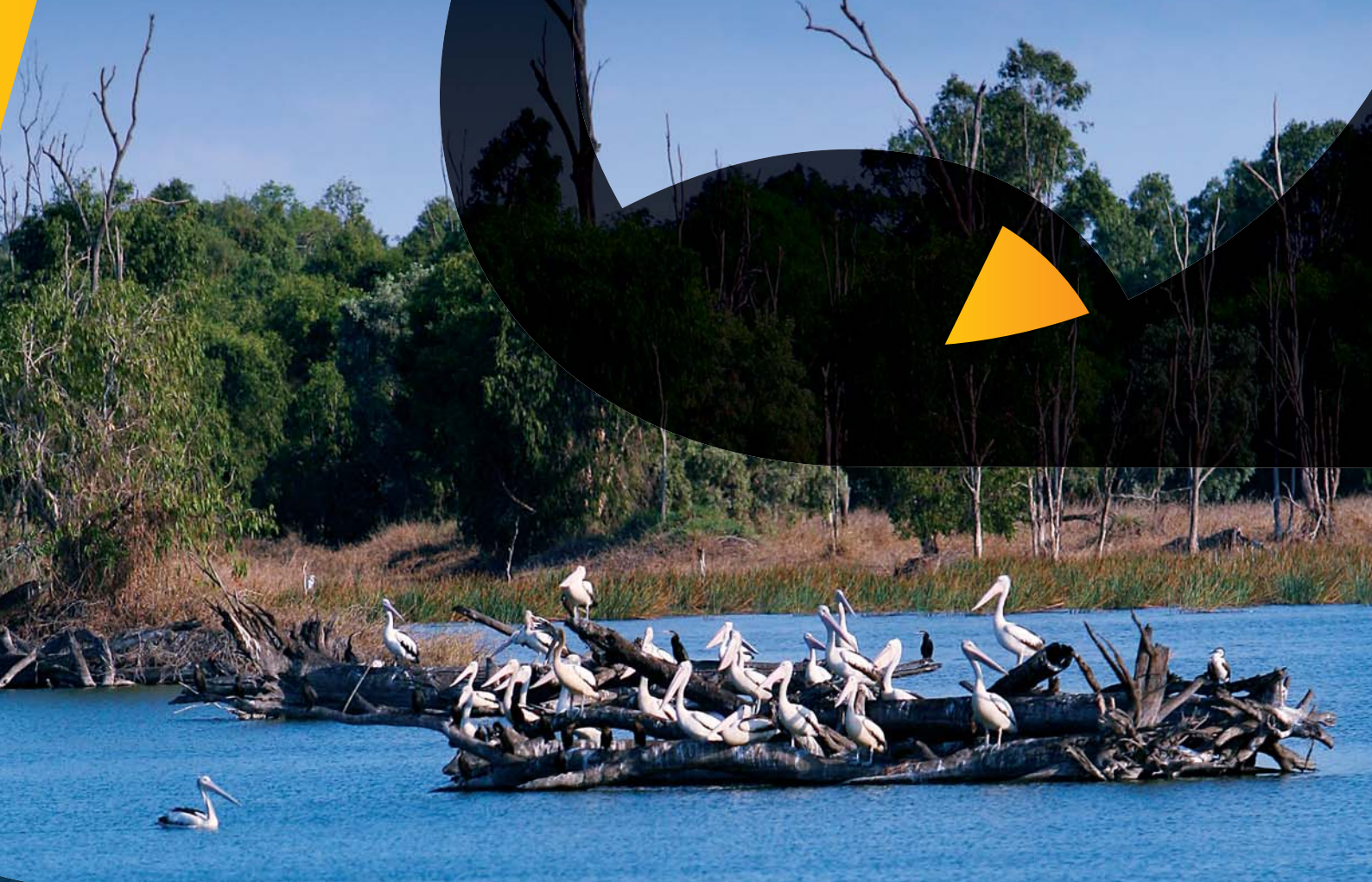




# Queensland Nickel

Our Environment

*Nickel for  
the Future*





## Our Environment

Operating on the coast of Halifax Bay and adjacent to a World Heritage Area, Queensland Nickel manages a 2464-hectare land holding of beachfront, mangroves, coastal swale and savannah grasslands.

As part of Queensland Nickel's commitment to minimising our impact to the environment, we strive to ensure all our activities are conducted in an environmentally sensitive and responsible manner. We are committed to measuring, understanding and reducing the environmental impacts of our business activities and to continually improve our environmental performance.

To reinforce consistency in our management practices we have adopted the internationally recognised standard for Environmental Management Systems ISO 14001. Our aim is to promote continuous improvement in all environmental areas beyond mere compliance with regulations and standards. In 1999, the Refinery became the first nickel operation in the world to gain international certification (ISO14001) through independent third party audit of our Environmental Management System.

Our team of environmental scientists work with government agencies to help ensure the Refinery's environmental performance meets State and Federal Government requirements.

## Recent Initiatives

For more than ten years, Queensland Nickel has run a program in partnership with the Central Queensland University Centre for Land and Water Resource Management and James Cook University's Australian Centre for Tropical Freshwater Research which involves extensive environmental monitoring on Queensland Nickel land. As a result of the knowledge gained from our environmental monitoring programs, Queensland Nickel has developed strategies to protect important mangrove communities and conserve fish and wildlife breeding habitats.

Queensland Nickel has also implemented programs to manage weeds, feral animals and other pests. Feral animals, including cats and pigs, cause significant damage to native ecosystems and wildlife. Our feral animal programs are measured using motion sensitive cameras and physical observation and inspection. Queensland Nickel's feral animal programs are humane and harmless to native wildlife.

Queensland Nickel also maintains a weed management program. The program, guided by a weed survey, is conducted by Queensland Nickel's Environment team. In partnership with Townsville City Council, Queensland Nickel also undertakes a mosquito monitoring and control program annually which benefits both our Refinery and the surrounding community.

As part of our environmental commitment, Queensland Nickel has worked hard to introduce water efficiencies at the Refinery. The Refinery's Water Recycling Facility on site has significantly reduced the Refinery's consumption of water from the Black River bore field.

Wastewater from the refining process is brackish and unsuitable for direct reuse in the Refinery. The water was traditionally stored in

tailings ponds for evaporation. The \$25 million Australian Best Practice Water Recycling Facility treats wastewater from the nickel refining process, which allows it to be reused in the plant. Capable of recycling up to 12 million litres of wastewater a day, the facility has delivered real environmental benefits to Queensland Nickel and the surrounding community.

Queensland Nickel currently has 19 energy consumption initiatives in place under the Energy Efficiency Opportunities program. These initiatives have the potential to provide 484 TJ of savings, which amounts to a 3% saving on energy consumption and an annual reduction of 40,595 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Queensland Nickel has implemented a number of strategies to reduce our impact on air quality. The Refinery has implemented controls such as baghouse filters and electrostatic precipitators as well as watering down open, dry areas to minimise dust. Continuous dust monitors, depositional dust gauges, community dust monitors linked with wind speed and direction information and internal quality audits are used to monitor the effectiveness of dust reduction programs.

## Public Reporting

Queensland Nickel prepares an annual Sustainability Report for individuals and groups who are interested in our operation.

The report strives to publicly present accurate, balanced information on our approach to sustainable development and our progress against corporate health, safety, environmental and community performance targets.