



## **QUEENSLAND ALUMINA LIMITED**

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MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Clinton School Protects the Reef**

Students from Clinton State School were recognised today for their hard work to protect the Great Barrier Reef when they received one of ten prestigious Reef Guardian Awards.

The students received the Learning Legends Award for their outstanding efforts to protect the Great Barrier Reef and their on-going commitment to the Reef Guardian Schools program.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) Reef Guardian Schools Program Manager Ms Megan Sperring said the Learning Legends Award winners had worked hard and the \$1000 award will help them to continue their efforts.

"This award recognises the school that has displayed classroom creativity and has shown outstanding initiatives in environmental and reef related education," she said.

With assistance from the Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) Reef Guardian fund, Clinton State School has been able to use the outdoor classroom as inspiration for its students, encouraging activities that have a reef protection focus. The Clinton Cultivators, are a group of special needs students who wear their Green Team badges with pride and follow the motto "we're keen to be green!". Everything old becomes new again in their garden with old wheelbarrows becoming garden beds and discarded tyres cultivating pumpkins and potatoes.

Environmental practices are part of the whole schools daily routine and Reef Guardian activities focus on learning the connection between land-based activities and the protection of the reef.

Ms Sperring said Clinton State School efforts are inspiring and their commitment to ensuring the reef remains as healthy as possible must be commended.

"I congratulate Clinton State School on receiving this award and thank the students and the school community for their hard work towards safeguarding the Reef and improving its resilience," she said.

Clinton State School Principal Gary Flower said the whole school is delighted at receiving the award and it was a fitting recognition of the students work.

"The award lets the students know that their efforts to ensure the future of the Great Barrier Reef are noticed".

"The students are proud of their Reef Guardian status and are committed to continuing all the good work they have already done," he said.

The Reef Guardian Schools Annual Awards incorporate ten major awards with each winning school receiving \$1000 to continue their important on ground work.

The Reef Guardian Schools program is an education initiative of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. In its seventh year, this education program sees more than 60 000 students across 194 Queensland schools committed to the protection and conservation of the World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef.



L-R Mellissa Case – QAL Community Relations & Media Specialist with Clinton State School students and Karen Vohland Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Director of Communication and Education).

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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 the region's largest employer and annually contributes approximately \$200 million directly to the local economy.

**About the QAL Reef Guardian Fund:**

The QAL Reef Guardian Fund was established in 2006 by QAL in partnership with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA). Providing \$10 000 of support annually to Reef Guardian schools in the Gladstone Regional Council Area, the fund aims to encourage the development of environmental projects that benefit both schools and the greater community.

**About the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority:**

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is the principal advisor to the Australian Government, through the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts on the care, development and management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The Authority works in partnership with other government agencies, industry, community groups and individuals to help preserve the social, economic and environmental values of the Great Barrier Reef.

**About the Reef Guardian School program:**

The Reef Guardian Schools program is an education initiative of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority that develops partnerships between schools and their communities to work towards a sustainable future for the environment and our Great Barrier Reef. Currently in its seventh year, over 60 000 students in more than 150 schools across Queensland are involved in the program.

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