



## QUEENSLAND ALUMINA LIMITED

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MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

### **Projects Receive Funding Boost**

What do the Wapentake Wetlands, volunteering and childcare have in common?

They form the basis of three of many projects developed with the assistance of the Rio Tinto Alcan Community Fund and are all showcased in the recently released 2009 annual report. The Rio Tinto Alcan Community Fund was established in 2002 following research that identified sustainable employment, skills development and the environment as key issues for the community.

Over the past eight years, the Community Fund has collaborated with schools, community groups, other industry and service providers to address areas of need in the Gladstone region.

Rio Tinto Alcan Yarwun general manager and Community Fund board member Mike Dunstan said 2009 was a year of consolidation for the Community Fund.

"In addition to the commencement of several new projects, we have seen significant progress in the continuation of existing partnerships in the region," Mr Dunstan said.

"One exciting opportunity for the community comes in the form of the recently developed Gladstone Region Volunteering project, which will support the Gladstone Regional Council to establish an online volunteer skills bank and enable easier facilitation of matching volunteers to organisations."

Two of the fund's most successful programmes, the Gladstone Schools Engineering Skills Centre (GSESC) and the Business and Information Technology Skills (BITS) Centre, received important recognition in the form of a School's First Impact Award sponsored by the National Australia Bank.

Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) managing director Phil Campbell who was welcomed to the Community Fund board in 2009, said this was a key indicator that the programmes were now capable of attracting other means of financial assistance and that the Community Fund was reaching a point of maturity.

"The acquisition of Alcan in 2007 has resulted in opportunities for Rio Tinto Alcan and QAL to work together to benefit the local community," Mr Campbell said.

"Community investment represents a key alignment area for the two companies and I am excited at the future prospects for us to cooperatively assist the community through the vehicle of the Community Fund."

For further information on the Rio Tinto Alcan Community Fund, to provide feedback on the annual report or to receive a copy, please contact Melita Keast on 4971 7860.

Copies of the report are also available at the Gladstone Regional Council libraries and the Community Advisory Service.

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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 \$400 million directly to the local economy.*

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