



## **QUEENSLAND ALUMINA LIMITED**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

For immediate release

### **SCHOOL LAUNCHES INTO SOLAR**

Toolooa State High School today officially started harnessing the power of the sun through a Solar Schools partnership between Ergon Energy, Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Ergon Energy has supplied and installed a \$25,000 photovoltaic system and the school is now generating renewable energy to help power its own buildings and protect the environment.

General Manager Operations Peter Billing said this project would help students and teachers learn about solar power and sustainability and save the School around \$500 in energy costs each year.

Launching the project today, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism, Michael Choi MP said the highly successful program between Ergon Energy and the EPA was opening local students' eyes to the benefits of sustainable energy.

"There is no better teaching tool than having a real life, working example of solar energy right at their school every day," Mr Choi said.

"Toolooa High School will now use clean energy and save money, and any excess produced on weekends and holidays will be sent back into the grid. It's a great outcome all round."

"The Solar Schools program is an integral part of Ergon Energy's Clean Energy program and is a fantastic step forward in fostering an awareness and appreciation of sustainable energy" he said.

"We are proud to support significant programs such as these and I look forward to hearing from the students as they learn about solar energy technology as part of their everyday schooling," Mr Choi said.

Mr Billing said students will see first-hand how a solar power system works and they will learn some important lessons about protecting the environment.

"By utilising 175 watt photovoltaic panels and a purpose-matched inverter system, the project will save around 3.2 tonnes of greenhouse gas each year and the school will save money on its power bills" Mr Billing said.

QAL Managing Director Johann van Zyl said the company was proud to be a sponsor of the Solar Schools program at Toolooa State High School.

“QAL is committed to the local and global environments, and supporting sustainable projects in our community further enhances that commitment,” Mr van Zyl said.

“This project is an excellent way for us to assist with education and environmental sustainability, and pass on knowledge and commitment to the next generation at the same time.”

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Left to Right: Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism, Michael Choi MP, Toolooa State High School Principal Roger Atkins, Toolooa State High School Captain Emily O'Brien, Queensland Alumina Limited Managing Director Johann van Zyl and Ergon Energy General Manager Operations Peter Billing are pictured with a solar panel education kit, provided to demonstrate the benefits of the new solar energy system installed at the school.

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