



MEDIA RELEASE

10 June 2026

For Immediate Release

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Mount Isa to Townsville Economic Development Zone (MITEZ) has welcomed today's announcement of a record \$3.2 billion Queensland Government commitment to CopperString, describing the project as one of the most significant pieces of enabling infrastructure for regional Queensland and Australia's economic future.

MITEZ Member Engagement Officer Emily Hall attended today's announcement in Townsville on behalf of MITEZ, representing the voices of industry, local government and community stakeholders across the Mount Isa to Townsville corridor and reinforcing the organisation's long-standing advocacy for the project.

MITEZ CEO Maria James said CopperString was far more than a transmission line.

"Today's announcement on CopperString is a pivotal moment not just for North Queensland, but for Australia's economic future.

CopperString is the enabling infrastructure that unlocks one of the world's most significant critical minerals provinces. It connects Mount Isa and the North West Minerals Province to the National Electricity Market, delivering reliable, affordable power where it's needed most.

For industry, this means the ability to scale projects, reduce costs and create jobs.

For communities, it means stronger regional economies, better services and a more secure future.

Currently, energy constraints are holding back production and investment across the North West. CopperString turns a constrained system into a competitive one.

MITEZ has long advocated for this project because we know it's more than a transmission line, it's nation-building infrastructure that enables critical minerals, energy transition and regional growth.

Many of our members are already investing billions of dollars into new mining, minerals processing, renewable energy and manufacturing projects across the corridor. CopperString provides the certainty and energy security needed to unlock the next wave of investment, support existing operations and create long-term employment opportunities for regional Queenslanders."

Ms James said the project would play a critical role in supporting Australia's critical minerals ambitions and strengthening sovereign supply chains.

"The North West Minerals Province is home to some of the world's most significant deposits of copper, vanadium, phosphate, rare earths and other critical minerals that will be essential to the global energy transition.

Projects cannot proceed without reliable and affordable energy. CopperString provides the foundation for future investment, processing opportunities and regional prosperity."

MITEZ also acknowledged the efforts of local governments, industry partners, community leaders and advocacy organisations who have consistently advocated for the project, recognising today's announcement as another significant milestone in a journey that has been many years in the making.

Ms James said MITEZ welcomed the Queensland Government's continued commitment to progressing the project and the commencement of works along the corridor.

"We welcome this announcement and look forward to working with all partners to ensure CopperString is delivered as quickly as possible and delivers maximum benefit for regional Queensland and the nation."

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About MITEZ

Mount Isa to Townsville Economic Development Zone (MITEZ) is a regional economic development organisation representing seven local government areas and industry stakeholders across North Queensland. MITEZ advocates for infrastructure, investment and policy initiatives that strengthen the economic prosperity and resilience of the Mount Isa to Townsville corridor.

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