mosaic study of the diverse range of management techniques established within the proposed Dwellingup Discovery Demonstration Forest area.	47	4	0	In collaboration with Universities. You may be trying to do too much with limited volunteers.	Continue dialogue with Alcoa to achieve Discovery Forest. Alcoa must be part of the support process. Currently Alcoa have rejected the proposed exclusion zone.	Remove "may".	Must have a mining exclusion zone.	The Dwellingup CALM office has been in almost terminal decline for some years. There is only one scientist there now!!!!			

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8	Request that the State's Conservation and Parks Commission, and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulations, provide advice to the Minister for Environment that further exploration and development proposals as outlined in the Alcoa letter and map (see Resource documents) not be supported, as they "may potentially cause significant environmental impact" particularly with relation to Dwellingup fulfilling its potential as an International Trails and Adventure Town with its nature-based tourism, scientific study, education and pristine visual landscape values (Lane Poole Reserve and Proposed Reserve Additions Management Plan, p. 93).	46	3	2	Essential.	This item should be further up the list.	Of course, Icy Creek should be reopened PERIOD.				
9	Defer mining at the Orion Mine Site to the south and relocate mining in the east to allow for the redevelopment of "high use Lane Poole Reserve Recreational Areas and their view sheds" such as in the Icy Creek area and along scenic roads leading to and from this area (Lane Poole Reserve and Proposed Reserve Additions Management Plan, pp. 94–95).	44	2	3	View sites to be elaborated on.	Bauxite Mining in the Darling Range is an inappropriate land use. Bauxite is available elsewhere.	Finish area already cleared for rehab.	No Bauxite Mining outright in forested areas. It is hypocritical to ban it so close to town but accept it where it cannot be seen. Future generations will condemn us for mining the forest. REHAB DOES NOT WORK, HAVE A LOOK.	Waffle.		
10	Subject to partnerships and collaborative funding efforts, provide "opportunities for active and passive recreation and tourism that will meet public demand" in Dwellingup, so that significant "regional socio-economic benefits" can be more fully realised (State Forest Management Plan, pp. 140–141).	48	2								
11	Require that the Icy Creek Environmental Educational Facility be reopened, to enable local businesses to benefit again from visiting groups to this facility, estimated at approximately 5,000 visits per year. (Lane Poole Reserve and Proposed Reserve Additions Management Plan, p. 77).	47	2	1	5,000 visits a year is out of date as this figure was based on when it was closed for mining. Given the increasing tourism in the area, it is expected this number would be higher.	Provided they are reopened as an educational facility (possibly for government schools) and not handed over to corporate company to run as a commercial concern.					

12	Acknowledge, recognise and value a Dwellingup Discovery Forest as a proposed addition to the management plan because of its: diverse array of natural environments providing numerous research opportunities to increase knowledge associated with ecological, biological and physical processes, native flora and fauna and their habitats, and the effects of threatening processes, and to attract and encourage greater international visitor numbers. opportunities for a diverse range of nature-based recreational tourism opportunities which need to be supported, including recreational driving, bushwalking, mountain biking, bush area day use and camping, canoeing, kayaking, rafting, swimming, fishing, horse riding, horse-and-carriage driving, historic steam train rides and participation in various high-profile events. extensive range of community and tourist educational, research and interpretive location opportunities to describe local history and the native flora and fauna, Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultural heritage, and management of the area onsite or through mobile device linkage. opportunities for nature-based tourism, scientific study and educational group visits and their associated financial benefits to the local economy, particularly international visitors attracted by the wide range of natural, cultural and recreation values. opportunities to enrich visitor experience, including nurturing of lifelong connections between the community and natural areas with their scenic quality, amenity and sense of place	46	2	3	Cannot comment as it is unclear which management plan this is referring to.	Arts and culture strategies. Adventure based tourism, high ropes and geocashing.	I feel that the exclusion zone being requested is too large and I cannot see Alcoa agreeing to it all. No harm using it is as starting point for consideration. We need to work with Alcoa and not get into conflict with them.	Yes, Aboriginal interests need to be supported and recognised as this is scared country. Dwellingup sits on songline and dreaming trail. Preserve Aboriginal cultural integrity. My ancestors have always walked this land and they still walk this land today. Maitland Hill Resident Nyoongar Custodian.	Alcoa, where are they, why are they not invited to show you their direction and provide clarification? Work together for the benefit of the town and the future. Be careful NOT ALL residents share this opinion, ONE meetings feedback is surely not the representation of a whole community.	According to the tourism strategy 2017–2020 only 1–2% of tourism is international. Maybe remove the words "particularly international visitors".	What about financial assistance to HVR as they seem to be lacking funds for rolling stock and locomotive maintenance. Maybe a tree top walk like is in Walpole.	More waffle but let's push through all these obstructive government organisations. The red tape is stopping most of these ideas.