

## EDO Alert!

5<sup>th</sup> January 2009

EDO-NQ members and supporters would be aware that EDO-NQ has recently been acting on behalf of a number of conservation groups along Queensland's east coast in opposition to proposals by Chalco Australia Limited to construct an alumina refinery and associated infrastructure at Abbot Point, north of Bowen.

The proposals were referred to Commonwealth Environment Minister Peter Garrett under the provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)*. Unfortunately, Minister Garrett did not form the opinion that the impacts from these proposals were clearly unacceptable (which would have allowed him to refuse them without further assessment), but rather that they will be assessed through an Environmental Impact Statement. Minister Garrett had until Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2008 to make such a decision, after which time this power to refuse was no longer available.

Prior to the end of Minister Garrett's power to refuse the proposals without further assessment, the Queensland Government (through its Department of Infrastructure and Planning) released its draft Terms of Reference for its own EIS. The following passages are from the Queensland Government.

**The draft Terms of Reference is available to view at:** the Whitsunday Regional Council Customer Service Centres located at 83-85 Main Street, Proserpine and 67 Herbert Street, Bowen and the State Library of Queensland.

**Submissions can also be made online** at <http://www.dip.qld.gov.au/projects/mining-and-minerals/bauxite/east-coast-alumina-refinery-and-port-development.html>

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### **Extract from the DIP Website .....**

#### [Aurukun Bauxite and Alumina Project](#)

*The Queensland Government is seeking to optimise the economic, social and financial outcomes from the development of the Aurukun bauxite and kaolin mineral resource for the benefit of the state and the local region, including local indigenous communities. The government has signed a development agreement with the Aluminium Corporation of China (Chalco) to mine the resource at Arukun and establish new facilities to process the minerals.*

*There are two developments within this project:*

- 1. Aurukun Bauxite Mine and Port development*
- 2. East Coast Alumina Refinery and Port project*

*If the Aurukun Bauxite and Alumina project proceeds, it will include a bauxite mine at Aurukun and a alumina refinery and port facilities at Abbot Point near Bowen. This will represent the biggest single investment in Queensland involving an estimated construction workforce of 2300 over a three-year construction period and a direct operational workforce of 600 for regional Queensland.*

*Queenslanders are being encouraged to have their say on the draft Terms of Reference for an Environmental Impact Statement on a proposed alumina refinery and port development near Bowen. Public submissions on the draft Terms of Reference should be made in writing and by **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009**.*

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EDO-NQ encourages its members and supporters to lodge submissions on the **draft Terms of Reference by the cut-off date of Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009**.

Regards,

**EDO-NQ**

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The EDO-NQ is a Community Legal Centre that specialises in public interest environmental law. For more information see [www.edo.org.au/edong](http://www.edo.org.au/edong).

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