



MEDIA RELEASE

2 June 2026

For Immediate Release

MITEZ welcomes North West Energy Fund as key step towards energy affordability and regional growth

MITEZ has welcomed the Queensland Government's opening of the **\$200 million North West Energy Fund**, describing it as an important opportunity to address one of the most significant challenges facing industry and communities across North West Queensland, the cost and reliability of energy.

The Fund is designed to support localised energy solutions across the North West and build on the benefits of CopperString, helping to strengthen energy security, support economic growth and improve the long-term competitiveness of the region.

MITEZ CEO Maria James said affordable and reliable energy remains one of the organisation's highest advocacy priorities and is consistently identified by members as a critical factor influencing investment decisions, productivity and future growth.

"Affordable, reliable energy is one of the most important competitiveness levers available to North West Queensland. If we want to attract investment, support industry expansion and unlock the full potential of the North West Minerals Province, energy affordability must remain front and centre."

Ms James said the announcement aligns strongly with MITEZ's strategic focus on reducing barriers and the cost of doing business while delivering the infrastructure required to support long-term regional growth.

"Our members continue to tell us that energy costs are one of the biggest challenges facing industry. High energy prices impact productivity, constrain investment and reduce the competitiveness of businesses operating in regional and remote Queensland."

"MITEZ has consistently advocated for energy infrastructure upgrades, pricing reform and enabling infrastructure that improves reliability and reduces costs. The North West Energy Fund presents an important opportunity to deliver practical solutions that support both industry and communities."

MITEZ's Strategic Plan 2026–2030 identifies Energy, Water and Freight & Logistics as the region's key infrastructure priorities, recognising that affordable and reliable infrastructure is fundamental to attracting investment, supporting workforce growth and enabling industry expansion.

The organisation believes the success of projects supported through the Fund should ultimately be measured by their ability to reduce the cost of doing business, improve energy reliability and increase investor confidence across the North West.

"The North West Minerals Province contains some of Australia's most significant critical minerals opportunities. To unlock that potential, we need the right settings in place – and affordable, reliable energy is a fundamental part of that equation."

"We look forward to seeing strong proposals emerge through the Fund and will continue working with our members, industry and government to ensure North West Queensland remains competitive, investment-ready and well positioned to capitalise on future opportunities."

MITEZ will continue advocating for initiatives that strengthen regional infrastructure, improve business competitiveness and support sustainable economic development across the Mount Isa to Townsville corridor.

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