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Media Release

For immediate release

QAL's Skyline Changes Forever

Yesterday marked a significant time in Queensland Alumina Limited's (QAL) history with the commencement of the removal of the refinery's old calcination section stacks – changing the skyline forever.

Over the next few weeks, QAL's three 60 metre stacks will be dismantled, signifying the refinery's change to a new operational era following the operation of the new \$175 million gas suspension calciners.

Health, Safety, Environment and Communities Manager Mr Ross Greenhalgh said the stack removal is a major milestone in the refinery's 38 year history.

"The stacks have worked extremely hard during their 38 year history, helping to produce over 82 million tonnes of alumina since August 1967", Mr Greenhalgh said.

"As the first major heavy industry in Gladstone, QAL provided work for hundreds of people so I'm sure there are still many locals who remember their contribution to this plant and maybe even more specifically, to building the stacks".

The removal of the stacks has commenced following the completion of a 12 month project to remove the refinery's nine old rotary calcination kilns.

Over the past 12 months, a team of nearly 30 full time employees have dismantled the original nine calcination kilns, leaving now just the firing floor, electro-static precipitators and three stacks to be removed.

In total, about 3000 tonnes of steel have been removed from the project site which have been transported off-site on 188 semi-trailers.

"The new gas suspension calciners have produced dramatic environmental improvements for the refinery, reducing particulate emissions by 95 per cent which exceeds initial design expectations. Greenhouse gas emissions have also reduced by 250,000 tonnes per year", Mr Greenhalgh said

"We have been able to dramatically reduce alumina dust emissions by switching from the rotary kilns to the new calciners with particulate emissions reduced by 95%", Mr Greenhalgh said.

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Photo opportunity available

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