



News release

Mount Isa, Monday 26 May

Mount Isa Mines' Copper Smelter undergoes \$30 million project

Mount Isa Mines' Copper Smelter will be brought offline on Wednesday as we commence our \$30 million re-brick project.

The re-brick, which occurs every four years, will take approximately 31 days to complete.

Richard Harvey, Chief Processing Officer North Queensland Copper Assets Australia said the project will involve the re-bricking of one of the two rotary holding furnaces, two anode furnaces as well as the primary smelting vessel-commonly known as IsaSmelt.

"Our re-brick project is a critical part of ensuring our copper smelter operates to capacity and we have had a dedicated team planning the project for the past eight to nine months," Mr Harvey said.

"As with any large scale project it is important we plan each stage of the re-brick thoroughly to ensure the safety of our people and the successful completion of the multi-million dollar project."

The project will see an additional 300 contractors onsite during the re-brick with around 40 percent of these workers sourced locally.

Mr Harvey said the bricks used in the copper smelter vessel are imported from overseas and are capable of withstanding heat up to 1300 degrees Celsius.

"During the re-brick about 1100 tonnes of new bricks will be laid by a team of 130 specialist bricklayers recruited from across Australia," he said.

The cylindrical primary smelting vessel measures 14.5 metres in height with a diameter of 4.8m and the holding furnace is 15.5m long by 4.6m in diameter.

"While the Copper Smelter is offline we will also maximise this time to do preventative maintenance and implement improvements which assist with enhancing operational and environmental performance," Mr Harvey said.

"We expect to bring the Copper Smelter back online at the end of June."

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Stephen Nilsson, Copper Smelter Operations and Maintenance Manager said the last re-brick of the copper smelter took place in April 2010.

“At the beginning of this re-bricking both the Copper Smelter furnaces will have been operating for 50 months - a 6 month improvement on previous best,” Mr Nilsson said.

“Other IsaSmelts around the world have only ever achieved a maximum campaign life of 38.3 months, which highlights the work we do here in Mount Isa to ensure we continually improve our operational practices.”

For further information on our re-brick project or on our Mount Isa operations please contact our Community Feedback Line on 1800 982 982.

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Notes to editors

About Glencore Xstrata

Glencore Xstrata is one of the world's largest global diversified natural resource companies. As a leading integrated producer and marketer of commodities with a well-balanced portfolio of diverse industrial assets, we are strongly positioned to capture value at every stage of the supply chain, from sourcing materials deep underground to delivering products to an international customer base.

The Group's industrial and marketing activities are supported by a global network of more than 90 offices located in over 50 countries. Our diversified operations comprise over 150 mining and metallurgical sites, offshore oil production assets, farms and agricultural facilities. We employ approximately 190,000 people, including contractors. For more information visit www.glencorexstrata.com.

About Mount Isa Mines

Mount Isa Mines operates two separate mining and processing streams, copper and zinc-lead-silver, to deliver natural resources that have enduring roles in our society. The site hosts the world's largest zinc resource base, as well as the biggest network of underground mine development in the world.

The site includes two copper underground mines, one zinc underground mine and two zinc open cut mines; the copper concentrator and smelter, as well as the zinc-lead concentrator, lead smelter and zinc filter plant. Together, these represent Australia's largest industrial complex.

As well as the Australian market, our products are exported to countries throughout Asia, Europe and the UK, contributing billions of dollars to the Australian economy every year. We provide work for almost 5,000 employees and contractors and are dedicated to supporting local people, local businesses, and creating strong links between our operations and the city of Mount Isa. We do this through generous contributions to local health, education, cultural and capacity building initiatives and the funding of vital public services and infrastructure development projects. Since 1924, our operations have been at the heart of life in 'the Isa'. For more information, visit www.mountisamines.com.au.