Will The Next Generation HPAL Plants Be Built In Australia

Damian Connelly1, Author

1.Principal Consulting Engineer, METS Engineering Group, West Perth, WA 6872

. Email: Damian.Connelly@metsengineering.com

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# ABSTRACT

Australia had its failures with first generation HPAL plants such as Murrin Murrin, Cawse and Bulong. The second generation plants such as Goro and Ravensthorpe were also problematic. Current nickel prices are at an all time low and even sulphide nickel projects have closed. At the same time Indonesia has built three third generation HPAL projects and is planning seven more on Sulawesi.The usual phases of development, najmely feasibility, approval, construction and commissioning have taken place in record time.In Australia we have a number of HPAL projects in the pipeline but banks are negative on funding and the projects are stalled.

Australia has larger reserves of lateritic nickel but we cant compete with Indonesia. This paper looks at why the Indonesians are successful with their HPAL plants and whats holding back plants being developed in Australia. Why have the Indonesians been able to ramp up to capacity in less than 12 months compared to an average of more than five years in the west.