Transcript: "Phosphorus Management to Protect Wetlands"

Produced by: The Institute of International Education

Sponsored by: Alcoa Foundation

Slide Alcoa Foundation Advancing Sustainability Research Initiative

**Phosphorus Management to Protect Wetlands** 

Alcoa Foundation Greening Australia

Institute of International Education

**Brian Doy, Alcoa** Alcoa has a long history in Australia of working with communities. For the last 30

years – or, it'll be 30 years next year – we've had a partnership with an

organization called Greening Australia.

Grey Mackay, Greening Australia Greening Australia is a not-for-profit, non-government organization, and our main focus, our vision is really restoration of biodiverse vegetation through

engaging the community

**Brian Doy** We have deliberately chosen to work with Greening Australia and other partners

in the Peel-Harvey esturine system to look at productive, profitable and

sustainable land-use systems.

**Grey Mackay** Essentially our Peel-Harvey estuary it's a very nutrient overloaded estuary. In the

'80s and '90s, it was on the brink of dying, it was collapsing, purely from all the farmland nutrient build-up was getting just washed down the drains. The nutrients cause algal build-up in the waterways, and that reduces the oxygen and

the fish die, and the living system dies.

**Interlude** [Rain falling on wetland areas, crickets]

**Grey Mackay** Water lands on the farm, washes into a concrete drain and then like a freeway

straight to the estuary. So there's no time for it to slow down, to lose the load of nutrients. And the research that we're doing is looking at phosphorus, so there are other nutrients, but phosphorus is a big one. And we're specifically looking at how the phosphorous moves through the soil, through the ground-water into

the drains or the waterways and into the estuaries.

**Brian Doy** So I think the key thing from this research is to be able to demonstrate first of all,

where does the phosphorus come from and how does it move through the soil structure, and what can we do in terms of remedies to prevent that from

happening in the future.

Slide To learn more visit: www.iie.org/advancingsustainability