

**From:** Davies Emma [Emma.Davies@ehp.qld.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Monday, 4 March 2013 12:41 PM  
**To:** Lawrence Rob  
**CC:** Sharpe Dean; media; Fomiatti Minnesma Ingrid  
**Subject:** FW: Yabulu dam level  
**Attachments:** 2-KEEPER-1972519-Media\_response\_\_Queensland\_Nickel\_Yabulu\_TEP\_approved\_-\_Townsville\_Bulletin.doc

Hi Rob,

The minister's office has asked if we can send the attached response to ABC.

Can you confirm that the attached is still accurate and you are happy for the response to be in your name?

Thanks,

Emma Davies  
Media Officer | Media Services  
Corporate Communications  
**EHP | NPRSR**  
[media@ehp.qld.gov.au](mailto:media@ehp.qld.gov.au)  
[media@nprsr.qld.gov.au](mailto:media@nprsr.qld.gov.au)  
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**From:** Brooke Hargraves [mailto:Brooke.Hargraves@ministerial.qld.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Monday, 4 March 2013 12:34 PM  
**To:** Michaels Paul  
**Cc:** media  
**Subject:** FW: Yabulu dam level

Hi Paul,

Can you send this response through to Steph Smail [smail.stephanie@abc.net.au](mailto:smail.stephanie@abc.net.au)

Thanks,  
See you in 2 mins!

Cheers,  
Brooke

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**From:** Davies Emma [mailto:Emma.Davies@ehp.qld.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Monday, 14 January 2013 2:31 PM  
**To:** Bateman, Daniel  
**Cc:** media  
**Subject:** RE: Yabulu dam level

Hi Daniel,

Please find attached a media response regarding Queensland Nickel's Yabulu refinery.

Regards,

Emma Davies  
Media Officer | Media Services  
Corporate Communications  
**EHP | NPRSR**  
[media@ehp.qld.gov.au](mailto:media@ehp.qld.gov.au)  
[media@nprsr.qld.gov.au](mailto:media@nprsr.qld.gov.au)  
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**From:** Davies Emma  
**Sent:** Thursday, 10 January 2013 5:31 PM  
**To:** Bateman, Daniel  
**Cc:** media  
**Subject:** RE: Yabulu dam level

Hi Dan,

Please find attached a media response from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection regarding Queensland Nickel's Yabulu refinery.

Regards,

Emma Davies  
Media Officer | Media Services  
Corporate Communications  
**EHP | NPRSR**  
[media@ehp.qld.gov.au](mailto:media@ehp.qld.gov.au)  
[media@nprsr.qld.gov.au](mailto:media@nprsr.qld.gov.au)  
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**From:** Bateman, Daniel [<mailto:daniel.bateman@news.com.au>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 10 January 2013 3:01 PM  
**To:** media  
**Subject:** Yabulu dam level

G'day,

Queensland Nickel Yabulu refinery owner Clive Palmer has issued a media statement today claiming the level of contaminated wastewater in the tailings dams has been decreased by 22 per cent.  
I'm hoping to find out whether the department is aware of this, and if so, whether there are still any concerns about a potential spill this wet season?

Cheers

Dan

**Daniel Bateman** | Journalist

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**Townsville Bulletin**

198-238 Ogden Street (PO Box 587), Townsville, QLD, 4810

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# Media response

**Re:** Queensland Nickel Yabulu refinery

**For:** Daniel Bateman  
Townsville Bulletin

**Date:** Monday, 14 January 2013

**Please attribute the following to Ingrid Fomiatti Minnesma, Acting Executive Director,  
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection**

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has approved Queensland Nickel's Transitional Environmental Program (TEP) which proposes various actions to reduce the risk of a release from the tailings storage facility.

These actions include diverting stormwater away from the tailings storage facility and constructing additional contaminated water storage capacity on site to reduce the spill risk to less than one percent by 1 November 2013.

The department will continue to liaise with Queensland Nickel to monitor compliance with the TEP.

**ENDS**

For further media enquiries contact Media Services on (07) 3339 5831 or email [media@ehp.qld.gov.au](mailto:media@ehp.qld.gov.au)

**From:** Davies Emma [Emma.Davies@ehp.qld.gov.au]

**Sent:** Monday, 4 March 2013 1:05 PM

**To:** Smail.stephanie@abc.net.au

**CC:** media

**Subject:** Media response: Queensland Nickel Yabulu refinery - ABC

**Attachments:** 1-KEEPER-2037396-Media\_response\_\_Queensland\_Nickel\_Yabulu\_refinery\_-\_ABC.doc

Hi Stephanie,

Please find attached a response from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection regarding Queensland Nickel Yabulu refinery.

Regards,

Emma Davies

Media Officer | Media Services

Corporate Communications

**EHP | NPRSR**

[media@ehp.qld.gov.au](mailto:media@ehp.qld.gov.au)

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RTI DL Release

# Media response

**Re:** Queensland Nickel Yabulu refinery

**For:** Stephanie Smail  
ABC  
[smail.stephanie@abc.net.au](mailto:smail.stephanie@abc.net.au)

**Date:** Monday, 4 March 2013

**Please attribute the following to Rob Lawrence, Executive Director, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection**

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has approved Queensland Nickel's Transitional Environmental Program (TEP) which proposes various actions to reduce the risk of a release from the tailings storage facility.

These actions include diverting stormwater away from the tailings storage facility and constructing additional contaminated water storage capacity on site to reduce the spill risk to less than one percent by 1 November 2013.

The department will continue to liaise with Queensland Nickel to monitor compliance with the TEP.

**ENDS**

For further media enquiries contact Media Services on (07) 3339 5831 or email [media@ehp.qld.gov.au](mailto:media@ehp.qld.gov.au)

**From:** Davies Emma [Emma.Davies@ehp.qld.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Monday, 4 March 2013 5:20 PM  
**To:** Lawrence Rob  
**CC:** media; Corro EHP ESR Northern  
**Subject:** FW: Current situation at QNI

Hi Rob,

For your urgent approval - media response for Townsville Bulletin regarding Yabulu.

Approved by Ingrid Fomiatti Minnesma. Deadline is 6pm today.

**Draft response: Please attribute the following to Rob Lawrence, Executive Director, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection**

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) is working with Queensland Nickel to determine the impact recent rainfall has had on the Yabulu refinery.

Queensland Nickel has advised the department that the tailings storage facility is currently more than 1.2m below the spillway.

**ENDS**

Thanks,

Emma Davies  
Media Officer | Media Services  
Corporate Communications  
**EHP | NPRSR**  
[media@ehp.qld.gov.au](mailto:media@ehp.qld.gov.au)  
[media@nprsr.qld.gov.au](mailto:media@nprsr.qld.gov.au)  
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**From:** Fomiatti Minnesma Ingrid  
**Sent:** Monday, 4 March 2013 4:19 PM  
**To:** Davies Emma  
**Subject:** FW: Current situation at QNI  
**Importance:** High

Hi Emma

QN have not got their model done and this will not be done by this pm However below a status update showing there is quite a bit for freeboard left.

I will give you a ring now

Ingrid

Ingrid Fomiatti Minnesma  
Acting Regional Manager Mining and Compliance  
Northern Region  
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection  
5b Sheridan Street  
GPO Box 937  
Cairns QLD 4870  
**Telephone:** 07 4222 5337  
**Facsimile:** 07 4222 5070  
**Email:** [Ingrid.FomiattiMinnesma@ehp.qld.gov.au](mailto:Ingrid.FomiattiMinnesma@ehp.qld.gov.au)  
You can visit us online at [www.ehp.qld.gov.au](http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au)

---

**From:** Lukacs, George [mailto:George.Lukacs@qni.com.au]  
**Sent:** Monday, 4 March 2013 4:06 PM  
**To:** Fomiatti Minnesma Ingrid  
**Cc:** Ferguson, Ian  
**Subject:** Current situation at QNI  
**Importance:** High

Ingrid,

As per your text message, the situation at QNI as of Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013 is as follows:

- 56mm rainfall over past 7 days
- Cell 3 is >1.20m below spillway
- Brine Dam is >1.7m from reportable limit
- Levee Bank Overflow is 18ppm and only a trickle (below volumetric measurement)
- Duck Pond is currently not being diverted to levee (awaiting completion of new pipes & earthworks)

Regards  
George

**George Lukacs** | Director – Environment and Sustainability  
**QUEENSLAND NICKEL PTY LTD**  
Greenvale Street, Yabulu QLD 4818  
P > +61 7 4720 6422 | F > +61 7 4751 1208 | M > +61 7 4751 1208  
E > [George.Lukacs@qni.com.au](mailto:George.Lukacs@qni.com.au)

(2) Disclosur



**From:** Lutz Megan [Megan.Lutz@ehp.qld.gov.au]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 5 March 2013 3:59 PM

**To:** Bateman, Daniel

**CC:** media

**Subject:** RE: Yabulu update

**Attachments:** 2-KEEPER-2040242-

Media\_response\_Queensland\_Nickel\_Yabulu\_refinery\_spill\_risk\_follow\_up\_Townsville\_Bulletin.doc

Hi Daniel,

Please find attached a response to your follow up question on the Yabulu refinery.

Many thanks,

Megan

**Megan Lutz**

Principal Media Officer, Media Services

**EHP | NPRSR**

**Phone:** 07 3339 5831

[media@ehp.qld.gov.au](mailto:media@ehp.qld.gov.au)

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**From:** Bateman, Daniel [mailto:daniel.bateman@news.com.au]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 5 March 2013 9:03 AM

**To:** Lutz Megan

**Subject:** RE: Yabulu update

G'day Megan

Thanks for the email. Can the department confirm whether or not the current water level still presents a spill risk?

Dan

**Daniel Bateman** | Journalist

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**Townsville Bulletin**


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**From:** Lutz Megan [mailto:Megan.Lutz@ehp.qld.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Monday, 4 March 2013 6:42 PM  
**To:** Bateman, Daniel  
**Cc:** media  
**Subject:** RE: Yabulu update

Hi Daniel,

Sorry for the delay. Below is a response to your enquiry about the Yabulu refinery.

**Please attribute the following to Rob Lawrence, Executive Director, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection**

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) is continuing to work with Queensland Nickel on water management at its Yabulu refinery.

Queensland Nickel has advised the department that the tailings storage facility is currently more than 1.2m below the spillway.

**ENDS**

Kind regards,

Megan

**Megan Lutz**  
Principal Media Officer, Media Services  
**EHP | NPRSR**  
**Phone:** 07 3339 5845  
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---

**From:** Bateman, Daniel [mailto:daniel.bateman@news.com.au]  
**Sent:** Monday, 4 March 2013 2:53 PM  
**To:** media  
**Subject:** Yabulu update

G'day,

I was hoping to find out whether the spill risk has decreased at the Yabulu nickel refinery? It was last reported as

being between 3-4 per cent, as of January 1.

My deadline for this story is 6pm tonight,

Regards

Daniel

**Daniel Bateman** | Journalist

**Townsville Bulletin**

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# Media response

**Re:** Queensland Nickel Yabulu refinery  
**For:** Daniel Bateman – Townsville Bulletin  
**Date:** Tuesday 5 March 2013

***Please attribute the following to Rob Lawrence, Executive Director, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection***

Queensland Nickel has advised the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection the tailings storage dam is currently more than 1.2m below the spillway.

At this level, the dam has enough capacity to receive a significant amount of rainfall.

The department is working closely with Queensland Nickel on water management and monitoring compliance with the conditions of its Transitional Environmental Program (TEP).

**ENDS**

For further media enquiries contact Media Services on (07) 3339 5831 or email [media@ehp.qld.gov.au](mailto:media@ehp.qld.gov.au)

RTI DL Release

**From:** Michaels Paul [Paul.Michaels@ehp.qld.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 March 2013 6:57 AM  
**To:** Lawrence Rob; Ellwood Dean; Fomiatti Minnesma Ingrid  
**CC:** media  
**Subject:** FYI Townsville Bulletin "Spill threat eases as Yabulu dam levels drop"

## Spill threat eases as Yabulu dam levels drop

Townsville Bulletin, Townsville QLD

06 Mar 2013

General News - page 10 - 225 words - ID 184322095 - Photo: No - Type: News Item - Size: 83.86cm<sup>2</sup>

THE environmental threat at Townsville's nickel refinery has been declared over for now by the Queensland Government.

The Department of Environment and Heritage says the tailings dams at Queensland Nickel's Yabulu plant are low enough to receive a significant amount of rainfall without a spill risk.

QN had applied to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority mid last year to discharge contaminated wastewater into the marine park after levels in the ponds reached dangerous levels, after two big wet seasons.

With the wet season on the way, Mr Palmer had said if the water was not released, there was an 8 per cent risk the ponds would collapse.

Over a six-month period, however, QN managed to drop the dam levels by 22 per cent. This included actions such as diverting stormwater away from the tailings dams, and constructing extra storage capacity for contaminated water to reduce the ponds' spill risk.

The Department of Environment, in mid-January, however, said the level had still posed a risk of spilling.

Department executive director Rob Lawrence said yesterday QN had advised the dam was more than 1.2m below the spillway.

"At this level, the dam has enough capacity to receive a significant amount of rainfall," he said.

He said the department was working closely with the company on water management and monitoring compliance with the conditions of its transitional environmental program.

Paul Michaels

Director, Media Services | Corporate Communications

**EHP | NPRSR**

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