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# Wunambal Gaambera and Valperlon Working Towards Mining Agreement for Wuudagu Bauxite Project

The Wunambal Gaambera Traditional Owners and Perth based group Valperlon are working towards a mining agreement to cover development of the proposed Wuudagu bauxite project on the north eastern coast of Wunambal Gaambera Country, North Kimberly, WA.

The proposed bauxite export project, that could be operating from 2021 would involve surface mining, road haulage, product beneficiation, marine loading and transshipment, employing up to 250 people and is being designed to avoid, minimise, rehabilitate or offset potential environmental and social impacts.

The Wuudagu project will exist within the Uunguu Indigenous Protected Area on Wunambal Gaambera Country. Wunambal Gaambera Aboriginal Corporation Chairperson, Catherine Goonack says “the smaller scale and potential benefit of the proposed Wuudagu operations adds another link to achieving our Healthy Country Plan Vision and communal need for our People to secure year round incomes, wealth, well-being and resources to keep us and our Country healthy.”

Wunambal Gaambera people’s Uunguu IPA is our commitment to protect and use our ancestors Wunambal Gaambera Country in accord with IUCN Protected Area standards. The Wuudagu project is to be developed to best environmental, economic, social and cultural practice and accredited standards.

WGAC and Valperlon will be working together to maximise training, employment and economic development opportunities from the proposed project and ensuring contributions and communal benefit to the ongoing environmental, social and cultural management of Wunambal Gaambera Country.

Executive Director of Valperlon Ryan de Franck said “We are proud to have the support of the Wunambal Gaambera Traditional Owners for our proposed Wuudagu project. Wunambal Gaambera have a strong connection to their country and are highly regarded for their leadership and approach to environmental management. Valperlon are committed to working inclusively with Wunambal Gaambera to implement a responsible resource development as the mining agreement will provide.”

Valperlon and WGAC have been engaged in a formal process of consultation since 2014 and this relationship has continued at a recent agreement development meeting of Wunambal Gaambera Traditional Owners and company representatives in Kalumburu.

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