



**MAJOR MILESTONE:** Capricorn Copper CFO Greg Watson and CEO Carl Hallion with Port of Townsville trade development manager Maria James.

Picture: ALIX SWEENEY

# First shipment of copper leaves port

## CHRIS LEES

THE first shipment of copper from a restarted mine in northwest Queensland has been exported from the Port of Townsville.

Capricorn Copper's mine, about 125km northwest of Mount Isa, produced the 11,800 wet metric tonnes of high-quality copper concentrate which left Townsville yesterday.

The mine was closed in April 2013 when it was known as Birla Mt Gordon Copper Mine and owned by Aditya Birla Minerals. The company

cited falling copper prices as the reason for the closure.

In April last year, the State Government granted the mine prescribed project status to refurbish and restart the operation.

In November, Capricorn Copper announced it had produced its first copper concentrate. Capricorn Copper chairman Owen Hegarty said yesterday's shipment successfully met another significant milestone for the company.

"We are very pleased to see our first sale of copper concentrate shipped through the Port of Townsville," he

said. Mr Hegarty praised facilities at the port, saying their quality meant they could efficiently deliver their product to customers worldwide.

"We are well on our way to delivering the next shipment towards the end of March," he said.

Port of Townsville general manager business development Claudia Brumme-Smith said it was a fantastic day for Capricorn Copper as its first shipment loaded at berth 11.

"We understand this shipment to be the first of many for Capricorn Copper, who are forecasting to produce

more than \$2.5 billion of exports from the mine over its initial 10-year life," she said.

"We have enjoyed working with Capricorn Copper in the lead-up to this important day, and look forward to a long-term productive relationship for many years to come."

Capricorn Copper managing director Carl Hallion said the development of a logistics chain for concentrate with South 32 Cannington Pty Ltd gave Capricorn Copper access to world-class facilities and capabilities.

"Capricorn Copper's track

record of delivering results since acquiring the project and its potential for growth made it one of Australia's newest and most exciting copper producers," he said.

According to the company, the refurbished plant was commissioned on time and on budget late last year, with ramp up to steady state of annual copper production of 30,000 tonnes of copper in concentrate on track for early this year.

Capricorn Copper is operated as an incorporated joint venture owned by EMR Capital and Lighthouse Minerals.