

From the ceo's desk.....

MITEZ commends the recently released **Queensland Freight Delivery Plan 2026**, the State Government's five-year roadmap to strengthen Queensland's freight, logistics and supply-chain system. It responds to a freight task of about 960 million tonnes a year, projected to grow by 20% by 2032, and converts consultation with more than 500 industry, government and local-government stakeholders into 70 coordinated actions. MITEZ welcomes the Plan's practical focus and is committed to continue working with government and industry to help deliver actions across the Mount Isa to Townsville corridor.

As the peak regional economic development organisation representing seven local government areas across the Mount Isa to Townsville corridor, MITEZ advocates for the infrastructure, industry development and investment needed to strengthen regional prosperity. An efficient, reliable freight network is essential to our region's competitiveness. Our resources, agriculture and service industries depend on road and rail connections to the Port of Townsville and wider markets, while communities rely on those same networks for essential supplies.

The target outcomes, what the Plan is designed to achieve, resonate with MITEZ:

- Productivity: connect regions, supply chains and trade gateways so freight moves more efficiently.
- Reliability: strengthen end-to-end resilience, reduce disruption and improve supply-chain certainty.
- Safety: deliver safer, lower-impact freight operations for network users and communities.

Years of MITEZ advocacy are reflected in the core delivery priorities of the Plan:

- Build regions and connect Queensland by targeting road and transport investment that enables regional development, improves first- and last-mile links, and advances works and safety treatments on major highways;
- Use the right mode for the right load by lifting rail freight performance, reliability and access;
- Recover faster and build back better by strengthening vulnerable routes and supply chains so regional and rural communities remain connected during and after disruptions;
- Drive opportunity and grow capability by reforming heavy-vehicle access, reduce bottlenecks, build workforce and industry capability, and support operator investment;
- Plan integrated future networks by coordinating roads, rail, ports, airports and intermodal terminals with population growth, resources and energy projects, agriculture and trade.





MITEZ particularly welcomes a number of new initiatives in terms of rail freight:

1. Deliver a new Rail Freight Container Incentive Scheme, trialled for three years, offering up to 50 per cent rebate on below-rail access charges for freight customers opting to move an additional 250 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU) per annum on the North Coast Line, Mount Isa Line and Southern Queensland systems.
2. Maintain a 10 per cent subsidy for all customers on the Mount Isa Line for a period of four years to encourage greater rail freight volumes.
3. Maintain a reduction in rock phosphate access charges on the Mount Isa Line, which is 30 per cent cheaper than the standard bulk rate, to encourage growth of the North West Minerals Province.
4. Deliver a new discounted diesel fuel access charge on the Mount Isa Line to promote the movement of fuel on rail.
5. Deliver new small- to medium-scale open access intermodal freight terminal developments across the state, with priority focus to deliver new unloading/ loading facilities along the Mount Isa Line and at the Port of Townsville.

MITEZ is well placed to bring councils, freight operators and industry together to support implementation of the Plan. We can help identify local access constraints and emerging freight demand, connect with regional stakeholders, and share feedback on how the actions are working in practice.



Queensland Freight Delivery Plan 2026 Released

The Queensland Government has released the **Queensland Freight Delivery Plan 2026**, setting out a five-year roadmap to strengthen the state's freight, logistics and supply chain systems through 70 practical actions focused on access, efficiency, productivity, resilience and regional development.

The plan aims to deliver a more productive, reliable and safer freight network by improving connections between regions, supply chains and trade gateways, enhancing rail freight performance, investing in key freight corridors, and building more resilient supply chains for regional and remote communities.

Of particular interest to North and North West Queensland are initiatives that support regional development, improve freight connectivity, and enhance the efficiency of key transport routes, including the Mount Isa Line, Flinders Highway, Bruce Highway and Queensland's Beef Road Corridors.

With Queensland's freight task projected to grow by 20% by 2032, the plan provides an important framework for supporting industry growth, trade, resource development and the opportunities associated with Brisbane 2032.



Read the plan:

<https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/QueenslandFreightStrategy>

North West Queensland Secures Major Housing Boost

More than **\$28 million** has been awarded across **Queensland under Round 2 of the State Government's Residential Activation Fund**, supporting critical infrastructure that will unlock 167 new homes across the North West Queensland region.

Within the **MITEZ corridor**, funding includes:

- **Cloncurry: \$2.1 million** for road, stormwater, sewer and water infrastructure to unlock 22 homes in the Brisbane Street Estate.
- **Richmond: \$16.4 million** for enabling infrastructure to unlock 82 homes in the Richmond Residential Estate.
- **Mount Isa:** Completion of the **\$5 million** Gliderport Road upgrade, funded under Round 1, which supports the future delivery of more than 40 homes in the Gliderport development.

Together, these projects represent **\$23.5 million** in housing-enabling infrastructure and capacity for more than **144 homes across the MITEZ corridor**. A further \$9.9 million has been allocated to Burke Shire sitting just outside the MITEZ corridor, unlocking an additional 63 homes.

The investment highlights the critical role of enabling infrastructure in supporting regional workforce attraction, economic growth and long-term community sustainability. Notably, Cloncurry's project has progressed from planning support in Round 1 to construction funding in Round 2.

Statewide, the Residential Activation Fund has reportedly unlocked capacity for more than 162,000 homes.

Read the media statement here: [167 new homes fast tracked across North West Queensland – Ministerial Media Statements](#)

Defence Q – New Opportunities for North West Queensland

Queensland's new **Defence Q initiative** is creating a clear pathway for businesses to connect with one of Australia's fastest-growing industry sectors. Established by the Queensland Government, Defence Q aims to attract defence investment, strengthen sovereign capability and help businesses engage with defence supply chains, major projects and emerging technologies.

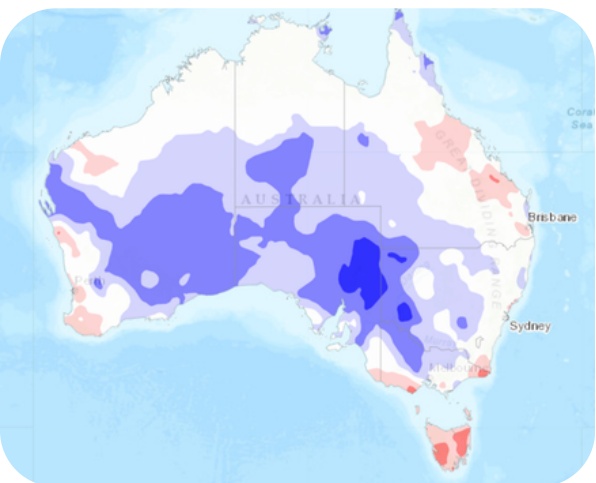
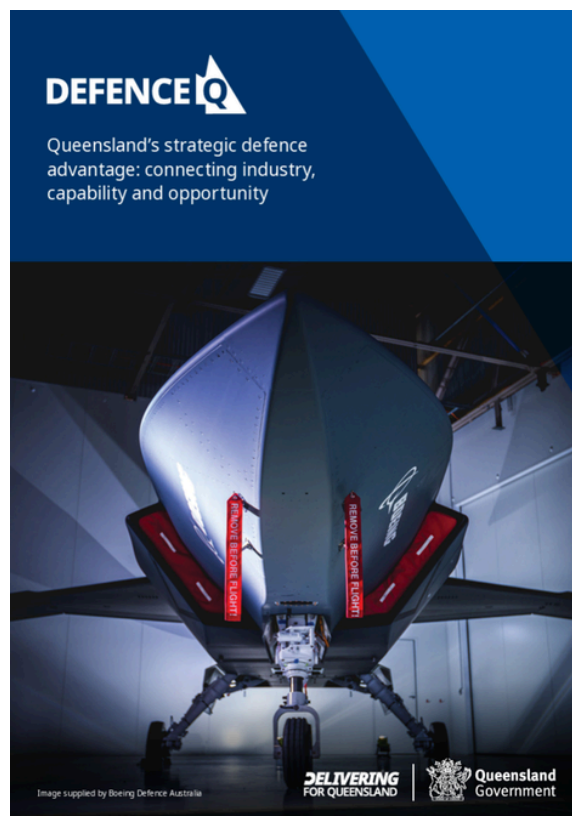
North and North West Queensland already play an important role in Australia's defence landscape, with major Defence infrastructure in Townsville and some of the nation's largest military training areas located across the north.

Defence Q provides businesses with support to navigate government processes, identify investment opportunities, build connections with defence primes and research organisations, and access emerging supply chain opportunities. Assistance includes project facilitation, introductions to industry partners, connections to local suppliers and guidance on suitable development sites and approvals pathways.

The defence sector contributes approximately **\$1.25 billion** annually to Queensland's economy and continues to expand across advanced manufacturing, autonomous systems, aerospace, logistics, construction, digital technologies and professional services. Defence Q is designed not only for established defence contractors but also for businesses that have capabilities which can be applied within the defence supply chain.

MITEZ encourages members interested in exploring defence industry opportunities to learn more about Defence Q and consider how their products, services and expertise could support this important and growing sector.

Learn more: <https://www.defenceindustries.qld.gov.au/> and access the Defence Q Prospectus for further information.



New Interactive Drought and Water Availability Map

The Drought Map Viewer: Rainfall Deficiencies and Water Availability from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology provides an interactive snapshot of rainfall, soil moisture, streamflow, water storage and groundwater conditions across Australia. Users can explore current and historical conditions, helping businesses, producers, communities and planners better understand emerging drought risks and water availability trends in their region.

The tool combines national climate and water data into an easy-to-use map, offering valuable insights into rainfall deficiencies, soil moisture conditions, water storages and long-term trends that can influence agriculture, industry and regional economic development. Explore the map and monitor conditions in your area at:

<https://www.bom.gov.au/climate/drought/>

Gawara Baya reaches financial close

The **Gawara Baya Wind Farm** has reached financial close, marking an important milestone for the project and allowing it to progress towards construction.

Following more than six years of planning, development and engagement, early preparation activities are expected to commence progressively from September 2026. Initial works will focus on preparing the accommodation camp area, followed by access road upgrades, civil construction and electrical infrastructure activities.

Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners has taken ownership of the project, providing the capital and expertise required to deliver it. Windlab personnel will remain integrated within the delivery team alongside Aurecon and other project partners and contractors.

Located on Gugu Badhun Country, Gawara Baya will have a renewable energy generation capacity of 400 MW—enough to power the equivalent of approximately 240,000 homes annually once operational. The project is expected to create more than 500 jobs at peak construction and generate over \$200 million in regional economic activity.

The project also includes a commitment to local and regional employment and procurement opportunities, First Nations participation, biodiversity improvements and an annual \$200,000 Community Benefit Fund supporting initiatives across the Charters Towers and Hinchinbrook local government areas. The first funding round is anticipated to open in the final quarter of 2026.

MITEZ welcomes this significant step towards project delivery and the investment, employment and business opportunities it is expected to generate for North Queensland. As activity increases, local and regional businesses are encouraged to remain informed about emerging procurement and workforce opportunities.

Further information: gawarabaya.com

Community Update
August 2026





Gawara Baya reaches Financial Close

Moving towards delivery

Gawara Baya has reached a major milestone, with Financial Close achieved. This means the investment and commercial arrangements needed to support the project are in place, allowing Gawara Baya to move into its construction phase.

This is an important milestone after more than six years of planning, development and engagement with landholders, Traditional Owners, local communities, councils and technical experts. We are grateful to everyone who has taken the time to share their insights, ask questions and provide feedback throughout this process. Your input has helped shape the project and its approach.

What to expect

While this brings construction significantly closer, it does not mean construction will start immediately.

Early preparation activities are expected to begin progressively from September 2026, starting with preparation of the accommodation camp area. Activity will then increase over time as the project moves towards full construction.

You may notice an increase in project vehicles, contractors and activity in the area as early works get underway. However, construction will be a staged process, with different activities occurring at different times.

We know that being kept informed about changes in activity around the project area is important for locals and we are committed to minimising impacts.

As plans are confirmed, we will continue to share information about upcoming activities and engage with landholders, neighbours, Gugu Badhun Aboriginal Corporation, councils and the broader community.

Acknowledgement of Country

Gawara Baya is located on the Traditional Lands of the Gugu Badhun peoples. We honour the Gugu Badhun People's sacred and enduring connection to Country, culture and community.

We respect the Gugu Badhun people's cultural values and intend for this project to have a positive legacy.



Driving opportunity across North Queensland

As North Queensland continues to attract significant investment across mining, energy, infrastructure and construction, Concentis is helping connect skilled professionals with the projects shaping the region's future. With a dedicated Townsville office and growing local presence, the specialist recruitment and workforce solutions provider is strengthening pathways for professionals to build rewarding careers without leaving the region.

Rather than focusing solely on workforce shortages, Concentis is highlighting the opportunities emerging from North Queensland's growth. The company works closely with industry and project proponents to align talent with major developments, supporting workforce capability, career progression and long-term regional employment outcomes.

Through active engagement with industry networks, employers and professional development initiatives, the team is helping build a strong and sustainable workforce to support the next generation of projects across the region.

Connect with Concentis

[Recruitment Specialists Mining Energy and Infrastructure](#)

[Concentis: Overview](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Advocating for our corridor's future

Local jobs, stronger businesses and thriving communities remain at the centre of MITEZ's advocacy. This September, we have highlighted two issues affecting the Mount Isa to Townsville corridor.

Lasting benefits from critical minerals

MITEZ is calling for development that delivers local employment, supplier opportunities and coordinated investment in infrastructure and services. Early community engagement and meaningful partnerships with Traditional Owners are essential to building confidence and ensuring benefits endure.



Regional workforce certainty

We are also urging the Federal Government to consult councils and employers before implementing proposed Working Holiday Maker visa changes. Our focus is protecting workforce access for agriculture, hospitality and tourism, including businesses along the Overlanders Way.



Showcasing the MITEZ corridor to international representatives

MITEZ CEO Maria James recently joined regional stakeholders in welcoming Australian Embassy representatives from across Latin America and the Caribbean to Townsville.

Hosted by the Port of Townsville and coordinated by Trade and Investment Queensland, the visit also involved Townsville City Council and the Department of State Development.

Maria presented an overview of the Mount Isa to Townsville corridor, highlighting its key industries, investment opportunities and the priority infrastructure needed to support continued regional growth.

The engagement provided an opportunity to strengthen international connections and bring North and North West Queensland's opportunities into broader trade and investment discussions.

MITEZ thanks Trade and Investment Queensland for inviting us to contribute, and the Port of Townsville for hosting the delegation and showcasing the region's gateway to international markets.



Connecting regional projects with investment

MITEZ CEO Maria James recently joined regional leaders in Townsville to meet with the **Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF)** Board and CEO, discussing investment opportunities and the connections needed to help projects progress.

For the Mount Isa to Townsville corridor, investment in energy, water, freight and logistics is essential to supporting industry development, creating jobs and strengthening communities.

The meeting provided an opportunity to keep the corridor's projects and infrastructure priorities in front of decision-makers and potential funding partners. MITEZ will continue advocating for investment that supports regional growth.

Thank you to NAIF and the regional representatives who contributed to the discussion.



Energy takes centre stage at Meeting of the Mines

MITEZ members featured prominently at the **2026 Meeting of the Mines in Cloncurry**, where the theme Powering Ahead focused discussion on the future of resources, infrastructure and regional development across North West Queensland.

CEO Maria James and **Executive Officer Jennifer Vrana** attended to support members and connect with regional leaders and industry stakeholders. The program included presentations and project updates from **GHD, Glencore, Evolution Mining, South32 Cannington, Harmony Eva Copper, Austral Resources, Mayfair** and **Richmond Vanadium Technology**.

Access to reliable, affordable and secure energy was a consistent concern throughout the conference. It remains critical to keeping existing operations competitive, progressing new projects and attracting investment and jobs.

Energy is a key priority in MITEZ's Strategic Plan, and we will continue advocating for the energy solutions and enabling infrastructure our corridor needs.





Overlanders Way

Showcasing the Overlanders Way

MITEZ CEO and **RDA Townsville and North West Queensland Deputy Chair Maria James** joined the RDA Committee's recent journey along the Overlanders Way, showcasing the experiences, investment and opportunities across our corridor.

Travelling from Townsville to Mount Isa, the visit highlighted heritage and fossil attractions, new visitor infrastructure and emerging tourism experiences. Conversations with councils, operators and local businesses explored how tourism can strengthen local economies.

For MITEZ, the visit was an opportunity to promote the Overlanders Way and build connections that encourage investment, longer stays and greater visitor spending across our communities. Thank you to **RDA CEO Dr Lisa McDonald** for the opportunity to showcase the Overlanders Way and the communities, businesses and experiences that make our corridor special.



Tourism Opportunities

GROWING ALONG THE OVERLANDERS WAY

- Tourism operators are encouraged to explore Tourism and Events Queensland's Experience Development Program, which provides tools and support to help businesses enhance visitor experiences, attract more guests and encourage longer stays. **READ MORE - [Experience Development](#) | [Tourism and Events Queensland](#)**



- Several funding opportunities are also available. Round 2 of Queensland's Destination Events Fund is now open, supporting events that drive visitation, overnight stays and local spending. Funding of up to \$100,000 is available across a range of event categories, with applications closing 6 October 2026. **READ MORE - [Destination event investment](#) | [Tourism and Events Queensland](#)**



- The tourism sector is also seeing strong growth in demand for authentic First Nations and nature-based experiences, creating new opportunities for regional operators to share local stories, culture and landscapes with visitors seeking meaningful travel experiences. **READ MORE - [First Nations tourism](#) | [Tourism Research](#)**



- Looking ahead, the much-loved Julia Creek Dirt n Dust Festival returns on 16-17 April 2027, promising another exciting weekend of Outback fun and community celebration. **READ MORE - <https://dirtndust.com/>**



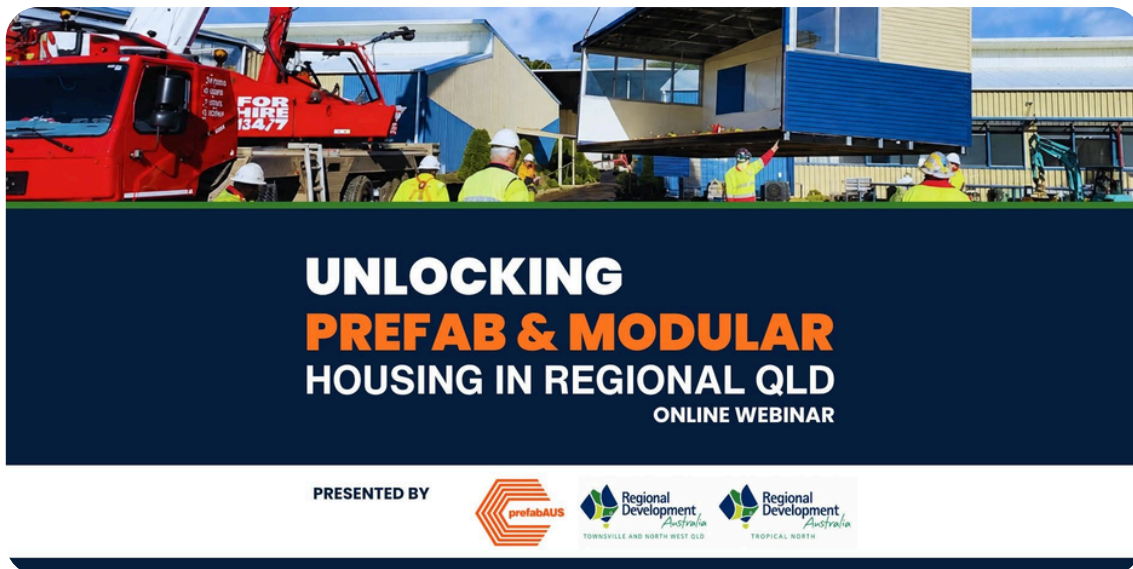
MITEZ member APA Group's Sybella Creek solar and battery project is set to strengthen energy supply in Mount Isa, combining new renewable generation and storage with existing gas-fired capacity.

The project includes a 72 MW solar farm, equivalent to almost 11,000 average home solar systems, and a 52 MW, 104 MWh battery energy storage system, with storage equivalent to more than 7,500 home batteries.

Backed by firming capacity from APA's Diamantina Power Station, APA says the new assets will deliver reliable, lower-cost and lower-emissions energy for the Mount Isa region.

Energy availability and affordability remain central to MITEZ's advocacy. Investment in generation and storage can help address these challenges, supporting existing industry and creating opportunities for regional growth.

Exploring prefab and modular housing for regional Queensland



Could prefab and modular construction help address regional housing needs? **RDA Townsville and North West Queensland, RDA Tropical North** and **prefabAUS** are hosting a free webinar to explore the opportunities, challenges and practicalities of these construction methods.

Unlocking Prefab & Modular Housing in Regional Queensland will bring together government, industry, research and regional stakeholders to discuss affordability, procurement, supply chains, workforce needs and barriers to delivery. The program includes an industry panel and audience Q&A.

For communities across the MITEZ corridor, the discussion offers an opportunity to explore housing options that could support workforce attraction and regional growth.

Tuesday 6 October 2026 | 11am–3pm | Online | Free

Registration is essential. [Register via Eventbrite.](#)

NQ SPARK establishes permanent home at James Cook University

North Queensland Simulation Park—NQ SPARK—is establishing a permanent home at **James Cook University's** Bebegu Yumba campus in Townsville, creating nationally significant simulation and training infrastructure in Northern Australia.

The new 1,000-square-metre facility will bring together advanced simulation technology, virtual and augmented reality, and high-performance computing to support training, testing and research across a wide range of sectors.

The facility will allow Defence, emergency response, medicine, transport, science and industry organisations to explore scenarios that may be too dangerous, costly or complex to replicate in real-world conditions. By creating controlled virtual environments, organisations will be able to test responses, collect data and refine their decisions, systems and operations before applying them in real-life situations.

The facility represents an important addition to North Queensland's innovation and research capability. It will support collaboration between industry, government, researchers and training providers while strengthening the region's ability to attract investment, specialist expertise and new opportunities.

NQ SPARK also demonstrates that nationally relevant infrastructure and advanced capability do not need to be concentrated in Australia's capital cities. Northern Australia is well placed to become a destination where new technologies and operational approaches are tested, strengthened and connected to real-world industry needs.

The permanent facility builds on the growing role of Townsville and the broader North Queensland region in Defence, research, health, emergency response and advanced industry.

To learn more about NQ SPARK and the new facility, read Northern Insights Issue 2: <https://lnkd.in/gJdJBB4r>.



Join NQ SPARK for the launch of the IN: SIGHT AI + HPC – Putting the Tech to Work event!

This new event series is designed to bring people together around emerging technologies, capability and ideas, whilst creating opportunities to learn, connect and discover what's possible together.

Join technologists, researchers, industry and the curious for focused presentations, a fireside chat and networking over light refreshments.

The AI + HPC – Putting the Tech to Work event will explore how experts and technologists are putting AI and high-performance computing to work across industry, research and the broader community. Join us for an evening of practical insights, conversation and networking over light refreshments.



IN: SIGHT
NQ SPARK

AI + HPC =

Putting the tech to work

TALKS + NETWORKING + REFRESHMENTS

7 October | 5 - 7pm | \$15 | Bookings essential

Event Details:

- Date: Wednesday, 7 October 2026
- Time: 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Location: Engineering and Innovation Place, James Cook University
- Tickets: \$15 via Humanitix



The event is being delivered in collaboration with James Cook University (JCU), the Australian Computer Society (ACS), Ethan Global and the JCU Centre for Advanced Defence and Space Technologies (CADSI) and will bring together speakers and leaders working across AI, HPC, research, technology and industry.

Link for more information: <https://nqspark.org/nq-spark-insight-event/>

Spaces are limited, so bookings are essential. Secure your tickets here: <https://bit.ly/4xD6t6V>

Be part of the future of simulation in Australia. Get in touch to explore how we can work together.

Industry Skills & Jobs Advisor Roundtable Update

MITEZ recently participated in the **Queensland Industry Skills and Jobs Advisor (ISJA)** Roundtable, contributing regional industry perspectives to discussions that will help inform workforce and training priorities at both state and federal levels. The roundtable brought together a diverse group of participants from across business, education, training, health, industry and community sectors, with each participant contributing unique insights and experiences that enriched the discussion.

Key themes raised by MITEZ included ongoing skills shortages across trades, technical professions, health, education and frontline service roles; challenges attracting and retaining workers in regional areas; the need for stronger alignment between industry needs and training delivery; and opportunities for cross-industry skills transfer and more flexible, place-based training solutions. All participants highlighted the importance of workplace readiness skills, affordable housing, workforce mobility, school-to-work pathways, and ensuring regional voices are reflected in future workforce planning.

Through forums such as these, MITEZ continues to ensure the opportunities, challenges and priorities identified by our members are heard and relayed through industry channels to government decision-makers. The ISJA team will provide a summary of the roundtable outcomes soon, and we look forward to sharing further updates with members as they become available.

For more information on Industry Skills and Jobs Advisors, including contacts for each sector go to – [Industry Skills and Jobs Advisors | Department of Trade, Employment and Training](#)

Energy Workforce Pressures Continue to Grow

A new workforce update from the Powering Skills Organisation highlights growing pressure on Australia's energy workforce, with skills shortages, training capacity constraints and competition from major projects all impacting the sector. Demand for skilled workers is increasing across energy, housing, defence and data centre developments, while apprenticeship commencements are not keeping pace with future workforce needs.

The report found 72% of training providers are already operating at or above capacity for electrotechnology students, while more than half of employers continue to carry vacancies that have remained unfilled for over six months. Looking ahead, the rapid growth of Australia's data centre industry alone could require an additional 13,000 energy trades workers by 2030, adding further demand for electricians and related trades.

The report identifies workforce capacity, skills development, workplace culture and business confidence as the key factors influencing Australia's ability to deliver the energy transition. It also calls for greater collaboration between industry, training providers and government to strengthen training pathways, improve workforce mobility and ensure a sufficient pipeline of skilled workers for future infrastructure projects.

Read more here – [2026 Targeted Workforce Update | Powering Skills Organisation](#)





JCU / EGRU Exploration Geochemistry Short Course

The EGRU Exploration Geochemistry short course earlier this year was sold out so, in response to expressions of interest, JCU is offering the course again in November.

The course, led by **Dr Dennis Arne**, is:

- designed for explorers and database professionals,
- delivered online as three stand-alone modules, and
- presented by a geochemist with over 40 years' experience in applied geochemistry.

The course modules are:

Module 1: Data Acquisition, Quality Assessment & Management

11 – 12 November 2026

Module 2: Exploratory Data Analysis using ioGAS

18 – 19 November 2026

Module 3: Integration of Geochemical, Mineralogical & Geological Data

25 – 26 November 2026

Each module consists of 2 x half-day sessions.

For more information and to register your interest, contact Kaylene Camuti:

P: +61 7 4781 5865 E: kaylene.camuti@jcu.edu.au

Share your story with ABC News

The ABC is inviting Australians to help shape future news coverage through its new ABC Your Say initiative. The project aims to hear directly from people across cities, regional communities, rural areas and remote areas about the issues that matter most to them.

Whether it's a challenge facing your community, an emerging opportunity, an untold local story, or a concern you believe decision-makers need to understand, the ABC wants to hear from you. Contributions may help identify important issues for future reporting, highlight community priorities, and bring regional voices to a national audience.

The initiative is also seeking insights into what is being discussed in local communities, what feels overlooked or misunderstood, and the people making a positive difference in towns and regions across Australia. All submissions are treated confidentially, and personal details will not be published without permission. For businesses, community organisations and residents across the MITEZ region, this is an opportunity to share the stories, challenges and opportunities shaping North and North West Queensland.

Learn more and submit your feedback:

[What do you want to tell us? Have Your Say – ABC News](#)

From Waste to Walls: Exploring Circular Construction Opportunities

You are invited to express your interest in attending the **DBI International Network Workshop** – From Waste to Walls: Reimagining and Repurposing Materials for Circular Concrete and Masonry on 12 October 2026 at Engineering and Innovation Place, James Cook University, Townsville.

This free workshop will bring together representatives from industry, government and academia to explore innovative approaches to repurposing waste materials into circular concrete and masonry products. Discussions will focus on reducing waste, conserving resources and lowering embodied carbon in the built environment.

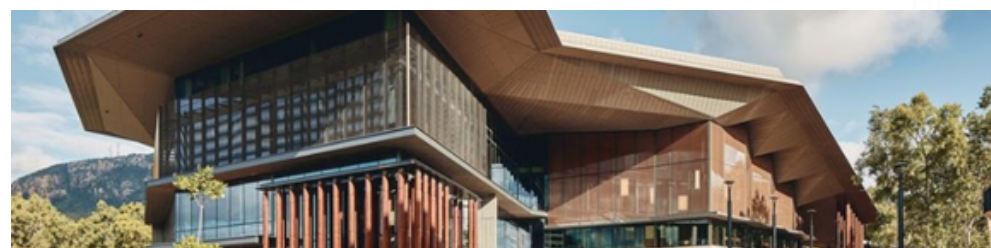
The program will include keynote presentations, roundtable discussions and networking opportunities, providing a valuable forum to share ideas, identify collaboration opportunities and explore future research and industry initiatives.

Attendance is free, however registration is essential.

Register your Expression of Interest:

<https://forms.gle/gnmcTJfsqCRBnuxL9>

This event may be of particular interest to those involved in construction, manufacturing, waste management, sustainability, local government, research and infrastructure development.



Jobs & Skills Month – strengthening pathways to Workforce Success

Australian businesses, training organisations, industry groups and communities are being invited to participate in the inaugural Jobs & Skills Month, a national initiative led by Jobs and Skills Australia that will run from 20 October to 20 November 2026. The month-long program aims to bring together stakeholders from across the jobs, training and employment sectors to share ideas, showcase successful initiatives and strengthen workforce outcomes across the country.

The 2026 theme, **“Pathways to Success”**, recognises that there is no single journey through education, training and employment. Jobs & Skills Month will highlight the many routes people take to build careers and the partnerships that help connect individuals with opportunities at every stage of life.

For regional Queensland, the initiative aligns closely with ongoing efforts to address workforce challenges, develop local skills pipelines and support industry growth. Businesses, training providers, local governments and community organisations are encouraged to participate through events, workshops, career activities, industry forums, networking opportunities and training showcases. Event registrations and calendar submissions are now open, with activities planned across the country throughout the month.

Learn more or register an event: www.jobsandskillsmonth.gov.au



CSQ Resources Support Construction Workforce Growth

Construction Skills Queensland (CSQ) continues to provide valuable support for Queensland's building and construction industry through training subsidies, workforce planning services, industry support funding and apprentice employer incentives. These programs are designed to attract new entrants, upskill existing workers and help businesses address future workforce needs.

Recent insights from CSQ Industry Outlook 2026-27 highlight the scale of opportunity ahead, with Queensland's construction pipeline forecast to reach \$70.1 billion in 2026-27, requiring an average workforce of more than 142,000 construction workers. The report identifies ongoing demand across both residential and engineering construction, with strong opportunities throughout regional Queensland.

CSQ is also investing in workforce diversity through its Supporting Women in Construction Grants Program, which will provide \$4 million in 2026-27 for industry-led initiatives that attract, retain and support women in construction careers. Eligible organisations can apply for funding ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000 per year, with applications currently open and closing on 25 September 2026.

[Queensland Women in Construction Advisory Committee | CSQ](#)

Businesses, industry organisations and workforce development stakeholders are encouraged to explore the range of CSQ training, workforce planning and funding opportunities available to support the future of Queensland's construction industry.

[Industry and small business | CSQ](#)

For more on the regional focus presented mid September in Townsville - [CSQ Training Plan 2627 - Townsville Presentation.pdf](#)

Read the Construction Industry Outlook - [CSQ Industry Outlook 2026-27.pdf](#)





People and local capability

Building equipment and careers in Townsville

At REELS Manufacturing Group, conveyor and fabrication work creates a place for the next generation of skilled workers to learn their trade.

At its Townsville workshop, **REELS Manufacturing Group** manufactures conveyor components and fabricates equipment for customers in resources, agriculture and other industries. The work gives apprentices an opportunity to learn across a range of practical manufacturing jobs.

One apprentice is approaching their third year, and REELS plans to take on two more apprentices in the coming months. The company wants to create pathways for young Indigenous people into skilled work while strengthening the manufacturing capability available in North Queensland.

That capability can be seen in the jobs moving through the workshop. REELS is manufacturing a 250-metre stockyard conveyor for a Western Australian project, has recently made a molasses mixing and distribution tank, and is developing a hopper and conveyor chute system for handling salt lick blends on cattle properties.

The team also makes conveyor rollers, idler frames and pulleys, fabricates structural steel, chutes, walkways and platforms, and undertakes conveyor refurbishment and maintenance. These are skills regional businesses can draw on for major builds as well as day-to-day equipment needs.

REELS has operated for 30 years and remains headquartered at 75 Shaw Road. As Australia's only Indigenous-owned conveyor company, it sees local jobs, training and manufacturing as connected parts of its future in Townsville.

To discuss a conveyor, fabrication or materials-handling requirement, call REELS on 1800 718 452, email sales@reelsgroup.com.au or visit reelsgroup.com.au.

Indigenous Businesses and Buyers Invited to Connect

As part of **Indigenous Business Month 2026**, the Queensland Government is hosting **Get Seen. Get Connected. Meet the Buyer**, a flagship procurement and networking event designed to connect buyers, procurement professionals and industry representatives with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-owned businesses. The event aims to help organisations identify capable suppliers for government procurement, major projects, infrastructure investment and the Brisbane 2032 delivery pipeline.

Attendees will have the opportunity to meet Indigenous businesses across a range of sectors, including infrastructure, construction, professional services, manufacturing and tourism, while exploring upcoming procurement opportunities and strengthening supplier diversity within their supply chains.

Date: Wednesday, 21 October 2026

Time: 9:00am to 1:00pm

Venue: Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, South Bank

More information and registrations:

<https://events.humanitix.com/get-seen-get-connected-meet-the-buyer>

Please note that exhibitor spaces have been fully allocated, with interested businesses able to join the waitlist through the event organisers.

Tec-NQ helping build North Queensland's future workforce

MITEZ is proud to recognise the outstanding contribution of **Tec-NQ**, winner of the recent **Townsville Chamber Raising Regions Award**.

As an independent senior secondary school focused on trade and employment pathways, Tec-NQ is playing an important role in developing the next generation of skilled workers for North Queensland. Their model combines classroom learning with real-world industry exposure, helping students gain the skills, behaviours and confidence needed to transition successfully into the workforce.

A key strength of Tec-NQ is its strong connection to industry. Students who demonstrate workplace-ready behaviours are rewarded with valuable industry placement opportunities, while those requiring additional support receive tailored wrap-around services to help them build the skills and attitudes needed for future success.

With boarding facilities available and capacity to grow, Tec-NQ is well positioned to support more students from across regional and remote Queensland. As workforce shortages continue to challenge many sectors, there is significant opportunity for industry to strengthen its engagement with Tec-NQ, helping create even more pathways for young people while building a pipeline of skilled local workers.

Learn More – [Accredited Trade Training in Townsville, Cairns and Mackay](#)

Follow along – [Tec-NQ Posts](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Find out more on Tec-NQ Partnerships with Industry – [2026-27-Partnership-Proposal.pdf](#)

Get in Touch – [Contact Tec-NQ](#)



Skilling Queenslanders for Work – Round 2 now open for Applications

Help build a stronger workforce in your community

The next funding round for the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative opened for applications on 31 August 2026, giving community organisations another opportunity to make a real difference for Queenslanders and local employers.

The first funding round is already making an impact, with 166 projects funded through 92 community organisations, supporting more than 5,200 Queenslanders to build skills, gain experience and move towards employment.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work brings together jobseekers, community organisations and employers to create meaningful pathways into work. By delivering training that responds to local workforce needs, your organisation can help Queenslanders who are facing barriers to employment build the confidence, skills and experience they need to take their next step – while helping employers connect with job-ready candidates and build the workforce they need.

Could your organisation help create the next employment success story?



To learn more, view helpful application videos and to apply, visit:

dtet.qld.gov.au/sqw-apply

Applications close Thursday, 22 October 2026.

Connect, Collaborate and Be Inspired at the VNQ AGM 🌟

VNQ Quarterly Networking Event and AGM – Inspire and Ignite. Join Volunteering North Queensland for an afternoon of connection, insights and collaboration. This is a great opportunity to hear about VNQ's achievements, future priorities, and connect with stakeholders from across North Queensland. Whether you're a long-time member or new to the network, all are welcome to attend.

Register here: [Inspire and Ignite 🌟 VNQ Quarterly Networking With the VNQ AGM](#)





Meet the Regulators: Free Compliance Roadshow for Community Organisations

Community organisations across North Queensland are invited to attend Meet the Regulators, a free event hosted by Volunteering North Queensland to help charities, not-for-profits, clubs and volunteer-involving organisations better understand their compliance obligations.

Developed in response to feedback from Volunteering North Queensland's Stronger Together regional consultation tour, the sessions will provide practical guidance on governance, regulatory requirements and good organisational practice. Participants will hear directly from representatives of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), Australian Taxation Office (ATO), Office of Fair Trading (OFT) and Blue Card Services.

Topics include charity and not-for-profit obligations, governance responsibilities, board and management committee roles, common compliance challenges and where to access reliable information and support. The event is suitable for board and committee members, CEOs, managers, volunteer coordinators, staff and volunteers involved in governance, administration or compliance.

Attendance is free, but registration is essential. To secure your place, visit [Tickets for Meet the Regulators](#)

Digital connectivity essential to corridor growth



Reliable digital connectivity supports people, businesses and supply chains across the Mount Isa to Townsville corridor, from coordinating freight and reaching new markets to accessing education and healthcare.

MITEZ continues to advocate for the connections our communities and industries need. We thank the **nbn team** for bringing regional stakeholders together to keep these needs in focus.

nbn's "Fast nbn speeds for regional Australia" campaign encourages households and businesses to check the services available at their address.

[Find out more and check your address.](#)

Regional innovators encouraged to apply for \$125,000 nbn grants program

North West Queensland businesses and organisations with an innovative idea are encouraged to apply for the **2026 Innovate with nbn® Grants Program**.

Delivered by nbn Australia in partnership with the **Regional Australia Institute**, the program celebrates regional businesses and organisations using digital technology and the nbn network to innovate, improve services, increase productivity and create positive community impact.

A total of **\$125,000** is available through the 2026 program. Seven category winners will each receive a \$15,000 grant, with one recipient also named the Innovate with nbn Champion and awarded an additional \$20,000.

Applications are invited across seven categories:

- **AgTech and Environment**
- **Arts, Culture and Tourism**
- **Education**
- **First Nations Business**
- **Health and Wellbeing**
- **Innovation for Productivity**
- **Women in Regional Business**

Eligible applicants must be located in regional Australia, connected to the nbn network, hold an Australian Business Number and have an Australian bank account corresponding with that ABN. Applicants may enter under one category only.



North West Queensland is home to resilient businesses, community organisations and entrepreneurs who are finding new ways to overcome distance, improve access and deliver better outcomes. This program provides an opportunity to showcase those ideas and secure funding to help take them further.

Previous applicants who were not successful are also encouraged to refine their idea and apply again.

Applications close at midnight on **Monday, 12 October 2026**.

To review the program information and apply, visit innovatewithnbn.com.au.

INNOVATE WITH NBN GRANTS PROGRAM

Helping great businesses grow in our regional and remote areas

AI and Cybersecurity – building capability for the future

Artificial intelligence and digital technologies continue to reshape the way businesses operate, creating new opportunities to improve productivity, streamline processes and support growth. At a recent AI and Cyber Workshop, discussions focused on how businesses can harness these technologies effectively while managing emerging risks.

A key theme was that while automation and AI are increasingly performing routine and repetitive tasks, the value of human skills continues to grow. Critical thinking, judgement, communication and oversight remain essential, with businesses encouraged to maintain a "human in the loop" approach when using AI tools to ensure accuracy, context and quality control.

The workshop also explored responsible AI adoption, including intellectual property considerations, data privacy, cybersecurity and the potential for AI-generated inaccuracies. Participants were encouraged to build organisation-wide capability and governance frameworks rather than relying solely on individual staff members experimenting with AI tools.

Workforce capability was another strong theme, with discussion around the role of microcredentials, short-course training and workforce planning initiatives in helping businesses adapt to changing technology and skills requirements.

Miranda Mears from **Australian Impact Group** gave ideas on what was possible within small teams with the assistance of AI from doing existing work faster, doing what was previously uneconomic, and doing more without proportional overheads. Thanks to **Luisa Grant** from **ISJA** and **Melanie Vearing, Industry Workforce Advisor** for the session.

Free and subsidised training is available:

Australian Cyber Security Centre – [Homepage](#) | [Cyber.gov.au](#)

TAFE Qld – [Technology and automation](#)

University of Sunshine Coast – [Short courses and microcredentials](#) | [UniSC](#) | [University of the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia](#)

Disability friendly Business Basics – [Disability friendly business basics](#) – [CheckUP](#)



SAVE
-THE-
DATE



What's on along the MITEZ CORRIDOR



ALL ABOUT BEEF 2026

INDUSTRY NETWORKING

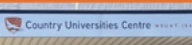
Meet producers and industry leaders.

Locations: Rabobank, Nutrien, JBS, etc.

Location: Conoury Equestrian Centre Shed

Thursday 8 October 2026 | 5pm - 10pm | FREE EVENT

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3.30 PM TO 5.00 PM

DIGGERS ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE MEETING ROOM

RSVP BY 10 OCTOBER 2026
07 4741 2900
flinders@flinders.qld.gov.au

CAN'T ATTEND?
Written feedback will also be welcomed.
Everyone with an interest in the facility is welcome.

FOCUSSED ON PRACTICAL IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE.



7-8 NOV 14-15

Registrations are open

Clear out, cash in and keep good stuff out of landfill.

garagesaletrail.com.au/register



Australian Government mobile service centres

Serving regional Australia

Visit the mobile service centre to find out about Australian Government payments and services for rural families, older Australians, students, job seekers, people with disability, carers, farmers and self-employed people. We can also help veterans and their families connect to the Department of Veterans' Affairs phone line and online services. Staff can provide you with information and support. They can also help you create a myGov account. myGov is a simple and secure way to access government services online.

RICHMOND

Monday, 26 October 2026 10 am to 4 pm

Tuesday, 27 October 2026 9 am to 2 pm

In front of the library, Goldring Street

For more information, go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice



08-22 MAY

THE OUTBACK 2027

QUT MUSIC TRAILS



Register now:
Meet the Regulator - Queensland Charity & Community Compliance Roadshow
Practical Compliance Information for Charities, Not-for-Profits & Community Organisations

Information Session details:
Volunteering North Queensland is pleased to invite charities, not-for-profit organisations, volunteer involving organisations and community groups to the Queensland Charity & Community Compliance Roadshow. Developed in response to feedback gathered through Volunteering North Queensland's Stronger Together regional consultation tour, this free event will bring practical compliance information directly to the organisations and volunteers who need it.

Guest Speakers: Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), Australian Taxation Office (ATO), Office of Fair Trading (OFT) and more.

Cost: Free
When: Tuesday, 6th October 2026
10:30am - 12:30pm and 5:30pm - 7:30pm
Location: To be confirmed.
Register: www.vnq.org.au/training



Volunteering North Queensland's Inspire & Ignite

Quarterly Networking and Feel-Good Story Sharing

Date: Thursday 22nd October,
Time: 7:00am - 9:00am
Location: Northreach Cafe - 38 Canterbury Road Kirwan
Guest Speaker: Andrew Hovenden from The Battle Initiative
Cost: Free for VNQ and Battle Initiative Members, and \$10 for non-members
Breakfast Included, RSVPs Essential via vnq.org.au




JULIA CREEK

DIRT INDUST FESTIVAL

16-17 APRIL 2027

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

Our Members

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REGIONAL COUNCIL

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TOWNSVILLE

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selectability
mental wellbeing and suicide prevention

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