



THE HON NITA GREEN MP

Assistant Minister for Northern Australia

Keynote speech

**Mt. Isa to Townsville Economic Development Zone 30th
anniversary**

12 June 2025

Mt. Isa copper smelter ^{s22}

I know you all are eager to hear news about the Glencore Mt. Isa copper smelter.

Strengthening our resources industry is one of this government's key priorities, and a core part of our Future Made in Australia agenda.

The smelter is being challenged due to the adjacent mine reaching its end of life, shortages in copper concentrate, and a global downturn in treatment and refinement charges.

Mt Isa ^{s22} will remain one of Australia's powerhouse mining and industrial regions.

The Commonwealth Government is closely engaged with Glencore alongside the Queensland Government, over the future of the smelter and the implications for the Mount Isa ^{s22}

Through this process, Commonwealth agencies are monitoring the negotiations and will participate in developing support options if required.

² <https://minister.infrastructure.gov.au/m-king/speech/2024-annual-statement-parliament-developing-northern-australia>

The Government is committed to preserving the sovereign smelting industry, as well as the local communities and livelihoods these critical sectors support.

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Thank you.

ENDS

Industry facilities at risk – key dates and proposed high level (internal to Govt) handling*

*This document is a facility-by-facility background document with key facts, dates, milestones and largely internal handling. This reflects one of the strands of a broader 3 part plan and pathway (see brief) to work constructively with facilities, states and communities while we develop the evidence base, conduct analysis and devise options for consideration by Cabinet and ERC.

Facility (owner)	Key details	Timeline / Milestones	Suggested Handling Strategy
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Facility (owner)	Key details	Timeline / Milestones	Suggested Handling Strategy
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Australian Government

Department of Industry, Science and Resources

PDR ID MB25-000204

EVENT SUMMARY **Minister for Resources**

30th Anniversary Dinner of the Mount Isa to Townsville Economic Development Zone

Event and purpose

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Date

Time

Location

Speakers

Key message(s)

- The Australian Government is working closely with the Queensland Government and Glencore over the planned Mt Isa copper smelter closure. The Government is committed to preserving the sovereign smelting industry.

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Issues/sensitivities

- The Glencore copper smelter in Mount Isa, Queensland is facing significant financial viability challenges over the near term (2026-2030) and is considering closure from 2026.
- Closure of the smelter would have significant downstream impacts, including economic activity in the region and threatening the viability of other projects in Northwest Queensland.
- This follows the closure of the Glencore copper mine in Mount Isa in July 2025.

See attachments:

The Media Team will provide the speech to the MO separately.

Attachment A: Background

Attachment B: Talking Points

Attachment C: Biographies / List of Attendees

Clearing Officer:	Peter Chesworth	Head of Division Minerals and Resources	Ph: S 22 Mob: S 22
Contact Officer:	S 22	Manager Critical Minerals Office	Ph: S 22 Mob: S 22
For Parliamentary Services' use only.			06/06/2025
Date Submitted to the Minister's office in PDMS:			

BACKGROUND

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About the host organisation

- The Mount Isa to Townsville Economic Development Zone (MITEZ) is an economic development advocacy body representing the local governments of Mount Isa, Cloncurry, McKinlay, Richmond, Flinders, Charters Towers and Townsville.
 - MITEZ covers a corridor of north Queensland local government spanning over 1000km from Mt Isa to Townsville, covering approximately 16% of Queensland's total land area. More than 230,000 Australians live in this area.
 - MITEZ was founded in 1995 by the group of local governments who recognised their shared interests driven by a resource rich interior connected to an export gateway.

- MITEZ's primary purpose is to advocate economic development and promote investment in the MITEZ region. Their mission is "building a stronger, more connected, and globally competitive region through inclusive engagement, strategic advocacy, and sustainable development."
- MITEZ's members include a wide range of stakeholders from the region, including local governments, local businesses, mining, agriculture, energy, tourism, manufacturing companies, universities, charities, and more.
- MITEZ has frequently engaged with the Commonwealth and state governments in the past, particularly the Queensland Government, including making submissions to inquiries, reports and letters to local representatives.

About the speakers

- s22
- The list of other speakers is yet to be confirmed – may include senior members of MITEZ leadership.

Major subjects relevant to MITEZ

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

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OFFICIAL: Sensitive

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Mt Isa Glencore copper smelter

- The Glencore copper smelter in Mount Isa, Queensland is facing significant financial viability challenges over the near term (2026-2030) and is considering closure from 2026. It is one of two copper smelters in Australia.

s45 & s47

- The Townsville copper refinery (also owned by Glencore) uses copper anodes from the Glencore smelter and refines it into pure copper cathode which is used for various industrial purposes. s45 & s47
- s45 & s47

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

- The Glencore copper smelter accepts copper concentrate from mid-tier and junior mineral miners in the region, s45 & s47
- Queensland is forecasting an increase in demand and a shortfall in supply for sulphuric acid in Northwest Queensland over the next ten years. It is possible that critical minerals projects coming online in the region will have a shortfall of sulphuric acid. Sulphuric acid is essential to the processing of many minerals. s45 & s47

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OFFICIAL: Sensitive

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OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Talking Points

If asked about Glencore Mt Isa Smelter:

- Strengthening our resources industry is a key priority of this Government as a part of its Future Made in Australia agenda.
- Our resources industry is the engine room of the economy, but it is also increasingly important for our sovereignty and our national security.
- The Government understands smelting facilities like Glencore Mt Isa are being challenged due to the adjacent mine reaching its end of life, shortages in copper concentrate, and globally low treatment and refinement charges.
- The Commonwealth Government is closely engaged with Glencore alongside the Queensland Government, over the future of the smelter and the implications for the Mount Isa and Northwest Queensland regions.
- Through this process, Commonwealth agencies are monitoring the negotiations and will participate in developing support options if required.
- The Government is committed to preserving the sovereign smelting industry, as well as the local communities and livelihoods these critical sectors support.

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Confirmed organisations with representatives in attendance

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Dyno Nobel
Energy Queensland

s47G

GHD

Harmony SE Asia

Iberdrola Australia

s47G

s47G

Mount Isa City Council

Mount Isa Water Board

On Common Country

Port of Townsville

Powerlink Queensland

s47G

Queensland Rail (QR)

Regional Development Australia NWQ (RDA NWQ)

s47G

SLR Consulting

South32

Sunwater

Townsville City Council

Wulguru Tech Services



Meeting Brief

MB25-000260

**FOR INFORMATION - Meeting with the Hon David Crisafulli, Premier of Queensland, 1:45pm
19 June 2025**

TO: Minister for Industry and Innovation; Minister for Science

CC: Minister for Resources; Minister for Northern Australia

CC: Assistant Minister for Science, Technology and the Digital Economy

PURPOSE OF MEETING

- Discuss with Premier Crisafulli (biography at [Attachment A](#)) challenges facing Glencore's Mount Isa copper smelter in preparation for your meeting with Glencore on Friday 20 June.

KEY MESSAGES

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BACKGROUND

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Glencore

- Glencore's Mount Isa copper smelter is facing near term financial viability challenges
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Clearance Officer
Tara Oliver
Head of Division
Industry and Manufacturing Division
18 June 2025

Contact Officer
S 22
Assistant Manager, Industry Investment and
Transition
Ph: **S 22**

CONSULTATION

Minerals and Resources Division

ATTACHMENTS

A: Biography

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