

# Mount Isa Air Quality and Lead Information Guide



MOUNT ISA MINES

A GLENCORE Company



## THE HISTORY OF MOUNT ISA AND MOUNT ISA MINES

The city of Mount Isa in northern Australia is in one of the most mineral rich regions in the world and has enjoyed a long and successful mining history.

For almost 100 years, Mount Isa Mines (MIM) has proudly coexisted alongside the local community, while mining and processing copper and zinc-lead-silver.

The health and safety of the community and our people, and the responsible operation of our mine are our highest priorities.

As modern regulations and accepted science have evolved, so have our operations. Since acquiring MIM, we have invested significantly in improving our environmental performance and achieved substantial reductions in the total emissions generated from our site and dust.

Glencore employs about 4,200 people across our North Queensland copper and zinc operations.



## OUR APPROACH

We have worked to address a number of legacy issues inherent in managing one of Australia's largest and most complex industrial assets. More than 75 separate permits and authorities govern our 32,000 hectare mining lease, including stringent and transparent reporting of our environmental performance.

Given the complexity of our operations, we are vigilant about identifying and managing risks.

We are mindful of the dust and emissions generated from the metals and minerals that we mine and process in the Mount Isa area. As a result, we have developed a comprehensive system of emissions capture technology and dust control measures.

## AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES

We are continually working to reduce emissions and dust from our operations and have made substantial improvements in our environmental performance over the past two decades.

As part of our Environmental Authority, granted by the Queensland Government in 2011, we apply stringent air quality protocols to manage process emissions, open areas and road hygiene.

We have developed the most intensive air quality monitoring network of any city in Australia, including 13 monitoring stations and over 50 individual units.

Our Air Quality Control Centre (AQC) monitors and responds to real-time air quality data and forecast weather conditions, to proactively and reactively minimise the impact of Sulphur Dioxide emissions and ensure compliance with our regulatory limits. This can mean reducing or shutting down operations, if emissions exceed a certain level. AQC also monitors the concentration of metallic particulates in the air, including arsenic, cadmium, lead and zinc.

We provide detailed and real-time information on air quality in Mount Isa on our website or AQMI (Air Quality in Mount Isa) App, including hourly, daily average and annual average performance results.

## LEAD

Lead is a naturally occurring mineral and there are outcrops of shale within the boundaries of the City of Mount Isa that have elevated levels of metals and metalloids including lead, copper, zinc and silicon. Lead is also generated by our mining activities. We operate in compliance with the regulatory standards set under the approved Environmental Authority for lead-in-air emissions. In addition, comprehensive programs have been put in place to minimise community and occupational exposure.

A strict clean-in clean-out policy is in place, including dedicated wash bays for vehicles and a ban on taking dirty work clothes home, to stop material leaving the mine site on people and equipment.

Employees are encouraged to take simple measures at work and home such as maintaining a balanced diet and washing hands before eating. All members of the workforce are also required to have regular blood tests for lead.

In 2006, we commissioned the independent Lead Pathways Study series to better understand the pathways and potential community health risks of lead in soil, waterways and air. Led by the University of Queensland, all three reports concluded there was a relatively low health risk from lead in soil, water and air for most of the Mount Isa community. More detailed information can be found on [smi.uq.edu.au/Mt-Isa-air-study](http://smi.uq.edu.au/Mt-Isa-air-study).

Some of the best air quality results in the past two years have been registered at the monitoring locations located closest to the mine.

The chart below shows the range of Total Suspended Particulates for Lead-in-Air (PMT Pb) monitoring results achieved since MIM transitioned to its current Environmental Authority.

Results from our monitors in the community closest to our operations are shown.

MIM's compliance monitor locations have changed and increased during the last seven years to ensure they are both compliant with air quality sampling standards and comprehensive for our community.

Mount Isa Mines has seen significant reduction in maximum lead-in-air levels since transitioning to our Environmental authority, with all results sustainably below half of the commonly accepted limit of  $0.5\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .

Our lead-in-air is sustainably well below commonly accepted compliance levels. We continue to pursue further opportunities for improvement in the interests of our business and the community.



Mount Isa Mines clean-in clean-out facility

## THE LEAD ALLIANCE

We are a founding member of the Lead Alliance, which educates the public on reducing their exposure to both natural and industrial sources of lead in the area. The Alliance raises awareness about the potential effects from the absorption and promotes evidence-based behavioural changes to limit exposure.

Children up to the age of five are at greatest risk because of the hand/object-to-mouth developmental behaviour associated with this age group.

Families are encouraged to follow a range of preventative measures including maintaining a clean home, good personal hygiene and nutritious diet.

Glencore offers free, independent and confidential blood lead monitoring tests for all Mount Isa residents as part of its commitment to local health and safety.

The LEADSmart App was created in 2018 to drive positive behavioural changes with tips, reminders and blood lead level tracking.

People have raised their children in Mount Isa for generations and it remains a safe place to live.

## OUR TRANSPARENCY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We engage openly with the community to address their concerns and respect local laws, customs and culture. While Community Information Sessions are held throughout the year, members of the public are also encouraged to call us on our 24 hour community feedback hotline if they have any concerns about our operations.

We are committed to giving back to the communities in which we operate, and fund a range of health, education, cultural and capacity building initiatives through a comprehensive community investment program.

Our people and their families also call Mount Isa home, which makes the wellbeing of the community a priority.

## LEAD-IN-AIR PERFORMANCE

