



## QUEENSLAND ALUMINA LIMITED

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MEDIA RELEASE

### **Clean Up Day Extends Beyond Boundaries**

Every thing but the kitchen sink would aptly describe the rubbish collected on Wuttke Road by Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) employees last week.

The clean up was held in conjunction with a quarterly 'Clean Up QAL Day', where all employees and contractors on site stop work for two hours to clean up both inside and outside the refinery boundaries.

While most employees were cleaning up on site, a small group tackled Wuttke Road which is adjacent to QAL buffer zone land and has been used as a community dumping site for quite some time. A team of volunteers was transported to the area and proceeded to gather all of the rubbish – large and small – and put in a skip bin, prearranged with Gladstone Regional Council.

The rubbish certainly wasn't what you would usually find on a clean up, with some items of note including: several televisions, mattresses, a couch, a hot water system, a dining suite, carpet, tiles, pool toys, tyres, a shopping trolley and prescription medications.

Health, Safety, Environment and Communities Manager Ross Greenhalgh said Clean up QAL Day was a success on all fronts.

"It is great to see everyone out and about doing their bit to keep QAL and the surrounding land areas clean and tidy, their efforts are much appreciated. Of particular note, I would also like to thank those who volunteered to help at Wuttke Road and cleaned up 20 cubic meters of rubbish," Mr Greenhalgh said.

"It is disturbing that the area is obviously being used as a local dumping ground, particularly because it is so close to the mangrove system and Wapantake Creek. There is also a great potential for fire which is a concern for our buffer zone land, so it is good to see this hazard has been removed."

Gladstone Regional Council's Director of Environment and Regulation, Ron Doherty said the most disappointing thing about the area being used as a dumping ground is that the majority of the rubbish could have been discarded at Council's waste transfer facilities for free.

"Most of the rubbish collected could have been recycled and it probably would have taken less effort to take it there instead of throwing it out in the bush." Mr Doherty said.

"Cleaning up Wuttke Road was a massive undertaking and we are pleased to have partnered with QAL to return it to the natural environment free of litter. Council is getting very serious about littering and has issued \$30,000 of littering infringement notices since the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. Residents need to be reminded to dispose of their rubbish responsibly in the facilities provided for that purpose or they will be fined."

The clean up at QAL resulted in an estimated 3.1 tonnes of material taken to the on site Waste Transfer Facility to be sorted for recycling.

...ends



*Caption: The QAL Clean Up Day Team with rubbish collected from Wuttke Road*

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**About Queensland Alumina Limited:**

Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) commenced operation in March 1967 with an annual production rate of 600 000 tonnes of alumina. Today QAL is one of the world's largest alumina refineries, producing 3.95 million tonnes of the world's best smelter grade alumina per year. With an average workforce of 1050 employees, QAL is one of the region's largest employers and annually contributes approximately \$200 million directly to the local economy.

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