



**MOUNT ISA  
MINES**

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**Steve de Kruijff, Chief Operating Officer, Xstrata Copper North Queensland**

### **STATEMENT REGARDING THE RELEASE OF THE 2007/08 NATIONAL POLLUTANT INVENTORY (NPI) RESULTS**

**Mount Isa, 31 March 2009**

Xstrata Mount Isa Mines reports its emissions annually to the National Pollutant Inventory (NPI), an initiative of the Federal Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.

The NPI contains information relating to the emission of 93 substances from industrial facilities and diffuse (non-industrial) sources.

As the largest mining and processing facility in Australia, Xstrata Mount Isa Mines is committed to sustainably managing our operations, said Chief Operating Officer, Xstrata Copper North Queensland, Mr Steve de Kruijff.

"Xstrata Mount Isa Mines has a significant operational footprint which is comparable to the sum of multiple individual mines and industrial facilities listed on the NPI

"In the 2007/08 NPI results released today, we reported fewer emissions for four of the six substances for which where we are the top emitter.

"Xstrata has achieved significant reductions in recent years and we are continually working on making further improvements.

"The environmental improvements we have introduced have resulted in positive outcomes such as a 77% reduction in sulphur dioxide emissions at the copper smelter since 2000 with the introduction of the acid plant and a 33% reduction in sulphur dioxide emissions at the lead smelter over the same period," he said.

Xstrata Mount Isa Mines' NPI data represents an operational footprint comprising an open cut mine, an underground mine, two smelters, two concentrators, a filter plant, multiple engineering and maintenance facilities, warehouses and supply depots, rock quarries and tailings dams.

"The NPI is an estimation of the emissions on-site, it does not measure emissions in the community," Mr de Kruijff said.

"Our Air Quality Control Centre plays an important role in monitoring and controlling emissions in the Mount Isa community.

"In fact, Mount Isa has the most intensive air quality monitoring system of any city in Australia and our smelters are shut down when emissions are approaching regulated limits.

"Xstrata Mount Isa Mines continues to operate within the licensed limits set by the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and we are working with them to implement upcoming changes to our environmental regulation," he said

Since acquiring the mine in mid-2003, Xstrata has spent over \$200 million on more than 80 environmental improvements.

"The health and safety of our workers and the Mount Isa community is our highest priority," Mr de Kruijff said.

"That is why we have commissioned an independent, *Lead Pathways Study*, that will be peer reviewed, to examine the potential pathways of lead into the community through land, water and air and any potential risk to human and ecological health.

"The preliminary findings from phase one (land) were publicly released in late 2007. As a result of these findings we completed the second stage of the Leichhardt River Remediation Project in June 2008 at a cost of around \$1.5 million.

"We continue to update the Mount Isa community on the study's progress through our sustainability reports and community information sessions.

"Mount Isa is a highly mineralised area and Mount Isa Mines has been working with local and State Government for more than 15 years to raise community awareness about living safely with lead.

"We are also a founding member of the Living with Lead Alliance which is working to provide Mount Isa residents with information to assist them to stay healthy in an environment which has high levels of naturally occurring minerals such as lead.

"I've lived in Mount Isa most of my life and raised my family there. I wouldn't do that if I didn't think it was safe," Mr de Kruijff said.

*Ends*

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## **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 operations and 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 annual attributable production capacity of over one million tonnes.

## **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 and Black Star open cut zinc lead mines, zinc lead concentrator, lead smelter and Bowen Coke Works in north Queensland; 75% of the Lady Loretta zinc lead deposit in north-west Queensland; the McArthur River open pit zinc lead mine, processing and port operations in the Northern Territory; and 50% of the Lennard Shelf underground zinc lead mine and processing operations in Western Australia.

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.