

from the ceo's desk.....

Reflecting (and recovering) following the MITEZ Long Lunch, I wanted to touch on a phrase I heard repeatedly growing up in a farming community – 'I'm just a farmer'. Farmers are not just farmers. They are an integral part of the prosperity of Queensland and Australia.

A speech at an Awards Dinner many years ago addressed the same point: "I believe agriculture is really important and that it is something that Australia does very well," David Crombie said. "There's a view out there that 'oh, I'm just a farmer'. Well, no, we're not just farmers, Australian farmers are amongst the best food producers in the world. We need to be telling and selling the Australian agriculture story, convincing customers about the reliability and traceability of our produce and the ethical production standards behind what we grow."

This applies across all jurisdictions and all States. Farmers as an integral part of the prosperity of North and North West Queensland. The food and fibre produced here is sought after by trade and international security partners, and it's also the food we rely on at our local supermarkets.

- Queensland's primary industries reached a record gross value of production of **\$26.8 billion** in 2024–25, an 18.3% increase on the previous year and the highest result on record.
- The Queensland Government has set an ambitious target of growing primary industry production to **\$30 billion** by 2030, supported through the new **Prosper 2050 long-term industry blueprint**. If this goal is to be achieved, it will need to come from regions like the North West through:
 - Beef productivity
 - Water security
 - Freight efficiency
 - Workforce development
 - And new agricultural opportunities
- Queensland exported a record **\$15.6 billion** worth of agricultural and food products in 2024–25 to more than 130 countries. That is approximately **\$43 million** in exports every day to over two-thirds of all countries on earth. The MITEZ corridor is on the dinner plates across Asia, North America, and Europe.
- Beef remains Queensland's powerhouse commodity and the number one agricultural export, contributing almost **\$7.9 billion** and representing around 30% of the state's agricultural production value. We are the nation's cattle capital.

- Followed by Cotton; Sugar and sugar products; Wheat and grains; chickpeas
- Fastest growing is chickpeas with high demand from India as a food staple for hundreds of millions of people and is now one of Queensland's top agricultural export markets.
- Queensland's cattle industry is particularly important to the North West and MITEZ corridor, where beef production underpins regional economies, jobs, freight demand and export growth.
- Agriculture, fisheries and forestry support around 382,000 jobs across Queensland, with more than 65,000 people employed directly in primary production, representing 13% of Queensland's workforce, or roughly equivalent to the population of Canberra.
- Around 78% of Queensland's land area is used for agricultural production, reinforcing the importance of regional and rural communities to the state's economy.
- AgTech and innovation are becoming major drivers of productivity, with Queensland investing in research, digital agriculture, automation, artificial intelligence, and on-farm technology adoption.
- The state's agricultural future will increasingly rely on attracting and developing a skilled regional workforce, with industry and government working together to build career pathways in agriculture, science and technology.
- The MITEZ corridor is strategically positioned to benefit from growing demand for food, fibre, renewable energy and export opportunities, given its connection to key freight routes, ports and northern markets.
- Regional infrastructure including roads, rail, telecommunications, water infrastructure and freight networks continues to be critical to unlocking future agricultural growth across Northern Australia and the MITEZ region.

The story of Queensland agriculture is increasingly a story of regional Queensland. From beef production and biosecurity to water, freight, workforce and innovation, the opportunities that will drive the state's next phase of growth are heavily concentrated in regions like North West Queensland and along the MITEZ corridor.





More than 120 representatives from industry, government, local government, agriculture and regional communities gathered in Julia Creek on 16 July for **MITEZ's 2026 Annual Signature Event – The Long Lunch**, celebrating the partnerships, industries and people driving the future of North West Queensland.

Hosted in partnership with **McKinlay Shire Council, Coexistence Queensland** and the **Overlanders Way Tourism Group**, this year's event showcased Julia Creek as a thriving regional community while reinforcing the importance of collaboration in shaping the future of the Mount Isa to Townsville corridor. The event followed the Coexistence Queensland Symposium, allowing important conversations around regional development, disaster recovery, investment and economic growth to continue in a relaxed paddock-to-plate setting.

Guests were welcomed by **MITEZ Chief Executive Officer Maria James** and **McKinlay Shire Mayor Janene Fegan**, before hearing addresses from **Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers, the Hon. Ann Leahy MP**, and **Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon. Tony Perrett MP**. The event was also attended by **Assistant Minister Sean Dillon MP, Assistant Minister Bryson Head MP, Member for Traeger Robbie Katter MP**, and a broad range of government, industry and local government representatives, reflecting the significance of North West Queensland and the opportunities emerging across the region.

The day's program celebrated regional innovation and leadership through presentations from regional producer **Lucas Findley of Gulf Cotton** and keynote speaker **Sam Fryer**, who shared insights into regional investment, succession planning and building resilient communities. Guests then enjoyed a locally inspired paddock-to-plate banquet, expertly prepared by **Head Chef Harrison Wall** and his team, showcasing premium North West beef, lamb and goat alongside local produce and regional flavours.



The afternoon concluded with an engaging panel discussion featuring **Robbie Katter MP, Dr Lisa McDonald, Cr Kate Peddle, Shane McCarthy, Brad Hamilton** and **Charles Buchanan**, moderated by MITEZ Chief Executive Officer Maria James. Discussion centred on regional investment, agriculture, workforce, productivity and the opportunities ahead for North West Queensland.

MITEZ extends its sincere thanks to our Naming Rights Partner, **Glencore – Mount Isa Mines**, together with **South32, GHD, Louis Dreyfus Company, Queensland Cotton, RRETS Group, Gulf Cotton**, our volunteers, producers, local businesses and everyone who contributed to making the day such a success. Their support helped deliver an event that not only celebrated our region but strengthened the relationships that underpin its future.

Each year, MITEZ's Annual Signature Event is held in a different member community, showcasing the diversity, resilience and opportunities that exist across the Mount Isa to Townsville corridor. The 2026 Long Lunch reinforced MITEZ's commitment to bringing people together, advocating for regional priorities and creating opportunities for collaboration that will benefit North West Queensland for years to come.



A team effort to **REMEMBER**

Events like The Long Lunch don't happen by chance, they happen because of an incredible team willing to roll up their sleeves, adapt, problem-solve and go above and beyond. A **BIG** thank you to everyone who helped deliver our 2026 Annual Signature Event.

Our MITEZ Team

- Maria James – Chief Executive Officer
- Jennifer Vrana – Executive Officer
- Emily Hall – Membership Engagement Officer
- Clare O'Brien – Grants & Research Officer
- Renae Forward – Events & Communications Support

We'd also like to recognise the wonderful event partners of our extended event team:

- Stephanie O'Leary – Coexistence Queensland
- Charlene Broad – Coexistence Queensland

And, of course, a very special thank you to our honorary MITEZ husbands, whose support behind the scenes never goes unnoticed.

- Ben James
- Sean Vrana

From planning and logistics to registrations, styling, kitchen coordination, bar service, media, photography support, pack-down and the countless behind-the-scenes jobs that no one ever sees, every single person stepped up when it mattered most.

Your commitment, enthusiasm and willingness to simply **"get it done"** made this event the success it was. We are incredibly proud of what we achieved together and grateful to have such an amazing team representing MITEZ. Thank you all for going above and beyond. We couldn't have done it without you.



Spotlight on LATEST MEDIA RELEASES & SUBMISSIONS FROM MITEZ



July 2026

MITEZ submission calls for corridor-wide transformation of North West Queensland

MITEZ has lodged its submission to the **Mount Isa Transformation Study**, calling on the Queensland Government to move beyond short-term support measures and develop a long-term transformation plan for the entire Mount Isa to Townsville corridor.

The submission argues that the Mount Isa Copper Smelter, Townsville Copper Refinery, Mount Isa Rail Line and Port of Townsville should be considered as one integrated industrial system, recognising the significant flow-on impacts for jobs, regional businesses, freight, energy, sulphuric acid production, fertiliser supply chains and emerging critical minerals projects.

As the only regional economic development organisation representing the full Mount Isa to Townsville corridor, MITEZ has recommended the establishment of a funded Corridor Transformation Framework to coordinate investment in enabling infrastructure, including CopperString (and the Western Link), rail, port, water, workforce, housing and industrial development. The submission also proposes a public-interest investment framework, common-user processing opportunities and stronger collaboration between government, industry, local government and regional stakeholders.

Chief Executive Officer Maria James said the study presents an important opportunity to secure the long-term future of one of Australia's most significant industrial and minerals processing regions.

"Our region has the resources, infrastructure and expertise to remain a global leader in minerals processing. This is about ensuring we have a coordinated plan that supports industry, communities and future investment for decades to come."

MITEZ looks forward to continuing to work collaboratively with government, industry and regional partners as the Transformation Study progresses.

Regional partnerships take centre stage at MITEZ annual signature event

More than 120 representatives from industry, government, local government and regional communities gathered in Julia Creek for the 2026 MITEZ annual signature event, celebrating the partnerships, people and industries driving North West Queensland's future.

Read how the event brought the corridor together, the key outcomes achieved, and why collaboration remains at the heart of regional prosperity.

Read the full media release on our website.

[READ MORE](#)



New investment strengthens North West Queensland's cropping future

North West Queensland's emerging cropping industry has received a significant boost, with a **\$5.3 million investment** announced to accelerate research and development into cotton, grains and pulse production across the region. The joint initiative, supported by the **Queensland Government**, the **Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC)** and the **Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC)**, aims to unlock new agricultural opportunities and support the long-term diversification of the region's economy.

The Unlocking Farming Systems for North Queensland program has set ambitious targets of producing 100,000 bales of cotton and growing the region's grain and pulse industry to \$100 million annually by 2035. Initial research will focus on the Upper and Lower Flinders catchments before expanding across other parts of North West Queensland.

For MITEZ, the announcement reinforces the significant work already underway across the corridor to diversify regional economies through irrigated and dryland agriculture.

Richmond Shire Council has emerged as a leader in this transition, actively championing agricultural diversification alongside its traditional grazing sector. Recent commercial success with dryland chickpeas and sorghum has demonstrated the viability of broadacre cropping in the region, while continued investigations into irrigated agriculture and cotton continue to strengthen the region's long-term outlook.

The announcement also builds on work previously undertaken by MITEZ through the North Queensland Cotton Gin Assessment and Feasibility Study, commissioned to examine the commercial viability of establishing a cotton gin in North Queensland. The study recognised that the region possesses the climate, land availability and long-term production potential to support a viable cotton industry, while highlighting the importance of coordinated industry growth, infrastructure investment and increased production volumes to underpin future processing opportunities.

You can read the report here: [North Queensland Cotton Gin Assessment & Feasibility Study](#)

Economic diversification through agriculture presents opportunities well beyond the farm gate. Increased cropping production has the potential to stimulate investment in freight and logistics, storage and processing facilities, agricultural services, manufacturing and regional supply chains. It also strengthens community resilience by broadening the region's economic base and creating new employment opportunities across the Mount Isa to Townsville Corridor.

MITEZ welcomes this investment and will continue to advocate for the infrastructure, water security, research and policy settings needed to support sustainable agricultural growth and regional economic diversification across the corridor.



Ergon Energy Network Update: Investing in Queensland's Energy Future



Ergon Energy Network continues to invest in maintaining and upgrading its regional electricity network to support population growth, industry development and Queensland's energy transition. The organisation is progressing major network projects aimed at improving reliability, resilience and capacity across regional Queensland, while also preparing the network for increasing electrification, renewable energy integration and future customer demand.

Ergon Energy Network and its parent company, Energy Queensland, are enabling greater uptake of renewable energy and emerging technologies.

They're connecting community batteries to store more solar energy for use when electricity demand is high.

These initiatives help support rooftop solar integration, increase local energy storage, and contribute to a more flexible and resilient electricity system.

Ergon Energy Network's 2025–30 revenue proposal, approved by the Australian Energy Regulator, supports continued investment in safe and reliable electricity services, network resilience, cybersecurity and customer energy resources.

For more information on Major Projects visit Ergon Energy Network's website: [Major projects | Ergon Energy Network](#)

Optus Walkinshaw Racing breakfast

MITEZ was pleased to attend the Optus Walkinshaw Racing Business Breakfast ahead of the 2026 NTI Townsville 500, connecting with business and industry leaders from across North Queensland. As a valued MITEZ member, Optus continues to support innovation and regional business connections. It was also great to catch up with Dave Morrissey and see Optus bringing together industry through this fantastic event.

The breakfast was a great opportunity to strengthen relationships and celebrate the important role major events play in showcasing Townsville and supporting the regional economy.

OPTUS



Congratulations to Warwick Squire on expanded leadership role

MITEZ congratulates **Warwick Squire** on his appointment as **Land Access Ombudsman**, in addition to his role as **Chief Executive Officer of Coexistence Queensland**.

This important appointment reflects Warwick's extensive experience in fostering constructive relationships between landholders, industry and regional communities. Bringing these complementary functions together will support earlier engagement, stronger coordination and more effective resolution of land access and coexistence matters across Queensland.

Warwick's expanded role further strengthens the partnership between MITEZ and Coexistence Queensland, reinforcing our shared commitment to supporting regional development while ensuring positive outcomes for landholders, communities and industry.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration with Warwick and the Coexistence Queensland team as they help advance fair, transparent and practical approaches to coexistence across the regions we serve.

Read more in Warwick's article, [Managing independence in a changing landscape](#).

[Read the article](#)

MITEZ supports industry-focused student projects at James Cook University

MITEZ visited Platinum Member **James Cook University (JCU)** in July to meet with students from BU3102 as they finalise their semester projects.

As an industry partner for the subject, MITEZ has worked closely with lecturer Gerard Byrne and student teams throughout the semester, helping to connect academic learning with real-world industry challenges. Regular engagement with students ensures project outcomes and deliverables are relevant to both assessment requirements and industry expectations.

The projects being undertaken provide valuable insights that will help inform future MITEZ initiatives, including project development and funding applications. MITEZ has greatly appreciated the opportunity to collaborate with JCU and support the next generation of professionals through meaningful industry engagement.

We thank **Gerard Byrne** and the BU3102 students for their hard work and look forward to seeing the impact of their final project outcomes.



MITEZ supports Regional Business Excellence at Townsville Chamber Awards

MITEZ was proud to sponsor the **Raising Regions Award** at the **2026 Townsville Chamber of Commerce Business Awards**, celebrating the organisations making a lasting contribution to regional Queensland through innovation, collaboration and leadership.

CEO Maria James, Executive Officer Jennifer Vrana and Membership Engagement Officer Emily Hall attended the awards evening, joining business and community leaders from across North Queensland to celebrate the achievements of the region's outstanding businesses.

As sponsor of the Raising Regions Award, Maria James had the pleasure of presenting the award to **Tec-NQ**, recognising the organisation's commitment to strengthening regional communities, developing local skills and supporting long-term economic growth.

The evening was a fantastic celebration of the resilience, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit that continues to drive North Queensland forward. Congratulations to Tec-NQ, along with all finalists and winners, whose achievements demonstrate the strength and diversity of our regional business community.

MITEZ also extends its congratulations to its Partner, the Townsville Chamber of Commerce for delivering another exceptional event. The awards provided a valuable opportunity to reconnect with MITEZ members, industry partners and stakeholders, while celebrating the businesses helping shape the future of the Mount Isa to Townsville Corridor and wider North Queensland.

As a regional economic development organisation, MITEZ is proud to support initiatives that recognise excellence, encourage collaboration and showcase the people and organisations driving investment, innovation and prosperity across our region.



New tool supports future planning for post-mining land use

Post-mine land use (PMLU) toolkit



The transition of mining regions towards new economic opportunities requires careful planning, collaboration and the ability to evaluate a broad range of future land use options. To support this process, **CRC TiME** and **enviroMETS Qld** have developed the **Post-Mining Land Use (PMLU) Options Assessment Tool** – a practical, publicly available resource designed to help stakeholders identify, compare and assess potential post-mining land use opportunities.

The tool provides a structured framework for evaluating potential uses for mine land, infrastructure and associated assets, helping organisations move from broad ideas to evidence-based opportunities that can be explored in greater detail. It supports collaboration between industry, government, Traditional Owners, regional development organisations and communities throughout the transition planning process.

Its release is particularly relevant to North West Queensland, where the recently completed **MITEZ North West Minerals Province – Audit of Mines Industrial Assets Project** highlighted significant opportunities to repurpose mining infrastructure and assets to support long-term regional economic development. The MITEZ project identified opportunities including common-user processing facilities, tailings reprocessing, research and training centres, and the reuse of accommodation and industrial infrastructure. The report also emphasised the importance of collaboration, circular economy principles and planning for life beyond mine closure.

While developed independently, the CRC TiME tool strongly aligns with the objectives and findings of the MITEZ project by providing a practical methodology for assessing and prioritising many of these types of opportunities. Both initiatives recognise that mine land, infrastructure and waste materials can be viewed as valuable regional assets capable of supporting new economic, environmental and community outcomes.

Access the free tool and supporting resources:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Learn more about CRC TiME's Post-Mine Land Use Toolkit:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Investment signals confidence in North West Queensland's copper future

North West Queensland continues to strengthen its position as one of Australia's most significant critical minerals regions, with another major investment reinforcing long-term confidence in the corridor's copper industry.

MITEZ member **Evolution Mining** has announced plans to acquire **Carnaby Resources**, bringing the Greater Duchess copper deposits under common ownership with the Ernest Henry operation near Cloncurry.

From a regional development perspective, the announcement represents far more than a corporate transaction. It reflects continued investment in an established mining district, where existing infrastructure, processing capability and skilled workforces can be leveraged to unlock additional mineral resources more efficiently.

The proposed integration of the Greater Duchess project with Ernest Henry has the potential to support increased copper production while maximising the value of infrastructure already in place. This approach aligns with the growing industry focus on expanding production through regional consolidation rather than developing entirely new standalone operations.

The acquisition also provides a strong signal to investors that North West Queensland remains a highly prospective destination for critical minerals investment. As global demand for copper continues to grow, driven by electrification, renewable energy and advanced manufacturing, the region is well positioned to play an increasingly important role in supplying the resources required for the energy transition.

For the Mount Isa to Townsville Corridor, sustained investment in copper production delivers benefits well beyond the mine gate. Long-life operations create confidence for local businesses, support regional employment, encourage continued investment in transport and enabling infrastructure, and strengthen supply chains across the corridor.

Evolution Mining has indicated it will undertake further technical and feasibility work to determine the most effective pathway for integrating the Greater Duchess deposits into its existing Ernest Henry operations over the coming years.

The announcement is another positive example of the confidence industry continues to place in North West Queensland's resource potential and highlights the importance of ongoing collaboration between industry, government and regional stakeholders to ensure infrastructure, workforce capability and community investment keep pace with future growth.



Queensland's new Critical Minerals Strategy reinforces North West's global opportunity

The Queensland Government has released its new strategy, **Delivering Queensland's Critical Minerals Future 2026–30**, outlining a coordinated approach to accelerate investment, project delivery and value-adding across one of the state's fastest-growing industries.

For the Mount Isa to Townsville Corridor, the strategy reinforces the region's position at the heart of Queensland's critical minerals future.

Home to internationally significant deposits of copper, vanadium, phosphate, cobalt, rare earth elements and other critical minerals, North West Queensland is uniquely positioned to support the global transition to cleaner energy, advanced manufacturing and emerging technologies.

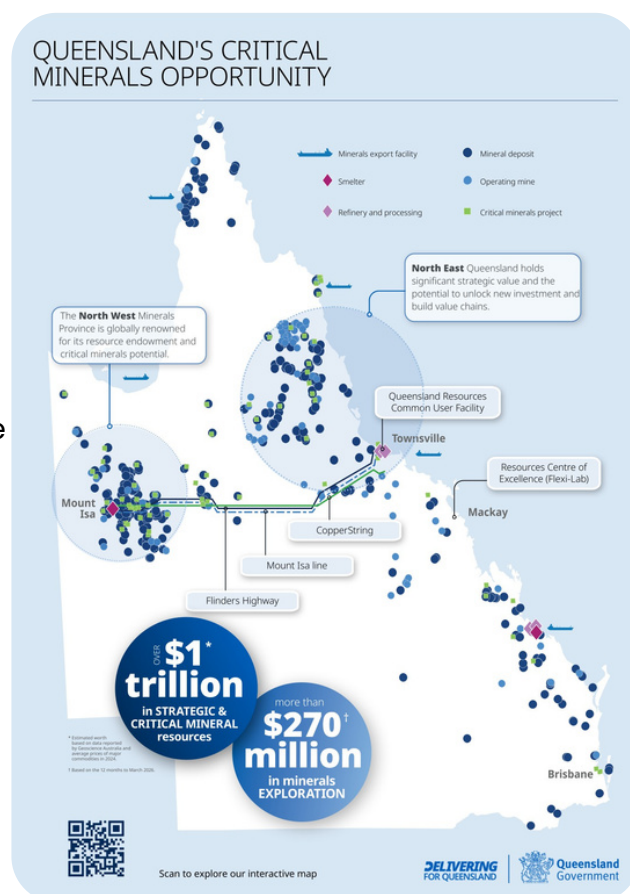
Importantly, the strategy recognises that Queensland's opportunity extends well beyond mining. It identifies the need to strengthen the entire critical minerals value chain—from exploration and extraction through to processing, refining, manufacturing and export. This aligns strongly with MITEZ's long-standing advocacy for greater value-adding within the North West, ensuring more economic benefits, skilled jobs and investment remain in regional Queensland.

The strategy also highlights the importance of creating confidence for industry through streamlined project pathways, coordinated government support, regional capability development and investment-ready infrastructure. These priorities closely reflect MITEZ's advocacy across the corridor, including improved transport and freight networks, reliable energy, water security, workforce development and strategic infrastructure to unlock future projects.

With major investments already progressing across the region, including CopperString, renewable energy developments, new mining projects and downstream processing opportunities, the North West is well positioned to capitalise on growing global demand for critical minerals.

As governments and investors increasingly focus on secure, reliable supply chains, the Mount Isa to Townsville Corridor continues to demonstrate its strategic importance to both Queensland and Australia's economic future.

MITEZ welcomes the release of the strategy and looks forward to continuing to work alongside government, industry and regional stakeholders to ensure North West Queensland remains at the forefront of Australia's critical minerals industry.





Port of Townsville invites community feedback on proposed 10-Year sea dumping permit

The Port of Townsville is inviting the community to have its say on a proposed 10-year Sea Dumping Permit, with public consultation now underway.

The permit application is supported by a range of project information, technical studies, fact sheets and environmental summaries, all available for public review. Community members, stakeholders and interested organisations are encouraged to explore the information and provide feedback before **Tuesday, 25 August 2026**.

The Port will also host a series of free public information sessions, providing an opportunity to learn more about the project, ask questions and speak directly with members of the project team.

Public Information Sessions

Townsville

- Tuesday, 4 August 2026
 - 3.00pm – 4.30pm
 - 5.00pm – 6.30pm

Venue: Metropole Hotel (Wharfside Room)

Magnetic Island

- Thursday, 6 August 2026
 - 3.00pm – 4.30pm
 - 5.00pm – 6.30pm

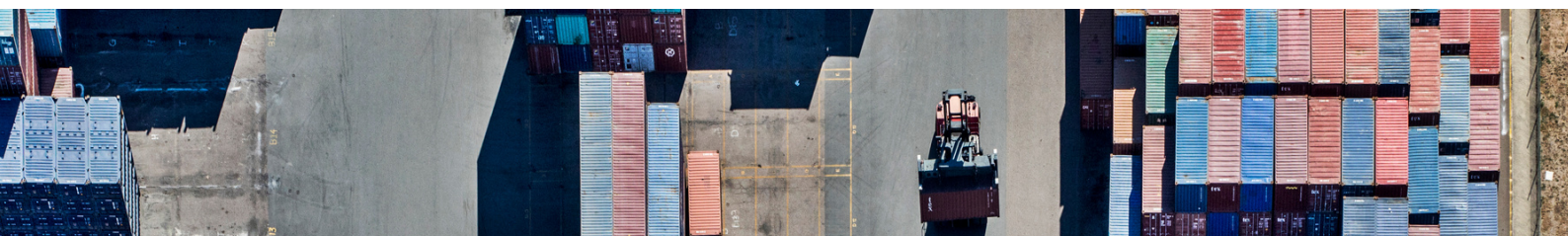
Venue: Peppers Blue on Blue, Nelly Bay

Attendance is free; however, registration is essential due to venue capacity. Bookings close at 6.00pm on Sunday, 2 August 2026.

Community members can access the project information, submit feedback and register for an information session via the Port of Townsville website.

For further information or enquiries, contact dredging@townsvilleport.com.au.

[**Application for 10 Year Sea Dumping Permit | Port of Townsville**](#)



Quinbrook advances renewable energy plans at Lansdown

Quinbrook has taken another step forward in its plans to establish large-scale renewable energy generation to support the proposed Northern Quartz Campus at the **Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct**, south of Townsville. Recent approvals activity includes plans for up to 500 megawatts of solar generation, designed to provide renewable electricity for the advanced manufacturing precinct.

The solar development forms part of a broader vision to establish a sovereign manufacturing hub focused on metallurgical silicon and polysilicon production, key materials used in solar panels, semiconductors and emerging clean technologies. Once developed, the Northern Quartz Campus is expected to represent one of the largest advanced manufacturing investments in regional Australia, with construction supporting thousands of jobs and creating a significant long-term industrial base for North Queensland.

From a regional economic development perspective, the project demonstrates the growing importance of the Mount Isa to Townsville Corridor in Australia's energy transition. By combining abundant renewable energy resources with the region's critical minerals, transport infrastructure and skilled workforce, projects such as Quinbrook's have the potential to strengthen sovereign manufacturing, attract further private investment and generate lasting economic benefits across North Queensland.

For MITEZ, the announcement reinforces the strategic opportunity to continue advocating for enabling infrastructure, workforce development and investment attraction that supports the next generation of resource processing and value-adding industries across the corridor.

Queensland Tourism Funding Boost for North West Events

North West Queensland's visitor economy has received a welcome boost, with the Queensland Government announcing \$250,000 to support 11 events across nine local government areas.

The funding will assist a range of iconic regional events, including the **Mount Isa Mines Rodeo**, **Julia Creek Dirt n Dust Festival**, **Outback by the Sea Festival** and **Festival of Outback Skies**, helping attract visitors, support local businesses and strengthen regional economies.

At MITEZ, we know events play an important role in showcasing our communities, driving visitation and supporting economic diversification across the Mount Isa to Townsville Corridor.

Congratulations to all the successful event organisers and our member councils who continue to deliver experiences that put North West Queensland on the map.

[MORE INFO](#)





Driving Tourism Across the Corridor

MITEZ continues to support the growth of tourism along the Overlanders Way, highlighting the unique experiences, iconic landscapes and vibrant regional communities. Recent national media coverage from **RACQ** and **ABC News** has highlighted the growing appeal of the Overlanders Way. **Mount Isa City Council** has launched **the Big Sky Drive campaign**, while the return of grey nomad travellers is providing a welcome boost to local businesses across North West Queensland. During NAIDOC Week, we acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands along the Overlanders Way and celebrate the rich cultures, stories and connections to Country that make our region unique.



Several opportunities are also available to support tourism growth:

- **Tourism Icons Investment Fund (Round 2)** is now open, offering \$1 million to \$5 million in matched funding for major tourism projects and visitor experiences. [Tourism Icons Investment Fund: Round 2 | Tourism | Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, Queensland](#)
- Queensland Regional Rewards is encouraging visitation through \$100 discounts on eligible regional experiences using the code QLD100. [Queensland Regional Rewards](#)
- The **Outback Queensland Tourism Association's 2027 Shoulder Season Fuel Incentive Program** will provide \$1,000 fuel incentives for up to 25 eligible touring departures, helping drive visitation during traditionally quieter travel periods. Email OQTA for more information – admin@outbackqueensland.com.au

MITEZ encourages tourism operators, councils and visitor information centres to take advantage of these initiatives to attract visitors, grow local businesses and strengthen the visitor economy across the corridor.

As the secretariat for the Overlanders Way tourism network, MITEZ remains committed to promoting the route, supporting industry collaboration and showcasing the journey that connects reef, red earth and outback stories.

For tourism news, opportunities and updates, follow the relaunched Overlanders Way social media channels or contact exploreoverlandersway@mitez.com.au and let us know if you would like to receive a monthly update in your inbox.

Website - [THE OVERLANDERS WAY | Mitez](https://www.mitez.com.au/the-overlanders-way)



Giving back to our communities

Supporting our regions extends well beyond advocacy and economic development. **MITEZ CEO Maria James** volunteered behind the bar at the **Charters Towers Rodeo**, lending a hand alongside the many dedicated volunteers who make this iconic regional event possible.

Community events like the Charters Towers Rodeo play an important role in bringing people together, supporting local businesses and showcasing the unique character of regional Queensland. They also rely on the commitment of volunteers whose time and effort help create memorable experiences for locals and visitors alike.

MITEZ is proud to support our member councils and communities, not only through our work across the Mount Isa to Townsville Corridor, but also by getting involved in the events that strengthen community connections and contribute to vibrant regional economies.

Congratulations to **the Charters Towers Rodeo Association** and everyone who worked behind the scenes to deliver another successful event. Your dedication continues to make the Charters Towers Rodeo one of North Queensland's premier community events.



New study highlights opportunities to strengthen residential construction workforce

A new Residential Construction Mobility Study has identified practical reforms that could help address workforce shortages and support the delivery of the National Housing Accord's ambitious housing targets.

The study found that while residential construction attracts workers from a range of industries, these gains are largely offset by workers leaving the sector, resulting in little overall workforce growth. High levels of labour churn and barriers to entry are particularly impacting trades that are critical to housing delivery.

Key challenges include complex licensing arrangements across jurisdictions, limited Recognition of Prior Learning pathways, and significant financial barriers for mature-age workers seeking to transition into the industry.

Importantly, the report outlines several opportunities to boost workforce mobility and retention, including accelerated apprenticeship pathways for experienced workers, a nationally consistent skills assessment framework, and improved guidance on licensing and entry requirements.

The findings suggest that unlocking Australia's existing skills base could play a vital role in increasing workforce capacity, improving productivity, and building a more resilient residential construction sector to meet future housing demand.

[Residential Construction Mobility Study | BuildSkills Australia](#)



Supporting regional employers to address labour shortages

The Australian Department of Home Affairs has released new guides for individuals and employers to apply for the [Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional \(SESR\) visa](#).

This visa enables regional employers to address identified labour shortages within their region by sponsoring skilled workers where employers can't source an appropriately skilled Australian worker.

You can access the guides here:

- [**Guide to Submitting a Decision-Ready Employer Sponsored Nomination Application**](#)
- [**Guide to Submitting a Decision-Ready Employer Sponsored Visa Application**](#)

Building trust across cultures: refugees, migrants, & minorities

Building stronger communities starts with building stronger relationships. As our communities become increasingly diverse in North Queensland, the ability to build trust, communicate effectively and engage respectfully across cultures has never been more important.

Join Comprehensive Mediation Services for [Building Trust Across Cultures: Refugees, Migrants & Minorities](#), a practical, interactive professional development workshop designed for frontline staff, community leaders, government, health, education, local government, businesses, volunteers and anyone working with culturally diverse communities.

Participants will gain practical tools and strategies to:

- Build trust across cultures
- Strengthen communication and active listening
- Better understand cultural perspectives
- Respond more confidently to misunderstandings and conflict
- Foster more inclusive workplaces and communities

MORE DETAILS



Date and time:

 **headspace Townsville,
Thuringowa Central**

 **17**

Friday, 7 August



9:00 AM – 2:00 PM



Effective Contract Delivery Webinar

[Want to ensure smooth contract delivery?](#)

This one-hour effective contract delivery webinar will:

- provide the critical contract checks that you need to make before signing
- provide you with an overview of some process you can implement to track your contract delivery performance
- provide examples of common mistakes to avoid

[Register today!](#)

Details

Date: 2 September 2026

Location: Online

Cost: \$25

REGISTER HERE



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 start of the Ag Intensive school)
- Committed to completing pre-work (approx. 7 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

Thursday 8 OCTOBER

Friday 9 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.GOV.AU

APPLY NOW

MOUNT ISA RJC
REGIONAL JOBS COMMITTEE

DISCOVER YOUR FUTURE
EXPLORE. CONNECT. GROW.

LAUNCH YOUR FUTURE.

2026
Our Region,
Our Future
Jobs Expo

MINING **HEALTH** **CONSTRUCTION** **EDUCATION** **DEFENCE** **TRADES** **BUSINESS** **& MORE**

TUESDAY 18 AUGUST 2026
9:00AM - 5:00PM

BUCHANAN PARK EVENTS COMPLEX

MORE INFO, CONTACT
rjcinfo@mountisa.qld.gov.au

LEARN MORE, VISIT HERE
rjc.mountisa.qld.gov.au

MOUNT ISA MINES BACKS INDIGENOUS Talent

2026 Toyota Prado GXL in Frosted White
Prizes at \$88,539.54

1ST PRIZE

2ND PRIZE
2026 Toyota Hilux 4x4 Dual Cab in Glacier White
Prizes at \$61,588.82

3RD PRIZE
2026 Toyota Hilux 4x4 Dual Cab in Glacier White
Prizes at \$61,588.82

2026 ART UNION PRIZE DRAW

Bell & Moir Toyota

ULTIMATE PACKAGE
Value at \$20,000

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QUARTERLY BUSINESS BREAKFAST

Wednesday, 19 August 2026
6:45 am - 8:30 am

All Souls St Gabriels School

RINGERS OF COPPERMINE CREEK
27TH JULY - 29TH AUGUST
Dr David Harvey-Sutton Gallery

An exhibition honouring the men and women, and their contributions to the cattle industry in the Cloncurry region.

Opening Monday 27 July 6:30pm - 8pm
Light entertainment & refreshments available
Poetry reading and a dedication song by Linda Oliver/Shepherd
Open invitation to all

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware the following exhibition contains names and images of deceased people.

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.

- 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

REGISTER ONLINE

www.countryuniversities.edu.au

15 Miles Street
PH: 0472 688 810

THE BARNYARD BAND

MOUNT ISA MINES RODEO
7-9 AUGUST 2026
Presented by AKUBRA

TICKETS ON SALE
mountisarodeo.com.au

Exhibitor Submissions Open

GET READY TOWNSVILLE 2026
PLAN. PREPARE. ACT.

TOWNSVILLE LOCAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT GROUP

ISA 2026 STREET Festival

Wednesday 05 AUGUST 2026
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Legends of MOUNT ISA RODEO
LEGENDARY SINCE 1904

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



REGISTER

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OVER 1200 GRANTS
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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:



... FREE EVENT ...

2026 ID & Essentials EXPO



*Helping the community access ID,
support services & local opportunities!*



Burdekin

Tuesday 25 August
Burdekin Theatre
11:00am – 3:00pm

Hinchinbrook

Wednesday 26 August
Hinchinbrook Shire Hall
11:00am – 3:00pm

Charters Towers

Thursday 27 August
Arthur Titley Centre
11:00am – 3:00pm

Townsville

Friday 28 August
Mercure Townsville
11:00am – 5:00pm

This community event brings together government and support services in one place to help you apply for key documents and connect with employment, training, financial and community supports.

On the day you can access support with:

Birth certificates & photo ID applications, Medicare & Centrelink linkage, Banking & financial services, Employment and training providers, Community support services

Proudly supported by:

Workforce Australia
Local Jobs

Townsville (includes Mt Isa)

Workforce Australia Local Jobs is funded by the Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

**DELIVERING
FOR QUEENSLAND**



**Queensland
Government**

Our Members

