



MEDIA RELEASE

Xstrata Copper North Queensland Division announces senior management changes

Mount Isa, 23 March 2010

Xstrata Copper's North Queensland Division announces a number of changes to the Division's senior management team.

Michael Holmes, formerly General Manager Mount Isa Copper Operations (MICO), will be leaving in early April to prepare for taking up a Senior Management assignment with Xstrata Copper in South America.

Chief Operating Officer, Xstrata Copper North Queensland, Steve de Kruijff said:

"I would like to thank Michael for his significant contribution to our north Queensland business, particularly in the Mount Isa Copper Operations (MICO), and the local community over the past six years.

"We wish him and his wife, Jennifer, and family all the best as they embrace all the challenges and opportunities presented by a new chapter of their lives in South America."

A number of other changes to the Division's senior management team and to some of their roles and responsibilities have also been announced.

These include:

- Mike Westerman, currently GM Ernest Henry Mine (EHM) based in Cloncurry will take up the position of GM Mount Isa Copper Operations (MICO) based in Mount Isa. Mike's role will also include the added responsibilities of Bulk Products Logistics and Project Development, including the copper start open pit, Halo and Cobberbalt projects.
- Myles Johnston, currently GM Strategic Planning based in Mount Isa will take over from Mike at EHM based in Cloncurry. Myles will also retain the regional development and exploration facets of his current role.
- As a result of the Division's commitment to ongoing improvements in sustainable development, the new position of GM Sustainable Development North Queensland Copper has been created. The current SD Management in Health & Safety, Environment and Community Relations will report to this position.
- Ken Draffen, GM Engineering Services & Projects, will retain his current responsibilities but with the added responsibility of all Mount Isa profit centre engineering services and projects groups. This will centralise and streamline the Division's engineering and project service delivery.
- Sue Sara will retain her role as GM Corporate Affairs Queensland with a strengthened focus on strategic corporate affairs and government relations, given the demands and expectations on our business in this area. The North Queensland community relations and SD issues management responsibilities previously covered by Sue will be transferred to the GM Sustainable Development.

- Yves Brouillette, currently at Xstrata Copper's Kidd Smelter in Canada, will join Xstrata Copper based in Brisbane as GM Asset Management for Xstrata Copper globally. In this role, Yves will provide leadership across the Xstrata Copper Business Unit to reinforce leading asset management practices.

"These changes, effective 6 April, are designed to enable our Division to maintain its strategic position as an important contributor to our global Copper Business Unit," said Mr de Kruijff.

"Our priorities will be on further improving our sustainable development performance and improving our profitability as we develop the EHM underground and magnetite projects, transition to new environmental regulations in Mount Isa and develop additional copper mining resources in the Mount Isa and Cloncurry regions."

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 COPPER NORTH QUEENSLAND

Xstrata Copper's North Queensland Division is headquartered in Mount Isa and comprises the Mount Isa Mines copper operations consisting of the Enterprise and X41 underground copper mines, the copper concentrator, Mount Isa copper smelter, Ernest Henry Mining open pit copper mine located near Cloncurry, and the Townsville operations comprising the copper refinery, and Townsville port facilities and logistics.

The Division's integrated operations have the capacity to produce 300,000 tonnes of refined copper per annum. In 2009, Xstrata Copper North Queensland contributed \$1.3 billion to the Queensland economy.