

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **BHP BILLITON REVIEWING OPTIONS FOR ITS NICKEL WEST BUSINESS**

BHP Billiton today announced it is reviewing its Western Australian Nickel West business, comprising the Mt Keith, Cliffs and Leinster mines and associated concentrators, the Kalgoorlie smelter, Kambalda concentrator and the Kwinana refinery.

The review is considering all options for the long-term future of Nickel West, including the potential sale of all or parts of the business, and follows the decision to cease operations in the sub-level cave at Perseverance Underground mine due to safety concerns in December 2013.

Nickel West Asset President, Paul Harvey, said: "Nickel West is one of the world's leading nickel producers. Our reputation is proudly built on the commitment and calibre of our people, and the support of our communities and stakeholders."

"Our focus on working safely and continuing to find and deliver ways to improve the competitiveness of our business is unchanged."

The review of the Nickel West business is consistent with the Company's long held practice of continually reviewing its operations, although it will only pursue options that maximise value for BHP Billiton shareholders. Any potential course of action remains subject to detailed analysis and an assessment of alternatives.

Further information on BHP Billiton can be found at: [www.bhpbilliton.com](http://www.bhpbilliton.com).

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