



Media release

UQ experience the ‘muddy’ side of Queensland Alumina Limited

18 July 2017

Last Thursday 17 third year Environmental Management students studying at the University of Queensland (UQ) visited the Queensland Alumina Limited site. This was part of a two week excursion to show the students how their in-class studies can assist in real life scenarios.

The excursion was focused around environmental management and social impacts. Some of these being eco-tourism, agriculture, Reef management and industries. The class started their excursion in Cairns and stopped at several locations on the way back to Brisbane.

The Students were accompanied by the course teaching team which was led by Associate Lecturer; Paul Schmidt, with support from Adjunct Professor with UQ, Principal of Roberschan Environmental; Scott Hanna, as well as Senior Lecturer of Environmental Management at UQ Dr Talitha Santini.

For most of the third year students the visit to QAL is their first experience at an operational refinery. UQ Senior Lecturer, Environmental Management Talitha Santini said; “the visit to QAL provides a great opportunity for the students. Having the chance to hear from the experienced staff at QAL about all aspects of the refinery operations and management of the environmental and social impacts associated with these operations is invaluable for our students.

“Seeing the refinery operations in their environmental, geographical, and social context also gives the students an appreciation of the challenges that they will face in their future careers as environmental managers. The sheer number and size and diversity of the industrial activities in Gladstone, and their proximity to both urban developments and sensitive environments like the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Curtis Island National Park, makes Gladstone an ideal location for our students to gain an insight into how environmental and social impacts are managed and balanced against economic benefits.”

UQ Student; Tessa Muldoon said “It was a fantastic opportunity to see behind the scenes of industry and see what works well and some of the challenges they face. I was surprised about the size of the Red Mud dam at QAL as well as the vibrancy and colour of the dam. This trip has really inspired me to perhaps work in industry one day”.

QAL Superintendent of Residue and Environmental Projects Mike O’Neill said, “It was rewarding to have the opportunity to show the students some of the challenges we face in our operations and how we manage these. All the students were enthusiastic to learn about what environmental processes we undertake at our operation.

“We have had a number of University student visits to our operations for onsite experience. I think it is a great opportunity to not only give the students some practical knowledge about industry but it also provides them with more of an understanding of the many different roles that they may want to one day peruse as a career.”

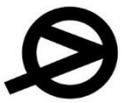
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Picture 1: UQ students looking over the QAL Red Mud Dam



Picture 2: UQ students and teaching team onsite at Queensland Alumina Limited



QUEENSLAND ALUMINA LIMITED



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