



## **QUEENSLAND ALUMINA LIMITED**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

For immediate release

### **Partnership Provides Drought Assistance**

With Calliope Shire drought declared in January this year, and many other regions in Queensland struggling to find feed for their stock, Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) and Toll transport have joined forces to help where they can.

QAL has over 300 hectares of buffer land surrounding the site and over the years has progressively revegetated areas of residue ponds with Rhodes grass (*Chloris gayana*). Each year the grass is cut, baled and used for mulch within the tree planting areas or for dust suppression on any bare areas of earth around the refinery site.

QAL Health, Safety, Environment and Communities Manager Ross Greenhalgh said this year, QAL will donate all bales of hay cut to farmers in need of feed for their stock.

“QAL is delighted to be able to make a contribution to our local farmers during the drought and continue to grow the relationship between rural and industrial sectors,”

“We estimate there will be 900 round bales of hay produced from the buffer zone this year. Farmers mostly from properties in the central Queensland region including Boyne Valley, Calliope, Dululu and Raglan have taken advantage of our offer.” Mr Greenhalgh said.

Calliope president of AGFORCE, Leo Neil-Ballentine, has been assisting QAL in ensuring that the hay goes to the farmers who need it most and NQX Freight System (a business unit of the Toll Group) will provide a discounted transport rate to ensure the hay arrives at the farmers doorstep.

NQX Contract Manager, Shane Royal said NQX Freight System supports QAL's initiative to supply hay to the farmers as part of the drought appeal and have provided special one off rates to the affected farmers in order to keep their costs as low as possible.

“We are honoured to be part of this very worthy and rewarding service to the local farming community and hope that the deliveries are short term!”

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**For further information, contact:**

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Hay bales from QAL's revegetation areas are loaded and ready for distribution to assist local farmers.