

PRESS RELEASE

## Cloncurry Community Precinct comes to life with support from Ernest Henry Mining

Cloncurry, 28 August 2012

The \$8.1 million Cloncurry Community Precinct is now open for business following a \$2.75 million contribution from Ernest Henry Mining as part of the Xstrata Community Program North Queensland (XCPNQ).

Cloncurry Shire Council Mayor Andrew Daniels helped officially open the facility today, which provides critical social infrastructure in the Cloncurry community.

Ernest Henry Mining General Manager Myles Johnston said Xstrata proudly supports community projects like this one.

"The Cloncurry Community Precinct is an important social infrastructure project providing a modern and functional community hub for Cloncurry," Mr Johnston said.

"The precinct includes a library, art gallery, function rooms and catering area, and includes the refurbishment of the historical 1939 Shire Hall and Council Chambers, all centred around community open space.

"Investing in and supporting our local communities is an important part of the way we do business.

"In December 2011 we announced our transition from open pit to underground mining and magnetite processing, marking the beginning of our extended future to 2024 and ongoing presence in the Cloncurry community.

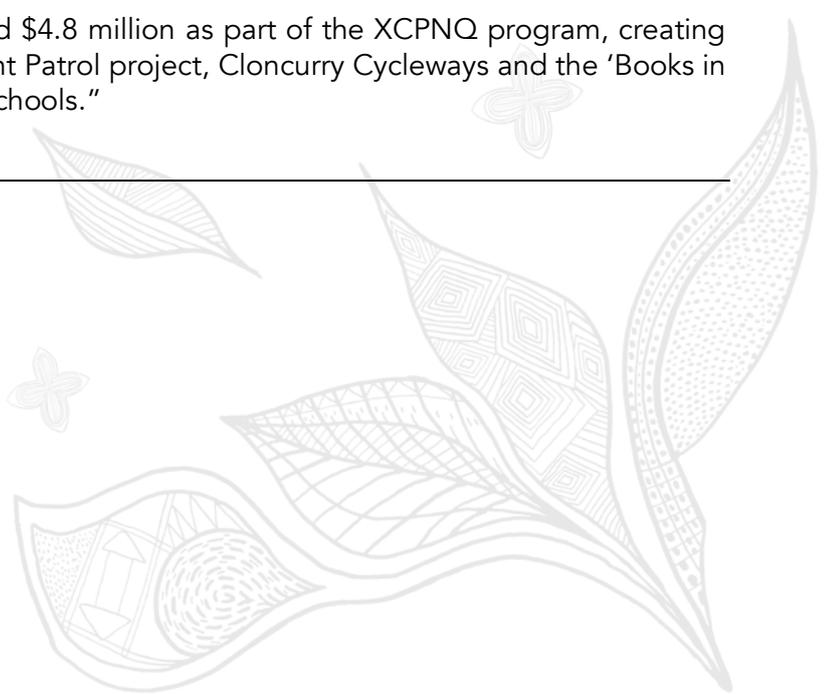
"Our contribution towards the precinct reaffirms our commitment to supporting growth and development of the town benefitting current and future generations.

"Our XCPNQ program has delivered over \$25 million to the north Queensland communities of Cloncurry, Mount Isa, Townsville and Bowen since 2005.

"The Cloncurry community alone has received \$4.8 million as part of the XCPNQ program, creating important partnerships like the Cloncurry Night Patrol project, Cloncurry Cycleways and the 'Books in Homes' program, which supports both local schools."

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*Neither the content of the company's website nor the content of any other website accessible from hyperlinks on the company's website is incorporated into, or forms part of, this announcement*

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## Notes to editors

### About Xstrata plc

We are a major producer of a range of vital commodities used in everything from constructing buildings and delivering electricity, to developing jet engines and mobile phones. We are one of the top five global producers of copper, thermal and metallurgical coal, ferrochrome, zinc and nickel and we also produce silver, lead, platinum, gold, cobalt and vanadium.

Founded in 2002 and headquartered in Switzerland, we operate in over 20 countries and employ over 70,000 people at more than 100 operations and projects around the world. We work in a responsible and sustainable way, with an entrepreneurial spirit and dynamic approach. For more information, visit [www.xstrata.com](http://www.xstrata.com)

### About Xstrata Copper

We are the fourth largest global copper producer and one of the world's largest producers of smelter, refined and recycled copper, including from third party materials.

The copper we produce is essential to our modern society, being used extensively in electronic, consumer and building products, and with its use in green-technologies, anti-microbial applications and ability to be recycled, it is playing a vital role in our sustainable future.

Headquartered in Brisbane, Australia, we have operations and projects in eight countries and employ over 20,000 people. We play an essential role in the communities in which we live and work, by providing jobs, training, infrastructure, income for suppliers and support for social development. For more information, visit [www.xstratacopper.com](http://www.xstratacopper.com)

### About Ernest Henry Mining (EHM)

We are a copper, gold and magnetite mining and processing operation located 38 kilometres north east of Cloncurry in north-west Queensland, Australia. We began commercial production in March 1998 as an open pit mining operation and transitioned to underground mining and magnetite processing in December 2011 as part of our \$589 million project to extend the life of our operations beyond open pit completion to at least 2024.

We are currently trucking ore from our underground mine via a decline at a rate of approximately two million tonnes per annum. Production will ramp up to three million tonnes per annum by the end of 2012, producing around 25,000 tonnes of copper and 35,000 ounces of gold in concentrate.

We are constructing a 1,000 metre deep underground shaft which will enable production rates to ramp up to six million tonnes per annum, producing 50,000 tonnes of copper and 70,000 ounces of gold in concentrate from 2013 once the shaft is commissioned.

We are also working to advance our nearby Mount Margaret Mining Project which we acquired for \$175 million in June 2011 and expect production from this project to commence in the second half of 2012.

While we traditionally employed around 600 people for our open pit operations there are close to 900 people working on site at present during our project construction phase. For more information, visit [www.ernesthenrymining.com.au](http://www.ernesthenrymining.com.au)