

QAL's Community Forum - Progress Update #28

On Wednesday 1 March 2006 members of the QAL Community Forum gathered for its first meeting for the year. Below is a summary of the meeting.

Annual Forum/Board meeting

Annual meeting between QAL Board and Forum members was well received with the Board recognising the progress being made. Board thanked all Forum members for their cooperation and patience in working together.

Community complaints

Presentation delivered on community complaints including alkali, dust, noise and odour year to date. 2005 end year results showed a significant reduction in overall number of complaints.

Revegetation update

2005 target of 3000 trees was achieved. Target for 2006 has been set at 2100. Date for next and final session for the year is yet to be set, however interested participants can register with QAL Community Relations on 4976 2448.

Environmental improvement projects

Update on capital environmental improvement projects provided. Boiler 5 baghouse to be installed in March. Trial has commenced on installing membranes on the top of the refinery's secondary surge tanks and primary feed tanks to eliminate alkali misting.

Community activities

Update on community activities presented, including official event on site to mark 100 million tonnes of alumina production, finalist in the Australian Training Awards as well as QAL's recently launched partnership with Queensland Health and the Gladstone Men's Resource Centre.

Kiln demolition/calcliner update

Calcination stacks removed, signifying a new operational era for QAL. Demolition of QAL's two lime kilns has also now commenced.

Red Mud Dam

Presentation delivered on QAL's 50 year strategy to increase the life of its red mud disposal area. Project will adopt 'upstream' construction method which will utilise the existing dam footprint.

Odour program

Recent odour survey has identified next round of odour sources to target. Challenge is to develop technology that will separate the odour bearing non condensable gases from steam. Investigations are underway.

The QAL Community Forum continues to be a useful medium for the mutual sharing of information between the refinery and its neighbours. Forum information can be found at www.qal.com.au or by telephoning QAL Community Relations on 4976 2448.

QAL encourages the use of the 1800 181 110 Community Hotline to provide feedback about the impact of its operations.