STATEMENT THAT A PROPOSAL MAY BE IMPLEMENTED (PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986)

WAGERUP ALUMINA REFINERY EXPANSION

This proposal may be implemented subject to the following conditions:

1. The proponent shall adhere to the proposal as assessed by the Environmental Protection Authority and shall fulfill those commitments made in the 1978 Environmental Review and Management Programme and its Supplement which are still relevant, and the commitments made in the 1989 Consultative Environmental Review (copy of consolidated commitments attached).

2. To ensure that mining schedules for the proposal are integrated with forest management schedules, the proponent shall liaise closely with the Department of Conservation and Land Management throughout the life of the project, to the satisfaction of the Minister for Environment.

3. Within 12 months of the commencement of the expanded operations, the proponent shall commence development of a 'walk-away' solution for the bauxite residue disposal sites used for this refinery, and shall report annually on progress towards developing such a solution, to the satisfaction of the Minister for Environment. This solution shall be subsequently implemented, to the satisfaction of the Minister for Environment. The time when this solution is to be implemented shall be determined by the Minister for Environment on the advice of the Minister responsible for administering the Alumina Refinery (Wagerup) Agreement Act 1978.

A 'walk-away' solution means that the bauxite residue disposal sites shall either no longer require management at the time the proponent ceases refining operations, or if further management is deemed necessary, the proponent shall make adequate provision so that the required management is undertaken with no liability to the State.

4. The proponent shall consider the minimising of 'greenhouse' gas emissions as a major factor in the selection of energy generation options, and shall advise the Minister for Environment of the conclusions and findings.

5. To minimise social disruption to the Waroona district, the proponent shall establish formal liaison and monitoring processes with the Shire of Waroona, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority upon advice from the Social Impacts Unit.

6. The proponent shall be responsible for decommissioning and removal of the plant and rehabilitating the site and environs of the expanded facility, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority. At least six months prior to decommissioning, the proponent shall prepare for the expanded facility and its site, a decommissioning and rehabilitation plan, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority.

7. No transfer of ownership, control or management of the project which would give rise to a need for the replacement of the proponent shall take place until the Minister has advised the proponent that approval has been given for the nomination of a replacement proponent. Any request for the exercise of that power of the Minister shall be accompanied by a copy of this statement endorsed with an undertaking by the proposed replacement proponent to carry out the project in accordance with the conditions and procedures set out in the statement.

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PROCEDURES

Where the proponent is required to provide reports to the Minister for Environment, it will be adequate to incorporate such reports within those required under the Alumina Refinery (Wagerup) Agreement Act 1978, and the Minister responsible for administering that Act shall forward the relevant information to the Minister for Environment in order to meet the conditions.

Bob Pearce, MLA
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

- 8 MAR 1990
WAGERUP ALUMINA REFINERY EXPANSION - COMMITMENTS

All but one of the major environmental management commitments made in the supplementary Environmental Review and Management Programme of 1978 are still considered relevant. Alcoa believes its commitment to dieback research is adequately covered in Item 6.4, repeated below as 9. There is no continuing justification for dieback research to be considered separately. Additional or modified commitments are proposed in the areas of residue disposal, dieback management and forest conservation. A restatement of the major environmental management commitments is given below. The proposed changes (printed in heavy type) mainly reflect the importance placed on these issues in Alcoa's current environmental management programme.

1. In addition to the 10-year mining plans to be submitted to the State under Clause 5 of the Wagerup Agreement, Alcoa will also prepare and submit to the State mining and management programmes which will specify such matters as the areas which it is proposed to mine, the method of mining, and the proposed methods of rehabilitation in accordance with procedures to be agreed between Alcoa and the State. Alcoa undertakes to consult closely with the State on the preparation of these programmes and not to implement these programmes until agreement to them has been reached with the State or they have been determined by arbitration.

2. Bauxite mining will not take place in the eastern, lower rainfall portion of Alcoa's lease, until research shows that mining operations can be conducted without significantly increasing the salinity of water resources.

3. Alcoa undertakes to formulate its detailed rehabilitation proposals to best suit the land use priorities established by the State for the particular mining area concerned.

4. Alcoa will monitor the success of all its rehabilitated mined areas in co-operation with the Department of Conservation and Land Management and, if necessary, is prepared to carry out further treatments up to the time when it is agreed that CALM should resume full management responsibility.

5. Alcoa will forego the bauxite resources in the jarrah forest conservation areas agreed in consultation with the State's Reserves Review Committee and specified in the Alumina Refinery Agreement Amendment Act, No 99 of 1986, for as long as their conservation values remain. Mining adjacent to the conservation areas will utilise site-specific environmental management procedures agreed in consultation with the Mining and Management Programme Liaison Group. These will include particular consideration of dieback management and mine rehabilitation requirements.

6. Alcoa will implement a comprehensive dieback management programme designed specifically for its mine operations in the jarrah forest. This will include the rehabilitation of dieback-affected areas adjacent to its mine operating areas, in accordance with procedures agreed with State agencies, and irrespective of the cause of introduction of the disease.

7. Alcoa will prepare detailed design reports on future residue disposal areas and submit them to the Water Authority of Western Australia for approval. The design reports will include consideration of slope stability, seepage control, groundwater monitoring and construction and operating procedures. Results from monitoring programmes will be reported to the Water Authority at intervals determined by agreement with the Authority.

8. Alcoa will develop long-term management plans for the residue deposits including consideration of surface drainage, seepage control, groundwater management, slope stability, surface rehabilitation, aesthetic impact and future land use. Such plans will be formulated in consultation with relevant State agencies and will include agreement with the State on responsibilities for any ongoing management requirements after decommissioning of the refinery. Concept plans will be formulated by 1994 and reviewed periodically.
thereafter. Alcoa will recover and treat or reuse alkaline solutions in the residue disposal areas until such times as it is demonstrated that such solutions do not pose an environmental hazard.

(9) Alcoa is committed to an ongoing research programme into all aspects of its operations that have the potential to adversely affect the environment, and into those environmental characteristics that could be adversely affected by its operations.

(10) Alcoa will submit a brief review of its environmental research and management programme to the Department of Resources Development on an annual basis. Copies will be made available to relevant State agencies and the Shire of Waroona. A more detailed review will be prepared on a triennial basis.

(11) Alcoa will co-operate in a joint community services monitoring programme in conjunction with the State and the Shire of Waroona to monitor socio-economic effects of the project and provide input for community services planning.

(12) Alcoa will dismantle its facilities at the termination of mining and refinery operations and carry out reasonable restoration measures at the sites of those operations providing such facilities are not required for other purposes.