



Media Release – 20 July 2009

## Alcoa turning waste into gold

Alcoa has taken its waste management to a new level, achieving Gold status on its re-certification with the Sustainability Victoria Waste Wise program. Alcoa's waste reduction achievements span four sites: Anglesea Power Station; Alcoa Australia Rolled Products Point Henry; Point Henry Smelter and Portland Aluminium. Alcoa's association started with its certification in 1999/2000 when the company became the first industry to join the EcoRecycle Waste Wise Program.

Arnaud Soirat, General Manager of Alcoa's Victorian Operations said the Gold Status Waste Wise re-certification is recognition of Alcoa's long-term focus on sustainable practices, including focus on waste minimisation and management. "The payoff for our efforts has been terrific. There are so many benefits beyond simply the waste reduction itself; the environmental impacts are greatly reduced, costs are lower and the community involvement is really inspiring.

"There are more than 1800 employees across the four sites and the support has been outstanding. It seems everyone wants to do their bit and that's what has made the pretty tough targets achievable," said Mr Soirat.

"Waste management practices at Alcoa locations are based on a strong recycling ethos. The use of Material Recovery Facilities at our smelters allows us to control what material, and how much of it leaves our sites. Recyclables such as paper, cardboard, plastics, steel, aluminium and other separated materials are checked and packaged before being sent off to the recycling companies. Critical to the success of these systems, is the engagement of the Alcoa workforce in segregation of waste at the source so that recycling rates can be maximised."

As general wastes were driven lower and lower, Alcoa has increased its focus to reduce other industrial wastes through strategies that include.

- Processing Spent Pot Lining (hazardous waste formerly landfilled). SPL is now treated and converted to a non-hazardous alternative fuel used in the cement industry
- Developing a unique washing system that allows for plastic/polymer materials (process contaminated packaging) to be cleaned, packaged and recycled into various reusable materials.
- Dross fines are now being used as a raw material in the Foundry Materials Manufacturing.

And it is not only Alcoa seeing the benefits. Alcoa also supports local community waste efforts by providing sponsorship for many local events to be run as WasteWise events. Each site participates in Clean Up Australia Day activities by partnering with local industry, government and community.

The Triple Bin Challenge has been deployed in Sydney and Geelong with many local schools benefitting from the program. The concept behind this program is mirrored in the Public Place Recycling partnership with Sustainability Victoria and Barwon Regional Waste Management Group (introducing infrastructure to provide triple bin systems at Skilled Stadium, Dandenong Stadium, Portland Football Club)

The Anglesea Power Station has developed a partnership with the local primary school, helping the school to develop a waste collection system similar to that used with great success at Alcoa. This has enabled the school to separate recyclables and non-recyclables. Alcoa takes the recyclables from the school and process them through the plant's Materials Recovery Facility (MRF).

Anglesea Primary School has reduced its waste to landfill, and waste management costs by 50% in one year. The school has this saved money available to re-invest into sustainable waste management strategies. The program was one of the case studies in helping to develop Clean-Up Australia's "Triple Bin Challenge", of which the Alcoa Foundation is the major sponsor.

Waste Wise Certifications for larger businesses and manufacturers are shortly to be replaced by the 5Star Sustainability Framework. The 5Star Sustainability Framework is a self assessment tool that provides an indication of a business' progress and suggests tasks and resources to improve their environmental performance. The tool is currently being built and will be launched in November 2009. Waste Wise certifications will no longer be provided for businesses from this time.

The 5Star Sustainability Framework is complementary to statutory and voluntary schemes (including; Energy and Resource Efficiency Program, Energy Efficiency Opportunities, Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, WaterMaps etc) which also provide a high level of support and direction to assist organisations with their waste management.

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