The COO & CFO are in Brisbane tomorrow and Clive is willing to meet with us to discuss options.
BRIEFING NOTE

FROM Treasury

FOR Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

SUBJECT Yabulu Nickel Refinery

Contact Officer Alban Pinz, Economics Division, 3035 1409
Reference No. 03813-2015

Approved by Patrick Wildie, Director, Economic Policy
Approved by Mary-Anne Curtis, DUT

PURPOSE

1. To advise you of the economic, employment and fiscal impacts of any closure of Queensland Nickel’s (QN) Yabulu Nickel and Cobalt refinery (Yabulu) and options to inform any further discussions with QN on the future of the refinery.
Pages 4 through 18 redacted for the following reasons:

Contrary to Public Interest Sch.3(2)(1)(b)
Contrary to public interest
Hi Keith, Dennis & Jim,

Please find attached draft statement re QN – can Treasury please check this ASAP and advise of any issues or concerns.

Cheers

Martin Philip
Senior Media Advisor
Office of the Hon. Curtis Pitt MP
Treasurer
Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

Queensland Government

Executive Building 100 George Street Brisbane QLD 4000
GPO Box 611 Brisbane QLD 4001
Media release
Treasurer
Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
The Honourable Curtis Pitt MP

Friday 9 October 2015

Statement from Queensland Treasurer Curtis Pitt

The Queensland Government was first approached by Queensland Nickel (QN) representatives about the future of QN’s Yabulu refinery on 21 September 2015.
Curtis Pitt

From: Jason Humphreys
Sent: Friday, 9 October 2015 3:30 PM
To: Chris Taylor; Brendan Connell; Angela MacDonagh; Tim Linley
Cc: Lachlan Smith; Martin Philip
Subject: Holding Statement on QN
Attachments: 091015_Queensland Nickel.docx

Importance: High

All

Pl see attached draft statement on QN.

Jason Humphreys
Chief of Staff
Office of the Hon. Curtis Pitt MP
Treasurer
Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
Executive Building 100 George Street Brisbane QLD 4000
GPO Box 611 Brisbane QLD 4001

Queensland Government
Media release
Treasurer
Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
The Honourable Curtis Pitt MP

Friday 9 October 2015

Statement from Queensland Treasurer Curtis Pitt

The Queensland Government was first approached by Queensland Nickel (QN) representatives about the future of QN’s Yabulu refinery on 21 September 2015.
From: Martin Philip
Sent: Saturday, 10 October 2015 12:34 PM
To: Curtis Pitt
Cc: Tim Linley; Lachlan Smith; Jason Humphreys
Subject: QN Lines
Attachments: 091015_Que

Contrary to Public Interest
Media release
Treasurer
Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
The Honourable Curtis Pitt MP

Friday 9 October 2015

Statement from Queensland Treasurer Curtis Pitt

The Queensland Government was first approached by Queensland Nickel (QN) representatives about the future of QN’s Yabulu refinery on 21 September 2015.
Pages 26 through 32 redacted for the following reasons:

Contrary to public interest
This has been seen by the UT and DG of DPC.

Angela thought you should send to the Premier to before sending.

Regards

Jason Humphreys
Chief of Staff
Office of the Hon. Curtis Pitt MP Treasurer
Phone:
Mobile: Contrary to Public Interest
Pages 34 through 35 redacted for the following reasons:

---------------------
Contrary to public interest
Sent from my iPhone

On 10 Oct 2015, at 4:45 pm, Jason Humphreys wrote:

All

Any comments?

Jason Humphreys
Chief of Staff
Office of the Hon. Curtis Pitt MP
Treasurer
Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

Queensland Government

Executive Building 100 George Street Brisbane QLD 4000
GPO Box 611 Brisbane QLD 4001

Contrary to Public Interest

RTI RELEASE
Pages 37 through 38 redacted for the following reasons:

Contrary to public interest
Thanks Keith

Regards

Jason Humphreys
Chief of Staff
Office of the Hon. Curtis Pitt MP Treasurer
Phone: Mobile

On 10 Oct 2015, at 9:59 PM, Keith Millman wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

On 10 Oct 2015, at 4:45 pm, Jason Humphreys wrote:

All

Any comments?

Sch. 3(7)

Queensland Government

Executive Building 100 George Street Brisbane QLD 4000
GPO Box 611 Brisbane QLD 4001

RTI RELEASE

RTI Document No.39
Good letter. Have sent as is to the Premier.

CP

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jason Humphreys
Date: 10 October 2015 6:21:10 pm AEST
To: Curtis Pitt
Cc: Lachlan Smith
Subject: QN letter 10 Oct

Treasurer

This has been seen by the UT and DG of DPC.

Angela thought you should send to the Premier to before sending.

Regards

Jason Humphreys
Chief of Staff
Office of the Hon. Curtis Pitt MP Treasurer
Phone:
Mobile:  Contrary to Public Interest
Pages 43 through 44 redacted for the following reasons:
Contrary to public interest
Premier

Please find attached letter to Clive Mensink MD if Qld Nickel. I intend to send first thing tomorrow.

It's my understand that both Jim Murphy and Dave Stewart have nigh have sighted tin his letter.

CP

> 

>
Pages 46 through 47 redacted for the following reasons:
Contrary to public interest
Curtis Pitt

FYI – reporter is after a response by 1pm

From: Kerryn Manifold
Sent: Tuesday, 13 October 2015 12:19 PM
To: Kerryn Manifold
Subject: RE: Queensland Nickel

Let QN speak for themselves and stay out of it. This will just lead to more questions...

It should be:

The Government won’t comment on the commercial matters of private companies.

From: Martin Philip
Sent: Tuesday, 13 October 2015 12:15 PM
To: Chris Taylor, Kerryn Manifold
Subject: FW: Queensland Nickel

Will call to discuss
Hi Martin

Thanks for your help on this.

As per our conversation, the ABC understands that Clive Palmer is talking with the State Government about support for Queensland Nickel.

Could you please answer the following questions:

Has Queensland Nickel approached the State Government about possible financial support for the company?

What does Queensland Nickel want?

Is the company seeking $25-million?

What has Treasury’s response to this been?

Has Queensland Nickel indicated that without this injection of funds it may face administration?

I would appreciate it if you could get back to me by 1pm.

Many thanks

Dominique

Dominique Schwartz
National Rural and Regional Reporter
ABC Brisbane

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email from your system. The ABC does not represent or warrant that this transmission is secure or virus free. Before opening any attachment you should check for viruses. The ABC's liability is limited to resupplying any email and attachments.
From: Media Reporters  
Sent: Wednesday, 14 October 2015 8:24 AM  
To: Bart Mellish  
Morgan  
Lachlan Smith  
Forbes  
Power  
External - Julia Sheedy  
Connell  
Chris Taylor  
Kirsten MacGregor  
Cc: External - Media Reporters  
Subject: Statement from Clive Palmer on Queensland Nickel

Good morning. Please find a statement below from Clive Palmer re: Queensland Nickel.

Thanks,

Peter Taggart  
Media Reporting Officer, Communication Services  
Strategic Engagement and Protocol  
Department of Premier and Cabinet  

Queensland Government

P 07 3003 9151 M Contrary to Public Interest  
Executive Building, Level 2, 100 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000  
PO Box 15185, City-East, QLD 4002
Media Statement

Clive Palmer tells it like it is on Queensland Nickel

As long as I am the owner of Queensland Nickel I will not allow the company to borrow funds from the Queensland Government.

The simple fact of the matter is that there is no loan from the Government or anyone else.

I understand Queensland Nickel is debt free and has net assets of over $1.9 billion, far more than the Australian and the Courier Mail glued together.

Queensland Nickel has revenue last year exceeding $680,000,000. Queensland Nickel employs around 800 people and another 1500 people depend on its activities. It is responsible for over $1,300,000,000 worth of economic activity in Townsville.

Irresponsible media reports saying I was given the refinery from BHP are false. I paid many millions of dollars to purchase the refinery.

Just as false are claims that I discussed environmental issues with the Treasurer or that there were concerns in this area. Such reporting is fabrication.

The Townsville refinery has been operating for over 40 years. It has an excellent track record.

At the request of the then Queensland Premier, I took what steps were necessary to save the jobs of thousands of people. I put my money on the line for the people of North Queensland and that is the truth of the matter.

Workers at QNI are paid on average more than 25 percent above the award and receive an extra one percent in super each year above what the company is required to pay.

There is no reason to panic just because the price of nickel has dropped. This is typical of some journalists who create stories because they can’t find real ones.

We do things not because they are easy but because they are hard. We have to stick with it and together we will achieve the extraordinary.

Clive Palmer
opinions expressed in this email are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the State of Queensland. This email is confidential and may be subject to a claim of legal privilege. If you have received this email in error, please notify the author and delete this message immediately.
Hi all,

FYI. Please see below from Andrew Cripps.

Thanks,

Kendall Chick
Administration Officer
Office of the Hon. Curtis Pitt MP
Treasurer
Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

Executive Building 100 George Street Brisbane
GPO Box 611 Brisbane QLD 4001

From: Hinchinbrook Electorate Office
Sent: Tuesday, 13 October 2015 6:53 PM
To: State Development & Natural Resources and Mines Environment Deputy Premier
Subject: PALMER NICKEL & COBALT REFINERY, YABULU
Importance: High

The Hon Jackie Trad MP, Deputy Premier
The Hon Curtis Pitt MP, Treasurer
The Hon Anthony Lynham MP, Minister for State Development, Natural Resources & Mines
The Hon Steven Miles MP, Minister for Environment

Dear Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Ministers,

RE: PALMER NICKEL & COBALT REFINERY, YABULU

In recent weeks, a number of rumours have reached me regarding questions about the future of the Palmer Nickel and Cobalt Refinery at Yabulu, in my electorate of Hinchinbrook.

These rumours, while so far unsubstantiated, have been persistent.

The Refinery is a significant employer and an important part of the economy in the Townsville region, especially on Townsville’s Northern Beaches, in my electorate of Hinchinbrook.

I have no desire to unduly alarm employees of the refinery, or to create any unnecessary concern for the community in the Townsville region. However, I would be derelict in my responsibilities not to take a strong interest in this matter.
I believe the Queensland Government needs to publicly clarify if discussions have been held recently with Mr Palmer, or other representatives of the Refinery, about its operational future.

Such a clarification is sought to provide comfort and confidence to the community in the Townsville region, that the Queensland Government is alert to any concerns.

I would like to express my strong desire, as the local MP, to be kept informed and if required, to work together on this important issue, given it is a critical one for many of my constituents, the City of Townsville and North Queensland.

I look forward to your advice.

Yours Sincerely,

Andrew Cripps MP
Member for Hinchinbrook
Shadow Minister for Natural Resources, Mines, State Development and Northern Development

86-92 Herbert Street
PO Box 1515
Ingham, Qld, 4850
PH: (07) 4776 1428
FB: AndrewCrippsMP
W: www.andrewcripps.com.au
Begin forwarded message:

From: Kendall Chick
Date: 18 September 2015 4:20:34 pm AEST
To: Jason Humphreys
Subject: Phone Message - James McDonald (Clive Palmer's Office)

Hi Jason,

Phone message from James McDonald in Clive Palmer's Office looking to tee up a time for a meeting on Monday with the Treasurer and Deputy Premier. He said he had been in discussions with Tim Elder and that the meeting was fairly urgent.

Are you able to give James a call back on

Thanks,

Kendall Chick
Administration Officer
Office of the Hon. Curtis Pitt MP
Treasurer
Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

Executive Building 100 George Street Brisbane
GPO Box 611 Brisbane QLD 4001
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Hayley Lockyer</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Meeting Status:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Organizer:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Required Attendees:</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
FYI

Contrary to Public Interest
From: Jason Humphreys  
Sent: Saturday, 10 October 2015 4:45 PM  
To: Curtis Pitt; 'Jim Murphy'; 'Dennis Molloy'; Keith Millman  
Subject: FW: Queensland Nickel  
Attachments: LETTERHEAD - tres9oct.pdf; 10 October Treasurer Ltr QNI.docx  
Importance: High

All

Any comments?

Jason Humphreys  
Chief of Staff

Office of the Hon. Curtis Pitt MP  
Treasurer  
Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations  
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

Queensland Government

Executive Building 100 George Street Brisbane QLD 4000  
GPO Box 611 Brisbane QLD 4001

Contrary to Public Interest
Pages 69 through 71 redacted for the following reasons:
---------------------------------------------
Contrary to Public Interest
Jason Humphreys

From: Adrian Noon
Sent: Wednesday, 14 October 2015 2:17 PM
To: Jason Humphreys; Tim Linley
Cc: Anthony Lynham; Michael Schaumburg (DSD)
Subject: FW: Corro from Andrew Cripps re Palmer nickel & cobalt refinery - Yabulu
Attachments:

Jason/Tim

How do you want to play it?

I think given Tsy has led, you folks should reply

Adrian

-----Original Message-----
From: Jessica Wu
Sent: Wednesday, 14 October 2015 2:12 PM
To: Adrian Noon
Subject: Corro from Andrew Cripps re Palmer nickel & cobalt refinery - Yabulu

Hi Adrian and Michael,

Andrew Cripps wrote to Minister Lynham, DP, treasurer and Minister Miles yesterday regarding the Palmer Nickel and Cobalt refinery.

He has asked if the Government has had conversations with Mr Palmer/ representatives from the refinery and asked to be kept informed.

Would you be able to confirm if we'd be responding and any comments for the response?

Thank you.

Jessica Wu
Department Liaison Officer
Department of State Development
Queensland Government

tel 3452 7027
mobile Contrary to Public Interest
post PO Box 15009 City East Qld 4002
visit Level 17, 61 Mary St, Brisbane
Jessica.Wu@dsd.qld.gov.au
www.dsd.qld.gov.au

-----Original Message-----
From: David Attrill
Sent: Wednesday, 14 October 2015 12:55 PM
To: dlo.dnrm
Subject: Corro from Andrew Cripps re Palmer nickel & cobalt refinery - Yabulu

Hi Jessica / Linda
I note the attached went to several Ministers - just wanted to confirm if this falls within Min Lynham’s portfolio responsibilities and if you will be drafting a response? If so, I'll make a NRN from the DP’s end.

Thanks!

Kind regards
David Attrill
Departmental Liaison Officer
Office of the Director-General
Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
The Hon Jackie Trad MP, Deputy Premier
The Hon Curtis Pitt MP, Treasurer
The Hon Anthony Lynham MP, Minister for State Development, Natural Resources & Mines
The Hon Steven Miles MP, Minister for Environment

Dear Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Ministers,

RE: PALMER NICKEL & COBALT REFINERY, YABULU

In recent weeks, a number of rumours have reached me regarding questions about the future of the Palmer Nickel and Cobalt Refinery at Yabulu, in my electorate of Hinchinbrook.

These rumours, while so far unsubstantiated, have been persistent.

The Refinery is a significant employer and an important part of the economy in the Townsville region, especially on Townsville's Northern Beaches, in my electorate of Hinchinbrook.

I have no desire to unduly alarm employees of the refinery, or to create any unnecessary concern for the community in the Townsville region. However, I would be derelict in my responsibilities not to take a strong interest in this matter.

I believe the Queensland Government needs to publicly clarify if discussions have been held recently with Mr Palmer, or other representatives of the Refinery, about its operational future.

Such a clarification is sought to provide comfort and confidence to the community in the Townsville region, that the Queensland Government is alert to any concerns.

I would like to express my strong desire, as the local MP, to be kept informed and if required, to work together on this important issue, given it is a critical one for many of my constituents, the City of Townsville and North Queensland.

I look forward to your advice.

Yours Sincerely,

Andrew Cripps MP
Member for Hinchinbrook
Shadow Minister for Natural Resources, Mines, State Development and Northern Development

86-92 Herbert Street
PO Box 1515
Ingham, Qld, 4850
PH: (07) 4776 1428
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It is the addressee's responsibility to scan this message for viruses. The Parliamentary Service does not warrant that the information is free from any virus, defect or error.
Sent from my iPhone

On 10 Oct 2015, at 4:45 pm, Jason Humphreys wrote:

All

Any comments?

Contrary to Public Interest
Pages 92 through 93 redacted for the following reasons:
Contrary to public interest
Here you go.

From: Jason Humphreys  
Sent: Thursday, 24 September 2015 3:40 PM  
To: Jonathan Scott  
Subject: Yabulu brief  

Hi  
Could I pls get a copy of the brief. Thanks  

This email, together with any attachments, is intended for the named recipient(s) only; and may contain privileged and confidential information. If received in error, you are asked to inform the sender as quickly as possible and delete this email and any copies of this from your computer system network.

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## BRIEFING NOTE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FROM</th>
<th>Treasury</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FOR</td>
<td><strong>Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUBJECT</td>
<td>Yabulu Nickel Refinery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact Officer</td>
<td>Alban Pinz, Economics Division, 3035 1409</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reference No.</td>
<td>03813-2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approved by</td>
<td>Patrick Wildie, Director, Economic Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approved by</td>
<td>Mary-Anne Curtis, DUT</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### PURPOSE

1. To advise you of the economic, employment and fiscal impacts of any closure of Queensland Nickel's (QN) Yabulu Nickel and Cobalt refinery (Yabulu) and options to inform any further discussions with QN on the future of the refinery.
Clive Palmer will 'not allow' Queensland Nickel to borrow from state

Date
October 14, 2015 - 9:31 AM

Amy Remeikis

Clive Palmer has claimed he will "not allow" his nickel refinery to borrow money from the Queensland Government, despite holding at least two meetings with senior ministers in the past two weeks.

Mr Palmer and Queensland Nickel representatives have met with both Deputy Premier Jackie Trad and Treasurer Curtis Pitt recently, with the ministers referring to the conversations as "commercial in confidence".

Mr Pitt said no decisions had been made regarding assisting Queensland Nickel, although Mr Palmer fired off a series of disparaging tweets against the state government and Premier on Monday afternoon, following the conclusion of its Cabinet meeting.

The ABC reported Mr Palmer had approached the government for a $25 million loan.

But on Wednesday, Mr Palmer released a statement lashing out at the media, while claiming he would not allow Queensland Nickel to borrow funds from the state government while he was the owner.

"The simple fact of the matter is that there is no loan from the government or anyone else," he said.

"I understand Queensland Nickel is debt free and has net assets of over $1.9 billion, far more than the Australian and the Courier-Mail glued together. "Queensland Nickel has revenue last year exceeding $680,000,000. Queensland Nickel employs around 800 people and another 1500 people depend on its activities."

But Mr Palmer admitted that he had injected his own funds into the company.

"At the request of the then Queensland Premier, I took what steps were necessary to save the jobs of thousands of people," he said.

"I put my money on the line for the people of North Queensland and that is the truth of the matter.

"...There is no reason to panic just because the price of nickel has dropped.

"This is typical of some journalists who create stories because they can't find real ones."

Mr Palmer finished his statement with a quote from US President John F. Kennedy's moon speech.
"We do things not because they are easy but because they are hard," he said.

"We have to stick with it and together we will achieve the extraordinary."

The drop in commodity prices has impacted the Queensland resources sector hard with layoffs and mine closures becoming the norm in the once-booming industry.
Clive Palmer 'not aware' of loan talks with State Government about Queensland Nickel

Queensland mining magnate and federal MP Clive Palmer has distanced himself from reports his company discussed a potential $25 million loan from the State Government.

The Townsville-based business, Queensland Nickel, has faced a slump in nickel prices and environmental problems.

The ABC understands Cabinet debated a potential $25 million loan to Queensland Nickel on Monday, after a series of correspondence between Queensland Treasury and the company about a possible loan and a government guarantee for banking facilities.

State Treasurer Curtis Pitt would not confirm details but said there had been discussions with Queensland Nickel.

"I can confirm that I've met with representatives from Queensland Nickel and including Mr Palmer relating to ... a decline in the nickel price and of course we're interested to see how that's affecting their operations," he said.

However, Mr Palmer told ABC Radio's AM program there had been no discussions that he was "aware of".

"There's no discussions with the Queensland Government at the moment in relation to any loans at all, no," he said.

In 2013-2014, Australian Electoral Commission records show Queensland Nickel donated $15.2 million to the Palmer United Party.

The ABC understands the Queensland Government wanted Mr Palmer's company to open its books before it would consider a loan, but that request was rejected.

It is understood talks between the two sides then broke down.
The ABC asked Mr Palmer if he thought it was appropriate for taxpayers to subsidise a politician's business.

"I'm a politician, I'm not in business," he said.

"Queensland Nickel is a Queensland company ... but it's got nothing to do with me.

"There's no loan, we're not seeking any subsidy — you've got the wrong story my dear — someone is leading you up the garden path."

He did not comment when the ABC then asked if he denied any discussions about a loan or any sort of support.

"Goodbye," Mr Palmer said.

**Union met with Queensland Nickel**

Queensland Nickel is a big north Queensland employer, with up to 800 workers.

The managing director of the company's refinery, Ian Ferguson, has met with Australian Workers Union (AWU) spokesman Cowboy Stockholm.

"I've been given an undertaking by Mr Ferguson that it's business as usual," Mr Stockholm said.

"That security of employment that concerned the union is not a concern.

"He said it will be soldiering on — the plant will just be going along as it goes along, as will the port and and that there's nothing for us to worry about.

"He's given the union those assurances and for that, it makes us feel a hell of a lot better and it should make people around Townsville and the region feel a lot better."

Queensland Nickel is also fighting charges of environmental breaches associated with its refinery.
Good morning. Please find a statement below from Clive Palmer re: Queensland Nickel.

Thanks,

Peter Taggart
Media Reporting Officer, Communication Services
Strategic Engagement and Protocol
Department of Premier and Cabinet

Queensland
Government

PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Federal Member for Fairfax
Federal Leader of the Palmer United Party
Clive Palmer MP

Media Statement

Clive Palmer tells it like it is on Queensland Nickel

As long as I am the owner of Queensland Nickel I will not allow the company to borrow funds from the Queensland Government.

The simple fact of the matter is that there is no loan from the Government or anyone else.

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Irresponsible media reports saying I was given the refinery from BHP are false. I paid many millions of dollars to purchase the refinery.

Just as false are claims that I discussed environmental issues with the Treasurer or that there were concerns in this area. Such reporting is fabrication.

The Townsville refinery has been operating for over 40 years. It has an excellent track record.

At the request of the then Queensland Premier, I took what steps were necessary to save the jobs of thousands of people. I put my money on the line for the people of North Queensland and that is the truth of the matter.

Workers at QNI are paid on average more than 25 percent above the award and receive an extra one percent in super each year above what the company is required to pay.

There is no reason to panic just because the price of nickel has dropped. This is typical of some journalists who create stories because they can’t find real ones.

We do things not because they are easy but because they are hard. We have to stick with it and together we will achieve the extraordinary.

Clive Palmer

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Thanks I have amended

I will give you a buzz to discuss latest.
Lachlan Smith

From: Lachlan Smith
Sent: Wednesday, 14 October 2015 10:41 AM
To: Tim Linley
Subject: FW: PALMER NICKEL & COBALT REFINERY, YABULU

Importance: High

FYI – useful for Premier's party folder.

L

From: Kendall Chick
Sent: Wednesday, 14 October 2015 9:00 AM
To: Jason Humphreys; Martin Philip
Subject: FW: PALMER NICKEL & COBALT REFINERY, YABULU
Importance: High

Hi all,

FYI. Please see below from Andrew Cripps.

Thanks,

Kendall Chick
Administration Officer
Office of the Hon. Curtis Pitt MP
Treasurer
Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

Queensland Government

Executive Building 100 George Street Brisbane
GPO Box 611 Brisbane QLD 4001

From: Hinchinbrook Electorate Office
Sent: Tuesday, 13 October 2015 6:53 PM
To: State Development & Natural Resources and Mines
Treasurer's Office

Subject: PALMER NICKEL & COBALT REFINERY, YABULU
Importance: High

The Hon Jackie Trad MP, Deputy Premier
The Hon Curtis Pitt MP, Treasurer
The Hon Anthony Lynham MP, Minister for State Development, Natural Resources & Mines
The Hon Steven Miles MP, Minister for Environment

Dear Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Ministers,

RE: PALMER NICKEL & COBALT REFINERY, YABULU

From: Flinchinbrook Electorate Office
Sent: Tuesday, 13 October 2015 6:53 PM
To: State Development & Natural Resources and Mines
Treasurer's Office

Subject: PALMER NICKEL & COBALT REFINERY, YABULU
Importance: High

The Hon Jackie Trad MP, Deputy Premier
The Hon Curtis Pitt MP, Treasurer
The Hon Anthony Lynham MP, Minister for State Development, Natural Resources & Mines
The Hon Steven Miles MP, Minister for Environment

Dear Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Ministers,

RE: PALMER NICKEL & COBALT REFINERY, YABULU

From: Lachlan Smith
Sent: Wednesday, 14 October 2015 10:41 AM
To: Tim Linley
Subject: FW: PALMER NICKEL & COBALT REFINERY, YABULU

Importance: High

FYI – useful for Premier's party folder.

L
In recent weeks, a number of rumours have reached me regarding questions about the future of the Palmer Nickel and Cobalt Refinery at Yabulu, in my electorate of Hinchinbrook.

These rumours, while so far unsubstantiated, have been persistent.

The Refinery is a significant employer and an important part of the economy in the Townsville region, especially on Townsville's Northern Beaches, in my electorate of Hinchinbrook.

I have no desire to unduly alarm employees of the refinery, or to create any unnecessary concern for the community in the Townsville region. However, I would be derelict in my responsibilities not to take a strong interest in this matter.

I believe the Queensland Government needs to publicly clarify if discussions have been held recently with Mr Palmer, or other representatives of the Refinery, about its operational future.

Such a clarification is sought to provide comfort and confidence to the community in the Townsville region, that the Queensland Government is alert to any concerns.

I would like to express my strong desire, as the local MP, to be kept informed and if required, to work together on this important issue, given it is a critical one for many of my constituents, the City of Townsville and North Queensland.

I look forward to your advice.

Yours Sincerely,

Andrew Cripps MP
Member for Hinchinbrook
Shadow Minister for Natural Resources, Mines, State Development and Northern Development

86-92 Herbert Street
PO Box 1515
Ingham, Qld, 4850
PH: (07) 4776 1428

FB: AndrewCrippsMP
W: www.andrewcripps.com.au

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Kim Lory
Ministerial Coordinator
Office of the Hon. Curtis Pitt MP
Treasurer
Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
Phone: 3035 1918
Web:  www.treasury.qld.gov.au

Queensland
Government

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Thanks Dennis. Ok with me.
Jim

On 2 Oct 2015, at 6:50 pm, Dennis Molloy wrote:

Please find attached a draft submission.

Regards

Dennis Molloy
A/g Deputy Under Treasurer - Fiscal
Queensland Treasury

<Final (3).docx>

RTI Document No.144
Sch. 3(2)(1)(b)
Dennis

Amended letter for consideration.

Jason Humphreys
Chief of Staff
Office of the Hon. Curtis Pitt MP
Treasurer
Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
Queensland Government
Executive Building 100 George Street Brisbane QLD 4000
GPO Box 611 Brisbane QLD 4001

From: Dennis Molloy
Sent: Thursday, 8 October 2015 3:48 PM
To: Jason Humphreys
Cc: Jim Murphy
Subject: FW: Ltr QNI

Draft letter as requested.

Regards

Dennis

From: Debbie Seagrott
Sent: Thursday, 8 October 2015 3:46 PM
To: Dennis Molloy
Subject: Ltr QNI

Kind Regards

Deb
Contrary to Public Interest

RTI Document No.246
Treasurer

This has been seen by the UT and DG of DPC.

Angela thought you should send to the Premier to before sending.

Regards

Jason Humphreys
Chief of Staff
Office of the Hon. Curtis Pitt MP Treasurer
Phone:
Mobile: Contrary to Public Interest
Martin Philip
Senior Media Advisor
Office of the Hon. Curtis Pitt MP
Treasurer
Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
Mob: 0418 007 337
Executive Building 100 George Street Brisbane QLD 4000
GPO Box 611 Brisbane QLD 4001
Media release
Treasurer
Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
The Honourable Curtis Pitt MP

Friday 9 October 2015

Statement from Queensland Treasurer Curtis Pitt

The Queensland Government was first approached by Queensland Nickel (QN) representatives about the future of QN's Yabulu refinery on 21 September 2015.
Pages 269 through 270 redacted for the following reasons:
- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -
Contrary to Public Interest
Lachlan Smith

From: Jason Humphreys
Sent: Friday, 9 October 2015 3:30 PM
To: Chris Taylor; Brendan Connell; Angela MacDonagh; Tim Linley
Cc: Lachlan Smith; Martin Philip
Subject: Holding Statement on QN
Attachments: 091015_Queensland Nickel.docx

Importance: High

All

Pl see attached draft statement on QN.

Jason Humphreys
Chief of Staff
Office of the Hon. Curtis Pitt MP
Treasurer
Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

Queensland
Government

Executive Building 100 George Street Brisbane QLD 4000
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Friday 9 October 2015

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Media release
Treasurer
Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
The Honourable Curtis Pitt MP

Contrary to Public Interest
Hi Keith, Dennis & Jim,

Please find attached draft statement re QN – can Treasury please check this ASAP and advise of any issues or concerns.

Cheers

Martin Philip
Senior Media Advisor
Office of the Hon. Curtis Pitt MP
Treasurer
Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

Queensland Government
Friday 9 October 2015

Statement from Queensland Treasurer Curtis Pitt

The Queensland Government was first approached by Queensland Nickel (QN) representatives about the future of QN’s Yabulu refinery on 21 September 2015.
From: Jason Humphreys  
Sent: Tuesday, 13 October 2015 12:34 AM  
To: Lachlan Smith; Bart Mellish; Martin Philip  
Subject: QN Min Stat  
Attachments: Queensland Nickel Min Stat.docx

Jason Humphreys  
Chief of Staff  
Office of the Hon. Curtis Pitt MP  
Treasurer  
Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations  
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships  
Queensland Government  
Executive Building 100 George Street Brisbane QLD 4000  
GPO Box 611 Brisbane QLD 4001
From: Martin Philip  
Sent: Sunday, 11 October 2015 7:27 AM  
To: Jason Humphreys; Lachlan Smith  
Subject: QN Lines  
Attachments: QN Lines.docx

Martin Philip  
Senior Media Advisor  
Office of the Hon. Curtis Pitt MP  
Treasurer  
Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations  
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships  
Queensland Government  
GPO Box 611 Brisbane QLD 4001
Pages 285 through 294 redacted for the following reasons:

- Breach of Confidence - Sch.3(8)(1) and Contrary to Public Interest
- Contrary to Public Interest
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Thanks,

Peter Taggart
Media Reporting Officer, Communication Services
Strategic Engagement and Protocol
Department of Premier and Cabinet
P 07 3003 9151 M
Executive Building, Level 2, 100 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000
PO Box 15185, City East, QLD 4002


Clive Palmer's Queensland Nickel in talks over $25 million Government loan

Exclusive by the National Reporting Team’s Mark Willacy and Dominique Schwartz
Updated 21 minutes ago

The Palaszczuk Government and one of Clive Palmer’s key businesses, Queensland Nickel Pty Ltd, were in discussions about a potential $25 million loan to help the company, the ABC can reveal.

It is understood the Queensland Cabinet debated the issue during its weekly meeting yesterday, after a series of correspondence between Treasury and Queensland Nickel Pty Ltd about a possible loan and a Government guarantee for banking facilities.

The office of Treasurer Curtis Pitt has confirmed the Government held discussions with Queensland Nickel about the impact of the slumping world nickel price.

The company operates a nickel refinery at Yabulu, about 25 kilometres north of Townsville.

The plant was once owned by disgraced corporate high-flier Alan Bond. At its peak the refinery employed 900 staff.
But a slump in the nickel price from just over $US13 a pound in early 2011 to $US4.77 a pound now is likely to have put pressure on the business.

"The market is well supplied with nickel," resources analyst David Lennox from Fat Prophets said.

"You throw in China slowing over 2015 and you can see why the nickel price has struggled."

Operations at the ageing Yabulu refinery had to be temporarily suspended last year after allegations its tailings dams overflowed, resulting in toxic sludge having to be channelled to a holding pond next to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

The Queensland Environment Department later investigated and charged Queensland Nickel with six counts of environmental breaches.

The matter is listed for a committal hearing in the Townsville Magistrates Court in early December. The company is fighting the charges.

'No application' for support has been made: Palmer

Queensland Nickel has been the major donor to Mr Palmer's political party, the Palmer United Party (PUP).

During the 2013-2014 financial year, Australian Electoral Commission records show Queensland Nickel bankrolled PUP to the tune of $15.2 million.

The ABC contacted the businessman and federal member for Fairfax to ask if his company was seeking financial support from the Queensland Government.

Mr Palmer said "no application" for support had been made, but he acknowledged the Government "had been in touch looking for information".

When asked what information the Government was seeking, Mr Palmer said "you'll have to ask them" and hung up.

A spokesman for Mr Pitt told the ABC the "State Government had held discussions with Queensland Nickel about the effect the world nickel price is having on its Yabulu refinery".

But the spokesman did not answer questions about whether the discussion related to a possible loan.

He said the Government could make no further comment until Mr Palmer's company had made an official public statement on the matter.

Asked whether the state would offer any funds to the company, Mr Pitt said "there's been no decision to provide any assistance to Queensland Nickel".

Mr Pitt confirmed he had met with company representatives and Mr Palmer.

"Those discussions are commercial-in-confidence and it would not make me a very good treasurer if I was going to discuss matters around a private company in a public forum."

The ABC understands the Palaszczuk Government wanted Mr Palmer's company to open its books before it would consider a loan, but that request was rejected. Talks between the two sides then broke down.

The Australian Workers Union (AWU) said it had been assured by Queensland Nickel managing director of operations Ian Ferguson that it is "business as usual".

AWU Northern District secretary Cowboy Stockholm said he has just had a meeting with Mr Ferguson who told him that "all the hype is unfounded, everyone's jobs are safe" and that they would "soldier on".
Mr Stockholm said Queensland Nickel's refinery and port operations employ between 750 and 800 workers.

In 2010, Mr Palmer rewarded his then 800-strong workforce at the nickel refinery with lavish gifts.

The Queensland Nickel website says he gave away 50 Mercedes Benz cars, 700 international holidays, and 50 weekends to the Sheraton Mirage at Port Douglas.

Mr Palmer acquired Queensland Nickel from BHP Billiton in 2009 when the plant was facing closure.

"It would have been a crushing blow to the workers and their families as well as the regional economy if it had shut down," he said in 2010 after handing out the gifts to his workforce.

Peter Taggart
Media Reporting Officer, Communication Services
Strategic Engagement and Protocol
Department of Premier and Cabinet

Queensland Government

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Treasurer meets Clive Palmer over Townsville's Queensland Nickel refinery

Date
October 13, 2015 - 6:48PM

Amy Remeikis

Queensland Treasurer Curtis Pitt has become the second senior Queensland government member to meet with Clive Palmer to discuss his Queensland Nickel refinery, but he has refused to say whether there was a request for help.

But Mr Pitt did confirm that no decisions regarding assisting the Townsville refinery had been made.

Less than two weeks after Deputy Premier Jackie Trad confirmed she met with Mr Palmer late last month, Mr Pitt said he met with the Federal MP and other Queensland Nickel representatives but said the discussions were protected under "commercial-in-confidence".

Mr Palmer fired off a series of tweets against the Queensland Premier and government on Monday afternoon, highlighting the state's unemployment record under Labor, claiming Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk "has never been a worker" and that "worker men and women in Queensland are disregarded by the Queensland Labor Government".

At an event to release the Queensland Resources Council's report on mining's contribution to the state's economy, its chief executive Michael Roche said the nickel price was in flux.

"What I know about Queensland Nickel is it is a major employer in Townsville...I've watched the nickel price and it is swings and roundabouts," he said.

"I think its making a bit of a comeback at the moment but one would hope Queensland Nickel is a company which is here for the long term.

"It has been an important part of Townsville economy for some decades."

At the same event, Mr Pitt would not discuss whether the government had been approached for assistance, given the impact falling commodity prices are having on refineries such as Mr Palmer's.

"I can confirm that I've met with representatives from Queensland Nickel, including Mr Palmer, relating to the facts that Michael Roche has just referred to and that is there is a decline in the price and of course we are interested to see how that is affecting their operations," he said.
"...Those sorts of discussions are commercial in confidence and it would not make me a very good treasurer if I was going to be discussing matters that involve a private company in a public forum.

"I can say that there has been no decision to provide any assistance to Queensland Nickel."

The government also vowed not to assist Adani with its attempts to get its Galilee Basin project, the Carmichael Mine, set to be the state's biggest coal mine if it gets off the ground, by providing any infrastructure, at the 2015 election.

It has since qualified that as "no direct assistance" and has admitted it has been lobbying the Federal Government to provide the infrastructure funding, such as a rail line from the basin to the port, as part of its Northern Australian initiative.

The ABC reported Mr Palmer had approached the government for a $25 million loan and "a government guarantee for banking facilities". Mr Palmer has denied making an application for assistance.
Clive Palmer's Queensland Nickel in talks over $25 million Government loan

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Updated 21 minutes ago

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Cabinet Matter - Sch.3(2)(1)(b) and Contrary to Public Interest
Contrary to Public Interest