



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**MITEZ Brings the Corridor Together for 2026 Annual Signature Event**

*Mount Isa Mines – Glencore announced as Naming Rights Partner, South32 as Paddock Partner and GHD as Supporting Partner as Julia Creek hosts the 2026 MITEZ Long Lunch.*

**JULIA CREEK, QLD:** The Mount Isa to Townsville Economic Development Zone (MITEZ) will bring together its members, industry partners, government representatives, and regional leaders in Julia Creek on Thursday 16 July for the 2026 MITEZ Long Lunch, this year's MITEZ Annual Signature Event.

Hosted in a different member community each year, the event celebrates the communities, industries, places, and partnerships shaping the future of the Mount Isa to Townsville corridor. It provides a unique opportunity to strengthen relationships, showcase regional capability, and advance the priorities that matter most to North West Queensland.

Held the day following the Coexistence Queensland Symposium, the event is expected to welcome more than 100 delegates from across Queensland, providing an opportunity to continue important conversations around regional development, investment, and collaboration while experiencing first hand one of MITEZ's member communities.

For Julia Creek, the event represents a significant opportunity to showcase its people, businesses, and hospitality while highlighting the broader opportunities that exist across the Mount Isa to Townsville corridor.

The 2026 MITEZ Long Lunch is delivered by MITEZ in partnership with McKinlay Shire Council, Coexistence Queensland, and the Overlanders Way Tourism Group, reflecting a shared commitment to showcasing regional communities, strengthening partnerships, and promoting the opportunities that exist across North West Queensland.

MITEZ Chief Executive Officer Maria James said the Annual Signature Event was an important opportunity to connect the people and organizations shaping the future of the corridor.

"Our Annual Signature Event is about bringing the corridor together," Ms James said. "Each year we showcase one of our member communities while creating opportunities for industry, government, and regional leaders to strengthen partnerships and advance the priorities of North West Queensland."

"This year, we are proud to bring the MITEZ Long Lunch to Julia Creek. We also thank Mount Isa Mines - Glencore, South32, GHD and our other event partners for their support. Their investment reflects a shared commitment to our region and demonstrates the value of industry, government, and communities working together to build a stronger future."

## **Major Event Partners**

### **Mount Isa Mines - Naming Rights Partner**

MITEZ welcomes Mount Isa Mines – Glencore as the Naming Rights Partner for the 2026 MITEZ Long Lunch. With more than a century of operations in North West Queensland, Mount Isa Mines continues to make a significant contribution to the region's economy, communities, and future prosperity.

Jonathan Eden, Manager of Health, Safety, Environment, and Community, said Glencore was proud to be the naming rights partner for the Long Lunch.

"We are proud to support this event showcasing the strength of local capability from the Mount Isa to Townsville corridor. Together we can keep driving the priorities that matter for North West Queensland's future," Mr Eden said.

### **South32 - Paddock Partner**

MITEZ welcomes South32 as the Paddock Partner for the 2026 MITEZ Long Lunch. South32's partnership supports the event's signature paddock to plate experience, celebrating the producers, graziers, and agricultural businesses that are central to the identity and economy of the Mount Isa to Townsville corridor.

### **GHD - Supporting Partner**

MITEZ welcomes GHD as the Supporting Partner for the 2026 MITEZ Long Lunch. GHD's support reflects its commitment to regional collaboration, infrastructure, and sustainable development, helping create an event that brings together leaders from across the corridor to strengthen relationships and shape the region's future.

Bradley Hamilton, GHD Representative, said the lunch is a vital mechanism for regional continuity.

"For GHD, this corridor matters because the economic, social, and environmental links across the North West are deeply interconnected," Mr Hamilton said. "The MITEZ Long Lunch is a practical way to strengthen connections, rebuild confidence, and make choices that support a more resilient future for Julia Creek and the wider region."

### **Community and Logistics Supporting Sponsors**

MITEZ acknowledges the collective support of regional businesses helping local graziers attend this year's event. Louis Dreyfus Company and Qld Cotton have joined as community support partners, providing additional sponsorship to cover attendance costs, while Lucas Findley and Findley Farms have sponsored tickets for local producers. This support ensures primary producers can take part alongside industry, government, and community leaders.

MITEZ member Rrets is also supporting the event as the in-kind bus sponsor, providing transport for attendees to and from the lunch.

McKinlay Shire Mayor Cr Janene Fegan said hosting the Annual Signature Event was an opportunity to showcase Julia Creek while celebrating the broader region.

"Hosting the MITEZ Long Lunch allows us to welcome leaders from across Queensland, showcase our community, and demonstrate the important role regional towns play in the

success of the Mount Isa to Townsville corridor," Cr Fegan said. "We are proud to share our community and the opportunities that exist across North West Queensland."

The 2026 MITEZ Long Lunch will feature a premium paddock to plate dining experience showcasing regional produce, keynote speakers, artisan market stalls, and live entertainment.

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### **About MITEZ**

The **Mount Isa to Townsville Economic Development Zone (MITEZ)** is the leading advocate for North West Queensland. Representing seven local government areas spanning more than 900 kilometres, MITEZ brings together industry, government, and community partners to advocate for investment, strengthen regional collaboration, and unlock opportunities across mining and critical minerals, agriculture, tourism, energy, defence, and transport.