

Wuudagu Bauxite Project Referred for Environmental Assessment

Valperlon has referred its proposed Wuudagu bauxite project to the Environmental Protection Authority of Western Australia and the Department of Environment and Energy of Australia. This is the first stage of the environmental impact assessment process and marks the next step in the proposed development of the project.

The proposed bauxite mining and export project, which is located approximately 15 km west of Kalumburu in the northeast of Western Australia, could be operating from 2021 subject to statutory approvals.

Proposed Wuudagu Project Development Concept



The operation would involve surface mining, road haulage, product beneficiation, marine loading and transhipment, employing up to 250 people and is being designed to avoid, minimise, rehabilitate or offset potential environmental and social impacts.

The bauxite mining and export development concept is a significant change in strategy for the Wuudagu resource which was first discovered in the 1960's by BHP. Previous companies were interested in building an integrated alumina refinery in the area, which is a larger scale and higher cost industrial development with significantly higher environmental and social impacts.

Executive Director Ryan de Franck said "The Wuudagu bauxite project is a relatively small scale and simple project that is a very desirable source of supply in the fast-growing bauxite export market. Combined with the highly efficient transport logistics and attractive product grade at Wuudagu make this a compelling project development opportunity."

The Wuudagu project has the potential to provide training, employment and economic opportunities for the local community and support the development of economic infrastructure in the region.

Valperlon are committed to implementing a responsible resource development and intend to operate the project in line with the International Aluminium Institute Sustainable Bauxite Mining Practices which are globally recognised as industry best practice.

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