

Erin Phillips

From: Troy Collings
Sent: Tuesday, 3 June 2014 11:37 AM
To: Lynette Keep; Brooke Hargraves; Aaron Stitz; Fiona Procter
Cc: Andrew Powell
Subject: Fwd: URGENT RTIs

Categories: Meeting Brief

Please note below in relation to an urgent request from up the road. Useful stat to keep on hand and updated.

T

Troy Collings
Chief of Staff
Minister for Environment
and Heritage Protection

Begin forwarded message:

From: Troy Collings <Troy.Collings@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Date: 3 June 2014 10:36:41 am AEST
To: Kate Winter <Kate.Winter@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Sharyn Watkins <Sharyn.Watkins@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Re: URGENT RTIs

Kate, in response to DPC's request regarding the number of RTI applications received from Clive Palmer (and any of his companies – i.e. Mineralogy, Qld Nickel, Waratah Coal) since this government was elected, I can confirm the following totals:

- 56 received for the EHP
- 20 received for the Office of the Minister.

I note the initial request from DPC did not seek a total for the number of applications received for the Office of the Minister. However, I included the above total for you to consider.

Thanks

Troy

Troy Collings
Chief of Staff
Minister for Environment
and Heritage Protection

On 2 Jun 2014, at 5:29 pm, "Kate Winter" <Kate.Winter@ministerial.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Dear colleagues,

Can you all please provide me with the number of RTI's each of your respective departments have received from Clive Palmer and any of his companies (Mineralogy, Qld Nickel, Warratah Coal, or any other) since this government was elected.

Can you please respond to Sharyn Watkins with this information by **no later than midday tomorrow**. Can you please let Sharyn know asap if you will have any problems in meeting this timeframe.

Kind regards,

<image003.jpg>Kate Winter
Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of the Hon. Campbell Newman MP | Premier of Queensland

Phone: 07 3035 2138 | Fax: 07 3221 1809 | Mobile CTPI - personal info
Executive Building | 100 George Street | Brisbane | QLD 4000
PO Box 15185 | City East | Brisbane | QLD 4002

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Hon Andrew Powell MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection

Ref CTS 12661/14

11 JUN 2014

CTPI - personal info

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400 George Street Brisbane 4000
GPO Box 2454 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7330
Facsimile +61 7 3220 6231
Email environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear CTPI - personal info

Thank you for your email of 22 May 2014 concerning your request for additional information about the Yabulu Nickel Refinery and water quality monitoring. The Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection has asked me to respond on his behalf.

In your email you requested additional information about water quality limits required for a healthy environment. You may wish to access the following link to the 'Ross River Basin and Magnetic Island Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives', finalised in August 2013: www.ehp.qld.gov.au/water/policy/pdf/plans/ross-river-basin-magnetic-island-ev-wqo.pdf. This document represents the most locally relevant water quality information and was made pursuant to the provisions of the Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009 (EPP (Water)), which is subordinate legislation under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

The EPP (Water) provides a framework for identifying environmental values for Queensland waters, and deciding the water quality objectives to protect or enhance those environmental values. It is important to note that these water quality objectives are long term goals for receiving waters, not individual point source emission objectives. As mentioned in my previous email, the new Environmental Authority (EA) for the Queensland Nickel Yabulu Refinery sets specific standards for water releases and these standards have been developed to ensure that the water quality objectives for Halifax Bay are achieved.

In relation to your request for additional information about the monitoring requirements of the new EA, specifically in relation to who carries out the monitoring and how frequently, I can advise that the new EA contains a range of monitoring requirements for all of the potential pathways through which contaminants from the refinery activities could be released. There are monitoring requirements for air, surface waters, sediments and groundwater and the monitoring frequencies required in each case can vary. For example, monitoring of surface waters is required to be carried out weekly as a matter of routine, but more intensively (daily) following a release event.

The holder of the EA, in this case Queensland Nickel Pty Ltd, is required to carry out monitoring in accordance with the conditions of the EA. The EA also includes a requirement for a third party to report on the compliance of the EA conditions within 12 months of the EA being issued and then within every three years thereafter. Officers from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection also conduct compliance inspections and monitoring on a regular basis.

The Minister hopes this additional information is of assistance to you. Any further enquiries should be directed to Mrs Ingrid Fomiatti-Minnesma, Regional Manager, Environmental Services and Regulation of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection on telephone (07) 4222 5337.

Yours sincerely

CTPI - signature

CTPI - signature

Troy Collings
Chief of Staff

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RTI Act 2009

TAYLOR Erin

From: CTPI - personal info
Sent: Thursday, 22 May 2014 11:45 AM
To: Corro EHP Minister
Subject: Re: Yabula Nickel Refinery

Dear Mr Collings,

Thank you for your reply.

I would be grateful if you could also add to your advice the current scientifically validated mg /L limit of each of the relevant chemicals as required for a healthy water environment with no animals/fish/water plants adversely affected.

I would also be grateful for information about the independent monitoring required of the EA requirements for the Yabulu Nickel Refinery as part of the current EA, and by whom this will be done and how frequently.

With many thanks,

CTPI - personal info

On 22/05/2014 10:31 AM, Corro EHP Minister wrote:

Ref CTS 09864/14

CTPI - personal info

Dear CTPI - personal info

Thank you for your recent email 22 April 2014 concerning the new Environmental Authority (EA) (the refinery). The Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection has asked me to respond on his behalf.

The new EA for the refinery is an important step forward in environmental regulation for the site. The EA sets specific enforceable conditions in relation to releases that significantly raise the environmental performance of the refinery. To suggest otherwise demonstrates a serious lack of understanding of the new EA.

The Australian's recent article "Palmer gets nod for more toxic sludge" (17 April 2014), is not accurate.

The Queensland Government is not permitting Queensland Nickel to discharge "toxic sludge". Queensland Nickel's new EA allows for water releases provided the water meets stipulated release limits.

12661/14

Queensland Nickel's new EA, issued in November 2013, represents a significant improvement over its old EA in terms of the refinery's required environmental performance. Some of the critical differences between the new and old EAs include:

- The new EA significantly improves stormwater management practices and imposes stringent quality criteria for stormwater that can be released. These criteria were scientifically assessed and are consistent with the philosophy and intent of Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) and Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand (ARMCANZ) water quality guidelines and the Queensland Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009.
- The compliance points for water discharges are different between the old and the new EA. The new EA sets specific standards for water releases at the mouth of Alick and Blind Creeks, within the refinery boundary, that will ensure that beyond the mouths of Alick and Blind Creeks water quality will meet the accepted water quality objectives for Halifax Bay.
- Within the Alick Creek and Blind Creek systems, which have been historically impacted, the new EA requires Queensland Nickel to meet standards that will ensure that onsite, the water quality will be maintained or improved. For example:

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- For ammonia, the maximum limit is 18mg/L with a long term median of 1.7mg/L at the discharge point. The old permit required that 2mg/L of ammonia be achieved beyond the refinery boundary.
- For cobalt and nickel respectively, 0.15mg/l and 0.56mg/L is required to be met at the discharge point that is on the refinery premises, while the old EA required 1mg/L for both cobalt and nickel beyond the refinery boundary.
- The new EA includes a discharge standard for lead and chromium, which was not stipulated in the old EA.
- The new EA requires a receiving water monitoring program, event based and routine monitoring at release points and a detailed groundwater monitoring program to be implemented, ensuring the refinery's long-term environmental impacts are continually assessed. These were not a part of the old EA.
- The new EA sets enforceable limits on the refinery discharging water via its ocean outfall pipeline. The old EA gave no stipulation for discharge water quality via the ocean outfall. Joint state and commonwealth approvals are also required for the refinery to use the ocean outfall and, to date, approvals have not been granted.
- The new EA stipulates new requirements around the design, construction and operation of all regulated structures on the site and brings the site in line with the requirements for other regulated dams, including tailings dams, in Queensland.
- The new EA includes a requirement for an annual dam safety inspection by a registered engineer to ensure that any safety issues with the dams are quickly identified and fixed. This was not a requirement of the old EA.
- The new EA contains requirements for ambient air quality monitoring and a range of new limits to protect nearby communities, including for particulates and metals such as nickel within those communities. This was not a requirement of the old EA.

In relation to the report by *The Australian* stating "Federal government scientists have described a major discharge from the dams to the ecosystem of Halifax Bay in the World Heritage Area as "similar to the daily discharge of treated sewage from a city of seven million people", this information was obtained under a Right to Information request to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and was taken out of context. The Queensland Nickel tailings dam is a significant size, however the above statement assumes that most tailings and water are lost from the tailings storage facility for such impact to occur. This would mean a catastrophic failure of the dam. This is neither what is authorised through the EA nor what has occurred recently.

Overall, regulated dams at the refinery, including the tailings storage facility, do contain high levels of contaminants, which is why these contaminants are contained within regulated structures, which must be designed and certified by engineers.

As highlighted above, the new EA stipulates requirements around the design, construction and operation of all regulated structures. These are the same as for other tailings dams in Queensland and are in accordance with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection's guideline for 'Structures which are dams or levees constructed as part of environmentally relevant activities' and the 'Manual for Assessing Hazard Categories and Hydraulic Performance of Dams'.

The new EA under which Queensland Nickel is required to operate at Yabulu, clearly illustrates the Queensland Government's ongoing commitment to ensuring the refinery's operations continue to meet strict environmental safeguards.

The Minister hopes this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further enquiries, please contact Mrs Ingrid Fomiatti Minnesma, Regional Manager, Environmental Services and Regulation of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection on telephone (07) 4222 5337.

Yours sincerely

Troy Collings
Chief of Staff

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RTI Act 2009

Erin Phillips

From: LAWRENCE Shane <Shane.Lawrence@ehp.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 3 June 2014 10:11 AM
To: Troy Collings
Cc: BLACK Jon; DAVIS Ken
Subject: RE: URGENT RTIs

Hi Troy

In response to DPC's request regarding the number of RTI applications received from Clive Palmer (and any of his companies – i.e. Mineralogy, Qld Nickel, Waratah Coal) since this government was elected, I can confirm the following totals:

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I note the initial request from DPC did not seek a total for the number of applications received for the Office of the Minister. However, I included the above total for you to consider submitting to DPC due to the resourcing and workload implications associated with processing these applications.

Please give me a call should you have any further questions.

Regards

Shane

Shane Lawrence

Manager, Right to Information Services
Corporate

DAFF | DTESB | DNRM | DEWS | EHP | NPRSR

Level 3, 400 George Street, Brisbane Qld 4000
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F 07 3033 0930

M CTPI - personal

Info

E shane.lawrence@ehp.qld.gov.au



From: Troy Collings [<mailto:Troy.Collings@ministerial.qld.gov.au>]
Sent: Monday, 2 June 2014 5:58 PM
To: DAVIS Ken
Cc: BLACK Jon; LAWRENCE Shane
Subject: URGENT RTIs

Ken, could you please get the dept to provide a response to me re EHP as soon as possible.

Erin Phillips

From: Sharyn Watkins
Sent: Tuesday, 3 June 2014 10:38 AM
To: Troy Collings
Subject: RE: URGENT RTIs

Thanks Troy

Regards



Sharyn Watkins
Chief Operating Officer
Office of the Hon Campbell Newman MP | Premier of Queensland
Phone 07 3719 7029 | Mobile CTPI - personal info
Executive Building | 100 George Street | Brisbane | QLD 4000
PO Box 15185 | City East | Brisbane | QLD 4002
Great State. Great Opportunity.

From: Troy Collings
Sent: Tuesday, 3 June 2014 10:37 AM
To: Kate Winter
Cc: Sharyn Watkins
Subject: Re: URGENT RTIs

Kate, in response to DPC's request regarding the number of RTI applications received from Clive Palmer (and any of his companies – i.e. Mineralogy, Qld Nickel, Waratah Coal) since this government was elected, I can confirm the following totals:

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Thanks

Troy

Troy Collings
Chief of Staff
Minister for Environment

and Heritage Protection

On 2 Jun 2014, at 5:29 pm, "Kate Winter" <Kate.Winter@ministerial.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Dear colleagues,

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Can you please respond to Sharyn Watkins with this information by **no later than midday tomorrow**. Can you please let Sharyn know asap if you will have any problems in meeting this timeframe.

Kind regards,

<image003.jpg> Kate Winter

Deputy Chief of Staff

Office of the Hon. Campbell Newman MP | Premier of Queensland

Phone: 07 3035 2138 | Fax: 07 3221 1809 | Mobile: CTPI - personal info

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Erin Phillips

From: LAWRENCE Shane <Shane.Lawrence@ehp.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 3 June 2014 10:47 AM
To: Troy Collings
Subject: RE: URGENT RTIs

Happy to help.
sL

Shane Lawrence
Manager, Right to Information Services
Corporate
DAFF | DTESB | DNRM | DEWS | EHP | NPRSR

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GPO Box 2454, Brisbane Qld 4001

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E shane.lawrence@ehp.qld.gov.au



From: Troy Collings [<mailto:Troy.Collings@ministerial.qld.gov.au>]
Sent: Tuesday, 3 June 2014 10:36 AM
To: LAWRENCE Shane
Cc: BLACK Jon; DAVIS Ken
Subject: Re: URGENT RTIs

Thanks Shane and team.

Much appreciated.

Troy

Troy Collings
Chief of Staff
Minister for Environment
and Heritage Protection

On 3 Jun 2014, at 10:11 am, "LAWRENCE Shane" <Shane.Lawrence@ehp.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Hi Troy

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M **CTPI - personal**

E shane.lawrence@ehp.qld.gov.au

<image001.jpg>

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Troy Collings
Chief of Staff
Minister for Environment
and Heritage Protection

Erin Phillips

From: BLACK Jon <Jon.Black@ehp.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 3 June 2014 11:30 AM
To: LAWRENCE Shane
Cc: Troy Collings; DAVIS Ken
Subject: Re: URGENT RTIs
Attachments: image001.jpg

Thank you Shane for rapid response. Astonishing quantity from one entity. A useful stat for upcoming estimates hearing.

Jon

Jonathan (Jon) PC Black
Director-General
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

On 3 Jun 2014, at 10:11 am, "LAWRENCE Shane"
<Shane.Lawrence@ehp.qld.gov.au<<mailto:Shane.Lawrence@ehp.qld.gov.au>>> wrote:

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E shane.lawrence@ehp.qld.gov.au <<mailto:shane.lawrence@deedi.qld.gov.au>>

<image001.jpg>

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Sent: Monday, 2 June 2014 5:58 PM

To: DAVIS Ken

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Subject: URGENT RTIs

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Minister for Environment
and Heritage Protection

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Erin Phillips

From: Kate Winter
Sent: Monday, 2 June 2014 5:29 PM
To: Chiefs of Staff
Cc: Sharyn Watkins
Subject: URGENT RTIs

Importance: High

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