



## **QUEENSLAND ALUMINA LIMITED**

ABN 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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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

For immediate release

#### **Upgrade increases odour reduction stability**

Odour emissions have been further reduced at Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) due to recent modifications to the onsite Thermal Oxidiser.

Odour in the plant is generated from the Digestion section where decayed organic matter in the bauxite is broken down during the refining process. The Thermal Oxidiser works by burning the non-condensable gases at a very high temperature, therefore eliminating the odour. Since its installation in 2003 odour emissions from the Digestion section have reduced by 40 per cent.

With the gradual increase in production levels since the thermal oxidiser was first commissioned, reliability issues developed when the gas chamber reached over 1050 degrees Celcius during peak production times. This overheating would cause the oxidiser to 'trip' and allow the odorous gases to vent into the atmosphere.

QAL Health, Safety, Environment and Communities Manager Ross Greenhalgh said that a number of options were explored to address the issue.

"We recognised that during these down times odour was being released for up to half an hour each time and community complaints regarding odour increased significantly as a result," Mr Greenhalgh said.

"With the recent work we have increased the air cooling capacity from 2000Nm<sup>3</sup>/hr to 4000Nm<sup>3</sup>/hr, allowing for more control over the chamber's temperature and therefore less outages."

Since the upgrade was commissioned last month, the temperature of the thermal oxidiser has remained a consistent 800 degrees Celcius and all odorous, non-condensable gases from the three Digestion units has been captured and burned in the Thermal Oxidiser without outages.

"While the Oxidiser upgrade has provided greater reliability and control over odorous emissions, we acknowledge that more work still needs to be done across the site to further reduce our emissions and lessen community impact." Mr Greenhalgh said.

QAL is continuing to investigate odour reduction strategies and a number of studies are currently underway to determine technological solutions.

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***QAL's Thermal Oxidiser***

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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 one of the region's largest employers and annually contributes approximately \$300 million directly to the local economy.

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**For further information and images, contact:**

**Melissa Case**  
**Community Relations**  
**Queensland Alumina Limited**  
**Ph: +61 7 4976 2448**  
**Mob: 0438 749 830**  
[www.qal.com.au](http://www.qal.com.au)