



NEWS RELEASE

XSTRATA COPPER ANNOUNCES CHANGE IN SENIOR MANAGEMENT OF NORTH QUEENSLAND COPPER DIVISION

Mount Isa, 18 October 2006

Xstrata Copper announces a change at the senior management level for its North Queensland operating division.

Steve de Kruijff, formerly Xstrata Copper's General Manager - Mount Isa Copper Operations, will be appointed as Chief Operating Officer North Queensland Copper, effective December 1. Mr de Kruijff will be replacing Barry Grant, who has held the position for the past two years.

Mr de Kruijff will continue to manage the North Queensland Copper Division from Mount Isa. The division comprises the Mount Isa Mines copper mining and processing operations, the Ernest Henry Mine and the Townsville copper refinery and port operations. He will report to Xstrata Copper's Chief Executive, Charlie Sartain, and will also be appointed as a member of the Xstrata Copper Executive Committee.

Charlie Sartain, Chief Executive Xstrata Copper, commented:

"I would like to thank Barry for his enormous contribution to the transformation of our north Queensland copper operations over the past two years, and previously for his contributions as General Manager of Minera Alumbrera in Argentina and Ernest Henry Mining. Barry will be leaving the company at the end of November and leaves with our very best wishes for the future.

"I am very pleased that Steve will move into this senior management role with Xstrata Copper. He has a wealth of experience and knowledge of the Mount Isa copper operations, has held a number of general manager positions with the group in recent years, and is well prepared to take on the role as Chief Operating Officer."

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Notes to editors:

Xstrata is a major global diversified mining group, listed on the London and Swiss stock exchanges. Headquartered in Zug, Switzerland, Xstrata maintains a meaningful position in seven major international commodity markets: copper, coking coal, thermal coal, ferrochrome, nickel, vanadium and zinc, with a smaller but profitable aluminium business, recycling facilities, additional exposures to gold, lead and silver and a suite of global technologies, many of which are industry leaders. The Group's operations and projects span 18 countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Germany, Jamaica, New Caledonia, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, South Africa, Spain, Tanzania, the USA and the UK.

Xstrata Copper is headquartered in Brisbane, Australia, with regional offices in Santiago, Chile; Lima, Peru; Buenos Aires, Argentina; and Toronto, Canada, and is one of the commodity business units within the major global diversified mining group Xstrata plc.

Xstrata Copper's mining operations span five countries and comprise mines, mineral processing plants and port facilities in North Queensland, Australia; mining and processing operations and port facilities in Chile, Peru and Argentina in South America; and mining and processing plants in Canada. It also has a recycling business (Noranda Recycling) with plants in Canada, the United States and Asia.

Xstrata Copper is the third largest global copper producer, with annual managed production of over one million tonnes.