



## Media release

30 August 2018

### **QAL donates \$35,000 worth of hay to farmers in need**

As the nation continues to be gripped by the impact of one of the worst droughts on record, Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) is joining forces with Rural Aid to provide much-needed hay to farmers in Queensland.

The world's fourth-largest alumina producer may not be your average hay-grower, however the Refinery has over 300 hectares of buffer land and residue ponds, parts of which were revegetated with Rhodes grass many years ago. This year, QAL has committed to cutting and baling this grass into approximately 350 large bales of hay to donate to farmers, valued at approximately \$35,000.

Rural Aid is able to provide the much-needed support to transport the hay to farmers out west who are most in need, funded largely thanks to the generous donations from the Australian public. QAL will fund the labour hire to load 44 bales of hay onto each truck, which the community may see heading out west to much drier pastures between now and October.

Manager - Health, Safety and Environment, Trent Scherer, said while the hay would be welcome everywhere at the moment, he was pleased to partner with Rural Aid to allow QAL's donation to be received where it's needed most.

"The impact of not having the finances to purchase feed to sustain your livestock, let alone food for your family, is a harsh and sad reality many farmers are currently facing. We are hoping this donation can help ease the burden for a large number of families who are doing it toughest in Queensland."

"If this saves Rural Aid the equivalent of \$35,000 in buying bales of hay, then this means even more of the Australian public's donated funds can be put towards their important services of counselling and the purchase of essential items to support farmer livelihoods."

Rural Aid CEO and Buy A Bale founder Charles Alder said the hay was a welcome donation from the refinery and will be appreciated by farmers.

"Across Australia we're seeing great companies like QAL look in their backyard and find simple ways to help our farmers. This hay will be shipped into western Queensland where the state has been drought declared for over 5 years. Our farmers are magnificent at managing their properties in such dry conditions but this hay will provide some welcome relief to that constant search for feed."

"We look forward to working with QAL and their team to find even more practical ways to help our farmers," he said.

**-ENDS**





*Hay will be wrapped and then loaded onto trucks at Gladstone, Queensland progressively over the coming weeks.*





QUEENSLAND ALUMINA LIMITED



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