

From the ceo's desk.....

The State Government's 2026/2027 Budget was delivered this month. The key headline for the MITEZ corridor was the record investment of **\$3.246 billion** into the **CopperString project**. The capital expenditure planned to progress the project for 2026/27 is **\$420 million**, including Flinders Substation early works, detailed design and approvals, procurement for the Eastern Link, and enabling works for the Western Link.

The **\$200 million North West Energy Fund** continues to investigate energy projects to improve reliability, lower costs and support industry across the west of the region. It will support local energy solutions in and around Mount Isa, Cloncurry, Julia Creek and Richmond to boost reliability and help drive down power costs. The Fund is intended to enhance reliability of electricity supply in the North West Minerals Province and surrounding regions, including through gas, storage and wind and solar projects. Further, as part of the commitment to CopperString, **\$50 million in legacy projects** is also being delivered in communities across the state's north and north west through the Community Benefits Fund. This initiative will deliver community infrastructure, housing and accommodation, as well as economic and workforce development.

A timeframe for construction to commence on the Eastern Link is stated as 2028 with commercial operations from 2032 (subject to approvals). No timeframes for the Western Link have been announced. Connecting the entire North West of Queensland, particularly the **North West Minerals Province**, to the **National Electricity Market (NEM)** is imperative for several intertwined economic, energy and strategic reasons. Without it we cannot unlock economic potential, we cannot integrate renewable energy sources, we cannot have energy security and reliability and we cannot have system-wide productivity and cost efficiencies.



MITEZ recently posted a link to **Discovery Alert**, an on-line mining news platform, as it published a story entitled '**Mount Isa Transformation Study: Shaping Copper's Industrial Future**'. I have read the article and I strongly encourage you to spend ten minutes to do the same. It is an incredibly comprehensive piece: strong, timely and strategically aligned with MITEZ's advocacy position. It frames the Mount Isa Transformation Study not as a narrow operational review, but as a broader test of whether governments are prepared to address the structural conditions needed to keep copper processing viable in North West Queensland. Energy costs are one of the biggest inhibitors.

The introduction compels you to keep reading:

"For much of the twentieth century, the economic logic of processing copper close to where it was mined seemed unassailable. Ore was pulled from the earth, smelted nearby, refined downstream, and shipped to global markets as finished cathode. That vertically integrated model built entire cities, sustained generations of workers, and anchored regional economies across the world's great mining belts. Today, that logic is under siege, squeezed by aging capital infrastructure, the relentless arithmetic of energy costs, and the emergence of lower-cost processing competition in Asia. In North West Queensland, where copper has defined the regional identity for over a century, this pressure has reached a decisive point.

The Mount Isa transformation study, a formally commissioned joint initiative between the Queensland and Commonwealth governments, is the most structured policy response to this challenge that the region has seen. It is not a discussion paper or a ministerial review. It is a full-spectrum value chain assessment spanning every node of the copper production corridor, from the mines of the North West Minerals Province through to the smelter at Mount Isa and the refinery at Townsville. The outcome will shape investment decisions, regional employment trajectories, and Australia's positioning within the global critical minerals supply chain for the remainder of this decade."

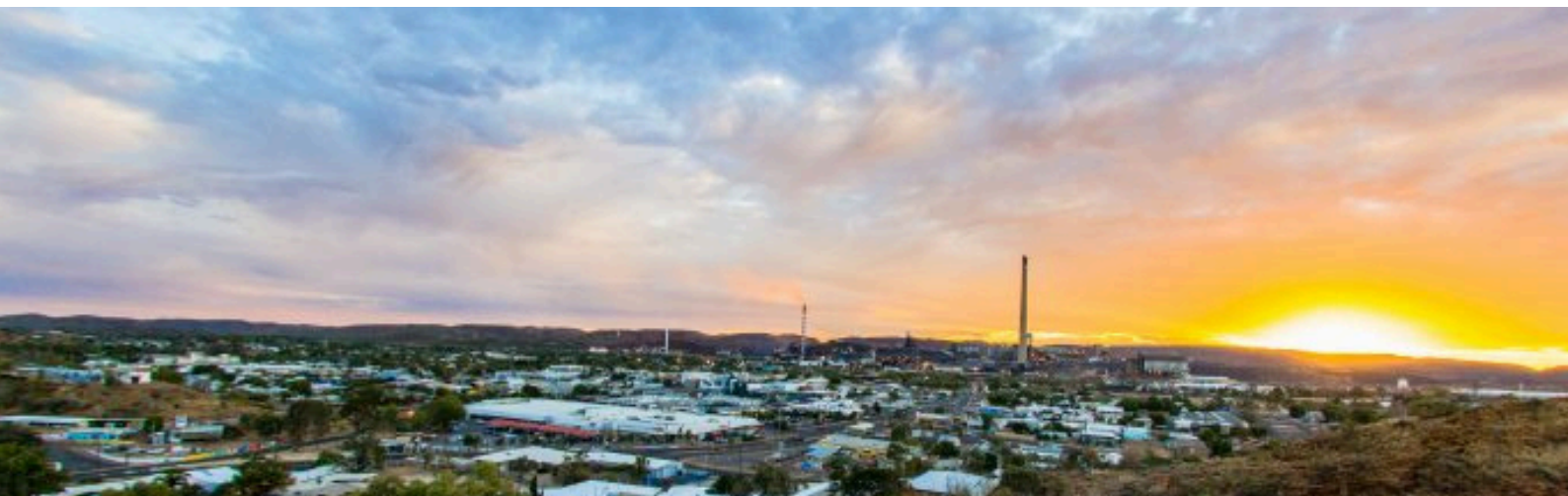


MITEZ has been vocal in arguing that incremental financial support for existing operations is insufficient without addressing the systemic structural barriers that undermine the corridor's competitiveness. The case for structural reform rests on several interconnected deficits:

- **Energy costs:** Industrial power prices in North West Queensland rank among the highest in Australia, adding a significant cost burden to energy-intensive smelting and refining operations that their global competitors do not face to the same degree.
- **Freight and logistics:** The remote location of Mount Isa creates substantial transport cost disadvantages for concentrate haulage and for importing consumables needed in processing operations. Rail infrastructure along the Mount Isa line has faced long-standing capacity and reliability challenges.
- **Water security:** Large-scale copper processing operations require substantial water resources in a region characterised by climatic variability and periodic drought conditions. Long-term water security solutions are essential for confident industrial planning.
- **Workforce and housing:** Attracting and retaining skilled metallurgical and engineering workers in a remote industrial region requires competitive remuneration and quality-of-life infrastructure that can be difficult to deliver without active investment in community amenity.
- **Regulatory timelines:** Approval processes for new mining projects and processing facility expansions in Queensland have historically involved significant lead times, creating uncertainty that deters long-cycle capital investment.

The transformation study's recommendations must engage with each of these structural dimensions – not merely the economics of the processing facilities themselves – if they are to produce outcomes that genuinely reposition the corridor for long-term competitiveness.

[Mount Isa Transformation Study: Copper's Future](#)



Spotlight on OUR NEW MEMBERS



Building a Copper Future in North Queensland

Austral Resources is emerging as a significant player in Queensland's resources sector, with a clear focus on expanding copper production and developing long-term assets across the State's North West minerals province.

At the heart of Austral's operations is the **Mt Kelly** processing facility, where copper is produced using heap leach and solvent extraction–electrowinning technology to deliver LME Grade A copper cathode.

This high-quality product feeds directly into global supply chains, playing a critical role in industries that underpin modern infrastructure, electrification and renewable energy.

The company is targeting significant growth, with ambitions to produce up to **50,000 tonnes** of copper per year as part of its expansion strategy. Austral Resources is advancing a portfolio of projects designed to extend mine life and increase production capacity, including the Anthill open pit project and a broader pipeline of development and exploration assets.

With more than 1,300 square kilometres of prospective exploration tenure and a substantial copper resource base, the company is well positioned to support ongoing growth and regional development. Recent announcements also point to continued exploration success and innovation, including new discoveries near existing infrastructure and initiatives to improve recovery from existing resources.

Austral Resources' operations are closely linked to the broader North Queensland economy, contributing to regional employment and supply chains, export activity through established logistics networks, and the development of the North West Minerals Province

As demand for copper continues to grow globally – driven by electrification, renewable energy and infrastructure – Austral Resources is positioning itself to play an increasingly important role in supplying this critical commodity.



Spotlight on OUR NEW MEMBERS



A WELCOME RETURN

We are delighted to welcome back long-term member **North West Phosphate** after a short break. North West Phosphate is playing an increasingly important role in Australia's resources and agriculture sectors, with a strong focus on unlocking and developing one of the country's most significant phosphate holdings.

The company holds the largest phosphate resource portfolio in Australia, positioning it as a key contributor to future fertiliser supply chains and agricultural productivity.

Phosphate is a critical input for fertilisers, making it essential to global food production. North West Phosphate's work is centred on improving the availability of this vital resource, supporting both domestic agriculture and international markets.

As demand for sustainable food production continues to grow, access to reliable phosphate supply is becoming increasingly important placing North West Phosphate at the centre of a strategically important industry.

With a portfolio of projects across North West Queensland, including developments such as **Paradise South, Paradise North, D-Tree and Barr Creek**, the company is building an asset that will support long-term resource development and economic productivity in North West Queensland.

These projects sit within one of Australia's most resource-rich regions, reinforcing North Queensland's role as a key contributor to both mining and agricultural supply chains.

North West Phosphate is committed to responsible resource development, with a focus on sustainable extraction practices, long-term resource management, and delivering value beyond traditional mining approaches

The company emphasises innovation and a commitment to developing resources that will remain viable and beneficial "now and into the future."

As global demand for agricultural inputs continues to increase, North West Phosphate is well positioned to deliver long-term value through its resource base and project pipeline.

Spotlight on LATEST MEDIA RELEASES & SUBMISSIONS FROM MITEZ



June 2026

Advocating for Stronger Regional Outcomes in Queensland's Critical Minerals Future

MITEZ has lodged a submission to the Queensland Parliament supporting the proposed Critical Minerals Bill while recommending key amendments to ensure project approvals are backed by the infrastructure, workforce and community capacity needed for long-term success. The submission includes seven practical recommendations to strengthen regional outcomes and calls for greater recognition of the Mount Isa to Townsville corridor as a critical minerals and manufacturing hub.

Read the full submission



CopperString Reaches Major Milestone

MITEZ has welcomed the Queensland Government's \$3.2 billion commitment to CopperString, describing the project as nation-building infrastructure that will unlock investment, strengthen energy security and support long-term regional growth. The announcement marks a significant milestone following many years of advocacy by MITEZ, local governments, industry and community partners across the corridor.

Read the full media release



Julia Creek's Unexpected Tourism Success Story

Known for its iconic Dirt n Dust Festival, Julia Creek is quietly becoming one of North West Queensland's emerging wellness destinations, with travellers increasingly extending their stay to experience the town's unique artesian baths and authentic Outback hospitality.

In our latest media release, Overlanders Way Chair and McKinlay Shire Mayor Cr Janene Fegan shares how changing travel trends are creating new opportunities for regional communities, proving that authentic experiences and slow travel are driving tourism growth across the corridor.

Read the full media release



Gulf Water Plan Review

MITEZ sits on the **Gulf Water Plan Working Group** providing feedback and representing the views of our members to the department.

The following key activities and milestones have been achieved:

- **Hydrology Modelling:** Multiple scenarios for the Flinders River catchment have been developed and optimised, focusing on improving water allocation (AVL) performance while minimising impacts on existing entitlement holders. Scenarios considered both large infrastructure and mosaic agriculture approaches, with impacts on existing users kept below 2% in optimised scenarios.
- **Water Licence Conversion:** Engagement has been conducted with entitlement holders regarding the conversion of Licences to Take Water (LTWs) to Water Allocations (WAs). Most stakeholders expressed support, recognising benefits such as enhanced water security and trading opportunities.
- **Trading Zones and Rules:** Proposed trading zones and simplified trading rules have been developed to increase efficiency and transparency. Feedback from preliminary public consultation highlighted the need for simplification.
- **Overland Flow Policy:** Recommendations include increasing the self-assessable limit for overland flow (OLF) from 250ML to 1,000ML, with larger storages requiring a licence. Stakeholder feedback and technical assessments have informed these recommendations.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Ongoing consultation and feedback processes have been established, with policy positions and technical assessments progressing through internal and public consultation phases.
- **Next Steps Identified:** Further hydrological modelling for other catchments, technical and ecological assessments, and continued policy development and stakeholder engagement are planned.

Gulf Water Plan Review Process

**DELIVERING
FOR QUEENSLAND**



State-led DAMA Consultation – Have Your Say

The **Queensland Government** is currently consulting on a proposed **state-led Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA)** – a five-year framework designed to provide regions with greater flexibility to address local workforce shortages through skilled migration. A DAMA allows access to a broader range of occupations and the ability to negotiate concessions to standard visa requirements, helping employers fill critical gaps where local labour is not available.

As part of this process, three delivery models are being considered. Option 1 combines a state-led central hub with strong regional partners, enabling local expertise and on-the-ground support for employers. Option 2 offers a balanced, state-led model with regional delivery through government officers. Option 3 proposes a fully centralised approach, with all functions delivered by a Brisbane-based government team, limiting regional presence and local input.

Members and stakeholders are encouraged to provide feedback through the consultation page, including views on proposed geographical boundaries, preferred delivery model, and the occupations and concessions that will best support your business and industry.

We encourage you to:

- Visit the consultation page: <https://migration.qld.gov.au/dama-consultation>
- Review the proposed geographical boundaries, delivery model options, and supporting materials
- Provide feedback directly through the consultation, including:
 - Your views on regional boundaries and coverage
 - Your preferred service delivery model
- Complete the Occupations and Concessions feedback, focusing only on occupations relevant to your industry and outlining any workforce shortages and suggested concessions

Important: This consultation closes at midnight on **Tuesday, 7 July 2026**. Feedback provided will inform recommendations to the State Government and shape skilled migration settings for the next five years, directly impacting your industry and the region.

Providing clear, evidence-based input will ensure your workforce needs are properly understood and considered.

If you have any questions, you can contact the consultation team directly at

DAMA@migration.qld.gov.au.



Why this matters to MITEZ

MITEZ is sharing this consultation to ensure the voices of regional industry are heard and reflected in decisions shaping workforce outcomes across our region. We are committed to advocating for our members by ensuring all levels of government understand both the immediate workforce pressures and the long-term needs of North West Queensland. Access to a skilled workforce is critical to business continuity, regional growth, and liveability. This consultation is an important opportunity to influence how skilled migration supports our industries over the next five years.

If you would prefer to provide feedback through MITEZ, please contact **Maria James**, CEO, at ceo@mitez.com.au prior to **9:00am Tuesday, 7 July 2026**.



For more information on accessing global talent, resources can be found on the following websites:

- **Migration Queensland - [MQ - Home](#)** - the Queensland Government's central hub for information on skilled and business migration to the state. It provides guidance on visa options, eligibility criteria, and nomination pathways, as well as resources to support migrants, employers, and stakeholders. The site also includes information on living and working in Queensland, occupation lists, current migration programs, and consultation activities aimed at attracting skilled workers to address workforce shortages and support the state's economic growth.
- **Business, Industry and Regional Outreach (BIRO) - [Business, industry and regional outreach](#)** - part of the Department of Home Affairs website outlines how dedicated outreach officers work with businesses, industry groups, government agencies, and regional stakeholders to build understanding of Australia's migration system. BIRO officers provide information on visa pathways to help employers address workforce shortages where local workers are unavailable, and they engage with stakeholders across the country through events and direct support. While general information is provided, individuals must seek advice from registered migration agents or legal practitioners for specific visa guidance.



Productivity Commission “What We Heard” – Regional Airfares Inquiry Update

You may be interested in the latest update from the Productivity Commission’s inquiry into the determinants of regional airfares, with the release of its “What We Heard” paper (June 2026) summarising feedback from communities, industry and stakeholders across Australia.

Key Themes:

Regional aviation is essential, not optional

Feedback strongly reinforced that air services are critical for regional and remote communities, supporting access to healthcare, education, employment and maintaining social connections.

Affordability remains a major concern

Regional travellers consistently reported higher fares compared to metropolitan routes, with limited competition on many routes contributing to elevated prices.

Limited competition and route availability

Many regional routes are serviced by a single airline, reducing choice and price competition. Over time, the number of regional and remote routes has also declined, further restricting access.

Reliability and frequency challenges

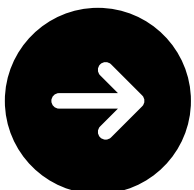
Stakeholders highlighted frequent flight cancellations, delays and limited service frequency, impacting both business and personal travel, including critical trips for medical care.

Financial pressures on regional airports

Regional airports reported operating at a loss in many cases, with local councils and communities effectively subsidising essential aviation infrastructure to maintain connectivity.

For regions like North West Queensland, aviation is a lifeline. It supports FIFO workforces, tourism, freight and essential services. The findings validate long-standing concerns about affordability, accessibility and reliability of regional air travel.

The inquiry is ongoing, with a draft report to follow and a final report due to Government by April 2027. The findings will help inform future policy and potential reforms aimed at improving competition, reducing costs and strengthening regional aviation networks.



Read the full “What We Heard” paper here:

<https://assets.pc.gov.au/2026-06/regional-airfares-heard.pdf>

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Regional Air Connectivity Conversations

Conversations on regional aviation aren't just policy discussions. They directly impact how the MITEZ region does business, grows, and stays connected.

At a recent networking lunch in Townsville, hosted by **Queensland Airports Limited** and **Airnorth**, MITEZ, along with local industry had the opportunity to share real-world insights and influence future air service planning. The discussion focused on what's working, what needs improvement, and how the region's strong pipeline of work can shape future connectivity.

Aviation is a key enabler of business success in North Queensland. Reliable and affordable flights support workforce mobility, allow businesses to service projects across vast distances, and ensure access to clients, suppliers and essential services.

By bringing together key stakeholders across aviation and industry, the discussions reinforced the importance of ensuring regional air services reflect local needs, support future demand, and enable continued economic growth and connectivity across the region, helping to ensure that future aviation decisions are informed by the needs of the region, not just national trends.

Ongoing advocacy and engagement is critical to building a more connected and competitive North Queensland economy.



Employment Services Reform – Get Involved

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) is progressing major reforms to Australia’s employment services system, aiming to deliver a more responsive, person-centred approach that better supports people into meaningful, sustainable work while meeting employer workforce needs.

The proposed model is built on four key principles:

- Employment as the primary goal
- Tailored support based on individual needs
- High-quality, responsive services
- Continuous improvement driven by feedback and evidence

Consultation will continue throughout 2026, with strong emphasis on input from employers, communities and service users.

How to get involved

Stakeholders are encouraged to contribute in the following ways:

- Make a submission on the **Shaping the Future of Employment Services Discussion Paper** (open until 31 July 2026)
- Participate in future consultations, including workshops and stakeholder sessions across the year

DEWR has highlighted that feedback will directly shape a simpler, more effective employment services system.



For more information or to participate, visit:

<https://www.dewr.gov.au/employment-services-reform>

Feel free to share this opportunity with colleagues and stakeholders who may wish to contribute.

Be a leader and shape your industry – Your Next Big Project

Australia needs skilled workers, but this can't happen without the people who train them. BuildSkills Australia is launching a national campaign to raise awareness of Vocational Education and Training (VET) career pathways to encourage experienced professionals to consider training roles.

If you've built your career 'on the tools', there's an opportunity to take that experience further. VET training offers:

- Improved work-life balance and career longevity
- The chance to mentor the next generation
- A meaningful way to stay connected to your trade



It's not about leaving your industry – it's about leading it.

If this sounds like something you or someone you know would be interested in, you can **find out more at yournextbigproject.com.au**



“This role is an opportunity to shape the future of the industry.”

John Murray
National Training Manager /
RTO Manager,
Flick Anticimex

“Your real-world experience brings learning to life and that's something students truly value.”

Rosanne Luca
Teacher, Building
and Construction,
Swinburne University
of Technology



29Metals Update: Progress toward Capricorn Copper restart

29Metals continues to progress plans for the restart of its **Capricorn Copper** operation in North West Queensland after suspension in March 2024 following extreme rainfall and water management challenges. Since then, the company has focused on recovery activities, including significant reductions in on-site water levels, which are no longer considered a barrier to restarting production.

A major milestone is the launch of a **Definitive Feasibility Study (DFS)** to assess a return to operations, with completion targeted by late 2026.

A key requirement for restart remains regulatory approval of a new long-term **tailings storage facility (TSF)**, which will support safe and sustainable operations. Progress on approvals and continued water management will determine the timing of a final restart decision.

Capricorn Copper is a high-grade copper and silver operation within the Mount Isa region, a critical part of Queensland's resources sector and an important contributor to exports via the Port of Townsville.

The site has a 10+ year mine life potential and remains a strategically important asset for copper supply, particularly as demand grows globally through electrification and energy transition trends. While production is not yet reinstated, recent progress indicates the project is moving closer to a restart decision, with water issues largely stabilised, technical and feasibility work underway, and regulatory approvals progressing.

The eventual return of Capricorn Copper will signal renewed activity across jobs, contractors and supply chains in the region, reinforcing the importance of continued collaboration between industry and government to enable timely approvals and long-term project viability.



Aurizon Update: Rail investment and capacity key to North Queensland growth

Aurizon continues to play a critical role in supporting freight and supply chains across North Queensland, with recent developments highlighting both stability in operations and the ongoing importance of rail infrastructure across the MITEZ region.

Aurizon remains Australia's largest rail freight operator, providing integrated logistics solutions across mining, agriculture and industrial sectors. Recent financial results show the business continuing to deliver strong performance, with revenue growth and stable freight volumes, reinforcing the importance of rail to Australia's export economy.

The company has also confirmed it will retain full ownership of its Queensland rail network, signalling a long-term commitment to its integrated rail model and ongoing operations in the state.

Rail freight remains essential to unlocking the region's economic potential, particularly as global demand rises for critical minerals and resources produced in North West Queensland.

Recent policy and planning work has reinforced the need to improve capacity and efficiency across the corridor, including investigations into optimising freight movement on the Mount Isa line, and planning for the Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor, which would improve port connectivity and future freight capacity.

These initiatives align closely with Aurizon's operations and highlight the need for continued investment to ensure the rail network can support growing freight volumes.

MITEZ continues to advocate for coordinated investment across the full 'pit-to-port' supply chain, recognising that rail infrastructure is fundamental to regional competitiveness and long-term economic growth.

As demand for minerals, agriculture and industrial exports continues to grow, Aurizon will remain central to the region's success. Ongoing collaboration between industry, government and regional organisations will be essential to unlock capacity, strengthen supply chains and maximise the value of North Queensland's resources sector.



Major Renewable Energy Milestone for Eva Copper Mine

A significant step forward for sustainable mining in North West Queensland has been announced, with **Aggreko** set to deliver Australia's largest off-grid renewable hybrid power facility for the **Eva Copper Mine Project**.

Under a long-term agreement with Harmony Gold, the facility will combine solar, battery storage, and low-emissions thermal generation to provide reliable, lower-carbon energy for the mine's construction and ongoing operations.

The project includes a 118 MW solar farm, 250 MWh battery energy storage system, and a 104 MVA thermal power facility, enabling high renewable energy use while maintaining consistent power supply for critical operations.

Beyond its technical scale, the development is expected to deliver regional economic benefits, including jobs and opportunities for local contractors and suppliers across Cloncurry and Mount Isa.

This project sets a new benchmark for hybrid energy solutions in Australia's resources sector, demonstrating how large-scale mining can integrate renewable energy to improve sustainability, reduce emissions, and support long-term regional growth.



MITEZ Builds Awareness Through Domestic and Family Violence Training

In May, MITEZ participated in **domestic and family violence (DFV)** training through **DVNQ** as part of Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month. The training, **“Know Domestic and Family Violence – it’s in every neighbourhood,”** was delivered by Nikki from DVNQ and offered valuable, practical insights.

While DFV training is often associated with community and service sector roles, this session reinforced the important message that domestic and family violence is an issue that affects every community, and everyone has a role to play in recognising and responding to it. With statistics showing that one in four women and one in fourteen men in Australia have experienced violence from an intimate partner since the age of 15, building awareness across all workplaces is essential.

The training was engaging, interactive, and highly informative. Participants found it especially useful in building confidence to identify the signs of domestic and family violence and to respond in a safe and supportive way. One of the key takeaways was that small, thoughtful actions can make a significant difference. Knowing how to start a conversation, listen without judgement, and connect someone to appropriate support can have a lasting impact on a person’s safety and wellbeing.

Another valuable component was learning about the Common Risk and Safety Framework, which helps guide safe and consistent responses to people experiencing violence. This understanding is critical in helping to prevent re-victimisation and ensuring that support is centred around what the person wants and needs. The training also provided guidance on how to approach sensitive conversations and ask questions in a respectful and empowering way.

This kind of education demonstrates a genuine commitment to the wellbeing of staff, not only as employees, but as people. Increasing awareness and confidence in this area can contribute to a safer, more supportive workplace, while also strengthening connection and engagement across teams. If your team would like to participate in training, reach out to DVNQ via <https://dvnq.org.au/>

Ending domestic and family violence requires a whole-of-community approach. MITEZ is proud to be part of that effort and remains committed to continuing learning, awareness, and support in this space.



Know Domestic and Family Violence - Free Training Session

Build your confidence to recognise and respond to domestic and family violence in your community. This interactive session provides practical tools, real-world scenarios, and guidance on how to safely support someone and connect them to the right services.

Event Details

Date: Tuesday 7 July

Time: 8:45am arrival | 9:00am start – 1:00pm finish

Location: DVNQ, 263 Ingham Road, Garbutt 4814

Cost: Free

What You'll Learn

- How to recognise signs of domestic and family violence
- Ways to respond safely and ask sensitive questions
- Where to refer for support
- Understanding the victim survivor journey
- The importance of community connection and support

Includes the interactive 'In Her Shoes' activity, designed to build empathy and deepen understanding of the challenges faced by victim survivors.

To find out more and to register -



Streamlining approvals to unlock critical minerals growth

The **Queensland Resources Council (QRC)** has welcomed new legislation aimed at reducing approval timeframes for strategic projects, including critical minerals. The proposed reforms will streamline processes, cut duplication, and improve certainty for industry while maintaining Queensland's strong environmental standards.

QRC **Chief Executive Officer Janette Hewson** said the changes are a practical step toward unlocking investment, supporting the transition from exploration to production, and positioning Queensland as a key supplier of critical minerals globally.

With the resources sector contributing more than **\$115 billion** and supporting nearly **550,000 jobs in 2024–25**, the reforms are expected to strengthen regional economies, accelerate project delivery, and help meet growing demand for resources essential to electrification, new technologies, defence, and AI.

Read more in the QRC media release here - [Strategic Projects Bill welcomed by Queensland resources sector - Queensland Resources Council](#)

Custom Steel Fab aids in expansion project

Custom Steel Fab is proud to be the supplier of structural steel packages consisting of over **300T** of Structural Steel for **AIC Mines Limited** for the **Eloise expansion project**.

This scope of work will be contributing to the development of the new processing structural steel infrastructure to support the following processes: crushing; conveying; magnetic; flotation; screening; surge bin supports; and ball mill structures with pipe racking and service supports.

With thanks to **GR Engineering Services** for choosing a local supplier to the region and for the opportunity to be involved in a significant project. The scope of work currently sits at 75% complete and looks great too!

Supporting local contractors with such an exciting project in the North West ensures local resources are utilized and strengthened. This project showcases the capability, dedication, and expertise of the Custom Steel Fab team who have worked to deliver high-quality structural steel solutions safely and efficiently while meeting mining quality and site project specific standards.

Custom Steel Fab is looking forward to continuing to support major resource and infrastructure projects across Queensland.



Connie Navarro Legal: Supporting regional projects and industry

Connie Navarro Legal continues to play an active role in supporting businesses, landholders and projects across North Queensland, with a strong alignment to the priorities and industries of the MITEZ region.

Based locally and led by **North Queensland practitioner Connie Navarro**, the firm specialises in commercial, property and business law, with particular expertise across agribusiness, mining, energy, and major infrastructure projects.

Connie Navarro Legal works closely with clients involved in

- Agriculture and rural enterprises
- Resources and mining developments
- Energy and infrastructure projects
- Land and water management matters

This cross-sector capability is particularly important in a region where projects often intersect across land access, approvals, commercial structuring and long-term operational planning.

The firm's focus is on delivering practical, outcomes-driven advice to help clients navigate regulatory processes, manage risk and progress projects efficiently. Legal support is critical to enabling timely delivery of projects and ensuring compliance across increasingly complex regulatory environments.

Importantly, Connie Navarro Legal maintains a strong commitment to rural and regional development, with leadership grounded in local experience and a deep understanding of North Queensland communities.

As investment continues across agriculture, mining and infrastructure in North Queensland, access to locally based, sector-specific legal expertise will remain essential.



Ravenswood Gold secures future with major investment

Ravenswood Gold has announced significant developments in 2026, reinforcing the long-term future of one of North Queensland's most important mining operations and a key regional employer.

The company operates Queensland's largest gold mine located south-west of Townsville and recently secured a major refinancing package valued at approximately \$1.4 billion. This deal is designed to stabilise the mine's financial position following a period of high capital investment and changing market conditions, positioning the business for continued growth.

Importantly for the region, the refinancing underpins the operation's workforce of approximately 1,000 and provides confidence in the mine's ongoing contribution to the North Queensland economy.

Alongside the refinancing, Ravenswood Gold is continuing its transition into a large-scale, long-life operation. The company is targeting an increase in production from around 134,000 ounces annually to more than 200,000 ounces per year by 2027–2028, supported by ongoing expansion works and improved infrastructure.

This growth builds on substantial investment since 2020, when the current owners acquired the site and commenced a transformation program to modernise and expand operations. More than \$800 million has been invested into the mine to date, including plant upgrades, fleet improvements and expanded open-pit mining areas.

Ravenswood Gold has a current life of mine of nearly 14 years, supported by an active exploration program that could extend operations further. This provides long-term stability for jobs, supply chains and regional communities.

A key component of the recent financing includes a US\$440 million agreement with Triple Flag Precious Metals, which will purchase a small percentage of future gold production. This arrangement will help to fund operations while maintaining production and cash flow.

Ravenswood Gold continues to play a critical role in the regional economy, with a strong focus on local employment and supply chains. The company reports that almost 90% of its workforce is locally based, supporting North Queensland communities. The operation remains a cornerstone of the region's resources sector and a significant contributor to local procurement and community investment.

As Ravenswood Gold progresses its expansion and ramps up output, it will remain a key driver of economic activity and resilience across the region.



RAVENSWOOD GOLD



The Value of Vanadium

Brendon Grylls, Executive Chair of **Richmond Vanadium Technology (RVT)** discusses the growing role of vanadium in long-duration energy storage, the increasing impact of AI, data centres and electrification on energy demand, as well as RVT's vision for building an Australian mine-to-battery value chain.

The recently announced Project Development Agreement with RKP Global Limited establishes a strategic framework for RVT to evaluate and develop vanadium flow battery and long-duration energy storage opportunities with a binding agreement. RVT is to retain 100% ownership of the Richmond-Julia Creek Vanadium Project with support from RKP for future project-specific delivery including mine-to-battery initiatives.

Watch the discussion with Kerry Stevenson from Making Money Matter.



Measuring What Matters: CRCNA Impact Assessments

What difference does research really make on the ground? The CRC for Developing Northern Australia (CRCNA) is answering that question through a growing suite of impact assessment publications—now available via its publications portal.

Rather than focusing only on reports and outputs, these assessments track real-world outcomes including jobs created, new investment, industry growth, and improved services across northern Australia. Impact reporting centres on the actual change created, helping turn research into clear, actionable insights for communities and decision-makers.

Across sectors such as agriculture, health, supply chains, and First Nations economic development, CRCNA impact assessments show strong returns on investment and tangible regional benefits.

A standout example is the **Co-Mapping on Country project**, which supported Traditional Owner-led land planning. The project delivered an 86x return on investment and helped unlock \$19 million in new capital investment, while building local capability and creating employment.

These publications offer practical insights for regional stakeholders, including:

- Agriculture & aquaculture: Evidence on boosting productivity, expanding export markets, and improving biosecurity
- Supply chains: Lessons in digital adoption and market access across northern logistics networks
- Health & communities: Innovations such as telehealth models for remote service delivery
- First Nations development: Proven approaches to land use planning and community-led enterprise

CRCNA impact assessments are available online and cover a wide range of industries and regions. A new summary publication bringing together key findings is set for release at the Developing Northern Australia Conference on 5 August.

When research is done well, it doesn't just generate knowledge, it delivers measurable outcomes for northern communities and economies.



Standing with Our Regions: Rural Aid in North West Queensland

Across Queensland, and especially in the North West, Rural Aid continues to play a vital role in supporting the people who keep our rural and regional communities strong.

As one of Australia's leading rural charities, Rural Aid provides practical, timely assistance to farmers, their families and rural communities facing the ongoing challenges of drought, flood, fire and the everyday pressures of life on the land.

Their work goes far beyond emergency relief. Rural Aid delivers essential support including water deliveries, hay and fodder, financial assistance and free, confidential counselling services, helping farming families not only recover from hardship, but build resilience for the future.

Importantly for the MITEZ region, this support is not distant. It is right here on the ground. Many in the North West may have recently met Rural Aid representative **Kylie Braes** at the Dirt n Dust Festival in Julia Creek. Based in Cloncurry, Kylie is part of Rural Aid's local presence, connecting directly with communities and ensuring farmers know what support is available and how to access it.

At its core, Rural Aid's mission is to ensure farmers and rural communities are supported before, during and after natural disasters, and to help them remain strong, connected and sustainable into the future.

If you see Kylie around the region, make sure to stop and have a chat, or learn more about how Rural Aid can support you or your community by visiting www.ruralaid.org.au





Eco Catchment Tours – Ecotourism Australia Hall of Fame

Congratulations to **Townsville City Council** on the outstanding achievement of their Eco Catchment Tours being inducted into the Ecotourism Australia Hall of Fame for 2026.

This recognition celebrates 20 years of continuous ECO Certification, making it one of the highest honours in Australia’s sustainable tourism sector. It reflects a long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship, education, and best-practice ecotourism.

The Eco Catchment Tours program continues to showcase the unique natural values of the Townsville region while promoting conservation, community awareness, and responsible tourism experiences. This award highlights that high-quality tourism initiatives can benefit both visitors and local communities.

For more information – [Sustainability Tours – Townsville City Council](#)

IMAGE CREDIT – townsville.qld.gov.au and greentravelguide.org



ABC Heywire Trailblazers 2027: Applications Open

Young regional changemakers are encouraged to apply for the ABC Heywire Trailblazers Program 2027, a national initiative supporting young people already creating positive impact in their communities.

Who can apply?

- Aged 18–28
- Living in regional, rural or remote Australia
- Running an active community project (individuals or teams of up to three)

What you'll gain:

- National exposure through the ABC
- An all-expenses-paid trip to Canberra for the Heywire Youth Summit
- Access to funding opportunities
- Leadership, storytelling and entrepreneurship training
- Ongoing mentoring and networking

Projects can focus on areas such as mental health, environment, social enterprise, education, or community inclusion.

Key date: Applications close 1 August 2026.

Apply here: [We're looking for young changemakers driving regional impact - ABC Heywire](#)

Support regional development – work with



RDA TNWQ is currently recruiting for a Project Coordinator position to support the delivery of their regional development and workforce initiatives across Townsville and North West Queensland. The role will work closely with the CEO and team to coordinate projects, stakeholder engagement activities, reporting and administrative functions that support our organisation's strategic priorities.

The position description can be found on the RDA [website](#) and online here.

Applications, including a cover letter and resume, should be submitted directly to **Dr Lisa McDonald, Chief Executive Officer**, at ceo@rdanwq.org.au.

Please feel free to forward the opportunity to anyone you believe may be a good fit for the role.

Bringing Joy to Local Schools: The Joyful Foundation

The **Joyful Foundation** is a Townsville-based charity dedicated to supporting disadvantaged students across North Queensland and helping them reach their full potential.

The Foundation was established in 2012 to continue the legacy of **Joy Donnellan**, a local teacher, guidance officer, and psychologist. The charity was founded in her memory with the goal of ensuring that students in need have access to the basics required for learning and wellbeing, including stationery packs for students in need. This practical support helps ensure every child can participate fully and confidently in their learning.

A standout initiative is the installation of Buddy Benches in schools and community spaces. These benches offer a safe place for children who may be feeling lonely or excluded, encouraging connection, kindness, and inclusion among peers. Buddy Benches are also recognised as a simple but effective anti-bullying strategy, helping foster more supportive school environments.

Beyond this, the Foundation supports students through sponsorship opportunities and programs like Jump for Joy helping young people access sporting, cultural, and arts activities.

Through its community-driven approach, the Joyful Foundation continues to make a meaningful difference by creating more inclusive schools, supporting wellbeing, and bringing a little more joy to students across the region.

More info [Joyful Foundation | Facebook](#)



Joyful Foundation

931 likes • 931 followers



SAVE
-THE-
DATE



What's on along the MITEZ CORRIDOR

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

FUTURE FORCE AG INTENSIVE SCHOOL 2026

We're excited to launch a new program giving students real-world agricultural experience and industry-ready skills.

The Future Force AG Intensive School is a hands-on experience connecting students with industry, innovation, and career pathways in agriculture.

Students will build practical skills, confidence, and industry connections, while completing a recognised chemical certification.

The program highlights the wide range of opportunities in agriculture and helps students identify clear pathways into further study and careers.

ACROSS TWO ACTION PACKED DAYS, STUDENTS WILL:

- Complete a Chemical Certification Course
- Participate in on-farm and industry visits
- Focus on real-world skills and career pathways in agriculture
- Be guided into employment pathways in agriculture

ELIGIBILITY:

- Enrolled in a QLD high school
- Aged 15 years or older as of 1 October 2026
- Available to attend both days (from dawn till dusk) at the Ag Intensive school
- Committed to completing pre-work (approx. 3 hours) prior to attendance

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 10TH OF AUGUST 2026

WHY APPLY:

- ✓ FREE Opportunity
- ✓ Travel Subsidies Available
- ✓ On-Farm Excursions
- ✓ Industry Connections
- ✓ Pathway into the Ag Industry
- ✓ Regional location opportunity

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST NOW OPEN

- Application close 10th of August 2026
- EOI does not mean guaranteed placement
- Successful applicants will be contacted
- Schools can apply on a student's behalf

CHARTERS TOWERS

SAVE THE DATE!!

THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8	9
OCTOBER	OCTOBER

Supporting students 15-18 years old to gain real-world skills, industry insight and accredited training for the future of agriculture.

WWW.FUTUREFORCE-AG.QLD

W. TITLEY & CO | **100 YEARS** EST. 1926

HEART OF THE GOLDFIELDS RODEO

17TH - 18TH JULY 2026

DALRYMPLE EQUESTRIAN CENTRE CHARTERS TOWERS

**BULL RIDE - SADDLE BRONG
BARREBACK - STEER
WRESTLING
BARRELS - ROPING - JUNIORS**

**LIVE MUSIC - FOOD
STALLS - LICENSED BAR - TRADE STALLS**

Proudly supported by the **Mitakoodi Elders Council**, **Cloncurry Shire Council**, **Currie Diesel & Machinery**, **INDCO**, **ALDRWA**, **NIAA** and **Sun Water**.

NAIDOC ART COMPETITION

Art Exhibition 03 July - 25 July 2026
Or Harvey Sutton Art Gallery

Comp Closure Date THURSDAY 02 JULY 2026

Art Awards Night SATURDAY 11 JULY 2026

Who Can Enter the Competitions?

- Ages 4-100
- Next Generation Youth - Any background, do not need to identify.
- Next five or come from Northwest Queensland region.
- Identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

What are the Art Categories and Prizes?

Next Generation Category (2-10 Years)
1-5 Years \$100, 6-10 Years \$200
Prize amount for the 2 Next
1-5 Years \$100, 2nd Prize \$60, 3rd Prize \$40

Upcoming Artist Award (22) Category (11 Years)
Prize amount of \$500

Creative Initiative Award (11)
Prize amount of \$500

Overall Winner Art Award (11)
Prize amount of \$1,000

Proudly Supported By:
Cloncurry Currys
sunwater INDCO

This NAIDOC Week Activity is delivered with funding support from the National Indigenous Australians Agency.

Register to Enter the Art Comp Today
To Enter the Competition, please email the Mitakoodi Elders Council at: admin@mitakoodi-elderscouncil.com.au

APPLY NOW

NAIDOC WEEK

50 YEARS DEADLY

MONDAY 6TH JULY

AT THE LIBRARY

VISIT THE PATTERNS OF WANAMARRA ROOM

- BOOKS
- MUSIC
- MORNING TEA AT 10am
- MAKE A BOOKMARK
- COLOURING IN'S
- FIND ALL THE ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIAN SYMBOLS TO WIN A PRIZE!

LIBRARY OPEN 8:20AM - 4:00PM

Celebrate culture, Country, Community and Country.

DEADLY

NAIDOC WEEK 2026
50 YEARS OF DEADLY IN HUGHENBERG

Everyone Welcome!

Monday 6 July
Moorinda has exclusive & Robert Gray Memorial Park
Smoking Ceremony - 8am
Led by Mitchell Corrigan in Moorinda Murra Art Sculpture, a time for reflection. Free breakfast provided.

Tuesday 7 July
Elders Morning Tea - 10am to 12pm
Smoko live music, card table, lucky door prizes & activities. Free goodie bags. RSVP's essential by 30 June.

Wednesday 8 July
Youth Event - Fishing Nominations from 7am - activities from 9am to 12pm
4K1G live broadcast, arts and craft activities, fishing comp, activities, giveaways, free lunch.

Thursday 9 July
Munt Walker
Bush Medicine Workshop - 9am
Bush medicine education session, garment demonstration, storytelling and singing. Delivered by Louise De Busch (Wandoomere) with Mitchell Corrigan (Yiverda). Smoko included - RSVP's essential by 30 June.

Friday 10 July
Elders Entertainment Centre
Community Event - 4:30pm to 7:30pm
Live music by Kevin Spencer, dinner competition, free dinner, art comp display and winner announcement.

More info: cd@finders.qld.gov.au or 4741 2900

The NAIDOC Week Activity is delivered with funding support from the National Indigenous Australians Agency.

WINDLAB **SHIRE OF FLINDERS**

COMMERCE NORTH WEST HOSTS

Coach & Coffee Connection

JOIN STUART COOMER & HARRISON RAYNOR AS THEY DISCUSS APA'S REGIONAL ENERGY OPERATIONS, PROJECTS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL SUPPLIERS.

9th July, 2026

Register Now

APA
Australia's energy infrastructure partner

9.30am to 11am
The Buffs Club, The Lodge Room

2026 STREET PARADE THEME

"CHRISTMAS IN JULY"

Time to get your best creation skills on Cloncurry!

18 February
25 March
29 April
27 May
24 June
22 July
26 August
23 September
25 November
16 December

Cuppa with the Councillors 8:30 am

18 February
25 March
29 April
27 May
24 June
22 July
26 August
23 September
25 November
16 December

Outback at Isa

HAVE YOU BOOKED IN FOR FOSSIL SCHOOL?

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

RIVERSLEIGH FOSSIL DISCOVERY CENTRE

\$40 PP

3 HOURS OF FUN!

FOSSIL SORTING
INTERACTIVE LIGHT LUNCH
FREE refreshments

AVAILABLE DATES:
• Tuesday 20th June - 10am
• Tuesday 27th July - 10am
• Wednesday 26th July - 10am

FOLLOW THE LINK TO DO IT TODAY!
<https://www.outbackatisa.com.au/experiences/school-holiday-program/>

2026 ART UNION PRIZE DRAW

1ST PRIZE
2026 Toyota Prado GXL in Pristine White
Reserve price \$18,999

3RD PRIZE
2026 Toyota Hilux in Pristine White
Reserve price \$14,999

2ND PRIZE
4x4 Dual Cab in Pristine White
Reserve price \$16,999

ULTIMATE PACKAGE

Bell & Moir Toyota

ROCKHANA

GEM, MINERAL & MINING FIELD DAY

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY 4TH JULY 2026

SUNDAY 5TH JULY 2026

THE CLONCURRY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MARKETS

REGISTER ONLINE

www.cmcumountisa.edu.au

- Quiet place to study
- Free high speed internet
- Student access 8am to Midnight
- Free printing
- Dual screen computers
- Refreshments
- Local student community
- Face-to-face local support

Bringing degrees closer to regional, rural and remote Australia.

16 Millers Street
Ph: 0472 889 959

ARE YOU STUDYING?

COUNTRY UNIVERSITIES CENTRE MOUNT ISA IS A FREE, SAFE, SECURE STUDY FACILITY FOR ANYONE STUDYING WITH ANY HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION IN AUSTRALIA.

REGISTER ONLINE

www.cmcumountisa.edu.au

MITEZ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CALLING LOCAL ARTISANS, MAKERS & PRODUCERS!

BE PART OF THE MITEZ LONG LUNCH

We're inviting local businesses, producers, makers, artisans and community groups to be part of the Artisan Markets at the MITEZ Long Lunch.

Showcase your products, connect with regional leaders, industry and community, and celebrate the best our North West has to offer.

THURSDAY 16 JULY 2026

JULIA CREEK, OLD MITEZ LONG LUNCH

A CELEBRATION OF OUR REGION

WHY GET INVOLVED?

- High profile event with strong industry, business & community attendance.
- Great opportunity to promote your business and products.
- Support local strengths in our region.

WE ARE SEEKING EDIS ON:

- INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING
- Let us know you'd like to be involved.
- PRODUCTS / SERVICES
- Are you ready to be featured?
- SPACE REQUIREMENTS
- Appropriate space needed for your stall/display.
- LOGISTICAL CONSIDERATIONS
- Power, tables, equipment or other needs?

Interested? Message us or email rd@mitez.com.au or 0419 802 708

Let us showcase the best of our North West!

★ SHOWCASE YOUR TALENT. CONNECT. COLLABORATE. CELEBRATE OUR REGION.

THE BARNYARD BAND

MOUNT ISA MINES RODEO

7-9 AUGUST 2026

Presented by AKUBRA

TICKETS ON SALE
mountisarodeo.com.au

COWBOYS
GOLF DAY

PLAY FOR
THE COWBOYS

FRIDAY 7 AUGUST 2026

Townsville Golf Club

18 Hole Ambrose | Teams of 4

Includes:

- Cowboys Player Appearances
- Exclusive Cowboys Merchandise
- On Course Challenges and Experiences
- Drinks Package Included
- Pre and Post Round Refreshments

TEAMS FILLING FAST. REGISTER NOW



Every swing supports



Community
FOUNDATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

Cowboys Community Foundation

07 4773 0700

golf@cowboys.com.au



Certificate II in Outdoor Power Technology

AUR20820 Certificate II in Outdoor Power Equipment Technology

CORE UNITS

- AURAEA002 Follow environmental and sustainability best practice in an automotive workplace
- AURAF001 Use numbers in an automotive workplace
- AURAF002 Read and respond to automotive workplace information
- AURASA102 Follow safe working practices in an automotive workplace
- AURETR006 Solder electrical wiring and circuits
- AURETR115 Inspect, test and service batteries
- AURPTE102 Inspect and service outdoor power equipment engines
- AURTTK102 Use and maintain tools and equipment in an automotive workplace

ELECTIVE UNITS

- AURPTA101 Carry out pre-repair operations to outdoor power equipment
- AURPTA102 Carry out minor adjustments to outdoor power equipment
- AURPTA103 Service and repair rotary cutting systems
- AURPTA106 Inspect and service line trimming systems and components
- AURPTE103 Diagnose and repair outdoor power equipment engines
- AURTTF101 Inspect and service petrol fuel systems
- AURPTA110 Inspect and service pumping systems
- SIRXCOM002 Work effectively in a team

This course is ideal for anyone interested in a career in the automotive industry. Along with gaining skills and knowledge currently in demand, participants will have the opportunity to complete 8 core units common to a number of automotive industry qualifications.

 Scan Here



 Click Here



A Certificate II in Outdoor Power Equipment Technology will be issued upon successful completion of the accredited competencies in this course.

Mt. Isa

Venue: TBC

WORKSHOP DATES:

17 August 2026

TIMES:

9:00am–5:00pm

DURATION:

8 weeks

DRESS:

Long trousers, dark colored shirt, steel capped boots or shoes

WHAT TO BRING:

USI number & ID

COST:

Co Contribution Fee \$80 plus \$250

*This program is funded under the Queensland Governments Career Start program to eligible participants.

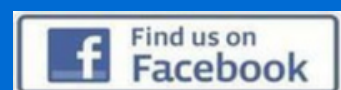
Please email your participants full name and DOB to confirm eligibility before registering.

For information on fees and refunds refer to:
www.rts.qld.edu.au



Ph: 1300787700

Email: admin@rts.qld.edu.au
Website: www.rts.qld.edu.au
RTO No. 40702





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\$70

BILLION

Grant Finder is a customised web portal providing access to billions of dollars in grant funding specific to your needs.

It's FREE for all local businesses, community groups and not-for-profits.

With automatic reminders and application tracking, you'll never miss another funding opportunity.

REGISTER NOW AT WWW.RDANWQ.ORG.AU

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



**Regional
Development
Australia**

TOWNSVILLE AND NORTH WEST QLD

Save The Date



2026 Event Calendar

Key dates for MITEZ engagement



General Meeting Forum 2

Thursday 16 July

MITEZ's major event of the year, *The Long Lunch* will be held in Julia Creek with a Paddock to Plate theme, highlighting North West flood recovery and supporting local graziers while showcasing the strength & resilience of the region's agricultural sector.



Roadshow 1

DATE TBC

LGA, regional members & other businesses
Location: Charters Towers & Hughenden



Roadshow 2

Tuesday 13 & Wednesday 14 October

LGA, regional members & other businesses
Location: Mount Isa

Annual General Meeting & General Meeting Forum 3

Thursday 5 November

Review achievements and future plans
Location: Townsville



Partner with MITEZ —
sponsorship opportunities
available across the NW corridor

Our Members



Critical Minerals Group



DP ENERGY

DYNO NOBEL

