



MEDIA RELEASE

22ND July 2026

For Immediate Release

Regional partnerships take centre stage at MITEZ Annual Signature Event

More than 120 representatives from industry, government, local government, agriculture and regional communities came together in Julia Creek for MITEZ's 2026 Annual Signature Event, delivered this year through the theme of The Long Lunch.

Hosted immediately following the Coexistence Queensland Symposium, the event provided a unique opportunity to continue important conversations around regional development, disaster recovery, investment and long-term economic growth while showcasing one of MITEZ's member communities.

Each year, MITEZ's Annual Signature Event is hosted in a different community across the Mount Isa to Townsville corridor, celebrating the people, industries, places and partnerships that drive one of Australia's most significant regional economies.

This year's event was proudly delivered by MITEZ in partnership with McKinlay Shire Council, Coexistence Queensland and the Overlanders Way Tourism Group, demonstrating the power of collaboration in supporting regional communities and creating opportunities across North West Queensland.

MITEZ Chief Executive Officer Maria James said the event highlighted why the region deserves continued attention well beyond periods of natural disaster.

"The conversations throughout the day reinforced that North West Queensland should not only be in the spotlight during times of crisis. It is a region of enormous opportunity, innovation and economic importance, and it deserves ongoing investment, collaboration and support."

"Our Annual Signature Event is about bringing the corridor together. By connecting our members with industry, government and community leaders, we create opportunities to

strengthen partnerships, celebrate regional success and continue advocating for the priorities that matter most to North West Queensland."

The event welcomed Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers, the Hon. Ann Leahy MP; Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon. Tony Perrett MP; Assistant Minister Sean Dillon; Assistant Minister Bryson Head; and Member for Traeger Robbie Katter MP, alongside MITEZ members, local government leaders, industry representatives, local graziers and regional stakeholders.

Guests heard from keynote speaker Sam Fryer, regional producer Lucas Findley and a range of regional voices who shared insights into innovation, agriculture, investment, succession planning and the future of primary production. The program concluded with a panel discussion exploring the future of North West Queensland, featuring Robbie Katter MP, Dr Lisa McDonald, Cr Kate Peddle, Shane McCarthy, Brad Hamilton and MITEZ Chair Charles Buchanan, moderated by Maria James. Discussions focused on regional investment, workforce, productivity, agriculture and the opportunities emerging across the corridor.

Recognising Our Partners

MITEZ acknowledged the outstanding support of its **Major Event Partners**:

- **Mount Isa Mines** - Naming Rights Partner
- **South32** - Paddock Partner
- **GHD** - Supporting Partner

whose investment helped deliver this year's Annual Signature Event and demonstrated their shared commitment to the future of North West Queensland.

MITEZ also thanked its event sponsors and supporters, including Louis Dreyfus Company, Queensland Cotton, RRETS Group and Gulf Cotton, together with its delivery partners, volunteers, producers and local businesses whose contributions helped make the event possible.

2026 Annual Signature Event Outcomes

The 2026 MITEZ Annual Signature Event successfully:

- Brought together more than 120 representatives from industry, government, local government and regional communities.
- Strengthened relationships across the Mount Isa to Townsville corridor.
- Continued important discussions on disaster recovery, regional investment, workforce and economic development.

- Showcased Julia Creek and the broader corridor as a destination for investment, tourism and regional leadership.
- Celebrated regional producers, businesses and community organisations through a premium paddock-to-plate experience.
- Reinforced the importance of ongoing collaboration to support the future prosperity of North West Queensland.

MITEZ Chair Charles Buchanan said the event reflected the organisation's commitment to creating stronger connections across the corridor.

"Every year our Annual Signature Event showcases a different member community while bringing together the people and organisations committed to the future of our region. It is these partnerships and conversations that will help shape a stronger, more resilient and more prosperous North West Queensland."

As the leading advocate for North West Queensland, MITEZ will continue to lead regional collaboration, strengthen strategic partnerships and advocate for the investment needed to unlock the corridor's full potential.

ENDS

Media Contact

Jennifer Vrana - Executive Officer
0419 802 708
EO@mitez.com.au

Media Assets

Professional event photography, interviews and additional background information are available upon request.