



## BHP outlines investment plans for copper mines in Chile

BHP [hosted](#) an investor and analyst site tour to its copper mines in Chile at which it outlined plans to spend between \$10.7-\$14.7 billion to maintain and boost production, principally at Escondida but also in Pampe Norde with upgrades at Spence and the potential restart of operations at Cerro Colorado. Without the investment, BHP is projecting a decline in its average annual production of 1.3 Mtpa (FY 2020-24) to 0.9 Mtpa (FY 2031-2040). Through various investments at Escondida, including the expansion of the Laguna Seca concentrators and the construction of new concentrator to replace Los Colorados, and Pampe Norde, production could average 1.4 Mtpa (FY 2031-2040). BHP is using a price of \$4.5/lb for its IRR calculations, and estimates annual global copper demand will grow at around 2% per annum in the period to 2050. It expects a global copper deficit of 10 Mt in 2035, which will require a capex of \$250 billion to fill.

Sayona Mining and Piedmont Lithium [announced](#) a merger with the yet to be named new entity controlled by Sayona. The merger will involve equity raisings of around A\$149 million, which will be deployed to fund growth. The merged business will be a leading North American producer and developer, whose assets will include North American Lithium (Canada), a brownfield open pit mining operation with a concentrator with nameplate capacity to produce up to 220kt of spodumene concentrate or 30kt lithium carbonate equivalent (LCE) per year, and Carolina Lithium (USA). The combined hard rock resource base will total 205Mt (measured, indicated and inferred). The merger is expected to complete in 1H 2025.

BW ESS, the global energy storage owner-operator, and ACL Energy, the energy infrastructure developer, have [announced](#) new initiatives in their development pipeline for stand-alone, utility-scale battery energy storage systems in Italy. Following the commitment to three projects totalling 0.4 GW in February, they have now committed to co-developing an additional 11 projects with 2.5 GW of capacity. All 14 projects have secured land and grid access and seven of the projects, totalling over 1 GW, are under review by the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MASE).

## LME Cash Official Price Nickel (USD, 1 year to 22 November 2024)



Source: Bloomberg

**Metal prices**

Metal	Price USD (22 November)	Weekly change %	Year-to-date change %	Price vs 200 day moving average	Price vs 52 week high
Copper	8829	-2.5%	4.2%	95.0%	81.3%
Cobalt	21805	0.3%	-25.3%	87.8%	65.2%
Nickel	15610	0.7%	-4.2%	91.4%	73.4%
Palladium	1021	7.4%	-10.1%	103.3%	83.6%
Platinum	964	2.1%	-3.6%	100.1%	90.5%

Bloomberg codes: LOCADY, BYW1, LONIDY, PLDMLNPM, PLTMLNPM

Source: LME

Notes. All performance data to 22 November 2024. Past performance is not an indicator of future performance and the value of an investment may fall as well as rise. Investors take on currency risk when taking unhedged exposure to commodities.

**The week ahead**

25 Nov	JP: Leading Economic Index; DE: Ifo Business Climate US: Chicago Fed National Activity Index, Dallas Fed Manufacturing Index
26 Nov	US: CBI Distributive Trades; US: S&P/Case-Shiller Home Price, FOMC Minutes
27 Nov	AU: Monthly CPI Indicator; DE, FR: Consumer Confidence US: Core PCE Price Index, Durable Goods Orders, GDP Growth Rate, Personal Income
28 Nov	EU: ECB General Council Meeting; DE, ES: Inflation Rate; ES, IT: Business Confidence EU: Economic Sentiment; CA: Current Account
29 Nov	JP: Industrial Production, Consumer Confidence; JP, DE: Unemployment Rate EU, FR, IT: Inflation Rate; FR: GDP Growth Rate; UK: Financial Stability Report; CA: GDP

**Further reading**

Bloomberg	<a href="#">Indonesia Curbing Nickel Supply to Support Locals, Eramet Says</a>
Bloomberg	<a href="#">California Boosts EV Charging Sector at the Expense of Biofuels</a>
Bloomberg	<a href="#">Paladin's Fission Takeover Is Delayed by Canada Security Review</a>
Reuters	<a href="#">Congo's Gecamines offers \$1 mln to block Chinese deal with cobalt miner Chemaf</a>
Reuters	<a href="#">China's export tax bombshell rocks aluminium market</a>
Reuters	<a href="#">Exxon Mobil signs non-binding lithium supply deal with LG Chem</a>

**Metal Research Major Exchanges Total Copper Inventories (MT)**



Data: as at 22 November 2024

Source: Bloomberg

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