

EPBC Act Review Secretariat
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17 April 2020

Dear Professor Samuel



AUSTRALIAN
ALUMINIUM
COUNCIL LTD

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Re: Second Review of Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The Australian Aluminium Council (the Council) represents Australia's bauxite mining, alumina refining and aluminium smelting industries. The Australian aluminium industry has been operating in Australia for over 50 years, and throughout that time has been a significant contributor to the Australian economy. The industry includes five bauxite mines, six alumina refineries and four aluminium smelters. Australia is one of the world's leading producers of bauxite and the world's largest exporter of alumina, and the fifth largest producer of aluminium in the world. The industry directly employs around 14,500 people, including 4,000 full time equivalent contractors. The industry also indirectly supports around 40,000 families in regional Australia.

The Council welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the Second Review of Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (the EPBC Act). Individual member companies and other industry associations will make detailed submissions; however, there are three areas where the Council wishes to raise specific issues.

- *Firstly, the consideration of climate change and greenhouse gas emissions under the Act.* Given the extensive existing policy framework in place, the Council does not believe that the EPBC Act should be extended as a legislative vehicle for the monitoring of greenhouse gas emissions nor the imposing of project or national climate targets via the approvals process.
- *Secondly, improved coordination and decreased duplication between State and Federal Processes.* The Council believes this can be achieved, without lowering the quality of environmental outcomes. A coordinated and consistent approach between State and Federal processes and requirements, to remove duplication and only address any gaps in State legislation will assist this.
- *Finally, bauxite mining sector of the industry is currently in a growth phase.* Australia is considered one of the most sustainable countries to meet the growing international demand for bauxite. It is hoped that the outcome of this Review of the EPBC Act will include recommendations to reduce delays in assessment and approval processes; enhance certainty for proponents, government and the community and lead to better regulation, not lower standards. This will enable Australia to continue to be the world's leading supplier of sustainable bauxite.

If you have any questions regarding this submission, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

MARGHANITA JOHNSON

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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