



## **QUEENSLAND ALUMINA LIMITED**

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19 August 2009

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

### **Reef Guardians come Together to Combat Climate Change**

Students ready to combat climate change gathered together today for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Reef Guardian School's Future Leaders Eco Challenge (FLEC).

This year's travelling education road show themed 'Kids Combat Climate Change' provided school students the chance to come together to share ideas, learn from each other and showcase their school and community sustainability initiatives.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Reef Guardian Schools Program Manager Megan Sperring said this was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the great environmental projects schools in the Gladstone area are working on.

"Students participating in the FLEC travelled between different local project sites, to see some impressive activities schools and community organisations are undertaking to improve sustainability practices in the region," she said.

"By taking students to different locations we will be exposing them to a wide variety of projects which will assist students to think outside the square and encourage them to come up with activities they can implement at their own schools."

Ross Greenhalgh, Health, Safety, Environment and Communities Manager from Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) said the Reef Guardian Schools Program is a fantastic initiative which inspires local students to protect the local environment.

"QAL is a strong supporter of the Reef Guardian Schools program which offers students the opportunity to partake in some very worthwhile environmental projects which benefit not only the school but the local community," he said.

"Today's FLEC was a wonderful demonstration of what has been achieved by schools in the local area and it is great to see students from different schools coming together to share ideas and their passion for protecting the Great Barrier Reef,"

The Gladstone FLEC is one of 14 taking place over the next three months across the Great Barrier Reef catchment and is an initiative of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) supported by Bunnings Warehouse, QAL, Gladstone Regional Council and the Gladstone Local Marine Advisory Committee.

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*Miriam Vale State School Teacher Phillip Richards and Clinton State School Teacher Ron Barron cooked up a storm on the solar powered barbecue at the Reef Guardian Schools Future Leaders Eco Challenge. The barbecue was funded to demonstrate alternative energy use through the QAL Reef Guardian Fund in 2008.*



*Tannum State High Schools Daniel Lahrey shows the benefits of having an aquaponics farm with live redclaw on site to study to Chanel Colleges Sarah Janson at the Reef Guardian Schools Future Leaders Eco Challenge. The aquaponics farm was funded through the QAL Reef Guardian Fund in 2007.*

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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 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.

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