



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Mount Isa, 2 August 2010

### **Positive action in Mount Isa is well underway**

In late 2006, Xstrata Mount Isa Mines commissioned an independent Lead Pathways Study by the University of Queensland's Centre for Mined Land Rehabilitation (CMLR) in collaboration with the National Research Centre for Environmental Toxicology.

Associate Professor Barry Noller (CMLR) is leading the Lead Pathways Study which is a comprehensive research program examining potential sources of lead in the community – including both naturally occurring minerals and those from mining operations.

In late 2007, results from the Lead Pathways Study indicated that Leichhardt River remediation works undertaken in the early 1990s had been successful and the potential risk to human health was minimal.

Xstrata Copper North Queensland, Chief Operating Officer, Steve de Kruijff said despite the finding that historical mine sediment was low risk to human health, we have undertaken additional remediation works.

"To date, we have invested in excess of \$2.7 million to remove around 160,000 tonnes of historical mine sediment from the Leichhardt River," said Mr de Kruijff.

"The Leichhardt River Remediation Project was undertaken as part of a recommendation from the independent Lead Pathways Study's Phase One (Land) report.

"The Phase One (Land) report was independently peer reviewed by Professor Micheal McLaughlin of the CSIRO's Centre for Environmental Contaminants Research and in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Adelaide.

"We are committed to the Lead Pathways Study and we will continue to act on its recommendations.

"We are anticipating the release of the Phase Three (Water) report in early 2011, and the Phase Two (Air) report in the second half of 2011.

"Mount Isa has one of the most intensive air quality monitoring systems of any city in Australia which directs our smelters to shut down whenever emissions may potentially impact the community.

"Xstrata is proud of its record of never exceeding regulatory limits for respirable lead at any air monitor in the Mount Isa community since acquiring Mount Isa Mines in 2003.



“As a founding member of the Living with Lead Alliance, we will continue to work with key local stakeholders to inform local families about how to live safely in an environment where lead occurs from natural and industrial sources,” said Mr de Kruijff.

## **ENDS**

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### **Notes to editors**

#### **ABOUT XSTRATA PLC**

Xstrata is a global diversified mining group, listed on the London and Swiss Stock Exchanges, with its headquarters in Zug, Switzerland. Xstrata’s businesses maintain a meaningful position in seven major international commodity markets: copper, coking coal, thermal coal, ferrochrome, nickel, vanadium and zinc, with a growing platinum group metals business, additional exposures to gold, cobalt, lead and silver, recycling facilities and a suite of global technology products, many of which are industry leaders. The Group’s operations and projects span 19 countries.

#### **ABOUT XSTRATA COPPER**

Headquartered in Brisbane, Xstrata Copper is one of the commodity business units within the major global diversified mining group Xstrata plc. Its mining and metallurgical operations and development projects span eight countries: Australia, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Canada, the USA, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea. Its operations are administered by five separate divisions, based close to the mining operations, namely the North Queensland, Minera Alumbrera, North Chile, Southern Peru and Canada divisions. It also has a recycling business (Xstrata Recycling) with plants in the United States and offices in Canada and Asia.

Xstrata Copper is the fourth largest global copper producer with attributable mined production in 2009 of 907,000 tonnes of copper in cathodes and concentrates. The company is also one of the world’s largest producers of smelter and refined copper, including from third party materials.

#### **ABOUT XSTRATA ZINC**

Headquartered in Madrid, Spain, Xstrata Zinc is one of the world’s largest producers of zinc and one of the commodity business units within the major global diversified mining group Xstrata plc. Xstrata’s zinc and lead operations and exploration projects are located in Australia, Canada, Germany, Peru, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Xstrata Zinc’s operations in Spain comprise the San Juan de Nieva zinc smelter and the Arnao zinc semis plant in Asturias, and the Hinojedo roasting plant in Cantabria.

In Australia, operations comprise: the Mount Isa, George Fisher underground, Handlebar Hill open cut and Black Star open cut zinc-lead mines, zinc-lead concentrator, lead smelter and Bowen Coke Works in north Queensland; the McArthur River open pit zinc-lead mine, processing and loading facility in the Northern Territory; and 75% of the Lady Loretta zinc lead deposit in north-west Queensland.

In Canada, operations and exploration projects include the Brunswick zinc-lead mine and lead smelter in New Brunswick; 25% of the CEZ zinc smelter near Montreal; and the Perseverance zinc deposit in Quebec.

Xstrata Zinc also operates the Nordenham zinc smelter in northern Germany; the Northfleet lead refinery in the United Kingdom; and owns 33.75% of the Antamina mine in Peru.

Around half of all zinc currently consumed is used for galvanizing steel, which is an environmentally friendly method of protecting steel against corrosion. Zinc also finds application in the manufacture of die-cast alloys, brass and the production of zinc oxides and chemicals.