



## ▶ INTERIM LICENCE RENEWAL

### Nyrstar, Port Pirie

**Issued 13 May 2018**

Port Pirie is the location of one of the world's primary lead smelters. Located on the eastern shore of the Upper Spencer Gulf in South Australia, approximately 230 km north of Adelaide, the Port Pirie smelter has been in constant operation for over 127 years. It is an integrated multi-metals facility which has the capability to process a wide range of lead rich concentrates and smelting industry by-products.

As well as being one of the world's largest lead smelting facilities the operation also incorporates a lead refinery, a precious metals refinery and a copper plant. The plant currently employs approx 720 employees and also counts on a large number of local contractors.



*Photo courtesy of Nyrstar*



## Nyrstar's licence expiry and the role of the EPA

An EPA licence is issued for a set term and at the end of this term the holder of the licence must apply for a renewal. The current Nyrstar licence expires on 30 June 2018 and the EPA is in the process of determining what conditions are appropriate for a 2-year interim licence. The EPA is proposing to award Nyrstar with an interim licence that will be in place while it undertakes ongoing improvement programs as part of the ramp up of the new redeveloped facility. The smelter redevelopment will assist deliver a more stable operation and improved environmental performance with a reduction in lead emissions in the long term.

### The 2-year interim licence commencing 1 July 2018 will not change the existing Lead In Air (LIA) limits.

The Port Pirie lead smelter is the only major facility in South Australia where lead is still of concern. The Port Pirie Redevelopment Project involves the conversion of the current operations into an advanced metal recovery and refining facility.

**At the conclusion of the 2-year interim licence, and when the ramp up of the new facility is near completion, the EPA will issue a new longer term licence with stringent reductions in the allowable lead emissions.**

On 22 January 2018, a new \$660-million metals processing facility was officially commemorated at the Nyrstar Port Pirie operation, which is expected to significantly improve air quality in the community by reducing lead in air emissions by a margin unachievable with the old smelter at the site. Air quality is also expected to improve during the 2-year ramp-up toward full production at the new facility, and which will be further accelerate once the old sinter plant is decommissioned. At this point the interim licence being awarded on 1 July 2018 will be renewed with a new longer term EPA licence with stricter lead in air limits.

## Lead emissions at the end of the 2-year interim licence

The Nyrstar Port Pirie Redevelopment Project will transform the aged Smelter into a multi-metals processing and recovery facility which will deliver a step change reduction in emissions from the site. This along with the Targeted Lead Abatement Program (TLAP) the focus of which is to deliver community programs that assist reduce exposure, will deliver significant further reductions in children's blood lead levels will be achieved over the coming years.

Nyrstar has committed up to \$3 million per annum for up to 10 years and a further \$5 million to accelerate the objectives of the Targeted Lead Abatement Program. The South Australian Government will commit approximately \$1.5 million per annum for up to 10 years.

The joint Nyrstar and SA Government Committee has been formed and facilitates the implementation of the Targeted Lead Abatement Program. Any conditions that are placed on the licence must be linked to the legislative powers of the EPA under the *Environment Protection Act 1993*. The interim licence will introduce tougher measures based on the improvements that have been made at the smelter so far, and make practical changes that are outcome focused – broadening the scope on what Nyrstar needs to do to achieve the environmental improvements.

## Have your say and meet the EPA

We want to hear from local residents who have any questions or concerns about the changes that are proposed to the Nyrstar interim licence conditions.

EPA staff will be available to meet residents in Port Pirie on 14-15 May 2018.

A summary of changes to the licence will be available on our website at [www.epa.sa.gov.au](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au) (or phone us on 8204 2004 to ask for a copy to be sent to you).

Submissions about the proposed conditions can be made in writing, either by post or email to:

Environment Protection Authority  
Resources & Energy – Nyrstar Licence Renewal  
GPO Box 2607  
Adelaide SA 5001  
[engage.epa@sa.gov.au](mailto:engage.epa@sa.gov.au)

## EPA monitoring of lead emissions in Port Pirie

Lead (Pb) is a heavy metal pollutant found in industrial emissions mainly associated with smelting. Unlike particles and gaseous pollutants which are measured continuously, lead is measured every 1 day in 6. Samples need to be collected and sent away for lead analysis, which can take up to a few weeks.

The EPA has four monitoring stations and reports from these can be found at [www.epa.sa.gov.au](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au) (follow the links to 'Data & Publications' then Air Quality Monitoring').

## Next steps

The EPA will consider all feedback from the community, including previous information provided, together with any response from Nyrstar before finalising the licence conditions.

This process may result in the final conditions being different to those currently proposed. Should this occur, the EPA will produce an explanatory document that will outline the reasons for any changes made following this consultation process.

**Nyrstar will commence operating under the new 2-year interim licence on 1 July 2018.**

### FURTHER INFORMATION

For **further EPA information** please contact:

Mining and Regulation Branch  
Environment Protection Authority  
GPO Box 2607, Adelaide SA 5001  
Telephone: (08) 8204 2004  
e: [engage.epa@sa.gov.au](mailto:engage.epa@sa.gov.au)  
[www.epa.sa.gov.au](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au)

(Follow the link at the bottom of our home page to Nyrstar licence renewal).

For the **Port Pirie Environmental Health Centre** please contact:

Telephone: (08) 8638 4100  
Address: 117 Gertrude Street, Port Pirie, South Australia.  
Confidential interpreting services from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are also available Telephone (08) 8226 1990.

Opening Hours of the centre are 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday

