



## **QUEENSLAND ALUMINA LIMITED**

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MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

### **New Solution to Dusty Problem**

Over the past two years, QAL in partnership with Anglo Coal and Queensland Rail have been making a visible difference to the reduction of coal dust emissions during coal transportation.

QAL has sourced its coal for the purpose of power and steam generation from the Boundary Hill and Callide mines since the refinery commenced operation in 1967. Each year, QAL utilises approximately 1.4 million tonnes, which is transported by Queensland Rail owned and maintained rolling stock (wagons). Almost every day, 3 800 tonnes of coal is delivered to QAL after travelling 100 kilometres from the mine.

Following extensive research within the industry, Anglo Callide commenced a dust suppression program in 2007 to reduce fugitive coal dust emissions during transportation of the product.

Dupont, who specialise in dust suppression, were commissioned to engineer and install spray systems at the mine's two loadout facilities. The spray systems coat each wagon with a unique dust suppression agent called Dusgon. This agent is a combination of water based polymer emulsions and additives that work together to essentially dampen and bind dust particles together, forming a hard crust on the coal. The product is non hazardous, does not have a detrimental environmental effect and has been specially formulated to treat coal without affecting its properties or usability.

Independent dust monitoring took place at various points in the rail journey both pre and post system installation. Results indicated that Dusgon treated trains reduced airborne dust by 50 to 90 per cent, depending on conditions and type of coal transported.

Ongoing positive results from this project have brought Anglo Coal Callide and DuPont national recognition for their commitment to environmental improvement. In November last year the team received the Environmental Excellence Award at the Australian Mining prospect Awards, and at the

Australian Bulk Handling Awards the partners won the Dust Control Technology - Application or Practice Award.

Work is continuing with the partnership, with opportunities to address dust emissions from empty coal wagons currently being explored.

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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.

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**For further information and images, contact:**

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