

Media Release - 4 January 2006

Alumina Dust Reduction at QAL's Wharf

Significant reductions in alumina dust emissions at QAL's wharf facilities are a step closer with Board approval to upgrade the refinery's alumina loader.

Following detailed research, the chosen cascading chute technology is considered world class and is also utilised by a number of other alumina refineries within Australia.

The current telescopic chute technology allows alumina to gain significant velocity before exiting the chute into the ship's hold. However, the new cascading chute technology will dramatically reduce alumina dust by enabling the product to transfer down the chute onto the ship via a series of buckets minimising velocity and hence airborne dust.

QAL Managing Director Mr Johann van Zyl said the upgrade is proof of QAL's ongoing commitment to reduce environmental impacts beyond the plant's boundaries.

"The cascading chute technology is world class and QAL is confident that it will bring enormous benefits with photographic research showing significant reductions in visual alumina dust emissions", Mr van Zyl said.

The \$2.4million project is expected to be completed by the second half of this year.