



# Port Pirie Smelter

# Australia

## Fast Facts

**LOCATION:** Port Pirie, South Australia

**TECHNOLOGY:** Top submerged lance (TSL) furnace, blast furnace and lead refinery. Slag fuming leach, electrowin copper, solvent extraction/electrowin (SXEW)

**PRODUCTS:** commodity grade lead, copper cathode, silver dore and sulphuric acid

**EMPLOYEES:** 773

## OVERVIEW

Port Pirie is an integrated multi-metals recovery plant with the flexibility to process a wide range of lead rich concentrates and smelting industry by-products.

Port Pirie is one of the world's largest primary lead smelting facilities and the third largest silver producer, which allows it to generate significant economies of scale.

Port Pirie is strategically linked to the Hobart smelter through flows of by-products such as paragoethite and leach products.

### Port Pirie Redevelopment Project

The Port Pirie Redevelopment involved the conversion of the Port Pirie operations into an advanced metal recovery and refining facility enabling the facility to process a wider range of high margin feed materials, including internal zinc smelter residues and concentrates. The increased operating flexibility of the smelter has created a fundamentally different operating and business model.

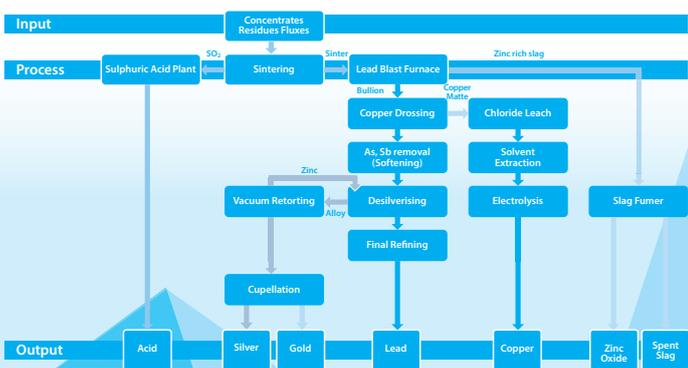
The key aspects of the Port Pirie Redevelopment include the replacement of the existing sinter plant with an oxygen enriched bath smelting furnace and replacement of the existing sulphuric acid plant with a new plant with greater capacity and upgraded technology.



## Location

The Port Pirie Smelter is located on the eastern shore of the Spencer Gulf in South Australia, approximately 220km north of Adelaide. There is an adjacent dedicated port facility where concentrates are received, with final products dispatched by road and rail.

## PRODUCTION PROCESS AT PORT PIRIE



# Port Pirie, and the world of Nyrstar



Port Pirie, South Australia



- 1 **AUBY** Smelter, France
- 2 **BALEN / OVERPELT** Smelter & Oxide Washing Plant, Belgium
- 3 **BUDEL** Smelter, The Netherlands
- 4 **HOYANGER** Fumer, Norway
- 5 **EAST TENNESSEE** Mine Complex, USA
- 6 **MID TENNESSEE** Mine Complex, USA
- 7 **CLARKSVILLE** Smelter, USA
- 8 **HOBART** Smelter, Australia
- 9 **PORT PIRIE** Multi-metals Processing Facility, Australia

## THE WORLD OF NYRSTAR

Nyrstar Port Pirie is part of Nyrstar, a global multi-metals business, with a market leading position in zinc and lead.

Nyrstar has mining, smelting and other operations located in Europe, the United States and Australia and employs over 4,000 people. The company's global operations are located close to key customers and major transport hubs to facilitate delivery of raw materials and distribution of finished products.

In July 2019, Nyrstar's operating business became majority owned by Trafigura, one of the world's leading independent commodity trading companies. Visit [www.nyrstar.com](http://www.nyrstar.com).

## HISTORY

After over 130 years of continuous operation, the Port Pirie Smelter has a rich and dynamic history. Port Pirie was South Australia's first provincial city and the fourth declared Port in Australia. Port Pirie is one of the key regional cities in South Australia, with the Port Pirie Smelter being one of the major employers of the Upper Spencer Gulf region. The first smelting operations commenced at Port Pirie in 1889 and a long history of smelting has followed. The Port Pirie community is extremely parochial about the smelter with generations of the same family often having worked at the facility.

The community and the smelter are intrinsically linked. Nyrstar is committed to reducing its environmental footprint and has a strong focus on reducing emissions from the site. For numerous years the site has worked proactively with key stakeholders developing and implementing community initiatives that reduce exposure and improve community health particularly with young children ([www.tlap.com.au](http://www.tlap.com.au)).



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