

**From:** [MediaTeam](#)  
**To:** **s22** [Minister Ayres Media](#)  
**Cc:** [MediaTeam](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Monday, 11 August 2025 4:08:19 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

---

OFFICIAL

Hi team,

Note we were copied into the below query and know **s22** sent this journo some lines last week. Let us know if you need anything from us on the below?

Many thanks

**s22**

OFFICIAL

---

**From:** **s22** >  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 August 2025 2:47 PM  
**To:** **s22** @industry.gov.au>; Minister Ayres Media  
 <media.ayres@industry.gov.au>; MediaTeam <mediateam@industry.gov.au>  
**Subject:**

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---

Good afternoon,

I'm following up on the story in The West Australian today which revealed Nyrstar might be criminally prosecuted in Belgium for misleading investors, including about the SA refinery redevelopment.

When did the Federal Government become aware of the Belgian Financial Services and Markets Authority investigation?

Given that Nyrstar has been accused of misleading investors, are there any concerns it may have misled the Government? What extra protections were put in place to ensure this did not happen?

Did Nyrstar make representations to the Government claiming that its only options were to close the plant or receive a handout? What other options were covered, including an administration?

Does this raise broader concerns about governance of FMIA?

And to follow up an earlier question, what portion of Nyrstar's production is exported? And to which countries? Does the Federal Government know?

The deadline for a response is COB EST on Tuesday.

Thank you. Regards,

s22



Seven West Media (WA)

s  
22

Newspaper House, 50 Hasler Rd, Osborne Park WA 6017  
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**From:** s22  
**To:** s22  
**Subject:** RE: [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Thursday, 7 August 2025 3:29:33 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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s22

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**From:** s22 @industry.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 7 August 2025 3:06 PM  
**To:** s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @industry.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi! A few thoughts from me. Wonder if we put some of this on background to focus in on the key message we want to get across (investment in future critical minerals)

Statement attributed to a spokesperson:

- This investment reflects three governments engaging constructively with Nyrstar on a serious assessment of the viability of critical minerals processing in Australia.
- As a part of this package, Nyrstar will produce minerals vital to strengthening global supply chains. In Port Pirie, antimony and bismuth, and in Hobart germanium and indium.
- This will mean that Port Pirie will be the only producer of antimony metal in Australia and one of the few producers globally.
- Sustainable and competitive smelting capabilities in Australia that can deliver critical minerals projects are part of the Albanese Labor Government's Future Made in Australia agenda.

On background:

- The government has made targeted, strategic investments in enterprises that are critical for Australia's economic capabilities in the short, medium and long term, and which help vital domestic assets such as smelters and steelworks weather the effects of a fast-changing global economic landscape.
- Nyrstar contributes A\$1.7 billion annually to the Australian economy and directly employs 1,400 Australians, supporting a further 6,647 jobs downstream.

This package ensures that public investment is being maximised to deliver long-term benefits for Australia's critical minerals capability and regional jobs both in South Australia and Tasmania.

- This package supports Australia's sovereign capability in sectors such as defence, clean energy, transport, advanced manufacturing, and high-tech applications.

s22 | **Communications Director**  
**Office of Senator the Hon Tim Ayres**  
*Minister for Industry and Innovation*  
*Minister for Science*  
*Senator for NSW*  
s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:@industry.gov.au)

-  
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**From:** s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:@industry.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 7 August 2025 2:38 PM  
**To:** s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:@industry.gov.au)>; s22  
s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:@industry.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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s22

Statement attributed to a spokesperson:

- This is not a **"bailout"**; the three governments are engaging constructively with Nyrstar on a serious assessment of the viability of critical minerals processing in Australia.
- Nyrstar contributes A\$1.7 billion annually to the Australian economy and directly employs 1,400 Australians, **supporting a further 6,647 jobs downstream.**
- This package ensures that public investment is being maximised to deliver long-term benefits for Australia's critical minerals capability and regional jobs both in South Australia and Hobart.
- This package supports Australia's sovereign capability in sectors such as defence, clean energy, transport, advanced manufacturing, and high-tech applications.
- Nyrstar has come to the table and, as a part of this package, they have agreed to diversify into producing minerals **that strengthen global supply chains:**
  - Port Pirie: Antimony and Bismuth.
  - Hobart: Germanium and Indium

- It would make Port Pirie the only producer of antimony metal in Australia and one of the few producers globally.
- Sustainable and competitive smelting capabilities in Australia that can deliver critical minerals projects are part of the Albanese Labor Government's Future Made in Australia agenda.

—

I wonder if one additional line on contesting the 'pattern of bailouts' narrative could be handy, but I totally defer to your wisdom on this one!

- There is no 'trend of handouts for failing businesses'. The government has made targeted, strategic investments in enterprises that we think are critical for Australia's economic capabilities in the short, medium and long term, and to help vital domestic assets such as our smelters and steelworks weather the effects of a fast-changing global economic landscape.

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---

**From:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 7 August 2025 2:27 PM  
**To:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Thoughts:

**NYRSTAR:**

Statement attributed to a spokesperson:

- This is not a **"bailout"** but the three governments engaging constructively with Nyrstar on a serious assessment of the viability of critical minerals processing in Australia.
- Nyrstar contributes A\$1.7 billion annually to the Australian economy and directly employs 1,400 Australians and supports 6,647 indirect jobs.
- This package ensures that public investment is being maximised to deliver long-term benefits for Australia's critical minerals capability and regional jobs both in South Australia and Hobart.
- This package supports Australia's sovereign capability in sectors such

as defence, clean energy, transport, advanced manufacturing, and high-tech applications.

- Nyrstar has come to the table and as a part of this package they have agreed to diversify into producing minerals facing global shortages:
- Port Pirie: Antimony and Bismuth.
- Hobart: Germanium and Indium
- It would make Port Pirie the only producer of Antimony metal in Australia and one of the few producers globally.
- Sustainable and competitive smelting capabilities in Australia that can deliver critical minerals projects are part of the Albanese Labor Government's Future Made in Australia agenda.

s22 | **Senior Press Secretary**  
**Office of Senator the Hon Tim Ayres**  
*Minister for Industry and Innovation*  
*Minister for Science*  
*Senator for NSW*

s22

s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)

-

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**From:** s22 >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 August 2025 2:44 PM  
**To:** MediaTeam <[mediateam@industry.gov.au](mailto:mediateam@industry.gov.au)>; Minister Ayres Media  
 <[media.ayres@industry.gov.au](mailto:media.ayres@industry.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE:

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---

Good afternoon,

Just wanted to add one more question. What portion of Nyrstar's production is exported?

Best,  
 s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 August 2025 11:48 AM  
**To:** MediaTeam ; [media.ayres@industry.gov.au](mailto:media.ayres@industry.gov.au)  
**Subject:**

Good morning,

Hope you are well. A media inquiry on the bailout of the Nyrstar smelter announced yesterday. Deadline is COB Thursday.

- Two former Productivity Commission bosses warned the government last month not to get “held to ransom by uneconomic energy intensive manufacturers”. Are you concerned that Nyrstar’s shareholders may have exploited political pressure to boost their profits?
- This bailout follows a growing trend of handouts for failing businesses, including Rex Airlines. Has the government assessed what the consequences will be of propping up these companies? What is the broader strategy?
- Has the government assessed how much of the latest bailout will flow to workers, rather than shareholders or creditors?
- Nyrstar Australia reported a loss of more than \$400m last financial year and accumulated losses north of \$1.4bn. Is this deal throwing taxpayer money into a business which is perennially unviable?
- Why not allow the company to appoint administrators and restructure, rather than putting up cash to bail out the shareholders?
- Was the Government aware Nyrstar was investigated in 2020 by the Belgian Financial Services and Markets Authority on financials of the Port Pirie smelter redevelopment and on its solvency? Does this, and the accumulated loss, demonstrate the company has had long-term financial issues?

Regards,

s22

| s22



Seven West Media (WA)

s22

<https://thewest.com.au/profile/matt-mckenzie>

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**From:** s22  
**To:** MediaTeam; s22 ; Minister Ayres Media  
**Cc:** s22  
**Subject:** RE: [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 12 August 2025 5:08:41 PM  
**Attachments:** image001.png  
image002.png  
image003.png

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Thanks team.

s22 | **Senior Press Secretary**  
**Office of Senator the Hon Tim Ayres**  
*Minister for Industry and Innovation*  
*Minister for Science*  
*Senator for NSW*  
s22  
s22 @industry.gov.au

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**From:** MediaTeam  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 August 2025 4:42 PM  
**To:** s22 ; MediaTeam ; s22 ; Minister Ayres Media  
**Cc:** MediaTeam ; s22  
**Subject:** RE: [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi team,  
s47C

Noting s2 in your office was also just copied on the email back to us, so he's in the loop now also.

Let us know if you need anything further

Thanks  
s22

*'The Government is aware of the investigation. It will not comment on legal matters before the courts in another jurisdiction.  
The \$135 million package from Commonwealth, South Australia, and Tasmania Governments is funding to support transformation of the Port Pirie and Hobart smelters into modern facilities capable of producing critical minerals.  
Funding agreements of this nature include strict conditions on where and when funds will be paid and for what activities.'*

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---

**From:** s22 @industry.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 August 2025 4:59 PM

**To:** MediaTeam <[MediaTeam@industry.gov.au](mailto:MediaTeam@industry.gov.au)>; s22  
s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @industry.gov.au>; Minister Ayres  
Media <[Media.Ayres@industry.gov.au](mailto:Media.Ayres@industry.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** MediaTeam <[MediaTeam@industry.gov.au](mailto:MediaTeam@industry.gov.au)>; s22  
s22 @industry.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s22  
s47C

Cheers,  
s22 | **Communications Director**  
**Office of Senator the Hon Tim Ayres** s  
Minister for Industry and Innovation  
Minister for Science  
Senator for NSW  
s22 @industry.gov.au

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**From:** MediaTeam <[MediaTeam@industry.gov.au](mailto:MediaTeam@industry.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 11, 2025 4:08:13 PM  
**To:** s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22  
s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @industry.gov.au>; Minister Ayres  
Media <[Media.Ayres@industry.gov.au](mailto:Media.Ayres@industry.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** MediaTeam <[MediaTeam@industry.gov.au](mailto:MediaTeam@industry.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

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Many thanks  
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**To:** s22 @industry.gov.au>; Minister Ayres Media  
<[media.ayres@industry.gov.au](mailto:media.ayres@industry.gov.au)>; MediaTeam <[mediateam@industry.gov.au](mailto:mediateam@industry.gov.au)>  
**Subject:**

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Good afternoon,

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The deadline for a response is COB EST on Tuesday.

Thank you. Regards,

s22

)



Seven West Media (WA)

S

<https://thewest.com.au/profile/matt-mckenzie>

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**From:** s22  
**To:** s22 ; [MediaTeam](#); [Minister Ayres Media](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Sunday, 10 August 2025 2:28:05 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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---

Good afternoon,

Thanks for your earlier responses. I note there was no direct response on the investigation by Belgian regulators. That's okay but want to give you another opportunity to comment.

Deadline is 5pm WST.

Regards,

s22

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---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Friday, 8 August 2025 2:10 PM  
**To:** s22 ; [MediaTeam](#) ; [Minister Ayres Media](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hey s22

See below – have a good weekend.

Thanks,

s22

**Statement attributed to a spokesperson:**

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- As a part of this package, Nyrstar will produce minerals vital to strengthening global supply chains. In Port Pirie, antimony and bismuth, and in Hobart germanium and indium.
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s22 | **Senior Press Secretary**

**Office of Senator the Hon Tim Ayres**

*Minister for Industry and Innovation*

*Minister for Science*

*Senator for NSW*

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**From:** s22

>

**Sent:** Friday, 8 August 2025 2:03 PM

**To:** MediaTeam <[mediateam@industry.gov.au](mailto:mediateam@industry.gov.au)>; Minister Ayres Media  
<[media.ayres@industry.gov.au](mailto:media.ayres@industry.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE:

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Good afternoon, just wanted to check in on this please.

**From:** s22

**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 August 2025 12:44 PM

**To:** 'MediaTeam' <[mediateam@industry.gov.au](mailto:mediateam@industry.gov.au)>; 'media.ayres@industry.gov.au'  
<[media.ayres@industry.gov.au](mailto:media.ayres@industry.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE:

Good afternoon,

Just wanted to add one more question. What portion of Nyrstar's production is exported?

Best,

s22

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**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 August 2025 11:48 AM

**To:** MediaTeam <[mediateam@industry.gov.au](mailto:mediateam@industry.gov.au)>; [media.ayres@industry.gov.au](mailto:media.ayres@industry.gov.au)

**Subject:**

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- This bailout follows a growing trend of handouts for failing businesses, including Rex Airlines. Has the government assessed what the consequences will be of propping up

these companies? What is the broader strategy?

- Has the government assessed how much of the latest bailout will flow to workers, rather than shareholders or creditors?
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- Was the Government aware Nyrstar was investigated in 2020 by the Belgian Financial Services and Markets Authority on financials of the Port Pirie smelter redevelopment and on its solvency? Does this, and the accumulated loss, demonstrate the company has had long-term financial issues?

Regards,

s22



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**From:** s22  
**To:** s22  
**Cc:** [Minister Ayres Media](#); [MediaTeam](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 12 August 2025 5:08:25 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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OFFICIAL

Hey s22

Statement attributed to a spokesperson:

- The Government is aware of the investigation but cannot comment on legal matters before the courts in another jurisdiction.
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s22

**| Senior Press Secretary**  
**Office of Senator the Hon Tim Ayres**  
*Minister for Industry and Innovation*  
*Minister for Science*  
*Senator for NSW*  
s22

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**To:** s22 ; Minister Ayres Media ; MediaTeam  
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**Cc:** [MediaTeam](#); s22  
**Subject:** Re: [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Monday, 11 August 2025 4:59:03 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

---

OFFICIAL

Hi s22

s47C

Cheers,

s22 | **Communications Director**  
**Office of Senator the Hon Tim Ayres**  
*Minister for Industry and Innovation*  
*Minister for Science*  
*Senator for NSW*  
s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)

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To: s22 ; Minister Ayres Media ; MediaTeam

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**From:** s22  
**To:** [MediaTeam](#); [Minister Ayres Media](#)  
**Subject:** RE:  
**Date:** Friday, 8 August 2025 2:03:33 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Good afternoon, just wanted to check in on this please.

**From:** s22

**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 August 2025 12:44 PM

**To:** 'MediaTeam' ; 'media.ayres@industry.gov.au'

**Subject:** RE:

Good afternoon,

Just wanted to add one more question. What portion of Nyrstar's production is exported?

Best,

s22

---

**From:** s22

**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 August 2025 11:48 AM

**To:** MediaTeam <[mediateam@industry.gov.au](mailto:mediateam@industry.gov.au)>; [media.ayres@industry.gov.au](mailto:media.ayres@industry.gov.au)

**Subject:**

Good morning,

Hope you are well. A media inquiry on the bailout of the Nyrstar smelter announced yesterday. Deadline is COB Thursday.

- Two former Productivity Commission bosses warned the government last month not to get "held to ransom by uneconomic energy intensive manufacturers". Are you concerned that Nyrstar's shareholders may have exploited political pressure to boost their profits?
- This bailout follows a growing trend of handouts for failing businesses, including Rex Airlines. Has the government assessed what the consequences will be of propping up these companies? What is the broader strategy?
- Has the government assessed how much of the latest bailout will flow to workers, rather than shareholders or creditors?
- Nyrstar Australia reported a loss of more than \$400m last financial year and accumulated losses north of \$1.4bn. Is this deal throwing taxpayer money into a business which is perennially unviable?
- Why not allow the company to appoint administrators and restructure, rather than putting up cash to bail out the shareholders?
- Was the Government aware Nyrstar was investigated in 2020 by the Belgian Financial Services and Markets Authority on financials of the Port Pirie smelter redevelopment and on its solvency? Does this, and the accumulated loss, demonstrate the company has had long-term financial issues?

Regards,

s22



s22

<https://thewest.com.au/profile/matt-mckenzie>

Newspaper House, 50 Hasler Rd, Osborne Park WA 6017

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**From:** [MediaTeam](#)  
**To:** [s22](#)  
**Cc:** [MediaTeam](#)  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA enquiry: Nyrstar smelter [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Thursday, 7 August 2025 5:34:03 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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OFFICIAL

Hi [s22](#)

Please find below lines from the department.

- A stable supply of critical minerals and strategic materials is increasingly important for Australia and its trading partners.
- The potential closure of metals smelting facilities poses a material loss of domestic capability and diversification opportunities in advanced manufacturing.
- Leveraging Australia's abundant natural resources, skilled workforce, existing facilities, and innovative research sector is essential to overcoming geopolitical challenges and maximizing future opportunities.
- Government intervention alone is not enough or always the answer; businesses also need to drive efforts to overcome challenges.
- Requests for taxpayer support must undergo robust analysis to ensure solutions are targeted, sustainable and valuable to Australia.
- Smelting capabilities around the country are in challenging circumstances, and we're working with state governments around Australia, to secure the best result in the national interest.
- The Australian Government understands Nyrstar Australia is facing significant financial pressures, driven by low treatment charges and global market conditions, and called for Commonwealth and State Government support.
- Federal government, together with South Australian and Tasmanian counterparts and Nyrstar are working together to develop a common understanding of the facts and factors impacting operation.
- The agreed package is to fund projects intended to support future operations at both Port Pirie and Hobart facilities.

*Regards*

[s22](#)

**Media Officer**

Communications Branch | Media & Speechwriting Section

Department of Industry, Science and Resources

s22

[@industry.gov.au](mailto:@industry.gov.au)

OFFICIAL

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**From:** s22 @industry.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 7 August 2025 11:50 AM  
**To:** MediaTeam <MediaTeam@industry.gov.au>; s22  
s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @industry.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA enquiry: Nyrstar smelter [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi team,

Could you please send through a few departmental lines in response to s22 questions so that, if our office does choose to respond, we have the right detail at hand?

Thanks very much for following up.

Best wishes,

s22

s22 | **Media Adviser**  
**Office of Senator the Hon Tim Ayres**  
*Minister for Industry and Innovation*  
*Minister for Science*  
*Senator for NSW*  
s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:@industry.gov.au)

OFFICIAL

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**From:** MediaTeam <[MediaTeam@industry.gov.au](mailto:MediaTeam@industry.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 7 August 2025 9:22 AM  
**To:** s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22  
s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @industry.gov.au>  
**Cc:** MediaTeam <[MediaTeam@industry.gov.au](mailto:MediaTeam@industry.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** MEDIA enquiry: Nyrstar smelter [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Just checking in on whether the office was responding to this WA News query and/or would like any dept lines.

*Regards*

**Media Team**

Communications Branch  
Department of Industry, Science and Resources  
**s22** | E [MediaTeam@industry.gov.au](mailto:MediaTeam@industry.gov.au)

OFFICIAL

---

**From:** MediaTeam <[MediaTeam@industry.gov.au](mailto:MediaTeam@industry.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 August 2025 2:01 PM  
**To:** **s22** [@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au); **s22** [@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au); **s22** [@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)  
**Cc:** MediaTeam <[MediaTeam@industry.gov.au](mailto:MediaTeam@industry.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** MEDIA enquiry: Nyrstar smelter [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi team.

We notice you also received this enquiry from **s22** (Seven West, WA News), as per the email below.

Did you want some lines from the department?

*Regards*

**s22**  
**Media Officer**

Communications Branch | Media & Speechwriting Section  
Department of Industry, Science and Resources  
**s22** [@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)

OFFICIAL

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**From:** **s22** >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 August 2025 1:48 PM  
**To:** MediaTeam <[mediateam@industry.gov.au](mailto:mediateam@industry.gov.au)>; Minister Ayres Media



<[media.ayres@industry.gov.au](mailto:media.ayres@industry.gov.au)>

**Subject:**

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Regards,

s22

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Seven West Media (WA)

S

<https://thewest.com.au/profile/matt-mckenzie>

Newspaper House, 50 Hasler Rd, Osborne Park WA 6017

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