



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

31 March 2026

### **MITEZ calls for urgent investment in dedicated OSOM corridor to unlock North West Queensland growth**

Mount Isa to Townsville Economic Zone (MITEZ), in partnership with Mayors across the North West Minerals Province, is calling on government to invest in a dedicated Oversize Overmass (OSOM) transport corridor spanning the full MITEZ Corridor.

The proposed corridor would connect Mount Isa through to the Port of Townsville, creating a fit-for-purpose supply chain to support Australia's critical minerals sector and emerging renewable energy developments.

MITEZ CEO Maria James said the region is entering a new phase of development, with increasing demand for the movement of large-scale equipment across the corridor.

"Projects such as Harmony Gold's Eva Copper Project, renewable energy developments across the North West, including those associated with MMG's Dugald River operation and the proposed Dugald River Wind Farm — and the delivery of CopperString 2032 are driving a step-change in demand," Ms James said.

"However, current infrastructure is not configured to support the scale and frequency of these movements safely or efficiently."

MITEZ has highlighted that tens of thousands of heavy vehicle and OSOM movements already occur annually along key sections of the corridor, with increasing interaction between freight and community traffic.

In addition to road and bridge limitations, overhead infrastructure — including hundreds of powerline crossings, is creating significant constraints, requiring lifting, relocation and complex coordination to enable oversized loads to pass.

"These challenges are not isolated, they are systemic across the corridor and are already impacting project delivery timelines and costs," Ms James said.

Without coordinated and proactive investment, MITEZ warns the region faces increased safety risks, reduced efficiency for nationally significant projects, accelerated wear on infrastructure and constraints on Australia's ability to deliver on its energy transition and critical minerals agenda.

MITEZ is seeking government support to plan, fund and deliver a corridor-wide solution, including targeted upgrades to roads and bridges, improved safety infrastructure, standardised design across local government areas and coordinated planning with utility providers.

"This is a region-building initiative," Ms James said.

"It will unlock long-term economic growth, improve safety outcomes and position North West Queensland as a globally competitive hub for resource and energy development."

The proposal has been co-signed by Mayors across the MITEZ Corridor, demonstrating strong regional alignment and a shared commitment to delivering a coordinated solution.

MITEZ stands ready to work with government to progress detailed planning, staging and funding pathways for the corridor.

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