

## **WA Govt extends deadline for Kimberley bauxite mining plans**

**ABC** Posted Tuesday, 27 May 2008

The Western Australian Government has granted joint venture partners Rio Tinto and Alcoa more time to submit their plans to develop bauxite mining in the Kimberley.

It is thought that 456 million tonnes of the highest grade bauxite in WA lies on the Mitchell Plateau.

Bauxite is refined into alumina then smelted into aluminium.

Analysts predict the yearly average price of aluminium will be about \$2,600 a tonne.

Rio Tinto and Alcoa have a temporary reserve on the Mitchell Plateau, but have put off submitting a bauxite development proposal to the State Government.

They now have until the end of 2010 to do so.

The proposal could face significant hurdles, however, because traditional owners, the Kandiwal people, oppose development on the plateau.