

Enquires: Jane O'Malley  
Our Ref: 025\_2023\_0414  
Your Ref: 23/03/2023 Minutes - Late Item 11.1  
File No.: CM\_CS\_400



14 April 2023

Ms Julie Burton  
Chief Executive Office  
Shire of Boddington  
PO Box 4  
BODDINGTON WA 6390  
Sent via email: [shire@boddington.wa.gov.au](mailto:shire@boddington.wa.gov.au)

Dear Julie

**Notice of Proposed Permanent and Temporary Road Closures (Morts Road, Ashcroft Road, Siding Road, Stagbourer Trail and Rogers Bend) – Not Supported**

The Peel-Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC) appreciates the opportunity to comment the above mentioned proposed road closures as per your website. PHCC has provided these comments given regional community and environmental interests. PHCC is a community based, Natural Resource Management (NRM) not for profit regional body working across the Peel-Harvey Catchment, covering over 1.1 million hectares of the Serpentine, Murray, Hotham, Williams and Harvey River catchments. PHCC's core aim is agents for change towards a healthier Peel Harvey catchment. As environmental stewards we aim to encourage and enable effective catchment management to create a healthier natural environment through collaborative partnerships for on ground works and research, building community capacity and awareness, influencing and leading critical thought and practice and exemplifying best practice.

On review of the information provide by Council and South32 Worsley Alumina as per the Ordinary Council Meeting 23 March 2023, Late Item 11.1 – Road Closure Request, PHCC provides the following comments for the Shire of Boddington's considerations:

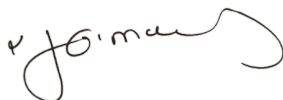
- PHCC's agrees with the Shire of Boddington's comments under "Environmental Considerations that "the extent of environment impacts such as verge side flora disturbance are not specified within the proposal. Mining expansion projects are required to be underpinned by a comprehensive approval process to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), and the clearing alongside the roads that are subject to closure is part of the area included in the EPA".

- No information on environmental survey data and proposed environmental impacts specific to the road closure areas has been provided with the information which is available for public comment. Therefore the Shire and the community are unable to make an informed assessment of environmental impacts.
- As PHCC understands it, some of the activities proposed to impact these road include mining and clearing under South32's Worsley Alumina Pty Ltd Mine Expansion – Revised Proposal. This expansion is still undergoing a formal assessment by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) following the Public Environmental Review which occurred in 2022. PHCC raised a number of environmental and social concerns with the expansion proposal as outlined in [072 2022 08 26 South32-Expansion-PER EPA Submission Final.pdf \(peel-harvey.org.au\)](#). Until this formal assessment has been undertaken and a decision is made on the outcome of the proposal PHCC believe it is premature for the roads to be closed and should continue to be accessed by the community.

The PHCC does not support the proposal by South32 Worsley in its current form, and further detail is required on environmental impacts proposed through the activities planned in the road closure areas. PHCC recommends the Shire seeking this information from South32 as well as waiting on the decision by the EPA on the proposed expansion.

If you wish to discuss the matter further please contact me on 6369 8800 or email [admin@peel-harvey.org.au](mailto:admin@peel-harvey.org.au).

Yours sincerely



Jane O'Malley  
Chief Executive Officer

#### References

<https://www.boddington.wa.gov.au/council-meetings/ordinary-council-meeting/ordinary-council-meeting-march-2023/55/documents/late-item-111-road-closure-request.pdf>