

Wagerup Alumina Refinery (W.A.)

- Alcoa of Australia. Starting capacity will be 500,000 TPY, to be expanded over 20 years to two million TPY. Estimated cost \$500 million. Civil works to begin in mid-1979 for completion in early 1983. Alcoa Pittsburg are the engineering consultants. Feasibility study being completed and suppliers are being contacted for longer lead-time items (Mr. Roger Gray, Central Supply Superintendent, Alcoa, Fremantle, W.A.). Tenders for equipment, issued fall 1979.

Worsley Alumina Refinery (W.A.)

- Alwest Pty Ltd. (Reynolds lead partner, Shell Kobe Steel, BHP, Billiton). Bechtel has completed feasibility study for one million TPY refinery, capital cost of approximately \$1.1 billion. Engineering and design to start-up in 1983.

Gladstone Alumina Refinery Expansion (Qld)

- Queensland Alumina will carry out detailed design and engineering studies for expansion of refinery by 350,000 TPY at value of \$260 million. Go-ahead decision expected by September 1980.

Mitchell Plateau Alumina Refinery

- Alumax, Billiton, CRA, Marubeni, Sumitomo. \$1.3 billion for total development project (bauxite, alumina, forestry, fisheries, processing). Feasibility study for 800,000 TPY refinery completed in July 1980. Additional drilling, bulk sampling and construction of pilot plant still required.

4. URANIUM

Australia is reported to have some 20 per cent of the world's uranium, but uranium mining and exporting has been and continues to be a subject of great controversy in Australia for moral, environmental and economic reasons. In the Northern Territory, where four of the potential mines are located, there is also the problem of aboriginal rights.

From the 1950s to mid-1960s, uranium was exported from the Rum Jungle (N.T.), Radium Hill, Mt. Painter (S.A.) and Mary Kathleen (Qld) mines, but exports were interrupted for 10 years and resumed in 1977.

Gradually the new projects are receiving all the necessary approvals and are starting to develop.