16 May 2011

Anna Bligh MP
Premier of Queensland
PO Box 15185
City East QUEENSLAND 4002

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# Rejection the Federal Labor Government's Carbon Tax proposal

I write to reject the Federal Labor government's Carbon Tax/proposal.

I work at Queensland Nickel, an 100% export focused nickel manufacturing business in Townsville, North Queensland that directly employees in excess of 800 people.

The Carbon Tax is an unfair tax for QN's international nickel business. QN operates in a global market and has successfully competed with overseas nickel manufacturers for the past 37 years. Imposing a Carbon Tax in Australia on Australian business gives a substantial cost advantage to our overseas competitors. Our competitors are not required to pay this tax, nor are they required to control their emissions.

#### This is a crucial issue for our business.

The Federal Government has proposed assistance to Emissions Intensive Trade Exposed (EITE) organisations such as ours, but the method of determining this support provides limited or no support to my employer. To date there has been no recognition by the regulatory bodies that QN is a unique Australian business, making unique nickel products for specialist markets that no other business in this country services.

While the government has yet to announce what the tax scale will be, our estimate, based on the rates touted over the past two years is that QN will be asked to pay an additional \$25\* million a year in tax. This is a conservative estimate of the impact of the new Carbon Tax on the bottom line for the Yabulu Refinery.

The nickel business is cyclical and that we have been fortunate in the past two years with the nickel price remaining high. However, when the inevitable low nickel price returns, paying an extra \$25 million plus in tax will have a dramatic effect on us at the refinery, most likely forcing a major cost-cutting exercise at that time.

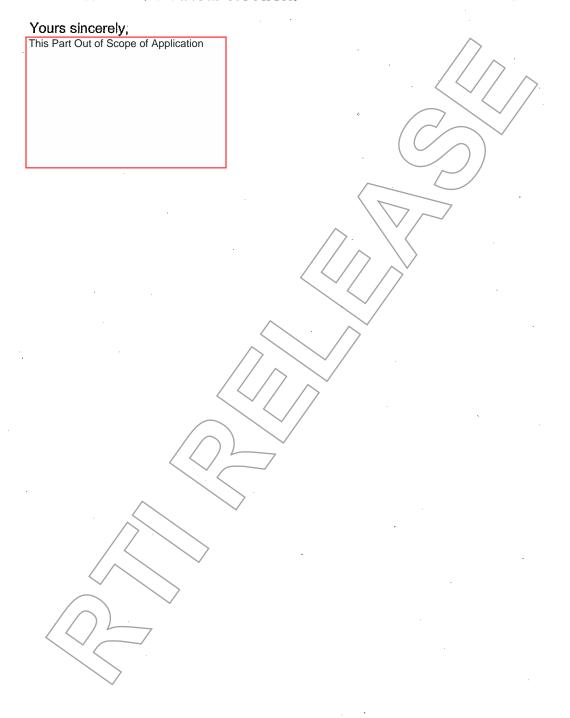
I am deeply concerned about my job security as a result of this additional tax burden on my employer.

# What is the Labor Party going to do to support me and my family if Queensland Nickel is forced into a cost cutting exercise to survive?.

The Federal Government's own legislation provides for protection so Australian companies are not forced out of business by the Carbon Tax. I urge you to reject

the idea of a carbon tax to ensure our people and products are not replaced by our overseas competitors who do not have to pay this unfair tax.

# Your decision will directly affect my voting intention at the next State and Federal election.



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To Anna Bligh MP,

RE: Carbon Tax Imposition on Queensland Industry, specifically Queenslan

Without a doubt in my own personal view emissions of varying types created from current global industries does have a profound effect on our environment; what we reap from beneath a the ground to power our industries further magnify our damage; and further still what we tear up from the surface exponentially increases our pilfering of our planet. A fundamental change and effective action must be taken to limit the above effects.

I have no challenge to these facts. However what I see as actions taken are often reactive, hap hazard and ineffective. The ideas created are almost always progressive in concept but poorly implemented. The Government's proposed carbon tax scheme I believe falls head first into this box.

There are arguments both sides as to the 'real' effect carbon emissions have and there are so many other industries that clearly have definite harmful (and scientifically proven as such) effects such as the rate of deforestation and rate of consumption of world natural resources. Carbon Dioxide, as informed as I can be, accounts for a mere 0.1 to 0.2 of a percent of the atmosphere's makeup and Australia's contribution to this amount is well, really a joke to be even a discussion point.

To impose on Australian industries a carbon tax, which is no way is tabled in many of the world's great polluters, is a death sentence to our competitiveness globally.

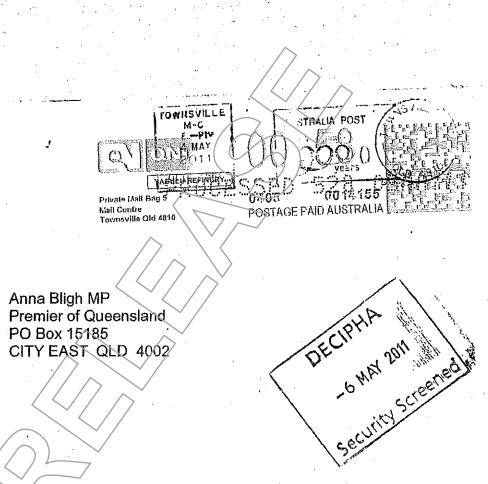
If I may (bringing it down to ground zero layman's terms) I would like to bring to light the direct effect it will have on the Business I am employed in. Queensland Nickel, just north of Townsville, have provided not just nickel for world needs but cobalt and other products for decades. Yes, we do have high emissions, and yes hell we work feverishly to reduce this to minimise effects on our immediate community as well as the surrounding environment. The company is the region's significantly major employer and Clive Palmer's requisition of the plant has seen it evolve into an even more robust business. But the one activity classification for the imposed carbon tax rate amounts to a significant risk to the plants viability given the natural ebb and flow of world commodity prices; bringing us full circle back the real risk of closure that we saw mid 2009.

Why impose what at this stage looks like a 25million dollar tax burden on this company? Why categorise us as a single activity industry? Why impose a tax that just puts tax dollars in a national operating budget to be spent on numerous unrelated needs? Why do something that's akin to saying "it's not sound practice to dump oil into our oceans but it's ekey for you to do so if you pay us a whole heap of money to do it". WHY NOT ATTACK CARBON EMMISSION AT THE ROOT CAUSE? Wouldn't it be better to impose as a suggestion a "Suspended Fine/Force to take action" approach. IE...if over a set period our industry does not source and implement technologies to contain, and perhaps even utilize, carbon emissions to the tune of "X" amount of millions then expect to have to cough up the amount in tax. Immediately you are implementing action to target what you are trying to achieve.

Which is better, the world just keeps churning out carbon to atmosphere; and if you're an Australian Company expect to pay to do so allowing other world emitters to out compete us; OR attack the problem at grass root level and make a real difference.

Please support us in remaining a world leader in quality nickel supply. Please support and encourage us to continue to reduce our carbon footprint on the world; but please do not railroad us with tax penalty scheme which does not have any real impact on a perceived global carbon emission crisis. As they so this is not a fair go.

This Part Out of Scope of Application



Tuesday, 19 April 2011

Anna Bligh MP Premier of Queensland PO Box 15185 City East QLD 4002

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#### Dear Ms Bligh

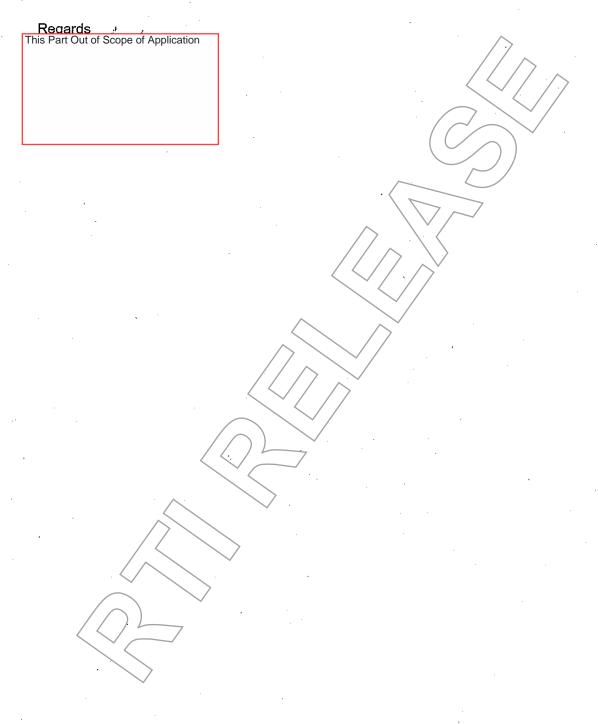
I write to express my deep concern at the Federal Labour government's Carbon Tax proposal. I am an employee of Queensland Nickel, a business that you are well aware has over recent years been very close to shutting down which would have resulted in the direct loss of employment of close to 1000 personnel in the Townsville region and the flow on loss of employment of a significant number of individual's given the local business generated by Queensland Nickel.

It is my opinion that if the Carbon Tax is introduced and Queensland Nickel is subjected to an industry definition, rather than an activity definition the business will again be in jeopardy due to the cyclic nature of the world nickel market. I have worked with this business over a number of years and am well aware that the business has endured and will again be subjected to very low profit years when the price of nickel worldwide again drops. It is in these times that the proposal of an industry based definition for nickel will show the true impact and place the business in a vulnerable position in relation to viability. In simple term, when the nickel price again drops QN will not be a profit making business if the carbon tax with an industry based definition is introduced and whilst Professor Clive Palmer has demonstrated himself to be a very generous individual, he is still a business man and I do not believe any business man would continue to operate a business for extended periods if the business is making a loss. It is my opinion that when the nickel price was to cycles downwards the closure of Queensland Nickel would again become a real possibility.

Queensland Nickel is a unique Australian business, no other nickel manufacturer in Australia can refine the type of ore we use on site and produce the product we produce. The defining of an industry definition rather than an activity definition from my understanding of the legislation implies that other Australian companies could conduct the business we conduct if the Carbon Tax was to result in the company's closure, this is not the case. Whilst it seems simple to say Nickel is Nickel, if fact the type, grade and market for Nickel varies significantly based on the original ore type and the process for refining and it is incorrect to believe that other existing Nickel refineries in Australia could fill the market gap if Queensland Nickel was to close. My understanding is that the paper manufacturing industry has numerous activity definitions, as it has been recognised that paper in all forms does need various processing techniques to make. The nickel industry is the same, again I emphasise that no other Nickel refinery in Australia can produce the product we produce.

We are an income generating business for Australia, taking resources from another country to refine here, giving jobs to Australian that could well be done overseas at reduced costs of production. I believe that the imposition of an activity based carbon tax, could very well leave Professor Clive Palmer, questioning the viability of an Australian based operation and place a significant risk to the closure of Queensland Nickel having a direct and indirect impact on the employment of thousands of individual in the Townsville region.

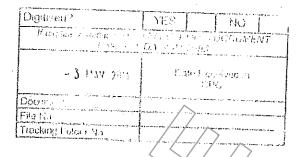
I ask you to please familiarise yourself with the situation proposed in defining Nickel for the purpose of Carbon tax and ensure that an activity definition is applied not an industry definition.



This Part Out of Scope of Appli	cation

15th of April, 2011.

#### Dear Anna



This letter is to express our utmost dissatisfaction with your proposals for introducing a carbon tax and imposing a suggested \$25 million dollar carbon tax for Queensland Nickel Refinery, owned by Mr Clive Palmer, in Townsville, Qld.

In this world of great economic instability, we fail to understand the need for such a tax to be imposed upon carbon emissions for industry and at such a high rate and with very little research and foresight considering the effects the tax has had in other countries.

It is widely understood that a carbon tax is ultimately irreffective at reducing carbon emissions without greatly putting the working class and the poorer people of a country at significant disadvantage and adding a disproportionate increase in the costs of living for households.

If Australia were to introduce a carbon tax and at such a high rate, this is sure to happen. The present government has not researched the impacts thoroughly on what a carbon tax will mean for industry, households and ordinary Australians who are already battling to pay for extortionate prices for housing, health, food, education and transport. All this to look forward to when the global economy is critically fragile and more recently in light of the recent disaster in Japan and the unrest in the middle east.

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Townsville is a city which is very economically dependent on the Queensland Nickel Refinery. If it weren't for Mr Clive Palmer rescuing QNI, the city's economy would have surely suffered for a long time perhaps never to recover. And why should he have to pay an addition \$25 million in carbon tax for his efforts? All we can see happening is the costs of the tax will be passed on to the consumer. If there are losses in profits, this will impact on every employee of every business and industry and result in job losses and even greater pressure on the workers of this country. Even if the money from the carbon tax is given back to the lower socio economic group of our country and industries to subsidise our loss in some way, how can you guarantee this will be done in a fair and timely manner so as to offset the negative impact of the tax? You simply cannot. There will be many casualties be they job losses, bankruptcy, increases in crime rates, family break ups and little effect on consumerism and emissions.

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We implore you to reconsider your position on the carbon tax and it's suggested implementation when this government promised not to impose it. At ground level, I hear many disillusioned voters who are welcoming an early election over this issue alone. Please turn it around. You have the power. Listen to the voices of the people. We don't want this tax. It will decrease everyone's quality of life including yours and our impact will be insignificant on a global scale. Let's look at real change and incentive for investment and government backing for alternative fuels and less burning of fossil fuels that way. Nickel production in Townsville is part of this city's bright future and not a mean burner of fossil fuels who needs to be punished by taxes. Don't jeopardise our jobs and future because of a trendy tax. Fossil fuel tax is just that. A fossil and should be buried along with many other "great" economic concepts.

Kind Regards,

This Part Out of Scope of Application

This Part Out of Scope of Application

18<sup>th</sup> April 2011

Anna Bligh MP
Premier of Queensland
PO Box 15185
City East
QUEENSLAND 4002

Dear Premier,

I am an employee of Queensland Nickel Pty Ltd, a nickel refining company situated in Townsville. I wish to express my deep concerns regarding the impact of the Federal Governments proposed carbon tax on the future viability of Queensland Nickel and the resultant impacts of this tax on security of employment and income for my family and thousands of other families in Queensland

Queensland Nickel has been operating for almost 40 years. I have personally worked there for This Part Cand Scope of Application can honestly say it's a great place to work. The company currently provides direct employment for more than 900 people and indirectly supports the jobs of thousands more people in the Townsville region. The introduction of a carbon tax is expected to increase operating costs for Queensland Nickel by tens of millions of dollars each year, placing extreme financial pressure on the organisation.

If Queensland Nickel was shut down due to new cost penalties imposed by a carbon tax, this would;

- Destroy the livelihoods of thousands of Queenslanders.
- Severely impact the Townsville and North Queensland economies.
- Severely depress the Townsville real-estate market, adding more pain to those forced to sell their homes while relocating to other parts of the country to find employment.

I believe the application of a carbon (ax on trade exposed industries is grossly unfair, at least while the rest of the world has no such financial impediment. In the event a carbon tax is introduced, I understand the Federal Government intends to provide assistance to emissions intensive trade exposed organisations such as Queensland Nickel, however my present understanding is that all nickel producers in Australia will be lumped into a single category, with the end result being minimal assistance to Queensland Nickel.

I implore you to lobby the Federal Government to treat Queensland Nickel as a separate case such that the company's future can be secured. Queensland nickel is different to other nickel companies in that it makes many specialty products that no other Australian producer can provide.

I also ask you to demand from the Federal Government details on how it intends to suitably support my family and the families of my fellow workmates in the event Queensland Nickel is forced to lay-off employees due to the imposition of a carbon tax. This Part Out of Scope of Application

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	Yours sincerely	
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#### **Queensland Nickel**

Greenvale Street Yabulu Qld 4818 PMB 5 Townsville Qld 4810

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20/04/2011

Carbon Tax Concerns

Anna Bligh MP

I am writing to you today to express my concerns that many families in Tewnsville, mine included, will be affected significantly in the near future as a result of the proposed Federal Labour government Carbon Tax if our company, Queensland Nickel, is not placed within the appropriate industry grouping.

If this were to occur, the impact this tax will cause to my colleges at Queensland Nickel (QN), and myself, will be two-fold. Not only will we suffer an increase in the cost of living, especially electrical costs, there is a real threat that we will be out of a job.

I understand that the intention is to encourage a greener industry, but unless the government recognises the unique process and product employed and produced at QN and groups it appropriately, the refining of lateritic ore will just move overseas and Australian jobs will be lost.

If Queensland Nickel were grouped with Nickel producers, who refine a different type of ore, using very different techniques and produce a completely different product we would received less rebates and be taxed at the highest end of the bracket. An outcome that could very quickly make Yabulu refinery non-profitable. Especially considering the pressure, we are already under from the high Australian dollar and high commodity prices.

My concerns are that, not only will Queensland Nickel be out of business after going through so much difficulty in recent times, but also, the refining of lateritic ore will be driven out of Australia to a country where the rigor around environmental emissions will be significantly less. Ultimately, the results will be a loss of Australian jobs and globally an increase in environmental emissions.

I do not believe this is what the Federal Government is trying to achieve.

Change is important, but let's do is sustainably. When deciding on the grouping into which Queensland Nickel will fall, please consider the impact on the economic health of a small town like Townsville, through the potential loss of so many jobs directly, and indirectly.

Regards,

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06 May 2011	

Anna Bligh MP
Premier of Queensland
PO Box 15185
City east
QUEENSLAND 4002

Dear Premier,

#### **Carbon Tax**

As one of Queensland Nickel's (QN) eight hundred employees, I am deeply concerned about the impact the proposed carbon tax is likely to have on the future viability of its Townsville based refinery.

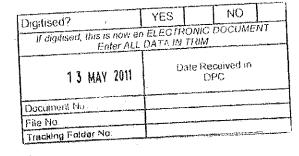
QN produces high grade nickel and cobalt products primarily for export and is clearly unique in that there is no comparable business operating in Australia. As such, QN's competitors are all overseas-based, where the carbon tax is not applicable. Should the carbon tax be applied to QN as inequitably and unfairly as is currently being mooted, I fear that the refinery will become a marginal business and as such could well be forced into closure.

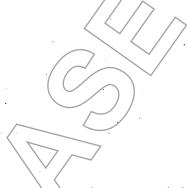
In recent times, much work has been done to improve QNs operational efficiency and accordingly, the company is growing and the future appears otherwise positive. QN is the Townsville region's largest employer and its continued success is pivotal to North Queensland's ongoing growth and prosperity. Should the refinery be forced into closure as a result of the carbon tax there would be severe and incalculable impact across the entire region, likely resulting in:

- Immediate and substantial loss to the Federal Reserve from a loss in income relating to QN's export receipts;
- Immediate loss to the Federal Reserve of PAYE tax receipts of at least \$2.5m annually;
- Immediate loss to the Federal Reserve via welfare funding to support those families whose income source is gone;
- Population centralisation (counter to the sensible desire of both State and Federal Governments for increased decentralisation); and
- Significant economic downturn across the region, particularly in the small business, real
  estate, motor vehicle, retail and tourism sectors.

QN is not a mere primary producer, as many mining related concerns are. It is a unique business, converting imported ore that the rest of the world is unable to economically utilise into very high purity nickel and cobalt products for which there is a healthy and on-going global appetite.

I respectfully request that you and your colleagues lobby the Federal Government in order that it reconsiders the support that can be provided to QN under its assistance to Emissions Intensive





Trade Exposed (EITE) organisations proposal such that the refinery and consequently North Queensland can continue to grow and prosper into the future.

I wish you and well and look forward to your response in relation to this request.

Yours sincerely, This Part Out of Scope of Application	
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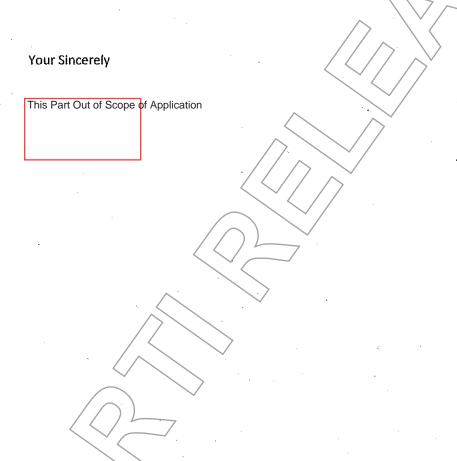
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The Federal Government has proposed assistance to Emissions Intensive Trade Exposed (EITE) organisations such as ours, but the method of determining this support provides limited or no support to my employer. To date there has been no recognition by the regulatory bodies that QN is a unique Australian business, making unique nickel products for specialist markets that no other business in this country services. The support method for the nickel industry was approved when BHP Billiton owned the Yabulu Refinery and they weren't worried about the impost on the refinery as they would have owned the best and worst business in the industry group. Since they tried to shut the Yabulu Refinery over two years ago, they have shown no interest to participate in an industry wide change to the product definition as they stand to gain substantially from this not being changed. Since QN uses a unique process in Australia to make its products, it should have a separate industry product definition. This unique process is carbon intensive but significant steps have been taken to improve this in the 10 years I have been at the Refinery and there are current plans to improve this further.

While the government has yet to announce what the tax scale will be, our estimate based on the rates touted over the past two years is that QN will be asked to pay an additional \$25 million a year in tax. This is a conservative estimate of the impact of the new Carbon Tax on the bottom line for the Yabulu Refinery.

The Government's own legislation provides for protection so Australian companies not to be forced out of business by the Carbon Tax. I urge you to reject the idea of a carbon tax to ensure our people and products are not replaced by our overseas competitors who do not have to pay this unfair tax. If the overall goal is to reduce the carbon put into the environment world wide, the government needs to help industry to reduce their emission and not to just impose a tax, which causes the loss of Australian jobs and forces industry to other countries that don't control their emissions.

I realise that this is a Federal Government decision and not a State matter. I would appreciate any support for the change to the industry definition for nickel that you could make to ensure Queensland Nickel stays competitive and the 800 jobs stay in Queensland.



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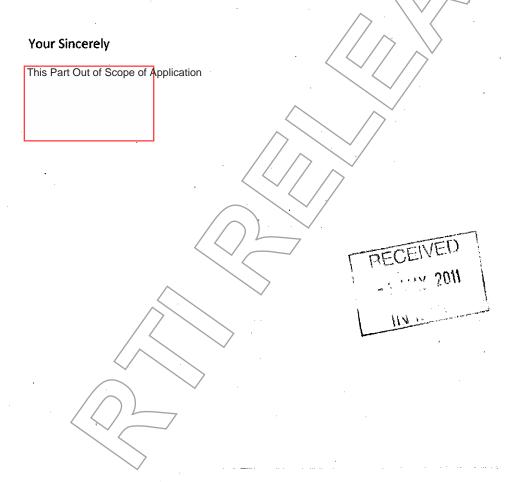
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I realise that this is a Federal Government decision and not a State matter. I would appreciate any support for the change to the industry definition for nickel that you could make to ensure Queensland Nickel stays competitive and the 800 jobs stay in Queensland.

Your decision whether to support this Federal Government scheme on this matter will directly affect my voting intentions at the next State election.

Yours Sincerely

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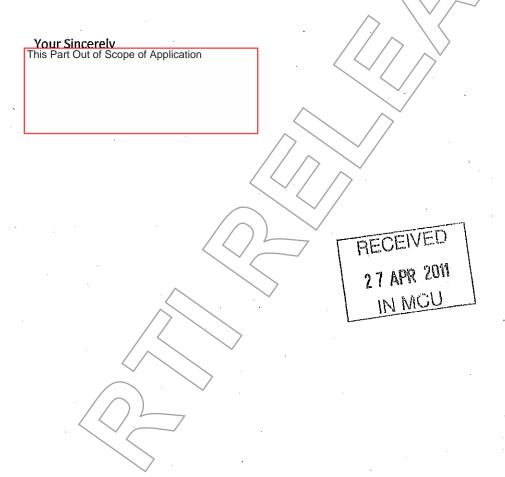
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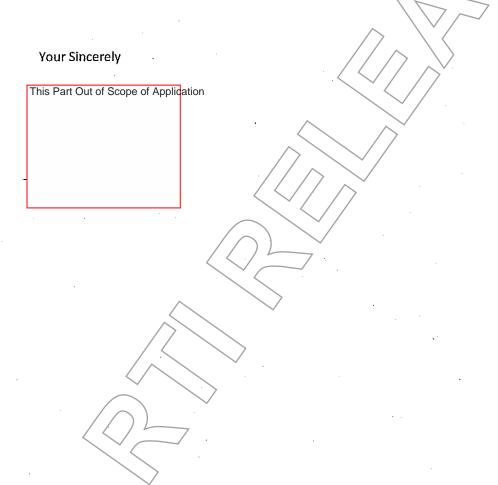
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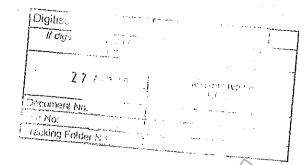
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Your decision whether to support this Federal Government scheme on this matter will directly affect my voting intentions at the next State election.

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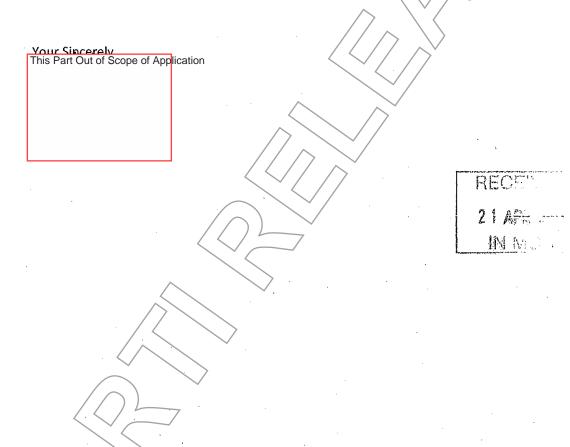
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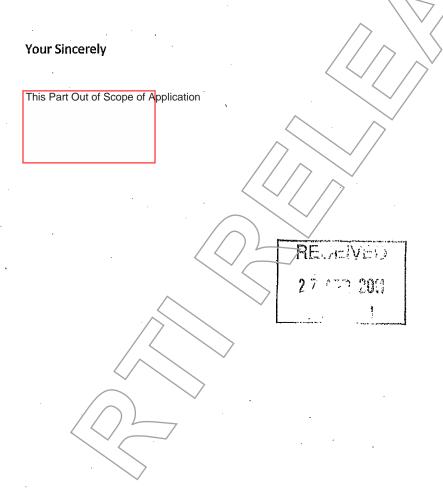
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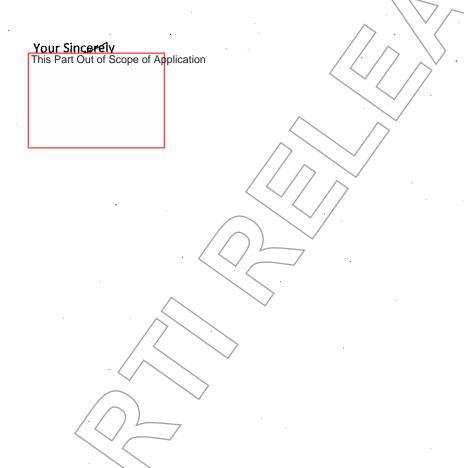
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The nickel business is cyclical and we have been fortunate in the past two years with the nickel price remaining high. Whilst these prices have been high, our owner Clive Palmer has shared the profits through good bonus payments and gifts of cars and overseas holidays. However, when the inevitable low nickel price returns, paying an additional \$25 million in tax will have a dramatic effect on us at the Refinery, most likely forcing a major cost cutting exercise at the time. I will also dramatically affect the ability to reduce the carbon intensity of the business, which should be the goal of any carbon reduction scheme.

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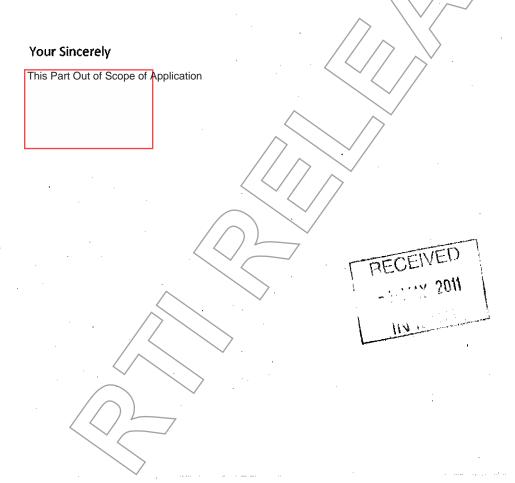
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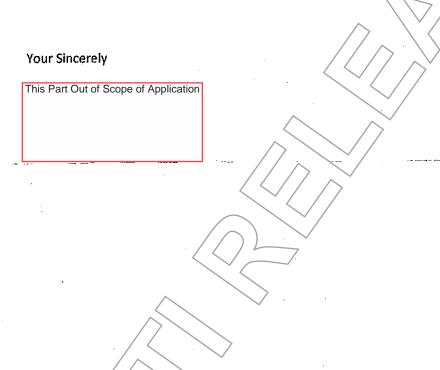
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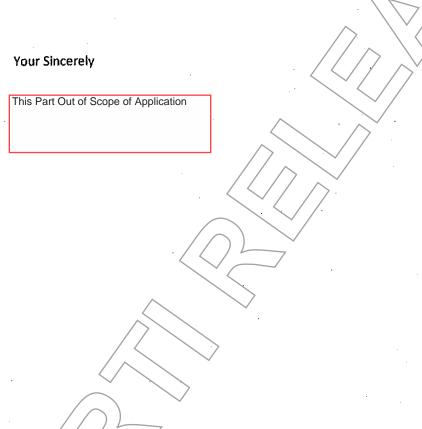
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28 April 2011 Anna Bligh Premier of Queensland PO Box 15185 CITY EAST QLD 4002

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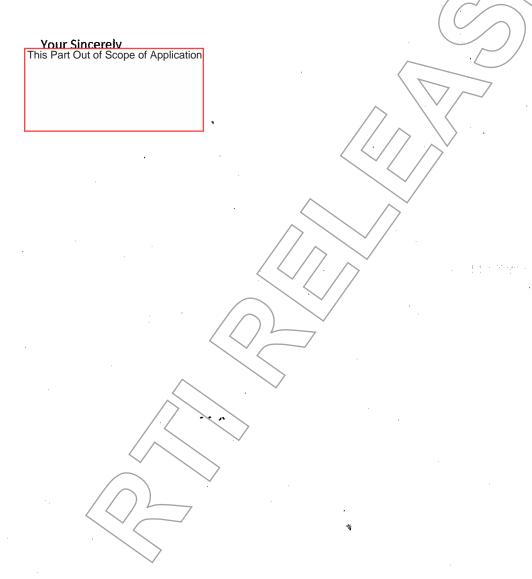
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28 April 2011 Anna Bligh Premier of Queensland PO Box 15185 CITY EAST QLD 4002

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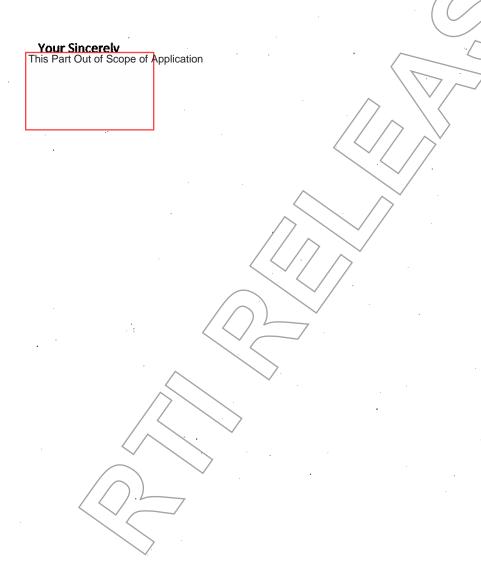
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17 April 2011 Anna Bligh MP Premier of Queensland PO Box 15185 CITY EAST QLD 4002

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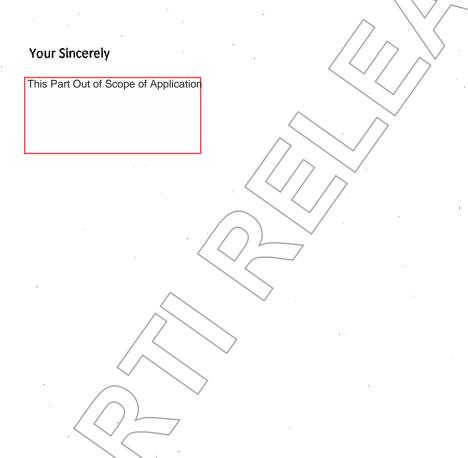
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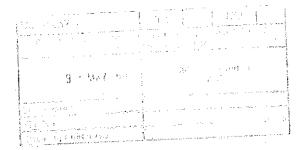
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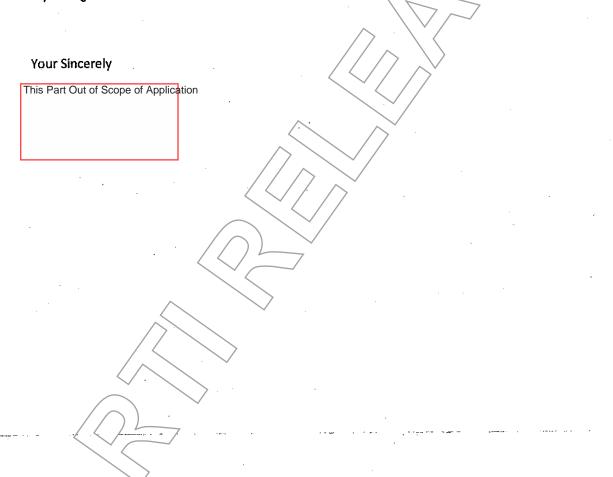
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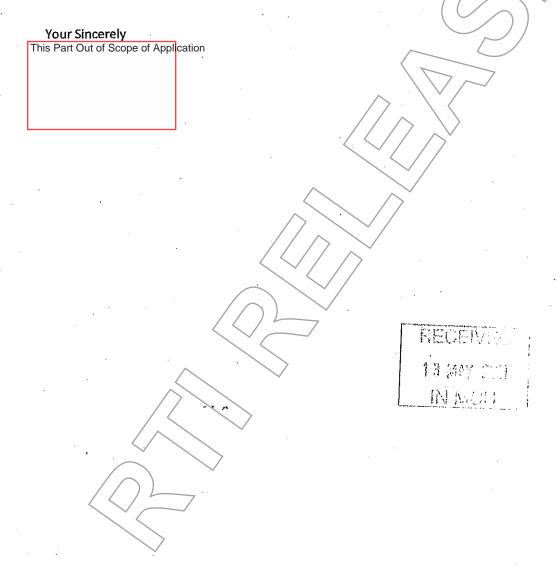
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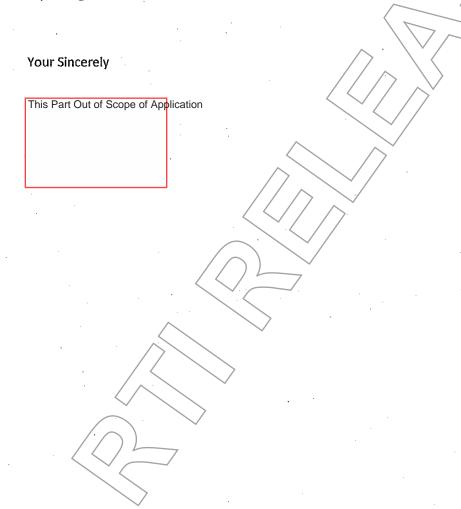
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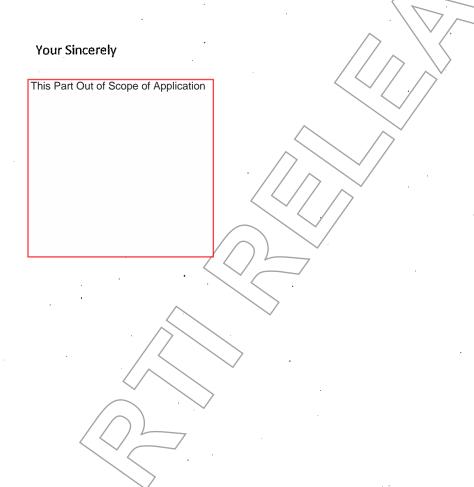
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For reply please quote: MC/NC -- TF/11/16124- DOC/11/87579

This Part Out of \$cope of Application

C/- QNI Yabulu Refinery Private Mail Bag 5 Mail Centre TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810



Thank you for your correspondence of 28 April 2011 concerning the Australian Government's proposed carbon price. I have been requested to reply to you on the Premier's behalf. I apologise for the delay in replying

Like most Australians, the Queensland Government is concerned about the likely impact of unrestrained climate change on our environment and economy. In any shift to a carbon price, the Queensland Government believes that proper protection for Queensland households and industries is critical.

Any national carbon price mechanism needs to be implemented in a way that supports Queensland's unique circumstances. The Queensland Government believes that any federal proposal for a carbon price should meet the following key principles:

- All Queensland households should be given financial assistance with special attention afforded to low-income families as promised by the Australian Government.
- Support for emissions-intensive trade-exposed industries and coal miners should be at least as good as the approach agreed to by the Australian Government under the previously proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS).
- Queensland's expanding liquefied natural gas (LNG) industry must qualify for emissions-intensive trade-exposed industries assistance.
- Support for electricity generators should be based on any loss of asset value, on
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- Transport fuels should only be included if there is a proportional reduction in the fuel excise.
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In addition, the Queensland Government has called for formal negotiations to take place between the Australian and the state and territory governments on the design of any carbon price mechanism.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to the Premier's attention.

Yours sincerely

Nick Williams Senior Policy Advisor For reply please quote: MC/NC - TF/11/14365 - DOC/11/87063

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Thank you again for bringing your concerns to the Premier's attention.

Yours sincerely

Nick Williams Senior Policy Advisor

#### Peter Downey

From:

Peter Downey

Sent:

Friday, 22 July 2011 4:59 PM

To:

'Thompson, Judith'

Subject:

RE: meeting request-Queensland Nickel

Thanks for flicking that through Judith, it will be useful. And thanks for chasing up the those other dot points. Much appreciated.

Peter Downey

Policy Officer **Economic Policy** Department of the Premier and Cabinet Ph: 07-322-58014 peter.downey@premiers.qld.gov.au Executive Building | Level 14 | 100 George Street | Brisbane PO Box 15185 | City East | Queensland 4002 |

From: Thompson, Judith [mailto:Judith.Thompson@deedi.qld.gov.au]

Sent: Friday, 22 July 2011 4:06 PM

To: Peter Downey

Cc: Gnanananthan, Gobikrishna

Subject: RE: meeting request-Queensland Nickel

Dear Peter

We will get dots point through to you on Monday.

In the meantime - here is a fairly recent brief prepared for the Treasurer.

Regards

Judith

Judith Thompson

Director | Office of the Associate Director-General | Mines and Energy Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation

Floor 17 | 61 Mary Street | Brisbane Qld 4000

PO Box 15216 | City East Qld 4002

P: +617 3898 0682 | E: 10682 M: +61 439 792 381

E: judith.thompson@deedi.qld.gov.au

W: www.deedi.qld.qov.au

From: Peter Downey [mailto:Peter.Downey@premiers.qld.gov.au]

Sent: Friday, 22 July 2011 3:32 PM

To: Thompson, Judith

Subject: FW: meeting request-Queensland Nickel

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As discussed, could you please organise for DEEDI to provide input for a Premier's briefing Note for a meeting with Queensland Nickel. The meeting is intended to cover the issues raised in the below email. Specifically, could DEEDI please provide some analysis (dot points at this stage or any previously prepared briefs) regarding the Queensland nickel refining industry and how other industry participates (specifically those mentioned in the below email) are positioned to deal with the carbon price mechanism.

Could DEEDI please provide this advice by COB Monday, 25 July 2011.

Happy to discuss and apologies for the tight timeframes.

Peter Downey

**Policy Officer Economic Policy** Department of the Premier and Cabinet Ph: 07-322-58014 peter.downey@premiers.qld.gov.au Executive Building | Level 14 | 100 George Street | Brisbane

PO Box 15185 | City East | Queensland 4002 |

From: Contrary to Publisher Contrary to Publisher

Sent: Monday, 18 July 2011 8:05 PM

To: David Shankey Cc: Lachlan Smith

Subject: RE: meeting request-Queensland Nickel

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As we have discussed previously, the effect of this is that, with three players (BHP Ni West, Minara Resources and QNPL), where BHP is the lowest emitter per tonne of finished nickel product, Minara is in the middle and QNPL is the highest, BHP will be compensated on the basis of an average generated by all producers included in a single activity definition, with the effect that BHP will be compensated by close to 100% or possibly even more than 100% of its actual emissions, while QNPL will be compensated for around 30% of its actual emissions, according to ANPL modelling.

It has previously been indicated to us by the Federal Government that the arrangements set out in the White Paper are most likely to be those that will apply at the time of the introduction of an ETS. le an allocative baseline will be developed either on the basis of a single activity definition or a combined activity definition, with the effect of a single activity definition resulting in QNPL being compensated for around 30% of their actual liable emissions. A differentiated activity definition, better aligned to the products of QNPL, would see the company more comprehensively compensated.

In relation to the carbon price or carbon tax period, section 5.2.2 of the Australian Government's "Securing a clean energy future" document states at Appendix A, page 115:

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I am very happy to discuss this further with you

Best regards

Contrary to Public Interest Director Government Relations Australia Advisory Pty Ltd

Tel: Contrary to Public Interest Contrary to Public Inte

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From: David Shankey [mailto:David.Shankey@ministerial.qld.gov.au]

Sent: Monday, 18 July 2011 2:09 PM

To: Contrary to Public Interest

Subject: RE: meeting request-Queensland Nickel

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Subject: FW: meeting request-Queensland Nickel

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## Bligh rebuffs Palmer's carbon comments

TONY RAGGATT | July 16th, 2011

QUEENSLAND Premier Anna Bligh has brushed off comments by mining magnate Clive Palmer that a carbon tax will put 1000 jobs at the Yabulu nickel refinery at risk.

Meanwhile, refinery management is worried Mr Palmer's standing as one of the Coalition's largest single donors could be influencing the federal Labor Government into not responding to requests for the highest level of compensation, as has occurred with other refiners.

A spokesman for Climate Change Minister Greg Combet said that was definitely not the case.

"We are yet to make a decision on the final details of assistance to nickel refining as an emissions-intensive trade-exposed activity," the spokesman said.

"We are consulting with the companies involved."

Mr Palmer spoke out earlier this week warning that the carbon tax and the Greens posed a major threat to the viability of the refinery and that there was not much more the company could do to reduce its environmental impacts.

The refinery is a big emitter, mostly through the use of heavy fuel oil as a reductant of the nickel ore when it is reduced in the roasters.

Of Australia's 100 biggest emitters, Yabulu is understood to be number 48.

Ms Bligh said the compensation package provided as part of the carbon pricing arrangements more than compensated the big refiners.

"These high emitters are securing 94 per cent compensation so I'm very confident we are going to continue to see very strong refining and secondary processing activity in Queensland," she said.

When told the refinery was still waiting to hear its compensation arrangements, she said she would be happy to organise a full briefing for the affected parties and said she would leave it to others to make an assessment of Mr Palmer's comments.

Yabulu general manager Trefor Flood said they had provided a submission 18 months ago on why the refinery and its Caron process was unique in Australia and should attract the highest protection rather than the lowest, as was being considered by government.

He said the Government had told them three months ago they would be given an answer but nething had eventuated.

Meanwhile, the refinery, which lost millions of dollars a day under its former owner BHP and is now reportedly making \$200 million profits under Mr Palmer, is facing a big tax, depending on the level of free permits to emit

At 94.5 per cent compensation, the tax could be as low as \$1.5 million or at the low scale support of 30 per cent, it could be \$19.5 million.

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From Contrary to Fundailto Contra Ogo Preliconerast

Sent: Thursday, 14 April 2011 5:14 PM To: 'Lachlan Smith'; 'David Shankey'

Subject: meeting request-Queensland Nickel

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Queensland Nickel, as you know operate a Nickel processing facility at Yabulu, near Townsville. The company directly employs over 900 Queenslanders and around 200 contractors, and according to economic modeling, is responsible for around 2400 jobs in the Townsville region by way of economic multipliers.

As an Emission Intensive Trade Exposed (EITE) company, the firm is facing very significant liabilities from a carbon price in the short term and an Emissions Trading Scheme (CPRS) in the longer term.

The company has fully participated in the Federal Government's process in relation to the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme. At this stage the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency has developed a single activity definition. The activity definition forms the basis of EITE compensation. The position of QNPL is that there should be a separate activity definition on the basis of the different products or outputs produced by Queensland Nickel. A single activity definition would see the company significantly under-compensated for its carbon cost exposure.

The company has also assessed the impact of the interim carbon price and would also like to provide a briefing on the importance of compensation for EITE industries. This is especially in view that compensation arrangements for the interim period have not yet been released and are yet to be decided by the Federal Government.

As a North Queensland employer, the company seeks an opportunity to meet with the Premier to discuss the impact of these issues. Attending would be Mr Neil Meadows, Chief Operating Officer of Queensland Nickel and myself.

I look forward to hearing from you in relation to this request. Alternatively I will follow up with your office over the next day or two.

Best regards

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#### **Peter Downey**

From:

Peter Downey

Sent:

Monday, 25 July 2011 11:13 AM

To:

'Sue.Stoneman@treasury.qld.gov.au' Treasurer's meeting with Qld Nickel

Subject: Attachments:

TBN57 Attachment 1.doc; TBN57 Meeting Queensland Nickel with the Treasurer.doc

Good morning Sue,

As discussed, could you please confirm when the meeting the attached brief was prepared for took place.

**Thanks** 

Peter Downey

Policy Officer
Economic Policy

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Ph: 07-322-58014

peter.downey@premiers.qld.gov.au

Executive Building | Level 14 | 100 George Street | Brisbane

PO Box 15185 | City East | Queensland 4002 |

From: Thompson, Judith [mailto:Judith.Thompson@deedi.qld.gov.au]

Sent: Friday, 22 July 2011 4:06 PM

To: Peter Downey

Cc: Gnanananthan, Gobikrishna

Subject: RE: meeting request-Queensland Nickel

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Director | Office of the Associate Director-General | Mines and Energy Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation

Floor 17 | 61 Mary Street | Brisbane Qld 4000

PO Box 15216 | City East Qld 4002

P: +617 3898 0682 | E: 10682

M: Contrary to Public Interest

E: judith.thompson@deedi.qld.gov.au

W: www.deedi.gld.gov.au

From: Peter Downey [mailto:Peter.Downey@premiers.qld.gov.au]

**Sent:** Friday, 22 July 2011 3:32 PM

To: Thompson, Judith

Subject: FW: meeting request-Queensland Nickel

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Peter Downey

Policy Officer

Economic Policy

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Ph: 07-322-58014

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To:

Subject: RE: meeting request-Queensland Nickel

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#### Attachment 1

## An extract from chapter 9 of the CPRS Green Paper on EITE assistance

## 9.3.1 Basis for assessing eligibility for EITE assistance

Assessment of eligibility and provision of EITE assistance could be carried out at the level of:

- the industry
- · the company
- · the facility
- the production activity or process (referred to in this chapter as an 'activity-level assessment').

An assessment at the industry level would involve assessing each industry sector against the eligibility criteria for EITE assistance. All entities that are classified as operating within an eligible EITE industry sector would be eligible to receive assistance. A publicly available measure of industry delineation in the economy could be used, such as the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) codes. Using a widely accepted definition of industry categories would make industry-level assessment more accountable, transparent and simpler.

There are a number of drawbacks to an industry-level approach. First, while classifications such as ANZSIC codes are designed for statistical purposes, they may not be as robust as would be required to delineate between entities for the purposes of a Government assistance policy. In particular, the industry to which a specific entity should be classified is not always clear. Second, a number of different production processes and sub-industries are grouped within a given industry code. Industry-level assessments could confer advantages and disadvantages on entities by virtue of their classification and the level of aggregation chosen. If EITE status were given to all entities within a given industry classification, it could confer an advantage on entities that are not particularly emissions-intensive or trade-exposed but are grouped with other entities that are. The converse could also be possible. Misdirected EITE assistance would reduce the economic efficiency and environmental integrity of the scheme.

Company-level assessment would involve assessing individual companies against the eligibility criteria for EITE assistance. Unlike industry classifications, there are no generally accepted 'classification codes' for companies. Companies will vary in their structures and production activities. Some undertake a single, clearly defined activity, while others operate numerous production activities across a range of different industries. Companies, like industries, may conduct both EITE and non-EITE activities. Assessment at the company level would therefore be inequitable between companies. It could also distort investment decisions, as eligibility would be determined by the particular circumstances and structure of the company.

Facility-level assessment would involve considering each individual facility against the eligibility criteria for EITE assistance. As there are proposed to be direct obligations with respect to facilities under the scheme, this would appear to be an administratively straightforward option. However, as with industry- and company-level assessments, some facilities will have emissions from EITE and non-EITE activities, and emissions will vary

considerably depending on the structure of individual facilities. Providing assistance on this basis could be inequitable both within and across existing industries and could distort decisions about the structure of the facilities and new investments.

Activity-level assessment would involve assessing the different production processes or activities across the economy against the EITE eligibility criteria. All entities that conduct EITE activities that meet the criteria would then be eligible for EITE assistance. (An illustrative example of some of the activities and emissions sources involved in producing aluminium semi-manufactures is provided in Figure 9.1). This would be a more equitable approach, as allocations would not differ because of the particular structure of a facility or company. It follows that it would also be more economically efficient if the allocation methodology did not distort decisions about how to structure different facilities or companies.

This approach would also enable EITE assistance to be accurately targeted, and would be more equitable for non-assisted entities because EITE-eligible entities would still have to absorb the carbon costs of their non-EITE activities. Linking allocations to the emissions from an EITE activity would enable the use of industry-wide allocation methodologies, either when the scheme begins or at a later time (methodologies for calculating assistance are discussed in Section 9.5).

The main challenge in this approach would be the delineation of boundaries around particular activities or production processes. This would require the Government to work closely with industry to determine how production activities can be defined in a way that is consistent with the intent of the EITE assistance policy equitable across activities, and clear and practical for entities and Government from an implementation perspective.

On balance, the Government's preferred position is that EITE assistance be provided on the basis of production activities or processes, to ensure that assistance is well targeted and equitable within and between industries. Eligibility for EITE assistance would be based on the performance of all entities in Australia conducting an activity.

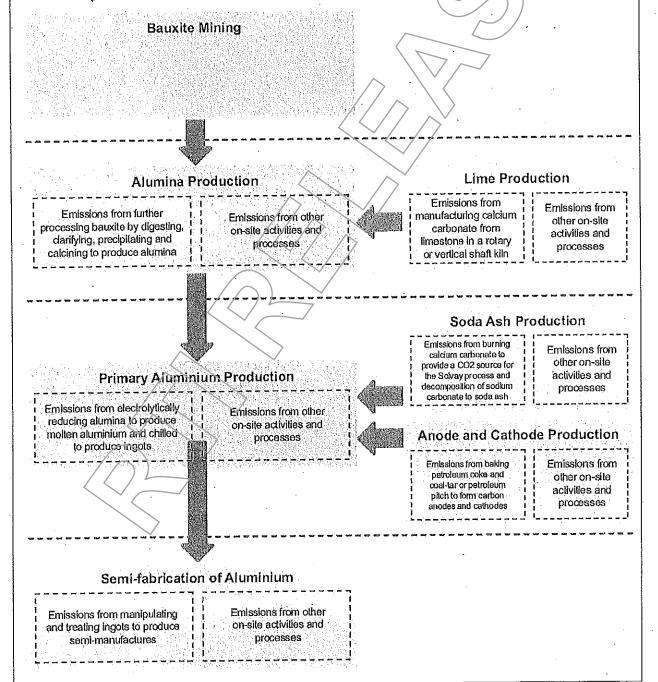
## 9.3 Preferred position

The proposed emissions-intensive trade-exposed assistance would be provided on the basis of the industry-wide emissions from a process or activity to ensure that assistance is well targeted and is equitable both within and between industries.

# Figure 9.1 Illustration of the different activities in the production of aluminium semi-manufactures

The diagram below provides a simplistic illustration of the transformation of bauxite to aluminium semi-manufactures. There are four key stages in the production stream: bauxite mining, alumina production, primary aluminium production and semi-fabrication of aluminium. At each stage, a range of different production activities or processes take place. Some of these stages (and activities) may take place at a single facility, others may take place at multiple facilities. The facility structure can vary from one situation to another.

This diagram illustrates that along a given production stream, there can be a large number of different production processes or activities. The descriptions of the major activities within the aluminium production stream are intended to be illustrative and are by no means conclusive.



TBN57

To:

Andrew Fraser

Treasurer

Copy: DG - DEEDI

From:

Dan Hunt

Associate Director-General

Mines and Energy

Endorsed: John Skinner, Deputy Director-General (Mining and Petroleum)

## 4 April 2011

Meeting with Queensland Nickel representatives to discuss carbon pricing

#### **Summary**

- 1. Queensland Nickel (QN) wants to talk to you about carbon pricing. Specifically, the definition of 'activity' in the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS), which forms the basis for Emission Intensive Trade Exposed (EITE) assistance.
- 2. The Federal Government's position is to base EITE assistance on production activity/process.
- 3. The department needs further information to assess the merits of QN's proposal.

## Timing

4. Urgent - Treasurer's office requested a brief by 6 April 2011.

## Background

- 5. QN has requested a meeting with you to discuss the impacts of carbon pricing on its operation. Mr Neil Meadows (Chief Operating Officer of QN) and Mr Paul Bini (registered lobbyists engaged by QN) will attend the meeting.
- 6. Specifically they want to discuss the definition of 'activity' in the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS), which forms the basis for Emission Intensive Trade Exposed (EITE) assistance.
- 7. QN operates the Yabulu Refinery (near Townsville), which produce high quality nickel and cobalt products using ore imported from mines in New Caledonia, Indonesia and the Philippines. QN employs over 750 people and indirectly responsible for the employment of 2300 people in the North Queensland. The Refinery is wholly owned by Mr Clive Palmer, who purchased it from BHP Billiton in 2009.
- 8. The CPRS proposed EITE assistance at rates of 94.5 per cent free permits for high carbon intensity activities and 66 per cent for other eligible activities, declining at 1.3 per cent per year.
- 9. Thresholds for EITE assistance are:
  - High carbon intensity emissions intensity of at least 2000 tonnes (t) carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2-e) per \$1million (m) revenue or 6000t CO2-e/\$m value-added.

• Other eligible activities - emissions intensity between 1000t CO2-e/\$m and 1999t CO2-e/\$m revenue or between 3000t and 5999t CO2-e/\$m value-added.

#### Issue

- 10. According to QN, the Federal Government has developed a 'single activity' definition for EITE assistance. The position of QN is that there should be a separate activity definition on the basis of the different products or outputs produced by Queensland Nickel. A single activity definition would see the company significantly under-compensated.
- 11. The Department needs further information to assess the merits of QN's proposal. It is not clear how QN's proposal differs from the definition of 'activity' in the CPRS.
- 12. The Federal Government considered the assessment of eligibility and provision of EITE assistance at the level of: the industry, the company, the facility and the production activity/process. It decided to provide EITE assistance based on production activity/process on the grounds of competitive neutrality and to preserve the economic efficiency and environmental integrity of the scheme.
- 13. Attachment 1 is an extract from the CPRS Green Paper that explains the reasoning behind the Federal Government's decision and example of how the preferred approach would work.

#### Attachments

14. Attachment 1: An extract from the CPRS Green Paper on EITE assistance.

## Next steps

15. QN should be asked to provide more information on its preferred definition of activity in relation to EITE, assistance on further briefing can be provided by the Department.

Dan Hunt

Associate Director-General (Mines and Energy)

Enquiries: John Morris **Telephone:** +61 7 **340 43674** 

#### **Peter Downey**

From:

Sue.Stoneman@treasury.qld.gov.au

Sent:

Monday, 25 July 2011 12:07 PM

To:

Peter Downey

Cc: Subject: Leigh Pickering

Attachments:

Fw: Treasurer's meeting with Qld Nickel 1-TY\_TO-790356-TRX-16734\_BN\_Fin\_Min\_-\_Meeting\_with\_Qld\_Nickel.doc;

pic16211.gif; pic11754.gif; pic26880.gif

Peter - please see Lachlan's email below re meeting, and his comments about the brief.

I attach the brief for your information.

(See attached file:

1-TY\_TO-790356-TRX-16734\_BN\_Fin\_Min\_-\_Meeting\_with\_Qld\_Nickel\_doc

Sue Stoneman Ministerial Co-ordinator Office of the Under Treasurer Treasury Department

( (07) 3224 4868

(Embedded image moved to file: pic16211 gif)

---- Forwarded by Sue Stoneman/70/21 reasury on 25/07/2011 11:55 AM -----

From: Lachlan Whitta/OGOC/QTreasury

To: Sue Stoneman/TO/QTreasury@QTreasury

Date: 25/07/2011 11:43 AM

Subject:

Re: Fw: Treasurer's meeting with Qld Nickel

Hi Sue

A suitable date is still being worked out for this meeting.

I am happy for you to share the meeting brief. However, our brief was prepared prior to the CPRS arrangements being announced.

Cheers

Lachlan

Lachlan Whitta Departmental Liaison Officer (Finance) Queensland Treasury

Telephone: (07) 3405 6525

(Embedded image moved to file: pic11754.gif)	
From: Sue Stoneman/TO/QTreasury To: Lachlan Whitta/OGOC/QTreasury@QTreasury Cc: Leigh Pickering/TO/QTreasury@QTreasury Date: 25/07/2011 11:31 AM Subject: Fw: Treasurer's meeting with Qld Nickel	
Hi Lachlan	$\nearrow$
As discussed, Peter would like to know if either the Treasurer or recently with Qld Nickel. Attached is a link to Workflow with a for Minister Nolan.  Can you advise whether or not Minister Nolan met with Qld Nickel happy for me to send through the brief to DPC.	brief that was prepared
Many thanks Sue	7
Ref. Number Topic   Currently With	Responsible Group
(Document    TRX-16734   Minister Nolan meeting with Paul    Department - Completed   Robert Scadden	AUT - Stuart Booker
Correspondence	
	-+
Sue Stoneman Ministerial Co-ordinator Office of the Under Treasurer Treasury Department	
( (07) 3224 4868	
(Embedded image moved to file: pic26880.gif)	•

Forwarded by Sue Stoneman/TO/QTreasury on 25/07/2011 11:28 AM -----From: Peter Downey <Peter.Downey@premiers.qld.gov.au> "'Sue.Stoneman@treasury.qld.gov.au'" <Sue.Stoneman@treasury.qld.gov.au> Date: 25/07/2011 11:13 AM Treasurer's meeting with Qld Nickel Subject: Good morning Sue, As discussed, could you please confirm when the meeting the attached brief was prepared for took place. **Thanks** Peter Downey Policy Officer Economic Policy Department of the Premier and Cabinet Ph: 07-322-58014 peter.downey@premiers.qld.gov.au Executive Building | Level 14 | 100 George Street | Brisbane PO Box 15185 | City East | Queensland 4002 From: Thompson, Judith [mailto:Judith.Thompson@deedi.qld.gov.au] Sent: Friday, 22 July 2011 4:06 PM To: Peter Downey Cc: Gnanananthan, Gobikrishna Subject: RE: meeting request-Queensland Nickel Dear Peter We will get dots point through to you on Monday. In the meantime - here is a fairly recent brief prepared for the Treasurer. Regards Judith Judith Thompson Director | Office of the Associate Director-General | Mines and Energy Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation Floor 17 | 61 Mary Street | Brisbane Qld 4000 PO Box 15216 | City East Qld 4002 P: +617 3898 0682 | E: 10682 M.: Contrary to Public Interest E: judith.thompson@deedi.qld.gov.au W: www.deedi.qld.gov.au

From: Peter Downey [mailto:Peter.Downey@premiers.qld.gov.au]

Sent: Friday, 22 July 2011 3:32 PM

To: Thompson, Judith

Subject: FW: meeting request-Queensland Nickel Good afternoon Judith,

As discussed, could you please organise for DEEDI to provide input for a Premier's briefing Note for a meeting with Queensland Nickel. The meeting is intended to cover the issues raised in the below email. Specifically, could DEEDI please provide some analysis (dot points at this stage or any previously prepared briefs) regarding the Queensland nickel refining industry and how other industry participates (specifically those mentioned in the below email) are positioned to deal with the carbon price mechanism.

Could DEEDI please provide this advice by COB Monday, 25 July 2011.

Happy to discuss and apologies for the tight timeframes.

Peter Downey Policy Officer Economic Policy

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Ph: 07-322-58014

peter.downey@premiers.qld.gov.au

Executive Building | Level 14 | 100 George Street | Brisbane PO Box 15185 | City East |

Queensland 4002 |

From: Contrary to Public hereito Contrary ngowhelbterem.au]

Sent: Monday, 18 July 2011 8:05 PM

To: David Shankey Cc: Lachlan Smith

Subject: RE: meeting request-Queensland Nickel

Hi David

The way the CPRS program in the Whitepaper was set out, the final compensation received by an EITE is based on an allocative baseline which is an average of the emissions for all the emitters effected by a particular activity definition.

As we have discussed previously, the effect of this is that, with three players (BHP Ni West, Minara Resources and QNPL), where BMP is the lowest emitter per tonne of finished nickel product, Minara is in the middle and QNPL is the highest, BHP will be compensated on the basis of an average generated by all producers included in a single activity definition, with the effect that BHP will be compensated by close to 100% or possibly even more than 100% of its actual emissions, while QNPL will be compensated for around 30% of its actual emissions according to ANPL modelling.

It has previously been indicated to us by the Federal Government that the arrangements set out in the White Paper are most likely to be those that will apply at the time of the introduction of an ETS. ie an allocative baseline will be developed either on the basis of a single activity definition or a combined activity definition, with the effect of a single activity definition resulting in QNPL being compensated for around 30% of their actual liable emissions. A differentiated activity definition, better aligned to the products of QNPL, would see the company more comprehensively compensated.

In relation to the carbon price or carbon tax period, section 5.2.2 of the Australian Government's "Securing a clean energy future" document states at Appendix A, page 115:

"Allocative baselines: Allocative baselines for activities will be based on the historic industry average level of emissions per unit of production for all entities conducting an activity during the assessment period. The electricity allocation factor will be set at one permit per megawatt hour. However, this may be adjusted in respect of existing large electricity supply contracts for entities consuming greater than

2,000 gigawatt hours per year, and where contractual arrangements entered into before 3 June 2007 are still in force (without having been renegotiated or reviewed) within 60 days after Royal

Assent of the Act. In such a situation, these contracts will be considered by the Regulator with a view to determine an entity-specific electricity allocation factor. The natural gas feedstock allocation factor will be set state-by-state."

AND

"Initial rates of assistance: 94.5 per cent of the industry average baseline for activities with an emissions intensity of at least 2,000t CO2-e/\$m revenue or at least 6,000t CO2-e/\$m value added.

66 per cent of the industry average baseline for activities with an emissions intensity between 1,000t CO2-e/\$m and 1,999t CO2-e/\$m revenue or between 3,000t CO2-e/\$m and 5,999t CO2-e/\$m

value added."

The net effect of this is that the compensation paid during the carbon price period will be calculated using the same method as will be used during the ETS period, with 30% of QNPL's actual emissions being compensated (as set out in the first paragraph above).

However the CPRS White Paper establishes 5 principles, on the basis of which activity definitions are to be developed. Queensland Nickel's case has always been that the application of these 5 principles should see an individual activity definition developed for the products produced by the company, rather than a single activity definition for all Australian Nickel producers. Further, the under compensation of the company under a single industry based activity definition would cause great financial and economic vulnerability and further would substantially increase the risk of carbon leakage to overseas producers in South America and China, some of which release emissions around double those of QNPL, per tonne of finished nickel product.

I am very happy to discuss this further with you.

Best regards

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From: David Shankey [mailto:David.Shankey@ministerial.qld.gov.au]

Sent: Monday, 18 July 2011 2:09 PM

To: Contrary to Public Interest

Subject: RE: meeting request-Queensland Nickel While the company is likely to be eligible for inclusion in the 94.5% EITE compensation bracket, the present view of the Department of Climate Change is for an application of the EITE principles which would see Queensland Nickel compensated for only around 30% of its emissions.

I am not sure I understand this sentence?

From: Contrary to Public Interesto: Contrary 1980 Public Interest, au

Sent: Monday, 18 July 2011 1:55 PM To: Lachlan Smith; David Shankey

Subject: FW: meeting request-Queensland Nickel

Hello Lachlan and David

I write to follow up on Queensland Nickel's previous request to meet with the Premier in order to discuss the impact of a carbon price on the company. In particular this relates to the impact on the company of under compensation measures set out in the Federal Government's White Paper for an ETS scheme. While the company is likely to be eligible for inclusion in the 94.5% EITE compensation bracket, the present view of the Department of Climate Change is for an application of the EITE principles which would see Queensland Nickel compensated for only around 30% of its emissions.

The General Manager of Queensland Nickel, Mr Trefor Flood, has asked me to bring to your attention again its desire to meet with the Premier in order to fully explain this issue and in particular how a decision by the Federal Government for a single activity definition for Nickel producers would negatively affect the company. (Our original request is set out below).

Best regards

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Bligh rebuffs Palmer's carbon comments

TONY RAGGATT | July 16th, 2011

QUEENSLAND Premier Anna Bligh has brushed off comments by mining magnate Clive Palmer that a carbon tax will put 1000 jobs at the Yabulu nickel refinery at risk.

Meanwhile, refinery management is worried Mr Palmer's standing as one of the Coalition's largest single donors could be influencing the federal Labor Government into not responding to requests for the highest level of compensation, as has occurred with other refiners.

A spokesman for Climate Change Minister Greg Combet said that was definitely not the

"We are yet to make a decision on the final details of assistance to nickel refining as an emissions-intensive trade-exposed activity," the spokesman said.

"We are consulting with the companies involved."

Mr Palmer spoke out earlier this week warning that the carbon tax and the Greens posed a major threat to the viability of the refinery and that there was not much more the company could do to reduce its environmental impacts.

The refinery is a big emitter, mostly through the use of heavy fuel oil as a reductant of the nickel ore when it is reduced in the roasters.

Of Australia's 100 biggest emitters, Yabulu is understood to be number 48.

Ms Bligh said the compensation package provided as part of the carbon pricing arrangements more than compensated the big refiners.

"These high emitters are securing 94 per cent compensation so I'm very confident we are going to continue to see very strong refining and secondary processing activity in Queensland," she said.

When told the refinery was still waiting to hear its compensation arrangements, she said she would be happy to organise a full briefing for the affected parties and said she would leave it to others to make an assessment of Mr Palmer's comments.

Yabulu general manager Trefor Flood said they had provided a submission 18 months ago on why the refinery and its Caron process was unique in Australia and should attract the highest protection rather than the lowest, as was being considered by government.

He said the Government had told them three months ago they would be given an answer but nothing had eventuated.

Meanwhile, the refinery, which lost millions of dollars a day under its former owner BHP and is now reportedly making \$200 million profits under Mr Palmer, is facing a big tax, depending on the level of free permits to emit.

At 94.5 per cent compensation, the tax could be as low as \$1.5 million or at the low scale support of 30 per cent, it could be \$19.5 million.

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From: Contrary to Public mad to: Contrary to Public Interest, au]

Sent: Thursday, 14 April 2011 5:14 PM To: 'Lachlan Smith'; 'David Shankey'

Subject: meeting request-Queensland Nickel

Dear Lachlan and David

GRA is registered on the Queensland Government's Lobbyists Register and is engaged by Queensland Nickel in relation to public policy and Government affairs. I write on behalf of Queensland Nickel to seek an opportunity to meet with the Premier in relation to the Federal Government's response to Climate Change and likely impacts on the company.

Queensland Nickel, as you know operate a Nickel processing facility at Yabulu, near Townsville. The company directly employs over 900 Queenslanders and around 200 contractors, and according to economic modeling, is responsible for around 2400 jobs in the Townsville region by way of economic multipliers.

As an Emission Intensive Trade Exposed (EITE) company, the firm is facing very significant liabilities from a carbon price in the short term and an Emissions Trading Scheme (CPRS) in the longer term.

The company has fully participated in the Federal Government's process in relation to the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme. At this stage the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency has developed a single activity definition. The activity definition forms the basis of EITE compensation. The position of QNPL is that there should be a separate activity definition on the basis of the different products or outputs produced by Queensland Nickel. A single activity definition would see the company significantly under-compensated for its carbon cost exposure.

The company has also assessed the impact of the interim carbon price and would also like to provide a briefing on the importance of compensation for EITE industries. This is especially in view that compensation arrangements for the interim period have not yet been released and are yet to be decided by the Federal Government.

As a North Queensland employer, the company seeks an opportunity to meet with the Premier to discuss the impact of these issues. Attending would be Mr Neil Meadows, Chief Operating Officer of Queensland Nickel and myself.

I look forward to hearing from you in relation to this request. Alternatively I will follow up with your office over the next day or two.

Best regards
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[attachment "TBN57 Attachment 1.doc" deleted by Lachlam Whitta/OGOC/QTreasury] [attachmen "TBN57 Meeting Queensland Nickel with the Treasurer.doc" deleted by Lachlan Whitta/OGOC/QTreasury]
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## **BRIEFING NOTE - FOR INFORMATION**

FROM	Treasury				
FOR Minister for Finance, Natural Resources and The Arts					
SUBJECT	JECT Meeting with Queensland Nickel				
Contact Officer:	Stuart Booker, Commercial, 3224 5437	Record No: TRX-16734	Date: 22/6/11		
Requested by:	N/A	Date Approval Required By; N/A	^		

#### **PURPOSE**

 To provide you with information ahead of your meeting with Queensland Nickel on the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS).

#### **BACKGROUND**

- Queensland Nickel operates a nickel processing facility in Yabulu, near Townsville. The two
  key functions of this plant are processing and refining ore imported from New Caledonia,
  Indonesia and the Philippines. These functions are described as follows:
  - processing the nickel and cobalt ore are dried, ground and roasted to reduce the ore
    to a metallic state. It is then dissolved in ammoria, aerated, washed in large tanks
    and allowed to settle, after which the product containing the metal (the product liquor)
    is removed for refining.
  - refining the nickel and cobalt are recovered via solvent extraction technology.
- 3. All gases used in the production processes are produced on-site. Power is produced through Queensland Nickel's own coal-fired power plant. Coal seam methane is also used in the refining process.

#### **ISSUES**

## Operation of the CPRS

- 4. The CPRS is made up of two components, the short term component being the carbon price and the long term being the emission trading scheme. As part of the CPRS, the Federal Government has proposed to provide transitional assistance to the companies in carbon polluting industries that will be affected by the introduction of a carbon price.
- 5. It is intended that the introduction of a carbon price will prompt a structural shift away from emission-intensive to low emissions goods, technology and production processes.
- 6. Companies operating in highly emission-intensive industries that face international competition will potentially be most affected by the CPRS, particularly in the short term. These are referred to as Emission Intensive Trade Exposed (EITE) companies and will be eligible for compensation to address competitiveness impacts of the carbon price and provide transitional support during the introduction of the CPRS.
- 7. The CPRS has been through a number of changes as the related legislation was considered in Federal Parliament. Most recently, the *Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Bill 2010* was introduced into the Senate in February 2010 but lapsed in September 2010 due to the calling of the Australian general election.
- 8. While the Federal Government has not yet reached a final decision on carbon policy, it has made publicly available a number of discussion papers and draft policy framework documents.
- 9. Queensland Nickel is an EITE company and has expressed concerns regarding the level of compensation that it will receive as a result of a carbon price and emissions trading scheme.

Queensland Nickel has also expressed concern regarding the impact of the interim carbon price and the need for compensation for the EITE industries.

Provision and Level of Compensation

- 10. At this stage, the Federal Government expects to introduce a carbon price in July 2012. Under the proposed policy, companies will incur costs dependent on their level of carbon dioxide emissions. It is likely that these costs will be calculated based on carbon emissions per \$million of revenue or carbon emissions per \$million of value-added (where value-added is measured by a proxy consisting of revenue less the cost of the most significant non-labour, non-capital inputs).
- 11. To assist with the transition into this new regime, the Commonwealth will compensate EITE entities for a period of time post the introduction of the carbon price regime. This compensation will be in the form of emission permits issued to EITE entities with the number of permits to be issued to be determined by the average emissions performance of the industry in which the entity operates and the fixed rates of assistance as defined in the CPRS scheme.
- 12. Under the proposed policy, assistance will be provided to companies based on their undertaking of eligible EITE activities. An 'activity' consists of the chemical or physical transformation of inputs to produce a given set of outputs. Assistance is therefore awarded based on the conversion of specified inputs to outputs in a particular physical or chemical transformation, with the transformation process being the crucial consideration.
- 13. Defining an activity in this way ensures uniformity of treatment within and between entities conducting the same activity and thus avoids any company or project specific bias.
- 14. Compensation will be provided on two levels for EI/TE activities with the emissions intensity falling into one of two ranges 'highly emissions intensive' or 'moderately emissions-intensive'. Initially, the 'highly emission intensive' activities will receive 94.5 per cent compensation and 'moderately emission intensive' activities will receive 66 per cent compensation. These levels of compensation will be reduced annually, reaching 84 per cent and 58.7 per cent respectively in 2020-21.
- 15. The basis for allocation of compensation will be a common unit relating to the activity to be compensated, that is, a common output or input to the production process.
- 16. From the advisory information made available by the Commonwealth at this time, it is unclear how these activity definitions will be used to encompass and classify the various processes undertaken by a company as highly or moderately emissions-intensive.
- 17. One interpretation is that each individual process will be classified as a separate activity and would thus be eligible to receive a separate level of compensation, independent of the other processes undertaken by the company. In this case the company would likely receive the correct level of compensation as each activity receives compensation based on its own level of emissions.
- 18. Alternatively, it may be the case that all processes conducted by a company are classified as one activity and would thus eligible for one level of compensation only. This may result in some companies being either under- or over-compensated depending on the emissions-intensive classification of the majority of the company's activities.
- 19. Queensland Nickel has taken the view that the carbon pricing policy will apply a single activity definition to all processes undertaken by the company. As such, Queensland Nickel has concerns regarding possible under-compensation for its carbon cost exposure.

#### Interim Carbon Price

- 20. The interim carbon price is likely to be set between \$20 and \$30 per tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent and increase by 4 per cent per annum, based on recommendations in the Garnaut Climate Change Review Update Paper Six. In 2015, it is currently envisaged that the price would be allowed to float with no caps or floors unless independent regulators deem that there are insufficient international trade opportunities to ensure liquidity and stability of price.
- 21. Professor Ross Garnaut recommended that the price begin at \$26 per tonne. It is estimated that this carbon price would raise \$11.5 billion in revenue in the first year of the tax. It has been proposed that 55 per cent of revenue go towards households and 35 per cent be used as compensation for the EITE industries. The remaining 10 per cent would go towards innovation and carbon farming.
- 22. It is proposed to provide assistance for EITE industries to the extent to which they are disadvantaged by other countries not having similar carbon constraints and are therefore unable to compete on sales price.

Suggested Position at Meeting

- 23. Queensland Nickel has engaged lobbyist firm Government Relations Australia Advisory P/L (GRAA) to contact the State Government to discuss Queensland Nickel's concerns regarding the impact of the carbon price (and the future emission trading scheme) on its operations. It is understood that you will be meeting with Mr Paul Bini from GRAA and Mr Neil Meadows, Chief Operating Officer of Queensland Nickel, to discuss these issues (refer to Attachment 1 for a copy of the initial correspondence from Mr Bini).
- 24. At this point in time, the exact administrative arrangements are unclear and no definite conclusion can be drawn regarding the compensation of EITE activities. However, these issues will become clearer as the Federal Government further refines its policy framework. The State Government does not have a role in the refinement of the policy and any concerns regarding compensation and assistance should be referred to the Federal Government.
- 25. Queensland Nickel is not represented by the industry association Queensland Resources Council (QRC). However, the lobbyist firm employed to act on behalf of Queensland Nickel is a member of the Queensland Resources Council. As such, we expect that QRC would be aware of issues raised by Queensland Nickel regarding carbon policy. Furthermore, the concerns raised by Queensland Nickel are unlikely to be unique to this company and would therefore be addressed through the QRC's broader discussions with the Federal Government.

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□ Noted				
Comments /back to Department/f	urther action - if	applicable)	 	
1() -				
			 	·
			 •	

	*Action Officer/Author:	Director:	(Initials)	ED/AUT:	(Initials)	OUT:	(Initials)
Name:	Rob Scadden			Stuart Booker			
Branch/Division:	Commercial:			Commercial			
Telephone:	3225 8230			3224 5437			, <u>.</u>
Date:	22/6/11	1	/ "	1 1		·	<u> </u>

## **Peter Downey**

From:

Gnanananthan Gobikrishna [Gobikrishna.Gnanananthan@deedi.qld.gov.au]

Sent:

Friday, 29 July 2011 11:48 AM

To:

Peter Downey; Geoff Robson

Subject:

FW: Guidance paper for activity definitions under the Jobs and Competitiveness Program

[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance:

High

Peter and Geoff,

Commonwealth has informed me that they cannot say what level of assistance nickel processing will get. This will be determined after Minister Combet signs off on the activity definition for nickel (which is expected to happen in the next few weeks).

In relation to the 30% quoted by QN – QN will get either 66% or 94.5% of industry average for their production. Given that QN process is more emission intensive then other two nickel producers in Australia it assistance will be lower the relevant industry average. QN seems to have got in a consultant to model its expected level of assistance (30% of its actual emission level). I don't have the expertise or information to comment on the result of the modelling.

Regards,

#### Gobikrishna Gnanananthan

Principal Policy Officer

Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation 07 324 74576 |gobikrishna.gnanananthan@deedi.qld.gov.av

From: Contrary to Public Interesmallto: Contrary to Public Interestimatechange.gov.au]

Sent: Friday, 29 July 2011 11:32 AM

To: Gnanananthan Gobikrishna

Cc: Contrary to Public Interest

Subject: RE: Guidance paper for activity definitions under the Jobs and Competitiveness Program

[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Gobi

As discussed and outlined in the document I sent you on Monday, the Minister is currently considering an activity definition for the production of Nickel. No final decision has been made.

Queensland Nickel is correct with how the assistance rates have been set and will be set under the Jobs and Competitiveness Program, noting that the emissions and effective assistance rates for each facility would be determined from a formal assessment following the Ministers approval of the activity definition.

See the link for activities that have been defined for assistance under the JCP - <a href="http://www.climatechange.gov.au/en/government/initiatives/jobs-competitiveness-program/activity-definitions.aspx">http://www.climatechange.gov.au/en/government/initiatives/jobs-competitiveness-program/activity-definitions.aspx</a>

Many thanks Contrary to Public Interest From: Gnanananthan Gobikrishna [mailto:Gobikrishna.Gnanananthan@deedi.qld.gov.au]

Sent: Friday, 29 July 2011 8:43 AM
To: Contrary to Public Interest

Subject: RE: Guidance paper for activity definitions under the Jobs and Competitiveness Program

[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Contrary to Public Interest

Thanks for all your help so far. Please be kind enough to answer some more.

What level of assistance does nickel processing get? Is it 66%?

#### Also, Old Nickel told us:

The way the CPRS program in the Whitepaper was set out, the final compensation received by an EITE is based on an allocative baseline which is an average of the emissions for all the emitters effected by a particular activity definition.

the effect of this is that, with three players (BHP Ni West, Minara Resources and QNPL), where BHP is the lowest emitter per tonne of finished nickel product, Minara is in the middle and QNPL is the highest, BHP will be compensated on the basis of an average generated by all producers included in a single activity definition, with the effect that BHP will be compensated by close to 100% or possibly even more than 100% of its actual emissions, while QNPL will be compensated for around 30% of its actual emissions, according to ANPL modelling.

Who or what is ANPL modelling?

Regards,

#### Gobikrishna Gnanananthan

Principal Policy Officer Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation 07 324 74576 |gobikrishna.gnanananthan@deedi.qld.gov.au

From: Contrary to Public Interestinal to Contrary to Public Interestinate Change gov.au]

Sent: Monday, 25 July 2011 2:49 PM

To: Gnanananthan Gobikrishna

Subject: RE: Guidance paper for activity definitions under the Jobs and Competitiveness Program

[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Gobi

Please see attached our comments on your brief.

I have included some points relevant to the activity definition process and more background on nickel production. This is to help with information about the situation.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Many thanks

Contrary to Public Interest

From: Gnanananthan Gobikrishna [mailto:Gobikrishna.Gnanananthan@deedi.qld.gov.au]

Sent: Monday, 25 July 2011 12:36 PM

To: Contrary to Public Interest

Subject: RE: Guidance paper for activity definitions under the Jobs and Competitiveness Program

[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Importance: High

Hi Contrary to Public Interest

I would appreciate it if you can look at this and say whether the information contain in the attachment is consistent with your understanding, ta.

Regards,

## Gobikrishna Gnanananthan

Principal Policy Officer
Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation
07 324 74576 | gobikrishna.gnanananthan@deedi.qld.gov.au

From: Contrary to Public Interestmailto: Contrary to Public Interestimatechange.gov.au]

Sent: Monday, 25 July 2011 12:22 PM

To: Gnanananthan Gobikrishna

Subject: Guidance paper for activity definitions under the Jobs and Competitiveness Program

[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Gobi -

You can use the link below which covers the assistance program for emissions-intensive tradeexposed industries. The guidance paper with a link on the right of the page covers the principles in defining activities for assistance.

http://www.climatechange.gov.au/government/initiatives/jobs-competitiveness-program.aspx

If you have any other questions please let me know.

Thanks
Contrary to Public Interest

Contrary to Public Interest

Analysis and Projections Branch Climate Strategy and Markets Division Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency GPO Box 854 Canberra, ACT 2601

Telephone number Contrary to Public Interest
Fax number Contrary to Public Interest

Contrary to Public Intermedimatechange.gov.au



From: Gnanananthan Gobikrishna [mailto:Gobikrishna.Gnanananthan@deedi.qld.gov.au]

Sent: Monday, 25 July 2011 10:41 AM To: Contrary to Public Interest

Subject: hi

Regards,

#### Gobikrishna Gnanananthan

Principal Policy Officer Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation 07 324 74576 |gobikrishna.gnanananthan@deedi.qld.gov.au

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## **Peter Downey**

From:

Gnanananthan Gobikrishna [Gobikrishna Gnanananthan@deedi.qld.gov.au]

Sent:

Monday, 1 August 2011 3:08 PM

To:

Peter Downey

Subject:

RE: Guidance paper for activity definitions under the Jobs and Competitiveness Program

[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Sounds fine.

Regards,

#### Gobikrishna Gnanananthan

Principal Policy Officer

Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation

07 324 74576 |gobikrishna.gnanananthan@deedi.qld.gov.au

From: Peter Downey [mailto:Peter.Downey@premiers.qld.gov,att]

Sent: Monday, 1 August 2011 2:30 PM

To: Gnanananthan Gobikrishna

Subject: RE: Guidance paper for activity definitions under the Jobs and Competitiveness Program

[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] Importance: High

Gobi,

Thanks for that below advice and all the advice you've provided so far re: Qld Nickel. I've re-jigged the PNG slightly and just want to run this par past you and confirm that I've successfully explained EITEs assistance in-a-nutshell:

- EITEs assistance will consist of free permits allocated against an industry average baseline at rates of either 94.5% for high carbon intensity activities 66% for other eligible activities. A firm's total post-EITEs assistance liability will depend on how much higher (or lower) its emissions are compared to the industry average.

Thanks

Peter Downey

Policy Officer

**Economic Policy** 

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Ph: 07-322-58014

peter.downey@premiers.qld.gov.au

Executive Building | Level 14 | 100 George Street | Brisbane

PO Box 15185 | City East | Queensland 4002 |

From: Gnanananthan Gobikrishna [mailto:Gobikrishna.Gnanananthan@deedi.qld.gov.au]

Sent: Friday, 29 July 2011 12:10 PM

To: Peter Downey

Subject: FW: Guidance paper for activity definitions under the Jobs and Competitiveness Program

[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

FYI. It got the assistance rate for EITI activities that have so far been finalised.

Regards,

#### Gobikrishna Gnanananthan

Principal Policy Officer Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation 07 324 74576 |gobikrishna,gnanananthan@deedi.qld.gov.au

From: Contrary to Public Interphalito: Contrary to Public Interphalic Contrary to Public Contrary to Public Interphalic Contrary to Public Contrary to Pu

Sent: Friday, 29 July 2011 11:58 AM To: Gnanananthan Gobikrishna

Subject: FW: Guidance paper for activity definitions under the Jobs and Competitiveness Program

[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Gobi, the actual document that contains assistance rates for all activities is at this link http://www.climatechange.gov.au/government/initiatives/jobs-competitivenessprogram/~/media/publications/eite/eligibility-emissions-intensive%20trade-exposed-activities.pdf

We'll try and get it moved to a more obvious location, we're updating some of the website at the moment.

Thanks.

Contrary to Public Interest

From: Contrary to Public Interest

Sent: Friday, 29 July 2011 11:32 AM

To: 'Gnanananthan Gobikrishna' Contrary to Public Interest

Subject: RE: Guidance paper for activity definitions under the Jobs and Competitiveness Program

[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Gobi

As discussed and outlined in the document I sent you on Monday, the Minister is currently considering an activity definition for the production of Nickel. No final decision has been made.

Queensland Nickel is correct with how the assistance rates have been set and will be set under the Jobs and Competitiveness Program, noting that the emissions and effective assistance rates for each facility would be determined from a formal assessment following the Ministers approval of the activity definition.

See the link for activities that have been defined for assistance under the JCP http://www.climatechange.gov.au/en/government/initiatives/jobs-competitiveness-program/activitydefinitions.aspx

Many thanks Contrary to Public Interest

From: Gnanananthan Gobikrishna [mailto:Gobikrishna.Gnanananthan@deedi.qld.gov.au]

Sent: Friday, 29 July 2011 8:43 AM

To: Contrary to Public Interest

Subject: RE: Guidance paper for activity definitions under the Jobs and Competitiveness Program [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Contrary to Public Interest

Thanks for all your help so far. Please be kind enough to answer some more.

What level of assistance does nickel processing get? Is it 66%?

Also, Old Nickel told us:

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Who or what is ANPL modelling?

Regards,

#### Gobikrishna Gnanananthan

Principal Policy Officer

Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation 07 324 74576 |gobikrishna.gnanananthan@deedi.qld.gov.au

From: Contrary to Public Interesmailto: Contrary to Public Interestimatechange.gov.au]

Sent: Monday, 25 July 2011 2:49 PM

To: Gnanananthan Gobikrishna

Subject: RE: Guidance paper for activity definitions under the Jobs and Competitiveness Program

[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Gobi

Please see attached our comments on your brief.

I have included some points relevant to the activity definition process and more background on nickel production. This is to help with information about the situation.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Many thanks

Andrew

From: Gnanananthan Gobikrishna [mailto:Gobikrishna.Gnanananthan@deedi.qld.gov.au]

Sent: Monday, 25 July 2011 12:36 PM

To: Contrary to Public Interest

Subject: RE: Guidance paper for activity definitions under the Jobs and Competitiveness Program

[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] Importance: High

Contrary to Public Interest Hi

I would appreciate it if you can look at this and say whether the information contain in the attachment is consistent with your understanding. ta.

Regards,

#### Gobikrishna Gnanananthan

Principal Policy Officer
Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation
07 324 74576 |gobikrishna.gnanananthan@deedi.qld.gov.au

From: Contrary to Public Interesmailto: Contrary to Public Interestinate Change.gov.au]

Sent: Monday, 25 July 2011 12:22 PM

To: Gnanananthan Gobikrishna

Subject: Guidance paper for activity definitions under the Jobs and Competitiveness

Program [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Gobi

You can use the link below which covers the assistance program for emissions-intensive trade-exposed industries. The guidance paper with a link on the right of the page covers the principles in defining activities for assistance.

http://www.climatechange.gov.au/government/initiatives/jobs-competitiveness-program.aspx

If you have any other questions please let me know.

Thanks

Contrary to Public Interest

Analysis and Projections Branch Climate Strategy and Markets Division Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency GPO Box 854

Canberra, ACT 2601

Contrary to Public In@reismatechange.gov.au





From: Gnanananthan Gobikrishna [mailto:Gobikrishna.Gnanananthan@deedi.qld.gov.au]

Sent: Monday, 25 July 2011 10:41 AM

To Contrary to Public Interest

Subject: hi

Regards,

#### Gobikrishna Gnanananthan

Principal Policy Officer
Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation
07 324 74576 |gobikrishna.gnanananthan@deedi.qld.gov.au

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#### **Peter Downey**

From:

Thompson, Judith [Judith.Thompson@deedi.qld.gov.au]

Sent:

Monday, 25 July 2011 4:36 PM

To:

Peter Downey

Cc:

Gnanananthan, Gobikrishna; McNevin, Bernadette; Tiernan, Dermot; Skinner, John; Hunt,

Dan; Smith, Annette (DEEDI)

Subject:

RE: meeting request-Queensland Nickel

Attachments:

M&E's dot points.doc

Dear Peter

Please find attached dot point prepared for the Premier's meeting with Queensland Nickel

These dot points have been approved by Dan Hunt, Associate DG (mines and Energy):

Regards

Judith

**Judith Thompson** 

Director | Office of the Associate Director-General | Mines and Energy Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation

Floor 17 | 61 Mary Street | Brisbane Qld 4000

PO Box 15216 | City East Qld 4002 P: +617 3898 0682 | E: 10682

P: +617 3898 0682 | E: 10682 M: +61 Contrary to Public Interest

E; judith thompson@deedi.qld.gov.au

W: www.deedi.gld.gov.au

From: Peter Downey [mailto:Peter.Downey@premiers.qld.gov.au]

Sent: Friday, 22 July 2011 3:32 PM

To: Thompson, Judith

Subject: FW: meeting request-Queensland Nickel

Good afternoon Judith,

As discussed, could you please organise for DEEDI to provide input for a Premier's briefing Note for a meeting with Queensland Nickel. The meeting is intended to cover the issues raised in the below email. Specifically, could DEEDI please provide some analysis (dot points at this stage or any previously prepared briefs) regarding the Queensland nickel refining industry and how other industry participates (specifically those mentioned in the below email) are positioned to deal with the carbon price mechanism.

Could DEEDI please provide this advice by COB Monday, 25 July 2011.

Happy to discuss and apologies for the tight timeframes.

Peter Downey

Policy Officer
Economic Policy
Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Ph: 07-322-58014
peter.downey@premiers.qld.gov.au
Executive Building | Level 14 | 100 George Street | Brisbane
PO Box 15185 | City East | Queensland 4002 |

From: Contrary to Publisher Contrange of Publishers and

**Sent:** Monday, 18 July 2011 8:05 PM

To: David Shankey Cc: Lachlan Smith

Subject: RE: meeting request-Queensland Nickel

Hi David

The way the CPRS program in the Whitepaper was set out, the final compensation received by an EITE is based on an allocative baseline which is an average of the emissions for all the emitters effected by a particular activity definition.

As we have discussed previously, the effect of this is that, with three players (BHP N West, Minara Resources and QNPL), where BHP is the lowest emitter per tonne of finished nickel product, Minara is in the middle and QNPL is the highest, BHP will be compensated on the basis of an average generated by all producers included in a single activity definition, with the effect that BHP will be compensated by close to 100% or possibly even more than 100% of its actual emissions, while QNPL will be compensated for around 30% of its actual emissions, according to ANPL modelling.

It has previously been indicated to us by the Federal Covernment that the arrangements set out in the White Paper are most likely to be those that will apply at the time of the introduction of an ETS. ie an allocative baseline will be developed either on the basis of a single activity definition or a combined activity definition, with the effect of a single activity definition resulting in QNPL being compensated for around 30% of their actual liable emissions. A differentiated activity definition, better aligned to the products of QNPL, would see the company more comprehensively compensated.

In relation to the carbon price or carbon tax period, section 5.2.2 of the Australian Government's "Securing a clean energy future" document states at Appendix A, page 175:

"Allocative baselines: Allocative baselines for activities will be based on the historic industry average level of emissions per unit of production for all entities conducting an activity during the assessment period.

The electricity allocation factor will be set at one permit per megawatt hour. However, this may be adjusted in respect of existing large electricity supply contracts for entities consuming greater than

2,000 gigawatt hours per year, and where contractual arrangements entered into before 3 June 2007 are still in force (without having been renegotiated or reviewed) within 60 days after Royal

Assent of the Act. In such a situation, these contracts will be considered by the Regulator with a view to determine an entity-specific electricity allocation factor. The natural gas feedstock allocation factor will be set state-by-state."

AND

"Initial rates of assistance: 94.5 per cent of the industry average baseline for activities with an emissions intensity of at least 2,000t CO2-e/\$m revenue or at least 6,000t CO2-e/\$m value added.

66 per cent of the industry average baseline for activities with an emissions intensity between 1,000t CO2-e/\$m and 1,999t CO2-e/\$m revenue or between 3,000t CO2-e/\$m and 5,999t CO2-e/\$m

value added.'

The net effect of this is that the compensation paid during the carbon price period will be calculated using the same method as will be used during the ETS period, with 30% of QNPL's actual emissions being compensated (as set out in the first paragraph above).

However the CPRS White Paper establishes 5 principles, on the basis of which activity definitions are to be developed. Queensland Nickel's case has always been that the application of these 5 principles should see an individual activity definition developed for the products produced by the company, rather than a single activity definition for all Australian Nickel producers. Further, the under compensation of the company under a single industry based activity definition would cause great financial and economic vulnerability and further would substantially increase the risk of carbon leakage to overseas producers in South America and China, some of which release emissions around double those of QNPL, per tonne of finished nickel product.

I am very happy to discuss this further with you.

Best regards

Contrary to Bule to resternment Relations Australia Advisory Pty Ltd Tel: Contrary to Public Text Contrary to Public Medical Contrary to Public Interest Website: www.govrel.com.au

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A Please consider the environment before printing

From: David Shankey [mailto:David.Shankey@ministerial.qld.gov.au]

Sent: Monday, 18 July 2011 2:09 PM

To: Contrary to Public Interest

Subject: RE: meeting request Queensland Nickel

While the company is likely to be eligible for inclusion in the 94.5% EITE compensation bracket, the present view of the Department of Climate Change is for an application of the EITE principles which would see Queensland Nickel compensated for only around 30% of its emissions.

I am not sure I understand this sentence?

From: Contrary to Public Int Contrapy to Public Office [3]

Sent: Monday, 18 July 2011 1:55 PM To: Lachlan Smith; David Shankey

Subject: FW: meeting request-Queensland Nickel

Hello Lachlan and David

I write to follow up on Queensland Nickel's previous request to meet with the Premier in order to discuss the impact of a carbon price on the company. In particular this relates to the impact on the company of under compensation measures set out in the Federal Government's White Paper for an ETS scheme. While the company is likely to be eligible for inclusion in the 94.5% EITE compensation bracket, the present view of the Department of Climate Change

is for an application of the EITE principles which would see Queensland Nickel compensated for only around 30% of its emissions.

The General Manager of Queensland Nickel, Mr Trefor Flood, has asked me to bring to your attention again its desire to meet with the Premier in order to fully explain this issue and in particular how a decision by the Federal Government for a single activity definition for Nickel producers would negatively affect the company. (Our original request is set out below).

Best regards

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## Bligh rebuffs Palmer's carbon comments

TONY RAGGATT | July 16th, 2011

QUEENSLAND Premier Anna Bligh has brushed off comments by mining magnate Clive Palmer that a carbon tax will put 1000 jobs at the Yabulu nickel refinery at risk.

Meanwhile, refinery management is worried Mr Palmer's standing as one of the Coalition's largest single donors could be influencing the federal Labor Government into not responding to requests for the highest level of compensation, as has occurred with other refiners.

A spokesman for Climate Change Minister Greg Combet said that was definitely not the case.

"We are yet to make a decision on the final details of assistance to nickel refining as an emissions-intensive trade-exposed activity," the spokesman said.

"We are consulting with the companies involved."

Mr Palmer spoke out earlier this week warning that the carbon tax and the Greens posed a major threat to the viability of the refinery and that there was not much more the company could do to reduce its environmental impacts.

The refinery is a big emitter, mostly through the use of heavy fuel oil as a reductant of the nickel ore when it is reduced in the roasters.

Of Australia's 100 biggest emitters, Yabulu is understood to be number 48.

Ms Bligh said the compensation package provided as part of the carbon pricing arrangements more than compensated the big refiners.

"These high emitters are securing 94 per cent compensation so I'm very confident we are going to continue to see very strong refining and secondary processing activity in Queensland," she said.

When told the refinery was still waiting to hear its compensation arrangements, she said she would be happy to organise a full briefing for the affected parties and said she would leave it to others to make an assessment of Mr Palmer's comments.

Yabulu general manager Trefor Flood said they had provided a submission 18 months ago on why the refinery and its Caron process was unique in Australia and should attract the highest protection rather than the lowest, as was being considered by government.

He said the Government had told them three months ago they would be given an answer but nothing had eventuated.

Meanwhile, the refinery, which lost millions of dollars a day under its former owner BHP and is now reportedly making \$200 million profits under Mr Palmer, is facing a big tax, depending on the level of free permits to emit.

At 94.5 per cent compensation, the tax could be as low as \$1.5 million or at the low scale support of 30 per cent, it could be \$19.5 million.

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From: Contrary to Phalipp Contra poso Phaliconnia []

Sent: Thursday, 14 April 2011 5:14 PM To: 'Lachlan Smith'; 'David Shankey'

Subject: meeting request-Queensland Nickel

Dear Lachlan and David

GRA is registered on the Queensland Government's Lobbyists Register and is engaged by Queensland Nickel in relation to public policy and Government affairs. I write on behalf of Queensland Nickel to seek an opportunity to meet with the Premier in relation to the Federal Government's response to Climate Change and likely impacts on the company.

Queensland Nickel, as you know operate a Nickel processing facility at Yabulu, near Townsville. The company directly employs over 900 Queenslanders and around 200 contractors, and according to economic modeling, is responsible for around 2400 jobs in the Townsville region by way of economic multipliers.

As an Emission Intensive Trade Exposed (EITE) company, the firm is facing very significant liabilities from a carbon price in the short term and an Emissions Trading Scheme (CPRS) in the longer term.

The company has fully participated in the Federal Government's process in relation to the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme. At this stage the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency has developed a single activity definition. The activity definition forms the basis of EITE compensation. The position of QNPL is that there should be a separate activity definition on the basis of the different products or outputs produced by Queensland Nickel. A single activity definition would see the company significantly under-compensated for its carbon cost exposure.

The company has also assessed the impact of the interim carbon price and would also like to provide a briefing on the importance of compensation for EITE industries. This is especially in view that compensation arrangements for the interim period have not yet been released and are yet to be decided by the Federal Government.

As a North Queensland employer, the company seeks an opportunity to meet with the Premier to discuss the impact of these issues. Attending would be Mr Neil Meadows, Chief Operating Officer of Queensland Nickel and myself.

I look forward to hearing from you in relation to this request. Alternatively I will follow up with your office over the next day or two.

Best regards

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Prepared by: Gobikrishna Gnanananthan Title: Principal Policy Officer

Division/Region: Mining and Petroleum Industry Policy

Telephone: 324 74576 Date Prepared: 25 July 2011 Endorsed by: Bernadette McNevin Title: A/Director, Mining and Petroleum Industry Policy Telephone: 3224 2847

Date Endorsed: 25 July 2011

Approved by: Dan Hunt Title: Associate DG (Mines and Energy) Telephone: 322 42684

Date Approved: 25 July 2011

## PREMIER'S MEETING WITH QUEENSLAND NICKEL

Requested By: Peter Downey, Policy Officer, Economic Policy, Department of the

**Premier and Cabinet** 

Due Date: 25 July 2011

## **PURPOSE**

1. To provide information to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) to include in briefing material for the Premier for her meeting Queensland Nickel.

#### **BACKGROUND**

- 2. Queensland Nickel (QN) operates the Yabulu Refinery (near Townsville), which produce nickel and cobalt products using ore imported from mines in New Caledonia, Indonesia and the Philippines. QN directly employs over 750 people.
- 3. QN wants to discuss the definition of 'activity' in the carbon pricing scheme, which forms the basis for assistance under the Jobs and Competitiveness Program of the recently announced Clean Energy Future by the Commonwealth Government.
- 4. The Commonwealth's policy is that all of those EITE entities conducting a given activity will receive permits on the same basis, and that baselines will be set on an industry-wide basis (not based on individual facility).

  Attachment 1 outlines the principles used by the Commonwealth to define 'activity'.
- 5. There are three major nickel producers in Australia. These are BHP Nickel West, Minara Resources and QN listed in the order of lowest to highest emission intensity per unit of nickel production.
- 6. QN is seeking an activity definition for its operation that would be separate from a definition used for BHP Nickel West and Minara Resources. The Commonwealth Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency (DCCEE) has advised DEEDI that Minister Combet is considering the view's of all stakeholders including QN in coming to a decision on an activity definition for the production of nickel.
- 7. There is also an independent expert advisory committee that makes recommendations to the Commonwealth Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency that the principles are applied fairly and equitably on defining activities. DCCEE has advised that QN has met with and expressed its views to the expert advisory committee.
- 8. The Commonwealth's policy on the definition of 'activity' is articulated in the White Paper on the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, which was released

Prepared by: Gobikrishna Gnanananthan Title: Principal Policy Officer Division/Region: Mining and Petroleum

Industry Policy Telephone: 324 74576 Date Prepared: 25 July 2011 Endorsed by: Bernadette McNevin
Title: A/Director, Mining and Petroleum
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in late 2008 and prior to QN acquiring the Yabulu Refinery from BHP Billion in July 2009.

#### **ISSUES**

- 9. QN argues that if there is only one definition of 'activity' for nickel production then it will only receive compensation for 30 per cent of its actual greenhouse gas emission. In contrast, BHP Nickel West will receive close to 100 per cent of its actual emission, due to significantly lower emission intensity of its production.
- 10. DCCEE has advised DEEDI that the ore used by GN and Minara Resources is notably different from that used by BHP Nickel West, which partly contributes to the variation in the emission intensity between the three producers.
- 11. The variation in the emission intensity may also be explained by the difference in the production set up between the companies. DCCEE has noted that the purpose of principle 2 of **Attachment 1** is to not remove the incentive to change technological processes to achieve lower emissions.
- 12. QN's end nickel products are slightly different from that of BHP Nickel and Minara Resources. QN's primary nickel product is nickel compacts, which are 98.7 per cent pure nickel, whereas Minara and BHP Nickel West produce London Metals Exchange grade (99.8 per cent pure nickel) nickel briquettes. Both nickel products are primarily used for the production of stainless steel and they are both substitutable.

Prepared by: Gobikrishna Gnanananthan Title: Principal Policy Officer

Division/Region: Mining and Petroleum

Industry Policy Telephone: 324 74576 Date Prepared: 25 July 2011 Endorsed by: Bernadette McNevin
Title: A/Director, Mining and Petroleum
Industry Policy

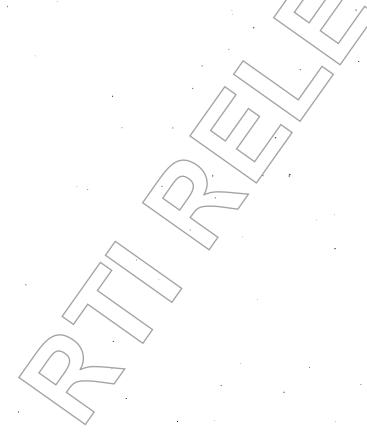
Telephone: 3224 2847 Date Endorsed: 25 July 2011 Approved by: Dan Hunt Title: Associate DG (Mines and Energy) Telephone: 322 42684

Date Approved: 25 July 2011

#### Attachment 1

The following principles will be used to determine activities and the boundaries around each activity:

- 1. an activity consists of the chemical or physical transformation of inputs to produce a given set of outputs
- 2. activities should not be differentiated by the technology employed, the fuel used, the age of the plant or the quality and types of feedstock used
- 3. boundaries around activities should be consistently and equitably applied across industries
- 4. the approach to establishing boundaries around activities should have minimal impact on business investment, location and structure decisions
- 5. in determining the boundaries around activities, consideration is given to the scope for intermediate inputs produced within the activity to be substituted for bought-in inputs
- 6. there should be no overlap between different activity definitions to ensure that it would not be possible to receive assistance more than once for a given quantum of emissions.



#### **Peter Downey**

From:

Peter Downey

Sent:

Wednesday, 27 July 2011 9:31 AM

To:

'Weinert Nick'

Subject:

RE: URGENT: Briefing for Premier's meeting request-Queensland Nickel

Nick,

Thanks for the heads up on that. Much appreciated.

-Peter

Peter Downey

Policy Officer Economic Policy

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Ph: 07-322-58014

peter.downey@premiers.qld.gov.au

Executive Building | Level 14 | 100 George Street | Brisbane

PO Box 15185 | City East | Queensland 4002 |

From: Weinert Nick [mailto:Nick.Weinert@derm.qld.gov.au]

Sent: Wednesday, 27 July 2011 9:29 AM

**To:** Peter Downey **Cc:** Goodbun Rodney

Subject: FW: URGENT: Briefing for Premier's meeting request-Queensland Nickel

Peter

There's not much of note in this interview re QNPL itself, but I forward it by way of background in case you missed it.

Cheers, Nick

http://www.tonyabbott.com.au/LatestNews/InterviewTranscripts/tabid/85/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/8221/Doorstop-Interview-Yabulu-QLD.aspx

Nick Weinert | Policy Coordination | Office of Climate Change
Department of Environment and Resource Management
(07) 3330 5818 | nick.weinert@derm.qld.gov.au | www.derm.qld.gov.au
www.climatechange.qld.gov.au

From: Goodbun Rodney

Sent: Monday, 25 July 2011 5:05 PM

To: Peter Downey

Cc: Weinert Nick; Surawski Megan

Subject: RE: URGENT: Briefing for Premier's meeting request-Queensland Nickel

Peter

#### **Activity-based definitions**

The rationale for the activity definition by industry is found in Section 5.2.2 of the C'wealth's Clean Energy Future plan (see below).

Essentially, it derives from the assumption that a given activity may be undertaken in a number of ways - an averaged assumption of emissions intensity for that activity (across a given industry) provides an incentive to identify and conduct the activity in a more efficient way and thus minimise emissions liability under a carbon

More efficient undertaking of the activity is rewarded and conversely, less efficient undertaking is

disincentivised / penalised.

The rationale is more fully articulated in Section 3 of the attached doc: http://www.climatechange.gov.au/~/media/publications/eite/activity-eligibility-2011-pdf.pdf

QNPL has argued that the principles underpinning the above rationale, as articulated by the Commonwealth, make the case for a 'differentiated activity definition' - however, the basis for this claim is not spelled out by QNPL.

#### Carbon leakage

OCC is not in a position to comment on the QNPL claims about carbon leakage. However, I make the following points:

- Emissions from nickel production are a combination of the type and quality of ore being processed, the actual process (pyrometallurgical processes produce lower enlistions and hydrometallurgical processes produce higher emissions) and the energy type used in the processes (renewable, gas, oil, coal-fired, nuclear)
- Given the above, a reasonable question to QNPL is its ability to improve its emissions profile and therefore optimise the compensation on offer – after all, the carbon price scheme is intended to drive transformation in key sectors of the economy - and its Australian competitors are more GHG efficient
- QNPL by its own admission is a high emitter compared to the other two Australian-based nickel producers. so arguably market share could be lost to those more GHG-efficient Australian producers
- Other nations, (Canada, Finland, Russia, Norway and Columbia), are amongst the world's lowest GHG emitters for nickel production - it would be useful to ask QNPL how it performs in relation to these countries and how it could reduce its emissions profile to their standards (http://www.canadianminingreview.com/)
- In addition, the countries named above must confront the competitors from China and South America is there evidence of carbon leakage?

In meeting with QNPL, it would be useful to ascertain:

- The specific basis for its claim to differentiated activity definition' ie what is it about its operations that warrant such treatment? (Mr Bini says it relates to the particular products produced)
- What is it about the emissions intensity of its operations that reduces its compensation from 94.5% to 30% ie why is it so emissions intensive?
- Are there other economic means of reducing the emissions intensity of its operations?

Best practice options to improve energy efficiency and reduce GHGs:

- Increase metal recycling levels recycling nickel requires about 10% of the energy input required to extract the metal from ore (CSIRO, 2001, http://www.minerals.csiro.au/sd/CSIRO Paper LCA CuNi.htm)
- energy efficient grinding equipment or less ore grinding
- use renewable electricity
- use natural gas for ore reduction (rather than heavy fuel oil)
- advanced power cycles
- co-generation using natural gas
- pyrometallurgical processes have lower total energy consumptions

More technical information about the QNPL Yabilu operation is included in this document: http://www.ausimm.com.au/content/docs/mono19model\_paper.pdf

Cheers

Rod Goodbun Director - Policy Coordination Office of Climate Change

Department of Environment and Resource Management

Level 9, 400 George Street, Brisbane 07 3330 5865 Contrary to Public Heliately.goodbun@climatechange.qld.gov.au

www.climatechange.qld.gov.au

From: Peter Downey [mailto:Peter.Downey@premiers.qld.gov.au]

Sent: Friday, 22 July 2011 3:09 PM

To: Goodbun Rodney

Subject: URGENT: Briefing for Premier's meeting request-Queensland Nickel

Importance: High

Good afternoon Rod,

As discussed, could you please take a look at the below email from Paul Bin, who is acting on behalf of Qld Nickel.

I'm putting together a briefing note for the Premier's meeting with Qld Nickel on the issues contained in the email around EITEs assistance to Qld Nickel.

I think the briefing note requires some analysis of Qld Nickel's claims so could you please provide some words regarding Qld Nickel's claims:

- regarding the need for activity-based definitions (e.g., what is the logic for industry rather than activity-based definitions being adopted by the CTH for the allocation of EITEs assistance); and
- that if it does not receive more EITEs assistance there is a risk of carbon leakage to overseas competitors. Is this a major consideration?

I'll also be seeking some advice regarding the Nickel sector from DEEDI.

Could you please provide this advice by COB Monday, 25 July 2011.

Happy to discuss.

Peter Downey

Policy Officer **Economic Policy** 

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Ph: 07-322-58014

peter.downey@premiers.qld.gov.au

Executive Building | Level 14 | 100 George Street | Brisbane

PO Box 15185 | City East | Queensland 4002 |

From: Contrary to Public laterest

Sent: Monday, 18 July 2011 8:05 PM

To: David Shankey Cc: Lachlan Smith

Subject: RE: meeting request-Queensland Nickel

Hi David

The way the CPRS program in the Whitepaper was set out, the final compensation received by an EITE is based on an allocative baseline which is an average of the emissions for all the emitters effected by a particular activity definition.

As we have discussed previously, the effect of this is that, with three players (BHP Ni West, Minara Resources and QNPL), where BHP is the lowest emitter per tonne of finished nickel product, Minara is in the middle and QNPL is the highest, BHP will be compensated on the basis of an average generated by all producers included in a single activity definition, with the effect that BHP will be compensated by close to 100% or possibly even more than 100% of its actual emissions, while QNPL will be compensated for around 30% of its actual emissions, according to ANPL modelling.

It has previously been indicated to us by the Federal Government that the arrangements set out in the White Paper are most likely to be those that will apply at the time of the introduction of an ETS. le an allocative baseline will be developed either on the basis of a single activity definition or a combined activity definition, with the effect of a single activity definition resulting in QNPL being compensated for around 30% of their actual liable emissions. A differentiated activity definition, better aligned to the products of QNPL, would see the company more comprehensively compensated.

In relation to the carbon price or carbon tax period, section 5.2.2 of the Australian Government's "Securing a clean energy future" document states at Appendix A, page 115:

"Allocative baselines: Allocative baselines for activities will be based on the historic industry average level of emissions per unit of production for all entities conducting an activity during the assessment period.

The electricity allocation factor will be set at one permit per megawatt hour. However, this may be adjusted in respect of existing large electricity supply contracts for entities consuming greater than

2,000 gigawatt hours per year, and where contractual arrangements entered into before 3 June 2007 are still in force (without having been renegotiated or reviewed) within 60 days after Royal

Assent of the Act. In such a situation, these contracts will be considered by the Regulator with a view to determine an entity-specific electricity allocation factor. The natural gas feedstock allocation factor will be set state by state."

AND

"Initial rates of assistance: 94,5 per cent of the industry average baseline for activities with an emissions intensity of at least 2,000t CO2-e/\$m revenue or at least 6,000t CO2-e/\$m value added.

66 per cent of the industry average baseline for activities with an emissions intensity between 1,000t CO2-e/\$m and 1,999t CO2-e/\$m revenue or between 3,000t CO2-e/\$m and 5,999t CO2-e/\$m

value added.

The net effect of this is that the compensation paid during the carbon price period will be calculated using the same method as will be used during the ETS period, with 30% of QNPL's actual emissions being compensated (as set out in the first paragraph above).

However the CPRS White Paper establishes 5 principles, on the basis of which activity definitions are to be developed. Queensiand Nickel's case has always been that the application of these 5 principles should see an individual activity definition developed for the products produced by the company, rather than a single activity definition for all Australian Nickel producers. Further, the under compensation of the company under a single industry based activity definition would cause great financial and economic vulnerability and further would substantially increase the risk of carbon leakage to overseas producers in South America and China, some of which release emissions around double those of QNPL, per tonne of finished nickel product.

I am very happy to discuss this further with you.

Best regards

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From: David Shankey [mailto:David.Shankey@ministerial.qld.gov.aù]

Sent: Monday, 18 July 2011 2:09 PM

To: Paul Bini

Subject: RE: meeting request-Queensland Nickel

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I am not sure I understand this sentence?

From: Contrary to Phylippin Contrago of the contract

**Sent:** Monday, 18 July 2011 1:55 PM **To:** Lachlan Smith; David Shankey

Subject: FW: meeting request-Queensland Nickel

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TONY RAGGATT | July 16th, 2011

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"We are yet to make a decision on the final details of assistance to nickel refining as an emissions intensive tradeexposed activity," the spokesman said.

"We are consulting with the companies involved."

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Of Australia's 100 biggest emitters, Yabulu is understood to be number 48

Ms Bligh said the compensation package provided as part of the carbon pricing arrangements more than compensated the big refiners.

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Meanwhile, the refinery, which jost millions of dollars a day under its former owner BHP and is now reportedly making \$200 million profits under Mr Palmer, is facing a big tax, depending on the level of free permits to emit.

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From: Contrary to Mainth Contraptor Melicontrael

**Sent:** Thursday, 14 April 2011 5:14 PM **To:** 'Lachlan Smith'; 'David Shankey'

Subject: meeting request-Queensland Nickel

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Best regards

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Tel: Contrary to Public Contrary to

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#### **Peter Downey**

From:

Peter Downey

Sent:

Tuesday, 26 July 2011 1:01 PM

To: Subject: 'Brooke.Ford@ministerial.qld.gov.au' FW: meeting request-Queensland Nickel

Good afternoon Brooke,

I've been asked to prepare a PBN concerning the below. Could you please let me know when this meeting is

scheduled.

Thanks

Peter Downey

Policy Officer Economic Policy

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Ph: 07-322-58014

peter.downey@premiers.qld.gov.au

Executive Building | Level 14 | 100 George Street | Brisbane

PO Box 15185 | City East | Queensland 4002 |

From: Sharon Bailey

Sent: Tuesday, 19 July 2011 1:39 PM

To: David Hourigan; Mary Weaver; Bronwyn Edmeades

Cc: Amanda Hill; Matthew Skoien

Subject: FW: meeting request-Queensland Nickel

Hi

The Prem's office have requested a PBN in regard to the below matter.

Mary/Bron could you register in Trim and allocate to Economic Policy – could we have a week turnaround on this

one

Thanks Sharon

From: Contrary to Philippot Contraggo Frediconerasi

Sent: Monday, 18 July 2011 8:05 PM

To: David Shankey Cc: Lachlan Smith

Subject: RE: meeting request-Queensland Nickel

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As we have discussed previously, the effect of this is that, with three players (BHP Ni West, Minara Resources and QNPL), where BHP is the lowest emitter per tonne of finished nickel product, Minara is in the middle and QNPL is the highest, BHP will be compensated on the basis of an average generated by all producers included in a single activity definition, with the effect that BHP will be compensated by close to 100% or possibly even more than 100% of its actual emissions, while QNPL will be compensated for around 30% of its actual emissions, according to ANPL modelling.

It has previously been indicated to us by the Federal Government that the arrangements set out in the White Paper are most likely to be those that will apply at the time of the introduction of an ETS. ie an allocative baseline will be developed either on the basis of a single activity definition or a combined activity definition, with the effect of a single activity definition resulting in QNPL being compensated for around 30% of their actual liable emissions. A differentiated activity definition, better aligned to the products of QNPL, would see the company more comprehensively compensated.

In relation to the carbon price or carbon tax period, section 5.2.2 of the Australian Government's "Securing a clean energy future" document states at Appendix A, page 115:

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Assent of the Act. In such a situation, these contracts will be considered by the Regulator with a view to determine an entity-specific electricity allocation factor. The natural gas feedstock allocation factor will be set state-by-state."

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"Initial rates of assistance: 94.5 per cent of the industry average baseline for activities with an emissions intensity of at least 2,000t CO2-e/\$m revenue or at least 6,000t CO2-e/\$m value added.

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The net effect of this is that the compensation paid during the carbon price period will be calculated using the same method as will be used during the ETS period, with 30% of QNPL's actual emissions being compensated (as set out in the first paragraph above).

However the CPRS White Paper establishes 5 principles, on the basis of which activity definitions are to be developed. Queensland Nickel's case has always been that the application of these 5 principles should see an individual activity definition developed for the products produced by the company, rather than a single activity definition for all Australian Nickel producers. Further, the under compensation of the company under a single industry based activity definition would cause great financial and economic vulnerability and further would substantially increase the risk of carbon leakage to overseas producers in South America and China, some of which release emissions around double those of QNPL, per tonne of finished nickel product.

I am very happy to discuss this further with you.

Best regards

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From: David Shankey [mailto:David.Shankey@ministerial.qld.gov.au]

Sent: Monday, 18 July 2011 2:09 PM

To: Contrary to Public Interest

Subject: RE: meeting request-Queensland Nickel

While the company is likely to be eligible for inclusion in the 94.5% EITE compensation bracket, the present view of the Department of Climate Change is for an application of the EITE principles which would see Queensland Nickel compensated for only around 30% of its emissions.

I am not sure I understand this sentence?

From: Contrary to Phyliptot Contrangovire liconnecti

**Sent:** Monday, 18 July 2011 1:55 PM **To:** Lachlan Smith; David Shankey

Subject: FW: meeting request-Queensland Nickel

Hello Lachlan and David

I write to follow up on Queensland Nickel's previous request to meet with the Premier in order to discuss the impact of a carbon price on the company. In particular this relates to the impact on the company of under compensation measures set out in the Federal Government's White Paper for an ETS scheme. While the company is likely to be eligible for inclusion in the 94.5% EITE compensation bracket, the present view of the Department of Climate Change is for an application of the EITE principles which would see Queensland Nickel compensated for only around 30% of its emissions.

The General Manager of Queenstand Nickel, Mr Trefor Flood, has asked me to bring to your attention again its desire to meet with the Premier in order to fully explain this issue and in particular how a decision by the Federal Government for a single activity definition for Nickel producers would negatively affect the company. (Our original request is set out below).

Best regards

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## Bligh rebuffs Palmer's carbon comments

TONY RAGGATT | July 16th, 2011

QUEENSLAND Premier Anna Bligh has brushed off comments by mining magnate Clive Palmer that a carbon tax will put 1000 jobs at the Yabulu nickel refinery at risk.

Meanwhile, refinery management is worried Mr Palmer's standing as one of the Coalition's largest single donors could be influencing the federal Labor Government into not responding to requests for the highest level of compensation, as has occurred with other refiners.

A spokesman for Climate Change Minister Greg Combet said that was definitely not the case.

"We are yet to make a decision on the final details of assistance to nickel refining as an emissions-intensive trade-exposed activity," the spokesman said.

"We are consulting with the companies involved."

Mr Palmer spoke out earlier this week warning that the carbon tax and the Greens posed a major threat to the viability of the refinery and that there was not much more the company could do to reduce its environmental impacts.

The refinery is a big emitter, mostly through the use of heavy fuel oil as a reductant of the nickel ore when it is reduced in the roasters.

Of Australia's 100 biggest emitters, Yabulu is understood to be number 48.

Ms Bligh said the compensation package provided as part of the carbon pricing arrangements more than compensated the big refiners.

"These high emitters are securing 94 per cent compensation so I'm very confident we are going to continue to see very strong refining and secondary processing activity in Queensland," she said.

When told the refinery was still waiting to hear its compensation arrangements, she said she would be happy to organise a full briefing for the affected parties and said she would leave it to others to make an assessment of Mr Palmer's comments.

Yabulu general manager Trefor Flood said they had provided a submission 18 months ago on why the refinery and its Caron process was unique in Australia and should attract the highest protection rather than the lowest, as was being considered by government.

He said the Government had told them three months ago they would be given an answer but nothing had eventuated.

Meanwhile, the refinery, which lost millions of dollars a day under its former owner BHP and is now reportedly making \$200 million profits under Mr Palmer, is facing a big tax, depending on the level of free permits to emit.

At 94.5 per cent compensation, the tax could be as lew as \$1.5 million or at the low scale support of 30 per cent, it could be \$19.5 million.

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From: Contrary to Publisher Contrapy do Predictories as [

Sent: Thursday, 14 April 2011 5:14 PM To: 'Lachlan Smith'; 'David Shankey'

Subject: meeting request-Queensland Nickel

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Sharon Bailev

Sent:

Tuesday, 19 July 2011 1:39 PM

To:

David Hourigan; Mary Weaver; Bronwyn Edmeades

Cc:

Amanda Hill; Matthew Skoien

Subject:

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Sent: Monday, 18 July 2011 2:09 PM
To: Contrary to Public Interest

Subject: RE: meeting request-Queensland Nickel

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TONY RAGGATT | July 16th, 2011

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"We are consulting with the companies involved."

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Pages 129 through 154 redacted for the following reasons:

Sch3(5) - Information revealing particular Sovereign communications

#### Daniel Smith

From: Sent:

Lachlan Smith [Lachlan.Smith@ministerial.qld.gov.au]

Tuesday, 19 October 2010 6:55 PM

To:

Linda Apelt (DG Communities); tony.hayes@communities.qld.gov.au; Hunt Dan; lan

Fletcher; robert.setter@deedi.qld.gov.au; Bradley John;

Graeme.Newton@dip.qld.gov.au; michael.kinnane@dip.qld.gov.au; Paul Low; Mick Reid

@ Health.qld.gov.au; Mal Grierson; anthony.hayes@tq.com.au

Subject:

Tomorrow's meeting to follow up on Premier's Townsville Trip

Attachments:

Header

Ηi,

In advance of tomorrow afternoon's meeting with the Premier regarding Townsville trip follow-up, below are the issues raised during deputations the Premier last week. Could you or your representative please identify those relevant to your portfolio and come to tomorrow's meeting with advice regarding these matters. There are a few further deputations that I did not attend which I will also forward you details of in the morning.

Please keep all of this information confidential

Kind Regards,

Lachlan

Lachlan Smith | Se<u>nior Policy A</u>dvisor to The Hon Anna Bligh MP Premier of Queensland

\* 07 322 45299 M: Contrary to Public Interes 7 3221 3631

\* Lachlan.Smith@ministerial.qld.gov.au

This Part Out of Scope of Application

P Please consider the environment before printing this email

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Wed 13/10
Queensland Nickel - Clive Palmer, Neil Meadows, Trefor Flood Provided attachment detailing
all issues
Issues:
* Waratah Coal - EIS for rail and mine is ready and construction
can begin within 6 months with necessary approvals
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
* Want access to Port data re: tides and seismic data soundings

- (Advice already provided)
- Want resolution of water allocations issue between Qld Nickel and surrounding landholders (Advice already provided and discussions continuing)
- Invited Premier to visit Yabulu to be part of reopening of additional feed line to the Plant (likely to be Jan/Feb) Action:
- Advice provided to Queensland Nickel on points 2 and 3, with discussions continuing. Responsibility for resolution of water issue with Minister Robertson, and Port data issue with Brad Fish at North Old Bulk Ports

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9 December 2010

**GLADSTONE PACIFIC NICKEL** LTD

Mr Graeme Newton Coordinator-General and Director General Department of Infrastructure and Planning PO Box 15009 City East Qld 4002 Australia

Dear Sir

Although we have not met since you have assumed the position of Queensland Coordinator General, I have been made aware that some brief discussions were held between Mr Neil Meadows (the then Managing Director of Gladstone Pacific Nickel Ltd), the Chief Operating Officer of Queensland Nickel (QNPL), in Townsville towards the end of the recent unsuccessful takeover bid by QNPL (part of the Palmer Group) of our company.

I believe at that meeting the subject was raised of the existing timeframes for agreements associated with the project, particularly in respect to land in the Gladstone region, which are very tight given recent and current circumstances which I would like to highlight to you.

The Gladstone Pacific Nickel project has taken many forms over the years but in its current guise, which is to import laterite ore from New Caledonia for the recovery of nickel and cobalt either as final products at the Gladstone Refinery or alternatively at the Yabutu Refinery of QNPL, we are confident that we have a solid business model on which to base the project. There is considerable interest from New Caledonia in participating in such a project and supplying at least the majority of the ore required for the operation of the plant.

The Government should take comfort in the recent takeover offer by the Palmer Group which now owns 55% of our company. This indicates the interest in the project and the intentions to progress the project towards financing and ultimately operations.

The strategic benefits to QNPL are significant. In the short term QNPL is planning to import intermediate nickel product from New Caledonia for processing in its 45,000 nickel tonne back end refinery. Our Gladstone project could provide a long term solution to supplying intermediate material to the Yabulu refinery thereby providing long term economic and job benefits to two of North Queensland's important regional hubs.

Level 2 380 Queen Street Brisbane Qld 4000 Australia / PO Box 10267 Adelaide Street Brisbane Qld 4000 Australia +61 7 3231 7100 +61 7 3231 7199 /

ABN 27 (04 261 887

Having said all of that both the emergence of the Global Financial Crisis and the recent uncertainty in terms of the ownership of GPNL itself, has slowed down development of the project to the point whereby we feel that it is prudent to seek an extension of the current agreements for a period of one year and nine months which will move the financing date to December 2013. I have also attached for your consideration previous correspondence between myself and The Queensland Premier as a demonstration that we have attempted to keep the Government informed of progress on the project. In addition, I attach correspondence from Mr Clive Palmer to the Premier requesting an extension of time on the Company's approvals and agreements with the Queensland Government.

In summary, while the development of the GPNL project has been slower than would have been either anticipated three years ago or in any event desirable, it is our firm belief that once the company ownership and structural matters have been resolved, we have much greater certainty of developing a project along the lines of what I have briefly described above. As such, I look forward to a positive response to my request for the extension of our existing land tenure agreements.

Yours sincerely

Mr Julien McInally Chief Financial Officer

Gladstone Pacific Nickel Pty Ltd

(on behalf of the Board)

Copy: Hon Anna Bligh MP, Premier of Queensland /

Hon Paul Lucas MP, Deputy Premier and Minister for Health

Hon Andrew Fraser MP, Treasurer and Minister for Employment and Economic Development

Hon Stirling Hinchliffe MP, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning

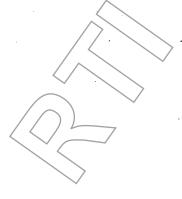
Hon Stephen Robertson MP, Minister for Natural Resources, Mines & Energy and Minister for Trade

Mrs Liz Cunningham, Member for Gladstone

Mr Leo Zussino, CEO, Gladstone Ports Corporation Limited

Mr Mike Davison, Property Services Group, Department of Infrastructure and Planning

Mr John White, Property Services Group, Department of Infrastructure and Planning



## PREMIER'S BRIEFING NOTE

**Policy** 

To:

THE PREMIER

Date:

8 August 2011

Subject:

Meeting with Queensland Nickel (QN) regarding

the Carbon Price Mechanism

Tracking Folder No. TF/11/22193
Document No. DOC/11/126173

Approved /	<b>Not Approved</b>	/ Noted	ŋ
	$\alpha$		•
Premier	XX		

Date 39.7/

Date Action Required by: ..../..../

Requested by: .....(if appropriate)

#### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that you note the following regarding a possible meeting with QN.

#### KEY ISSUES

- QN operates Townsville's Yabulu Refinery, producing nickel products from ore from New Caledonia, Indonesia and the Philippines and employing over 750 people.
- Australia has three major nickel producers. Listed in order of lowest to highest emissions intensity they are (i) BHP Nickel West, (ii) Minara Resources, and (iii) QN.
- BHP Nickel West and Minara Resources operations are located in Western Australia.
- QN would like to discuss the definition of industry 'activity', which forms the basis for determining Emissions Intensive Trade Exposed industries (EITEs) assistance.
- EITEs assistance consists of free permits allocated against a baseline at rates of 94.5 per cent and 66 per cent for highly and moderately emissions intensive activities, respectively.
- Emissions baselines will be calculated on industry-wide average emissions intensity. Hence, the
  proportion of assistance for a firm compared to its actual emissions depends on how much higher
  (or lower) it is compared to the industry average.
- This approach is based on the assumption that activities, such as nickel production, can be undertaken in multiple ways. By employing an industry-wide approach to the baseline, incentive is created to employ the most energy efficient production methods.
- QN claim that they will be compensated for only 30 per cent of their total emissions, while BHP Nickel West is expected to receive compensation close to 100 per cent of their total emissions.
- QN claim that it is not equitable for them to be captured by the same industry baseline as other nickel producers as QN's production process and product are different.
- As a result, QN is seeking a separate industry activity definition. Without such an approach, QN argues that there is a risk of carbon leakage taking place, in which nickel production moves overseas to lower cost higher emission producers.
- The Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency (DCCEE) advise that Minister Combet is currently considering the views of all stakeholders, including QN, in coming to a decision on an industry activity definition for the production of nickel.
- DCCEE also advise that the particular ore used by QN (also used by Minara Resources) partly contributes to variations in emissions intensity with BHP Nickel West.
- QN's claims regarding the risk of carbon leakage are difficult to analyse without more detailed information on the cost structures of domestic and overseas producers.
- However, it could be argued that if QN ceased operations the other Australian producers may gain market share rather than all production necessarily transferring overseas. Both scenarios, however, would result in Queensland job losses.

#### • CONSULTATION

Queensland Treasury, DEEDI, the Office of Climate Change.

John Bradley

Director-General

Comments (Premier or DG)

Att fand yould

## PREMIER'S BRIEFING NOTE

**Policy** 

To:

THE PREMIER

Date:

8 August 2011

Subject:

Meeting with Queensland Nickel (QN) regarding

the Carbon Price Mechanism

Tracking Folder No. TF/11/22193	
Document No. DOC/11/126173	

Appr	Approved / Not Approved / Noted		
Premier			
Date			
Date Act	tion Required by://		
Requested by:			

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- As a result, QN is seeking a separate industry activity definition. Without such an approach, QN argues that there is a risk of carbon leakage taking place, in which nickel production moves overseas to lower cost higher emission producers.
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- QN's claims regarding the risk of carbon leakage are difficult to analyse without more detailed information on the cost structures of domestic and overseas producers.
- However, it could be argued that if QN ceased operations the other Australian producers may gain market share rather than all production necessarily transferring overseas. Both scenarios, however, would result in Queensland job losses.

#### CONSULTATION

John Bradley

Director-General

Queensland Treasury, DEEDI, the Office of Climate Change.

	Comments (Premier or DG)	
•		

Action Officer: Peter Downey Area: Economic Policy Telephone: 322 58014 Approvals by Director / ED / DDG documented in notes in TRIM

### **REPRESENTING PREMIER ANNA BLIGH**

# WE ARE CURRENTLY TRYING TO FIND A REPRESENTATIVE. IN THE MEANTIME, IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF YOU WOULD COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN IT BY EMAIL <u>ASAP</u>.

*Please note that the Premier's Kepr	esentativ	e may be accomp	aniea to this junction by an advisor
INFORMATION REQUIRED			
DATE AND TIME OF FUNCTION			
Saturday November 12 <sup>th</sup> between	<u> 10am a</u>	nd 1.30pm	
NAME OF ORGANISATION / COMP	ANY	·	
Special Children's Christmas Party	<u> </u>	•••••	
NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER	OF THE P	ERSON TO CON	TACT REGARDING THIS FUNCTION
Contrary to Public Interest	<u>r work</u>	Contrary to Public	Interest
who have a physical or intellectumelcome to attend the event. On children with special needs.  TELEPHONE CONTACT AT FUNCTION (It may be necessary to contact the include a telephone number if the answered during the function)	erounds.  es party i al disabil ver 1000  ON VENU e Premie	or children living ity. The whole finvitations have	d, Cairns
Contrary to Public Interest			
NAMES AND NUMBER OF OTHER	PEOPLE A	ATTENDING THE	FUNCTION
Kirsten Lesina (State candidate);	Curtis Pit	tt, Member for	Mulgrave
TIME AT WHICH PREMIER'S REPRI	ESENTAT	IVE SHOULD ARI	RIVE
We usually have all dignitaries ar			rhen Santa arrives at 11am. But

WHO WILL MEET THE PREMIER'S REPRESENTATIVE AND AT WHICH ENTRANCE SHOULD SHE ARRIVE (This information is required to prevent confusion as to where your official will meet her as she alights from her vehicle). \* PLEASE PROVIDE A MOBILE NUMBER FOR THE PERSON MEETING THE REPRESENTATIVE

Contrary to Public Interest

Contrary to Public Interest will meet the Premier's Representative at the
Volunteers Sign In desk located near the main entrance into the Pavilion. Under our Child
Safety provisions, all guests must register.
TIME AT WHICH PREMIER'S REPRESENTATIVE MAY DEPART
The Representative is welcome to stay as long or as brief a time as they wish
SPEECH DETAILS
IS THE PREMIER'S REPRESENTATIVE EXPECTED TO ADDRESS THE FUNCTION?  YES / NO (please circle)
IF YES, FOR HOW LONG?
AT WHAT TIME WILL THE PREMIER'S REPRESENTATIVE BE EXPECTED TO SPEAK:
DO YOU WANT THE PREMIER'S REPRESENTATIVE TO ADDRESS A SPECIFIC TOPIC? YES / NO (please circle)
IF YES, WHAT IS THE TOPIC
IS THE PREMIER'S REPRESENTATIVE THE ONLY SPEAKER?
YES / NO (please circle)
IF NO, WHO ELSE IS SPEAKING AND FOR HOW LONG?
PLEASE STATE WHO THE PREMIER'S REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE AND WHO
SHE SHOULD THANK IN THE SPEECH
The Premier's Representative will pay particular concern to acknowledgements when speaking at functions. To ensure that people are accurately acknowledged,
it is essential that this office be provided with accurate attendance details in
advance of the function.

As this event is for children, we usually don't have formal speeches. If any of the dignitaries feel the need to address the crowd, we would appreciate them acknowledging the business

community who have funded the event and especially Queensland Nickel who is our major financial contributor. We would also like any speeches to acknowledge the volunteers who make the day happen as we rely heavily on about 100 people giving their time to assist at the event. It is our preference that dignitaries use the opportunity to mingle with the families. We also welcome the dignitaries to join us in the toy room and assist with the distribution of gifts.

IS A DETAILED RUN SHEET OF THE FUNCTION ATTACHED?

YES / NO

IF NOT, WHEN WILL IT BE FAXED TO THE MINISTER'S OFFICE

IS A LECTURN AVAILABLE?

YES / NO

IF NO, COULD YOU PLEASE ENSURE THAT ONE IS MADE AVAILABLE.

IS CAR PARKING AVAILABLE?

MES / NO

HAS ANY MEDIA COVERAGE BEEN ORGANISED?

YES / NO

IF YES, WHO WITH?

Our Public Relations consultant, Contrary to Public Ptwest's Business will contact all local media

in an effort to have the event covered

#### **DRESS REQUIREMENTS**

WHAT IS THE DRESS REQUIREMENT FOR THIS FUNCTION?

Comfortable, casual and maybe a little festive.

Once completed please return this form to:

Julie Wiggins

Office of the Premier of Queensland

Email:

julie.wiggins@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Fax:

(07) 3221 3631

Phone:

(07) 3239 6817

Thank you for your assistance.



## QUEENSLAND NICKEL VARIETY SPECIAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

STAGE PROGRAM - CAIRNS Saturday 12 November, 20/11

COMPERE -

**Jeremy Grace** 

DJ –

Spectrum Sounds

GUESTS - Ronald McDonald, Sam Powers

		<u> </u>
TIME	PERFORMANCE	CONTACT NO.
9.45	GATES OPEN	
10.00-10.30	Jeremy and disco on stage to welcome all	
10.30– 1.00	RONALD McDONALD	
11.00	Santa Arrives – Jeremy and guests on stage in time	
11.10-11.15	Jeremy and Sam Powers stay on stage Call first voucher All children then progress	
	through the toy room to receive gifts for the rest of the day	
11.15 – 11.45	SAM POWERS	
11.45 -12.15	Disco	
12.15-12.45	Jeremy and Neighbours	
12.45-1.15	Disco	
1.15-1.30	Jeremy does clean up	

PLEASE REMEMBER TO THANK MAJOR SPONSORS, SUPPLIERS AND VOLUNTEERS

1

## **DRAFT**

#### **ADDRESS**

presented by

TO BE ADVISED

at

## SPECIAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Or

10.00AM, Saturday 12 November 2011 Fred Moule Pavilion, Cairns Snowgrounds, Mulgrave Road, Cairns

#### Acknowledgments

All acknowledgements contained in the body of the speech

PLEASE NOTE: The Premier's representative is not required to speak at this occasion. Mingling with the families is preferred.

3

Good morning everyone.

The Premier, Anna Bligh, regrets being unable to attend today's Christmas party and asked that I pass on her best wishes for a truly magical day.

By any chance is Contrary to Public Interest the pavilion?

Contrary whole can worlderful letter a few years back about her time as a volunteer here.

She summed up this special event in a really beautiful way.

(If present)
Contrary to Public Interest f you don't mind, I'd like to share some of your letter.

(If not present)
I'm sure Contrary two which regarded me sharing some of her letter.

She writes:

Every child I served thanked me with a big smile and their enthusiasm was contagious.

Their faces were lit up with life and laughter and when I looked around, the mums and dads were just as happy....

When it came time to leave, I really didn't want the occasion to end, but even though I was leaving empty-handed, I was leaving with a heart overflowing with joy and community spirit.

Well said Contrary to Public Interest

Today, I've had the privilege of experiencing all this for myself.

This event is so full of life and love and the children's exuberance that it's impossible not to be swept up in the joy of the season.

It's a great initiative—one that's been going for 33 years now, right across Australia.

I want to say a big thank you to everyone who has helped make today possible.

To the organisers, Special Children's Christmas Party, who do such great things for the children's charity, Variety...

To the volunteers who, as Contrary disebled ed, get as much out of this event as they give...

And to the business community for their generous financial assistance, especially the event's major contributor, Queensland Nickel.

Have a fun day everyone!

## **Peter Downey**

From:

Peter Downey

Sent:

Friday, 22 July 2011 10:23 AM

To:

Bronwyn Edmeades

Subject:

TRIM Internal: DOC/11/122057: \*\*\*URGENT\*\*\* Request for meeting brief regarding a

meeting with Queensland Nickel

Attachments:

Email\_FW: meeting request-Queensland Nickel.html; URGENT Request for meeting

brief regarding a meeting with Queensland Nickel.tr5

Good morning Bronwyn,

I'm currently preparing the PBN for this request (located in TF/11/2293. However, the folder does not specify the date of the Premier's meeting. Do you have/are you able to get this date? I need to include it in the PBN.

Thanks

Peter Downey
Policy Officer
Economic Policy

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Ph: 07-322-58014

peter.downey@premiers.qld.gov.au

Executive Building | Level 14 | 100 George Street | Brisbane PO Box 15185 | City East |

Queensland 4002 |

----< TRIM Record Information >

Record Number

DOC/11/122057

Title: \*\*\*URGENT\*\*\* Request for meeting brief regarding a meeting with Queensland

Nickel

#### **Peter Downey**

From:

Peter Downey

Sent:

Tuesday, 26 July 2011 2:03 PM

To:

Geoff Robson

Subject:

RE: Urgent briefs due

Roger that. Oh and I should have added that I have received advice from Treasury, DEEDI and OCC so it should come together fairly quickly tomorrow. Also, it's due today, so if it goes up tomorrow it will only be ever so slightly late.

Peter Downey

Policy Officer Economic Policy

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Ph: 07-322-58014

peter.downey@premiers.qld.gov.au

Executive Building | Level 14 | 100 George Street | Brisbane

PO Box 15185 | City East | Queensland 4002 |

From: Geoff Robson

Sent: Tuesday, 26 July 2011 1:52 PM

To: Peter Downey

Subject: Re: Urgent briefs due

Thanks and yes

**From:** Peter Downey **To:** Geoff Robson

**Sent**: Tue Jul 26 13:41:08 2011 **Subject**: RE: Urgent briefs due

Geoff,

Sarah just flicked an e-mail to Amanda Hill saying that I'm prioritising the Wabo BN for tomorrow's meeting, and that Qld Nickel will be following soon after. I have flicked an e-mail to Brooke Ford (EA in Prem's office) finding out the actual date of that meeting (at present I suspect that it isn't happening in a hurry considering both the Treasurer and Minister Nolan appear to have pushed their own meetings with Qld Nickel). Will keep you posted if you require.

. -Peter

From: Geoff Robson

Sent: Tuesday, 26 July 2011 1:30 PM

To: Peter Downey

Subject: Fw: Urgent briefs due

Hi Peter When is Q nickel due? Geoff **From**: David Hourigan **To**: Amanda Hill

Cc: Sarah Mohammed; Paul Sariban; Geoff Robson

**Sent**: Tue Jul 26 13:20:50 2011 **Subject**: Re: Urgent briefs due

What are the other 2?

**From**: Amanda Hill **To**: David Hourigan

Cc: Kristen Huckfeldt; Samantha Luke; Sarah Mohammed; Marilyn Buswell

**Sent**: Tue Jul 26 13:19:51 2011 **Subject**: Urgent briefs due

Hi David

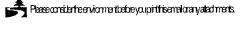
I understand there are 3 briefs from ec pol due today/ wed:

TF/11/: 22193 (Q Nickel), 22220 (note on deedi brief) & 21726 (Rio Tinto) — can you ply chase up for us. Bronwen is in mtgs (with short breaks) until about 5.30pm so would be good to give her the briefs asap, thanks.

Kind regards

Amanda Hill
Acting Director
Office of the Associate Director-General (Policy)
Department of the Premier and Cabinet
P (07) 3405 5661 (x 55661)
PO Box 15185 | City East | Qld | 4002
E: Amanda.Hill@premiers.qld.gov.au

TamprowsQueensentstanggeen, anathest yardisir-<u>www.towardQ2aldgov.au</u>



## **Peter Downey**

From:

Peter Downey

Sent:

Thursday, 28 July 2011 10:55 AM

To:

Geoff Robson

Subject:

RE: TRIM Tracking Folder: TF/11/21726: Request for briefing note for the Premier

regarding a meeting with Rio Tinto Alcan - 29 July

Roger that.

Peter Downey Policy Officer Economic Policy

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Ph: 07-322-58014

peter.downey@premiers.qld.gov.au

Executive Building | Level 14 | 100 George Street | Brisbane PO Box 15185 | City East |

Queensland 4002 |

----Original Message----

From: Geoff Robson

Sent: Thursday, 28 July 2011 10:55 AM

To: Admin Economic (DPC)

Cc: Peter Downey

Subject: RE: TRIM Tracking Folder: TF/11/21726: Request for briefing note for the

Premier regarding a meeting with Rio Tinto Alcan - 29 July

Peter, nb

Geoff

----Original Message---From: Admin Economic (DPC)

Sent: Thursday, 28 July 2011 10(17/AM

To: Geoff Robson

Subject: RE: TRIM Tracking Folder: TF/11/21726: Request for briefing note for the

Premier regarding a meeting with Rio Tinto Alcan - 29 July

OADG have been chasing it, but no one seems to know when it is.

Sarah Mohammed

Executive Assistant

Economic Policy/

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Ph (07) 3224 4355

Extension 44355

sarah.mohammed@premiers.qld.gov.au

Level 14, Executive Building

100 George St, Brisbane, QLD 4000

PO Box 15185, City East, QLD 4002

Tomorrow's Queensland: strong, green, smart, healthy and fair - www.towardQ2.qld.gov.au

----Original Message----

From: Geoff Robson

Sent: Thursday, 28 July 2011 10:06 AM

To: Admin Economic (DPC)

Cc: Peter Downey

Subject: RE: TRIM Tracking Folder: TF/11/21726: Request for briefing note for the

Premier regarding a meeting with Rio Tinto Alcan - 29 July

So, they are pushing for Q Nickel brief? Do we have a date of the meeting?

----Original Message----From: Admin Economic (DPC)

Sent: Thursday, 28 July 2011 9:55 AM

To: Geoff Robson

Subject: RE: TRIM Tracking Folder: TF/11/21726: Request for briefing note for the

Premier regarding a meeting with Rio Tinto Alcan - 29 July

I was!!! Sorry!

Sarah Mohammed Executive Assistant Economic Policy Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Ph (07) 3224 4355 Extension 44355 sarah.mohammed@premiers.qld.gov.au

Level 14, Executive Building 100 George St, Brisbane, QLD 4000

PO Box 15185, City East, QLD 4002

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----Original Message----

From: Geoff Robson

Sent: Thursday, 28 July 2011 9:49 AM To: Admin Economic (DPC); Peter Downey

Subject: RE: TRIM Tracking Folder: TF/11/21726: Request for briefing note for the

Premier regarding a meeting with Rio Tinto Alcan - 29 July

No, this one is with David and it was done by Mr Sariban.

Are you thinking of the Qld Nickel brief?

----Original Message---

From: Admin Economic (DPC)

Sent: Thursday, 28 July 2011 9:40 AM

To: Peter Downey

Cc: Geoff Robson

Subject: FW: TRIM Tracking Folder: TF/11/21726: Request for briefing note for the

Premier regarding a meeting with Rio Tinto Alcan - 29 July

I assume you're on this.

Sarah Mohammed Executive Assistant Economic Policy Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Ph (07) 3224 4355

Extension 44355 sarah.mohammed@premiers.qld.gov.au

Level 14, Executive Building 100 George St, Brisbane, QLD 4000

PO Box 15185, City East, QLD 4002

Tomorrow's Queensland: strong, green, smart, healthy and fair - www.towardQ2.qld.gov.au

----Original Message----

From: Sheila King

Sent: Thursday, 28 July 2011 9:17 AM

To: Admin Economic (DPC)

Cc: Amanda Hill

Subject: TRIM Tracking Folder: TF/11/21726: Request for briefing note for the Premier

regarding a meeting with Rio Tinto Alcan - 29 July

Good morning Sarah - could this be 'pushed' please - it's overdue to ECt and required by Premier Advisor - prior to the proposed meeting.

Many thanks Sheila x44727

----< TRIM Record Information >-----

Record Number

TF/11/21726

Title : Request for briefing note for the Premier regarding a meeting with Rio Tinto

Alcan - 29 July

#### **Geoff Robson**

From:

Contrary to Public Interentation [enquire@iqpc.com.au]

Sent:

Thursday, 14 April 2011 11:00 AM

To:

Geoff Robson

Subject:

Water Management in Mining - case studies and best practice from industry leaders

To view this email as a web page, go here.

# **Water Management in Mining**

26 & 27 July 2011 @ Royal on the Park, Brisbane, QLD

Leading Practice Development of Site Water Management Plans and Balances

Dear Geoff

We've just completed the agenda for the second edition of <u>Water Management in Mining</u>, to be held in Brisbane in July.

Some highlights include:

### Working with Mines Affected by Extreme Flooding

Presented by: Stuart Ritchie, Environmental Services Manager, RIO TINTO COAL AUSTRALIA

## Managing Water at QLD Nickel Refinery in the Tropics

Presented by: Roslyn Dalton, Senior Operations Improvement Superintendent, QUEENSLAND NICKEL

#### The Bureau of Meteorology's Role in Water Information and Regulation

Presented by: Brendan Moran, Supervisor, Data Collection and Standards, BUREAU OF

**METEOROLOGY** 

Download the brochure to view the full speaker line up and agenda

T to

The Water Management in Mining website is also home to the <u>download centre</u>, where you can gain access to relevant industry articles, exclusive speaker interviews, podcasts, past presentations and research papers.

Feel free to reply to this email if you would like to contribute to the download centre!

Looking for ways to make the most of your attendance? Tailor your experience through the separately bookable workshops:

#### Workshop A: Wastewater Management Disposal and Rehabilitation

A group workshop for understanding and managing the process of efficient water recovery

Workshop B: Monitoring and Controlling the Impact of Mining Operations on Biodiversity and

#### **Ecosystems to Ensure Compliance**

A group workshop for covering a framework for ecological trends that can be used for lifetime monitoring



To register or for more information call **02 9229 1000**, email <u>registration@iqpc.com.au</u> or visit <u>www.watermgmtmining.com.au</u> today.

Regards,

Contrary to Public Interest

**Divisional Director** 

Mining and Energy IQ

P.S. Book as a TEAM; save and benefit as a team. Call 02 9229 1000 to find out how!

## Keep up to date at Mining IQ - information exchange for mining industry

Mining IQ is a new and growing business network, providing a vibrant and dynamic online community of professionals who can readily share knowledge and thought leadership to help drive the mining sector. You'll find loads of free content, contributed by leading mining professionals, including articles, industry interviews, Q&As, videos, podcasts and more!

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## **Attachment A**

Recent Economic, Fiscal and Financial Market Analysis undertaken by Economic Policy Branch

	This Part Out of Scope of Application
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6. A PBN on the impact of the carbon tax on Queensland Nickel, including an analysis of Emissions Intensive Trade Exposed Industry assistance.



Pages 180 through 183 redacted for the following reasons:
Sch3(2) - Cabinet information brought into existence on or after commencement

