



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Mount Isa, 14 July 2010

**Statement to be attributed to Steve de Kruijff, Chief Operating Officer, Xstrata Copper North Queensland**

### **Xstrata Mount Isa Mines protects the health of its workforce**

The health and safety of our workforce and community is our number one priority.

Xstrata Mount Isa Mines has in place a comprehensive occupational hygiene monitoring program to protect the health of its workers.

Our removal limits for lead-in-blood are set below regulatory requirements which limit the likelihood of any worker reaching prescribed regulatory limits for lead in blood.

In 2009, Xstrata Mount Isa Mines obtained 8,474 blood lead samples from employees, which identified only one instance of an employee exceeding the removal limit.

Any employee found to have a blood lead level exceeding our removal limit is relocated to a non-lead risk area until their blood lead levels reach the designated return level.

## ***ENDS***

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### **Xstrata contacts**

#### **Sue Sara**

General Manager – Corporate Affairs, Queensland, Xstrata Copper  
Telephone +61 7 3295 7535  
Mobile 0411 206 090  
Email [suesara@xstrata.com.au](mailto:suesara@xstrata.com.au)  
[www.xstrata.com](http://www.xstrata.com)

#### **Josh Euler**

Senior Communications Advisor, Xstrata  
Telephone +61 7 3295 7543  
Mobile 0435 659 987  
Email [jeuler@xstrata.com.au](mailto:jeuler@xstrata.com.au)

### **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 Alumbra, 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.