



## Gladstone Conservation Council Inc.

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17<sup>th</sup> May 2014

### Extinction is forever

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To: Joe Rea  
Email: [bsl.info@pacificaluminium.com.au](mailto:bsl.info@pacificaluminium.com.au)  
Re: BSL seeks exemption from \$25M cost of renewable energy

Hey Joe,

I note BSL is seeking a 100% exemption from the costs associated with the Renewable Energy Target, quoting: ["even after the current partial exemption the RET still costs BSL around \\$25 million per annum...Put simply, BSL cannot afford to continue to pay this subsidy to renewable energy generators"](#)

I presume that the \$25 Million p.a. is a discounted contribution related to BSL's 8.5 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e footprint, about 1.6 % of Australia's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

We are of course grateful to have BSL as a wonderful neighbour, contributing to employment and such in the local community. Even at an Australian level BSL contributes 0.064% of our national GDP. But is it fair to seek an exemption from one of the last remaining renewable energy stimuli when your carbon footprint is 25 times larger than your economic contribution? It is somewhat counter intuitive to see BSL with an intimate dependence on secure and genuinely sustainable energy supply, undermining efforts to increase the renewable energy content of the energy sector when it is clear from multiple lines of enquiry that fossil fuel burning needs to be scaled back, and substantially so in the near future if we are to have a liveable planet.

I urge you to reconsider your position on this. Even if it improves your balance sheet in the short term; it most likely will not help you survive to 2030.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Ian Coad for his presentation to GREAN which I was fortunate to attend. Having at least some inside knowledge of the workings of BSL, I can attest to the great effort many make to ensure environmental impacts are minimised.

One observation I would like to pass on. While BSL take meticulous care to operate within licence conditions, it is important to not lose sight of the big picture. Fluoride emissions of 0.7 kg/t even though authorised, represents 400 t.p.a. of fluorides to the environment, and while Boyne-Tannum may well be spared the worst of that because prevailing wind takes it over red-mud dam, it does end up somewhere out there. It would be nice to see some improvement, not against regulatory conditions but in absolute terms, in more substantial reductions in the total amount of fluorides emitted.

Sincerely,

Jan Arens

President – Gladstone Conservation Council.