



25 August 2022

We request that any expansion of Worsley's mining operation is made in consideration of the impact of the operation on the Bibbulmun Track (the Track).

The Bibbulmun Track is WA's premier long-distance walking trail stretching 1000kms from Kalamunda to Albany. The Track has gained a reputation as a world class trail attracting thousands of West Australians and visitors to the south west each year.

A 2015 survey showed that over 300,000 days are spent on the Track each year generating around \$13million in economic benefit – much of that in regional areas. In addition to individuals, families and tourists, the Track is used by schools and youth groups for outdoor recreation. Use of the Track and hiking in general has increased exponentially since then.

Although WA is a big place, the area of it particularly suited to bush walking is not vast when you take account of WA's population centres. The bulk of WA's population live on the coastal plain between Perth and Bunbury. For most of them the Darling Range is the closest large area most suited to bush walking.

Apart from recreation, the main uses of this area are forest, mining and water catchment. The areas required for these uses overlap but they together occupy a large proportion of the Range's area.

The Bibbulmun Track passes through a narrow green corridor between mining operations including Worsley, Newmont Boddington Gold and Alcoa. The proposed expansion overlaps the Bibbulmun Track in the NW corner of the expansion envelope and borders the Track for some distance.

Whilst we recognise that the section of Track between North Bannister and Dwellingup has already been impacted by mining and forestry, it is imperative that everything possible is done to retain the quality of the experience for Bibbulmun Track walkers. Primary concerns include:

- 1. Visual Impact:** Retain the scenic and visual landscape values of the BT including a 200m buffer on either side of the Track.
- 2. Noise Impact:** Potential blasting and the operation of trucks and other equipment close to the Track will be audible.
- 3. Air Emissions:** Consideration to be given to the impacts of air emissions, in particular dust.
- 4. Connectivity:** To ensure a north-south passage of the BT through the Worsley tenements.

It is essential for future generations that the integrity of the Bibbulmun Track is maintained as:

- a continuous long-distance trail
- a quality 'wilderness' experience

Linda Daniels
Executive Director