



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).

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REEF GUARDIAN FUND SUPPORTS SCHOOLS

Recycling stations, an aquaponics farm and a garden regeneration project are just some of the innovative environmental projects successful in attracting funding through the Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) Reef Guardian Fund.

Providing over \$10,000 of support to local Reef Guardian schools, the fund was established by QAL in partnership with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) to encourage the development of significant environmental projects that benefit both schools and the community.

QAL Health Safety Environment and Communities Manager, Ross Greenhalgh said the fund received nine requests for assistance, which made the decision making process very difficult.

"The application process was very competitive with some very ambitious long term projects proposed," Mr Greenhalgh said.

"It is pleasing to see the level of projects that can come to fruition with additional support and we look forward to seeing the results once complete."

The GBRMPA's Director of Communication and Education Karen Vohland welcomed the support from QAL and said she was proud of the schools for their hard work in preparing projects plans that will now become reality.

"The enthusiasm, leadership and innovation I see in the students involved in the Reef Guardian Schools programme is inspiring and encouraging," she said.

"With the added support from QAL I am confident the schools, community, environment and the Reef will benefit from this partnership. We thank QAL for their support and their commitment to these environmental education projects that work towards protecting the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park for the future."

Projects supported include Tannum Sands State High School to build an aquaponics farm, Toolooa State High School for a recycling station, composting kit and worm farm, Clinton State School for native garden regeneration, Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School for composting and recycling kits and Boyne Island Environmental Education Centre for 'Energywise' education kits.

Work will commence on funded projects in terms two and three, with most completed by the end of the year.

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For further information, contact:

Melissa Case
Community Relations
Queensland Alumina Limited
Ph: +61 7 4976 2448
Email: casem@qal.com.au
www.qal.com.au