



NYRSTAR LICENCE RENEWAL

Port Pirie community update #4

Issued 30 May 2022

A multi-metal smelter has operated at Port Pirie for over 130 years, and Nyrstar is a significant employer for Port Pirie at the gateway to the Flinders Ranges.

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) regulates Nyrstar for environmental activities such as lead and sulfur emissions, wastewater discharge, and legacy site contamination.



Nyrstar's licence is regularly reviewed as operations improve at the site, to ensure the EPA is providing the most stringent achievable regulation. The recent completion of an independent site contamination report is also being reviewed, to inform how to best manage legacy site contamination. This is separate to the licence renewal process however future licence updates may include conditions to address this.

Nyrstar's EPA licence





Nyrstar's current licence was issued on 1 July 2021 for 12 months, following significantly strengthened requirements in 2020 to reduce the lead in air limits by 20%. Performance in the last 12 months has been consistently strong, resulting in the best emissions outcomes seen over recent years.

Work planned by Nyrstar for the coming years is expected to further reduce lead in air emissions from its operations.

The Nyrstar licence has been updated and regularly strengthened since 2018, in response to the major capital investments made at the site. It is expected that when operations further stabilise at the site as the 'transformation' project matures, it will then move to a longer-term licence that will be in place for future years to come.

Conditions to be strengthened on 1 July 2022

The new licence will include all previous conditions that have been effective, and the following strengthened conditions targeting areas with achievable improvements in 2022–23, as well as providing a sense of the longer-term outcomes desired.

	GOAL	DETAIL
	CLEARLY DEFINED LEAD-IN-AIR GOAL	The EPA intends to include a Lead-in-Air Goal of 0.25 µg/m ³ averaged over a year, with an updated condition in the Environment Improvement Program. This ensures Nyrstar will continue to pursue best possible emissions performance using a continuous improvement approach. Similar to the ‘targets’ in the existing licence, the Goal is not designed to be an enforceable limit, although it will be a metric to consider its performance and the need for further investment and improvement for the operations.
	FOCUS ON WASTEWATER	The EPA is proposing that Nyrstar demonstrates a renewed focus on improving wastewater emissions, including identifying options and developing and implementing plans with a particular focus on cadmium, zinc and lead. This will see a greater focus on metals of concern and controlling trends of metals in wastewater over time.
	ON-SITE MANAGEMENT IN THE CASE OF A WASTE FIRE	The lists of wastes that Nyrstar is permitted to dispose of on site consists of residues from on-site processes. This list is stipulated in the new licence, and includes asbestos-containing material and general, mixed or listed construction and demolition waste. The EPA is proposing to amend the licence condition related to waste fire management to clarify the intent of the condition.
	SITE CONTAMINATION	Site contamination exists in industrialised nations around the world, wherever there has been industry and Port Pirie is no exception. Nyrstar has completed a voluntary site contamination assessment proposal with the EPA to manage the contamination in and around its site. Part of this has been the engagement of an independent EPA accredited auditor to oversee this work. The process relating to the audit report is separate, and in addition to the licence. The auditor has considered what remediation has been achieved and what remediation remains necessary to manage legacy site contamination. The EPA is undertaking a comprehensive review of the audit report and if appropriate, may incorporate conditions to manage site contamination in the next licence renewal in 2023.

EPA visit

On 9 and 10 May 2022, the EPA Board visited Port Pirie to see first-hand the work that Nyrstar has undertaken as part of its transformation project, and to hear from the Nyrstar team about future areas for improvement. The Board toured the town, Nyrstar, and the Targeted Lead Abatement Partnership (TLAP) nursery, to see the exciting work going on there. This visit was planned to happen last year but had to be postponed due to COVID.

We also held a stakeholder forum and heard from key community representatives including the Mayor and Chief Executive of Port Pirie Regional Council, Yorke and Northern Local Health Network, Port Pirie Amateur Anglers Association and the Environmental Health Centre.

The EPA has taken back information to our colleagues in other agencies, to work through some of the issues raised such as the fishing closure, water security and a request from locals that we review materials being shipped in and offloaded at the Port, and whether the clean-up requirements are sufficient.

EPA staff regularly inspect Nyrstar Port Pirie's operations to ensure it is compliant with licence conditions. As well as this, formal meetings occur regularly where Nyrstar provides regulatory updates in relation to environmental measures and initiatives being made at the facility.

Community engagement

The EPA welcomes the opportunity to speak with the Port Pirie community, and invites you to contact our direct line, email address or website to view previous community updates. We also enjoy meeting with Pirie residents in person when we're in town.



From left to right: Cullen Bailey (Nyrstar), Chris Stathy OAM, (EPA Board), Tod Milne (Nyrstar), Tony Circelli (CE, EPA), Keith Baldry (EPA), Margaret Cross (EPA Board), Dr Stephen Christley (Deputy Presiding Member, EPA Board), Andrew Pruszinski (EPA), Dale Webb (Nyrstar), Adam Cartland (EPA), Mark Withers (EPA Board), Catherine Cooper (Presiding Member, EPA Board), Christine Trenorden (EPA Board), Sophie Martin (EPA), Dr Helen Macdonald (EPA Board).

FURTHER INFO

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