



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

**Mount Isa Transformation Study Must Deliver Structural Reform —
Not Short-Term Fixes, Says MITEZ**

MITEZ (Mount Isa to Townsville Economic Development Zone Inc) has called for the **Mount Isa Transformation Study** to deliver structural, long-term reform that secures the future of the North West Minerals Province and the broader Mount Isa–Townsville corridor.

The study forms part of the joint Federal and Queensland Government support package for Glencore's Mount Isa copper smelter and Townsville refinery operations and will assess the full copper value chain across the North West Minerals Province, including regional supply chains, industrial capability and emerging project opportunities.

MITEZ will advocate for recommendations that reinforce the corridor's interconnected industries, supply chains and regional communities ecosystem.

A Generational Opportunity

MITEZ CEO Maria James said the study must move beyond stabilisation measures and deliver a blueprint for sustainable, resilient and globally competitive industry across the corridor.

“This cannot be about short-term fixes. It must be about structural reform that drives long-term sustainable and resilient industry in the North West, taking into account the vast natural mining resources that form the cornerstone of the MITEZ corridor.

The study must focus on the inherent strengths of the mineral and processing sector, the well-established regional expertise, and build on this by examining future-focused pathways that are globally competitive.”

MITEZ emphasised that Mount Isa and Townsville are not isolated industrial assets, but critical nodes within an interconnected economic corridor that supports contractors, suppliers, service industries and communities across North and North West Queensland.

Key Advocacy Priorities

MITEZ will be advocating for the transformation study to deliver a blue print that ensures growth is accelerated in both existing industries, and emerging industries. The focus must be on:

1. Efficient, cost-effective, game changing regional infrastructure
2. Strengthening regional resilience
3. Reducing barriers and the cost of doing business in the region
4. A globally competitive and investment-ready region

Priority Outcomes:

- Reliable, affordable and sustainable energy
- Competitive, cost-effective and resilient freight logistics
- Water availability, certainty and security
- End-to-end value chain optimisation
- Compelling, robust and profitable investment environment
- Regulatory reforms and streamlined approvals process
- Housing development and community infrastructure

State and National Implications

Ms James said the implications of the study extend beyond the North West.

“We want the MITEZ corridor to thrive for generations — not operate under rolling rescue packages. Sustainable outcomes must involve solutions across energy, water and rail challenges, alongside diversified and resilient value supply chains.

The recommendations must be thorough, robust, innovative and far-reaching because the future of a region is at stake. If we get this wrong, the reverberations will extend well beyond the North West, with state and national ramifications.”

As the peak regional economic development body across seven local government areas from Mount Isa to Townsville, MITEZ will work to ensure the Transformation Study captures the full economic interdependencies of the corridor and delivers outcomes that reinforce long-term regional strength.

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