

Vendor Q&As

Western Australia Nickel temporary suspension

Q1: Who should I contact for more information about my business relationship with BHP during the temporary suspension?

During the temporary suspension, contractors and support from vendors will be needed. All contracted suppliers will be engaged individually and this can be explored more during these discussions. Alternatively, please use your existing contacts within Nickel West to advise us of your interest, we will be using business as usual (BAU) processes during this time.

For further inquiries, you can contact the BHP Commercial team at BHPcommercialteam@bhp.com.

Q2: What is the process for dealing with purchase orders for hired equipment that are still on site and have been cancelled?

If a purchase order has been cancelled in error, it is likely that the order has been reinstated if it involves recent activity. For unresolved issues, contact the BHP Commercial team at BHPcommercialteam@bhp.com.

A team will be established at each site to specifically manage rental equipment, including reconciling what needs to be retained or returned, issuing new orders, and handling damaged or lost equipment.

Q3: When can vendors expect formal communication regarding contract suspensions or terminations?

BHP will engage with each vendor individually based on the specific needs and contract requirements. As BHP progresses with the temporary suspension, contracts that are no longer needed will be addressed, while some may continue in a modified format.

Q4: Is BHP exiting the nickel business due to market conditions?

BHP is not exiting the nickel business. BHP has decided to temporarily suspend the operations of its Western Australia Nickel business due to a global oversupply of nickel. During the temporary suspension, BHP will continue to preserve and maintain the mines and facilities. This includes investing approximately A\$450 million each year to support a potential restart of Western Australia Nickel, should market conditions and outlook improve.

BHP intends to review the decision by February 2027.

Q5: What is the latest date for accepting and invoicing deliveries?

Goods and services will continue to be needed throughout the suspension period. Vendors should submit their claims and deliveries in line with their purchase orders as soon as practicable to help clear open positions and manage supplier books effectively.

Q6: Will further contractors be required for the rampdown, or will current employees handle the work?

A mix of contractors and BHP employees will be used as we move towards temporary suspension. Some work may require specialised skills. Contracting partners will be engaged as needed for various preservation activities.

Q7: What will the need for contractors look like during the temporary suspension?

The exact need for contractors during the temporary suspension is still being determined. Vendors will be required for both specialist and general tasks. The planning will follow standard processes, and vendors will be engaged through BAU processes.

Q8: How will stock that is specific to BHP Nickel West be managed when production stops, and what about items on back order?

Stock management will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Forecasts for required products will be shared, and suppliers should reach out to their commercial contacts to address any concerns about unfinished products or raw materials.

Q9: Will local suppliers be given preference for opportunities that arise?

BHP is committed to supporting local and Indigenous suppliers where possible. However, there may be instances where goods or services need to come from further afield. The aim is to balance local engagement with the specific requirements of the supply chain.

Q10: How will the \$450 million allocated for temporary suspension be distributed among the sites?

The funding will support ongoing preservation and operational needs, including exploration, maintaining the underground mine, and ensuring compliance and integrity of fixed plants.

Q11: What if my purchase order contact is no longer employed by BHP? How can I find out who to contact for queries?

If your purchase order contact is no longer in that role, reach out to the BHP Commercial team at BHPcommercialteam@bhp.com for assistance. For orders related to a contract, contact your contract owner or commercial specialist.

Q12: Will payment terms change during this period?

No changes are anticipated for payment terms. BHP will continue to adhere to its standard payment terms for all partners, including local, small, and Indigenous businesses. Transactions will proceed as usual if invoices and goods are submitted in a timely manner.

Q13: How will mobile plant requirements be managed during the temporary suspension?

During the suspension, some mobile plant will continue to be required for ongoing underground operations and maintenance. The focus will be on minimal operations while maintaining essential equipment and infrastructure.

Q14: Will there be a recording of these meetings available for those who cannot attend?

Recordings of meetings will not be distributed. Instead, a library of questions and answers will be maintained. Regular sessions will be scheduled, and those unable to attend should contact BHP Commercial team or check the Q&A for updates.

Q15: What should we do if we have current jobs with purchase orders? Will they still be received on site?

If you have an open goods purchase order and have not been contacted or received a change order, please continue to supply as per the commitment. If there are any changes, we will communicate the revised requirements. For open service orders, follow guidance from the job initiator and your supervisor. For contracted goods and services suppliers, we will engage in individual conversations about strategic requirements. Continue to work to deliver as committed, and we will address any changes as they arise.

Q16: Will the plant be running in temporary suspension until 2027 or stopping in October?

The plant will be in a temporary suspension phase at reduced capacity, with bulk operations and production suspended. However, some parts of the plant, such as the underground operations, will continue at a reduced capacity.

Q17: Will maintenance of aged resources at Kwinana be prioritised during the shutdown?

During the Kwinana shutdown, critical maintenance activities will be undertaken to transition into temporary suspension. After the shutdown, the asset will undergo preservation activities. Some historical maintenance work may not be completed as part of this process.

Q18: Will there be a gradual removal of equipment, or are there planned dates for bulk demobilisation?

Equipment removal will be gradual. While some equipment might be removed as needed, there may be a bulk demobilisation later. The process will be a mix of gradual removal and a larger-scale operation at the end.

Q19: Will businesses with Leinster commercial leases be preferred suppliers during the suspension?

We are committed to supporting local communities, including Indigenous businesses, where possible. We will continue to engage with local and traditional owner businesses as we move forward.

Q20: What is happening with open purchase orders that were cancelled? Will they be reinstated?

Purchase orders that were closed in error have been reinstated. If your purchase order has not been reinstated, please email the details to the BHP Commercial team for specific follow-up via BHPcommercialteam@bhp.com.

Q21: Can you provide key contacts for each project for updates?

For active projects, engagement will be through project managers. Upcoming projects will use the BAU process to engage vendors.

Q22: When will the Leinster and Mount Keith operations come offline?

Mount Keith mining: Mining will finish in August, with one fleet continuing work on the TSF until Christmas. The mill will operate with existing stocks until early October.

Leinster underground: Production will continue at full capacity until the end of September. From October, it will be in temporary suspension with a reduced level of production, focusing on exploration and maintenance of the block cave underground.

Q23: Are there separate Webex invites for meetings?

The webinar format has us as panellists and attendees in a view-only mode. We use this format due to the large number of invitees which limits interaction to manage logistics effectively. If you experience issues or need a different format, please email the BHP Commercial team via BHPcommercialteam@bhp.com.

Q24: What is the plan for Leinster Town, specifically regarding the town facility maintenance previously managed by BHP?

BHP will continue to provide full services and facilities management and operate Leinster Town, business as usual. This includes doctor services and airport operations. We aim to prioritise residential individuals in our final structure and plan to maintain the town's current residential capacity; resourcing will be provided to support this. The situation will be reviewed at the end of the year.

Q25: What will happen to the Kwinana nickel refinery equipment that is quoted for repair but for which the repair PO hasn't been issued?

For this specific equipment, please send the details to BHPcommercialteam@bhp.com. Reference the equipment raised during the supply briefing, and we will provide a response promptly.

Q26: After production ends at the Smelter, how long will it take to shut down and clean up before closing the gates?

Our current plan targets December for completing the shutdown and cleanup activities. This timeline includes all one-off tasks needed to sustain the temporary suspension state. Maintenance activities will continue after December for ongoing preservation.

Q27: What is the planning for ongoing monitoring of the open pits while in temporary suspension, particularly concerning IT systems?

Comprehensive plans to ensure the ongoing safety of the open pits and the people inspecting and maintaining them, are being finalised. This includes IT systems.

If you have any more questions or need further clarification, please reach out to the relevant contact points provided.