

Mr. J. Gardner
Environmental Manager (Mining)
PO Box 252
Applecross
WA 6953

Glen Forrest
WA 6071
February 29th 2004

Dear Mr. Gardner,

**Re: 'Alcoa Corridor' between two parts of the proposed
Helena National Park, Mundaring, WA**

Last year conservation groups in the Mundaring area managed to get a two-year moratorium on logging in Helena coupes 02 and 03 near the Mundaring Weir. (red on map)

Running concurrently with the logging issue was the presentation, by the Conservation Commission, of the proposed park boundaries for the Helena National Park. In seeking advice re the writing of submissions for changes to the boundaries we discovered that Alcoa held a Special Lease Agreement over the area. This was not generally known by the community.

Apparently, during discussions with Government when planning the Regional Forest Agreement some four years ago, Alcoa agreed to relinquish land for the proposed Helena National Park (green on map) provided Alcoa could retain an area that is known as the 'Alcoa Corridor' (red and red hatched on the map) for transportation purpose including the construction of a future conveyor belt. This aroused considerable community angst, as the division of the proposed National Park into two sections is inconsistent with the concept of continuity of land functioning as a wildlife corridor.

In our submissions to the Conservation Commission we also extended the existing proposed boundaries to Surveyor's Road (blue on map) to provide a clear line of demarcation, and the Beraking coupes (blue on map) to make the wildlife corridor more amenable for fauna use.

We thought, as a community, that in order to protect the forest we only had to negotiate with the Forest Products Commission. We now find that we have to negotiate with Alcoa as well. We understand that since the signing of the Regional Forest Agreement some four years ago, and subsequent to the presentation of our Submissions to CALM in December 2003, no representation has been made to Alcoa with regard to our request? We therefore ask that Alcoa re-consider the decision of some four years ago to accommodate our request, and that Alcoa relinquish the areas marked red and red hatched on the enclosed map, in order that the Helena Park may become a whole continuous area

capable of sustaining a reasonably diverse ecosystem without further assault leading to fragmentation and degradation.

We have contemplated other options, as no doubt Alcoa will, and would appreciate a chance to discuss these with you.

Yours truly

E.M.Maddison

[REDACTED], Hills Forest Alliance,
EARTH, and the Reserve Protection Group

CC: J. Radisich MLA Member for Swan Hills

L. Pratt MLC Member for East Metropolitan Region

J. Day MLA Darling Range

J. Sharp Director of National Parks, Conservation and Land Management

G. Rundle Conservation Commission