

# Air Quality (Dust and Pollution)

In respect to Alcoa's Proposed mining expansion

**Alcoa says** that there is **little impact of mining/refining on dust**.

They say that the dust is from agricultural activities from cleared areas and harvesting, motor vehicle emissions, domestic fires, prescribed burning and bushfires, not from mining. Alcoa acknowledges that during construction of new water storage ponds at Pinjarra refinery there will be some dust but say that this will be minimal after construction.

**Alcoa says that there is low potential for the dust to cause human health issues.** They do not comment on light or noise pollution.

## OUR CONCERNS

### 1. Dust pollution:

- Local evidence shows **significant red dust** settling on Pinjarra and surrounds. Dust emissions have impacts on vegetable horticulture and health impacts to humans (silicosis) and farm animals.
- The Pinjarra community is concerned about dust and health effects (Peel Environmental Protection Alliance - PEPA) members. Independent monitoring shows high levels of **heavy metals Uranium and Thorium** in dust sampled from

Pinjarra and Mandurah house sites. Locals are concerned about respiratory illnesses and cancers.

- Alcoa uses non-disclosure agreements** so that people cannot discuss concerns if they have signed one.
- State government employees cannot share information with the public or the media.



Toxic dust blowing from the ALCOA Pinjarra refinery, on strong easterly winds. Photo taken from Dawesville, across the Peel Inlet. (Peel Environmental Protection Alliance)





Clearing for bauxite mining, Serpentine Dam 2020. (Photo: Jeremy Perey)

**2. Smoke pollution:**

- From burning of piles of timber not used for milling (windrows).

**3. Noise pollution:**

- **Noise from construction and operational equipment** may **affect native animals**, particularly animals who actively forage or hunt at night.
- Noise from the crusher/conveyer might be heard 24/7 in the Dwellingup district.

**4. Light pollution:**

- Lights from infrastructure such as the refinery and crushers **disturbs animals and their habitat**. The light from the Pinjarra refinery produces an orange glow which can be seen for many kilometres.

**For these reasons the DDFD believes that Alcoa's mining proposal for expansion of mine sites (Holyoake, Myara and O'Neil) and Pinjarra refinery should be rejected by the EPA.**

**Have your say by signing on to WA Forest Alliance's submission with a quick and simple form or find out more about writing your own at [endforestmining.org.au/alcoa](https://endforestmining.org.au/alcoa). The comment period is now open and closes on 21 August 2025.**