



NYRSTAR LICENCE RENEWAL

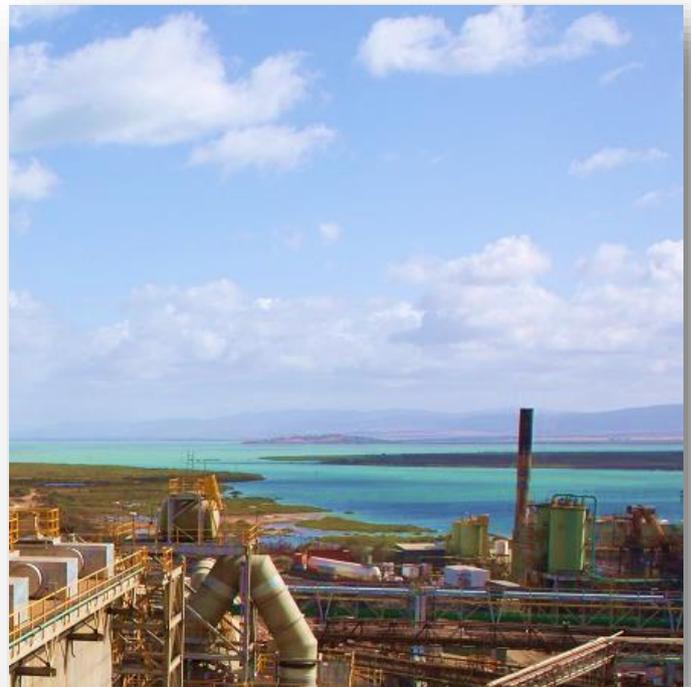
Port Pirie community update

Issued 3 June 2020

Nyrstar Port Pirie is one of the world's primary lead smelters, and has been in operation for more than 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, incorporating a lead refinery, a precious metals refinery and a copper plant.

Nyrstar holds a licence under the *Environment Protection Act 1993* for several activities of environmental significance.

Nyrstar has made significant progress in the past two years as part of the transformation of the redeveloped facility, with reduced lead-in-air emissions now possible. Lower limits set out in the new licence are considered to be achievable.



Modernising licence conditions

At the expiration of an existing environmental licence, an application is made by the licensee for renewal. The EPA then develops draft conditions using the benchmark of the most recent modern licences and conditions. It then commences discussion with the licensee to ensure they are achievable. Once conditions are finalised the licence is drafted and published to the EPA website.

From 1 July 2020 and in accordance with the *Environment Protection Act 1993* the EPA intends to make amendments to the Nyrstar's licence as set out overleaf.

A modernised licence will:

- set lower compliance limits for lead-in-air targets at the Oliver Street and Pirie West air quality monitoring stations
- set lower lead-in-air targets at the Boat ramp and Ellen Street air quality monitoring stations
- encourage further improvements in management of other air emissions to ensure public health protection
- require continuous improvement in environmental performance through an overarching Environmental Improvement Program with actions and timeframes for projects to address emissions and waste management; and
- provide more open access to data, information and reporting by Nyrstar.

Strengthened conditions for lead-in-air emissions and dust

The EPA is considering tighter conditions which specify limits and targets to be achieved for lead-in-air emissions from the smelter site.

Lead (Pb) is a heavy metal pollutant found in industrial emissions mainly associated with smelting. The EPA has sought advice from SA Health to set targets and limits that will deliver improvements in environmental outcomes and are considered achievable in the current operational environment.

The EPA intends to apply annual average limits and targets at monitoring locations in Port Pirie, which are lower than current licence requirements. In addition, the EPA is considering shorter term lead-in-air limits and targets to focus emissions reduction efforts to improved management of shorter term spikes. The approach will be based on robust science.

The EPA is in communication with Nyrstar about lower lead-in-air limits and targets proposed, along with a number of other licence conditions which intend to better manage environmental performance, including an expanded Environment Improvement Program (EIP).

The application of a new dust monitoring network will inform real-time emission controls.

Focus areas for strengthened conditions

Summary of licence objectives:



Process management, monitoring and reporting

- Continuous monitoring of particulate emissions on site and in the community including the use of an expanded monitoring network to target actions to reduce dust from operations.
- Provide a framework for innovation in plant operation to be tested and demonstrated prior to a formal request for longer term or permanent changes to process/plant or equipment.
- Planning for the future through the establishment of actions to manage legacy waste, plant, equipment and site contamination.



Emissions management, monitoring and reporting

- Continued access to Nyrstar's real-time monitoring data from monitors located within the community, currently available online.
- Development of an updated dust management plan which outlines triggers and response strategies relating to sources of dust.
- In the event that community monitoring levels exceed the limits set, the EPA will expect public access to an explanation of why, along with any proposed actions to prevent future occurrences.
- Trend analysis of monitoring data with community complaints.
- Continual improvement of dust management.



Environment Improvement Programme (EIP)

- A renewed commitment and plan to implement actions to reduce or improve:
 - lead in air emissions
 - dust emissions
 - wastewater and contaminated stormwater management and discharge from the Premises
 - litter and waste generation/disposal; and
 - the potential for environmental harm from legacy plant, equipment and waste.
- A schedule of implementation of agreed actions.



Contamination management

- Ongoing truck cleaning requirements.
- Ongoing waste transporter tracking.
- Improved stormwater management.
- Wharf and dock spills prevention and clean up.



Community engagement

- Nyrstar will be encouraged to continue to implement and improve its existing community engagement plan.
- The EPA will expect consultation with key stakeholders, including the community, when developing the EIP.
- The EPA will be seeking Nyrstar provide public access to management plans and reports related to the licence.
- Continued record keeping of community complaints and actions taken.
- Continued analysis between community complaints and air quality monitoring data.

Community engagement – what to expect

The EPA believes licensees have an obligation to engage with their local communities and we include community engagement requirements in modern licences.

The Nyrstar licence will be a modern regulatory tool which will allow the EPA to ensure continuous improvement in the company's environmental performance, evidenced by monitoring and reporting requirements.

The licence will encourage Nyrstar to improve the provision of information about the company's operations, including providing public access to monitoring plans, and reports and data.

Once issued, the licence will be available from the EPA website (www.epa.sa.gov.au), search 'Environmental Authorisations' then 'Nyrstar'.

The EPA encourages you to please contact us on the details below if you have any queries or would like further information.



FURTHER INFO

For **further information** please contact:

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(please follow the links to 'Business and Industry' then 'Industry updates')



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