

NYRSTAR PORT PIRIE & HOBART

Issue

What is the Australian Government doing to support Nyrstar's Port Pirie multi-metals processing facility and Hobart zinc smelter?

Key Talking Points

Nyrstar facilities

- A stable supply of critical minerals and strategic materials is increasingly important for Australia and its trading partners.
- Australian smelters are in challenging circumstances, and we're working with state governments around Australia, to secure the best result in the national interest.
- Nyrstar facilities have been financially impacted by low treatment charges and overcapacity in the global smelting industry, risking the viability of Nyrstar Australia's operations.
- The South Australian – Tasmanian - Commonwealth \$135 million package will support transformation of the Port Pirie and Hobart smelters owned by Nyrstar into modern facilities capable of producing critical minerals.
- I will continue to work closely with industry, unions and governments to understand the needs of Australia's regions, communities and workers.

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Heavy industry facilities at risk

- 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.

Investigation into Trafigura and Nyrstar's dealings

- The Government is aware of the matter. I cannot comment on legal matters considered by courts in another jurisdiction.
- Funding agreements of this nature include strict conditions on where and when funds will be paid and for what activities.

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Background

- On 12 March 2025 Nyrstar Australia announced that it would start to reduce production at the Hobart smelter from April.
 - Nyrstar Australia is a subsidiary of multinational Nyrstar NV, which is majority-owned by Singapore based Trafigura Group.
 - Nyrstar employs 800 people at Port Pirie (10 per cent of the local workforce) and produces 80 per cent of Australia's refined lead, and 550 at Hobart and produces 50 per cent of Australia's zinc.
- Tuesday 4 August 2025, you announced the \$135 million funding package with SA and Tasmania to support transformative projects at the Port Pirie and Hobart facilities.
- The funding is subject to strict due diligence and assessment against agreed milestones to ensure taxpayer funds deliver the intended outcomes.

Belgian investigation

- On 26 September 2024 the Belgian FMSA Sanctions Committee handed down its decision, finding that Nyrstar had provided misleading information about its liquidity prior to restructure and fining the company 80,000 euro (approx. \$142,000 AUD).
- The Sanctions Committee cleared Nyrstar of allegations of publishing false or misleading information regarding its relationship with Trafigura, and allegations of publishing false or misleading information about the expected profit contribution of the redevelopment of the Port Pirie site.

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GLENCORE MT ISA COPPER SMELTER

Issue

What is the Australian Government doing to support Glencore's Mount Isa copper smelter?

Key Talking Points

Glencore's copper smelter

- Smelting capabilities around the country are in challenging circumstances. We are working with state governments around Australia, to secure the best result in the national interest.
- The Australian Government is working closely with the Queensland Government on the best path forward for the situation at the Mount Isa copper smelter.
- The copper smelter and other facilities downstream that rely on the smelter, including Glencore's Townsville copper refinery, are important to the Mount Isa community and the broader region.
- The joint support package with Queensland Government will invest up to \$600 million over the next three years in Glencore's Mount Isa copper smelter and the Townsville copper refinery, protecting jobs at both facilities and reinforcing Australia's position as a key global supplier of copper in an increasingly competitive market.

- This investment reaffirms our commitment to a Future Made in Australia and the copper industry in the North West Queensland region. The Mount Isa copper smelter and Townsville refinery are an integral part of our sovereign capability in metals processing and the regional economy.
- I will continue to work closely with industry, unions, and governments to understand the needs of Australia's regions, communities, and workers.

Why is copper important?

- Copper is a strategic material – it is important for the global transition to net zero and broader strategic applications, specifically the priority technologies set out in the Critical Minerals Strategy.
- Global demand for copper is expected to double by 2035, driven by the energy transition and digital transformation, including from Australia's strategic international partners. This makes Australian copper even more critical to our global net zero ambitions.

Heavy industry facilities at risk

- The Australian Government is committed to working closely with relevant stakeholders to support a strong, competitive modern metals sector, which is crucial to a Future Made in Australia and the global energy transition.

- 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; businesses 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.

Background

- In April 2025, Glencore announced the closure of its Mount Isa Mines underground copper operations and copper concentrator by the end of July 2025 (first announced in 2023). The closure will directly impact 500 jobs. 170 workers had been redeployed by 1 April 2025.
- In April 2025, Glencore also raised concerns about the future of the Mount Isa copper smelter and Townsville copper refinery.
- In June 2025, you had high-level talks with Glencore and the Queensland Government, and travelled to Mount Isa for a series of stakeholder and community meetings.
 - You agreed for the Australian and Queensland Governments to be in lock step in responding to the challenges facing the Glencore smelter.
- Townsville Enterprise released the “Keep Our Copper” documentary series on the significance of Queensland’s copper supply chain and the threat of losing key infrastructure without immediate action.
- On 23 July 2025, media reports indicated that Glencore announced to workers that it is preparing to place the copper smelter and Townsville refinery into care and maintenance.
- On 28 July 2025, your comments at a Keep our Copper meeting at Australian Parliament House reiterated the Australian and Queensland Governments are working in lock step.
- In July 2025, the Trump Administration announced it would impose a 50 per cent tariff on copper to commence 1 August 2025.
- On 7 August 2025, Glencore participated in the Minerals and Metals Processing Economic Reform Roundtable that you hosted.

- On 16 September 2025, Premier David Crisafulli MP responded to a question without notice in Queensland Parliament on the Mount Isa copper smelter.
 - The Premier made comments confirming that there is a joint offer to Glencore from the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments and asking Glencore to come to the table and negotiate.
- On 8 October 2025, a joint support package between the Commonwealth Government and the State of Queensland was announced in Mount Isa, which will provide up to \$600 million over three years.

If asked: How will the US's proposed copper tariffs impact Mount Isa?

In 2024, Australia exported A\$55 million in copper products to the US. The US accounts for less than one per cent of Australia's copper exports. The Mount Isa smelter does not export to the US.

Around the world and here at home, the Australian Government will always stand up for Australian jobs and Australian industries. Australia has a strong track record of managing trade concerns in line with our interests and consistent with our commitments.

Facilities at risk

Facility (owner)	Location	Jobs	Main pressures	Key decision point	State of play	Interested Ministers
Nyrstar Port Pirie – Multi-metals processing facility (Nyrstar Port Pirie Pty Ltd, owned by Trafigura) s34	Port Pirie, SA	1050	Ageing infrastructure Challenging market conditions Increased operating costs	s34	s34	Resources
Nyrstar Hobart – Zinc smelter (Nyrstar Hobart Pty Ltd, owned by Trafigura)	Hobart, Tas	650	Ageing infrastructure Challenging market conditions Increased operating costs	s34		Resources
Liberty Bell Bay – Manganese smelter (Liberty Bell Bay Pty Ltd, owned by GFG Alliance) s34	George Town, Tas	260	Supply disruptions Financial constraints Ageing infrastructure	s34	s34	Resources Climate Change & Energy
Glencore Mount Isa copper smelter (Mount Isa Mines Ltd) s34	Mount Isa, QLD	366	Copper concentrate supply shortages. Challenging market conditions Ageing infrastructure High energy costs	s34	s34 Minister visit and statements on Glencore: https://www.minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/timayres/media-releases/joint-effort-secure-long-term-solution-mount-isas-future	Resources Climate Change & Energy

Facilities at risk

Facility (owner)	Location	Jobs	Main pressures	Key decision point	State of play	Interested Ministers
Tomago Aluminium Smelter (JV: Rio Tinto, Gove Aluminium Finance, Hydro Aluminium) s34	Newcastle, NSW	1200	High electricity costs impacting operating costs. Power supply agreement ends 2028, s34	s34	s34	Treasurer, Resources Climate Change & Energy
Bell Bay Aluminium (Rio Tinto) s34	George Town, Tas	435	Energy prices & access to renewables. s34	s34	s34	Resources Climate Change & Energy
Dyno Nobel Phosphate Hill ammonia / fertiliser plant (Dyno Nobel Ltd) s34	Phosphate Hill, QLD	~400	Gas price increases and supply disruptions Risk of sulfuric acid supply disruptions due to Mt Isa smelter issues	s34	s34	Resources Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry