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BOILER BRINGS MORE STEAM SUPPLY

The Boilerhouse at Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) will soon have an additional steam supply, with the delivery of a new package boiler to the refinery today.

At a cost of \$4 million, the 143 tonne gas fired boiler arrived in Gladstone on 31 December following a two month journey by ship from the United States.

QAL Engineering and Maintenance Services Manager Peter Barnwell said the new boiler would produce 100 tonnes per hour of steam at 5 000 kPa pressure.

"The production of steam is an integral part of the refining process and QAL currently has seven coal fired boilers and a gas fired package boiler on site. The new boiler will compliment the existing equipment by maintaining steam and overall production levels, particularly during planned maintenance and wet weather periods." Mr Barnwell said.

Managing Director Phil Campbell said QAL installed the first gas fired boiler in 2007 and there were many environmental advantages producing steam from gas.

"The main advantage of the gas fired boilers is that they greatly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions when in use, as less carbon dioxide is produced per tonne of steam compared to the coal boilers."

"In addition, gas is a cleaner fuel which does not produce any visible emissions, so the boilers are of great benefit to not only QAL, but also the environment." Mr Campbell said.

The new boiler will be located on the Eastern side of the plant, adjacent to the Boilerhouse and commissioning is scheduled for early February.

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Photo opportunity 11.01.2010: The boiler will depart Auckland Point Wharf at 9.30am and will arrive at QAL at approximately 11.30am

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 \$400 million directly to the local economy.

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