



## QUEENSLAND ALUMINA LIMITED

A. B. N. 98 009 725 044

PARSONS POINT GLADSTONE QUEENSLAND 4680 AUSTRALIA

TELEPHONE: 4976 2211 (Area code 07; International dialling code 61-7).

09 June 2010

For immediate release

### Incident Finalised in Court

A complaint by Department of Environment and Resource Management against Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) was heard in the Gladstone Magistrates Court today, following an investigation into an uncontrolled release of alkali at the refinery in January 2009.

The organisation pleaded guilty for failing to discharge its Environmental Protection Act obligation and was fined \$90 000. No conviction was recorded.

The court heard how the root cause of the emission was due to a failure of a weld in the relief line in digestion unit three.

QAL Managing Director Phil Campbell said that it was quite clearly a regrettable incident and QAL has improved the management systems to ensure the release does not happen again.

There was no health risk to the community from the emission and no injuries were reported on site. QAL provided compensation for damage to property as a result of the incident.

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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 \$400 million directly to the local economy.*

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#### **For further information:**

**Melissa Case**  
**QAL Community Relations**  
**Ph: +61 7 4976 2448**  
**Mob: 0438 749 830**  
**Email: [casem@qal.com.au](mailto:casem@qal.com.au)**  
**[www.qal.com.au](http://www.qal.com.au)**