



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

MITEZ calls for lasting regional benefits from critical minerals development

MITEZ is calling for critical minerals development across the Mount Isa to Townsville corridor to deliver lasting benefits through local jobs, business opportunities and coordinated investment in infrastructure and essential services.

As the federal parliamentary inquiry examines social licence and economic development outcomes for critical minerals projects, MITEZ CEO Maria James said community confidence and regional prosperity must be central to project planning.

"Our corridor has an opportunity to connect North West mineral resources with the processing, logistics and industrial capabilities of Townsville," Ms James said.

"Success should be measured in the apprentices trained, local businesses winning work, families choosing to stay and infrastructure that strengthens our communities, alongside production and investment."

Ms James said social licence depended on early engagement and delivering on commitments throughout a project's life.

"Communities need honest conversations about the benefits, impacts and uncertainties, and they need to see that their concerns influence decisions," she said.

"Trust grows when commitments translate into outcomes people can see in their everyday lives."

MITEZ is advocating for practical pathways into employment, accessible procurement opportunities for regional suppliers and meaningful partnerships with Traditional Owners that respect cultural heritage, land and water rights, and community priorities.

Housing, workforce accommodation, healthcare and childcare also need to be considered early, alongside the combined demands of multiple projects.

“We want development that gives people more reasons and opportunities to build their future here,” Ms James said.

“That means planning for the homes and services workers and families need, while ensuring existing residents also benefit.”

Reliable, affordable energy, secure water supplies and efficient road, rail and port connections remain central to MITEZ’s advocacy for the corridor.

“Mineral potential needs competitive infrastructure to become viable projects and lasting jobs,” Ms James said.

“Shared infrastructure can support several projects, strengthen existing industries and deliver benefits across our communities.”

Proposed vanadium developments around Richmond and Julia Creek, together with Townsville’s Queensland Resources Common User Facility, illustrate the opportunity to connect resource development with regional processing capability.

Capturing that opportunity requires coordinated planning across extraction, processing, engineering, maintenance, freight and workforce development.

Ms James said clear approval requirements and predictable decision-making should work alongside meaningful community input, environmental safeguards and transparent information about water use and rehabilitation.

“Investment certainty and community confidence need to progress together. Early engagement and clear expectations help everyone understand what responsible development will look like,” she said.

MITEZ is calling on federal, state and local governments to coordinate investment across the project pipeline and support councils to prepare for growth.

“Small regional councils should not be left carrying the infrastructure and service costs of projects serving national priorities,” Ms James said.

“Critical minerals projects should leave our communities stronger, with skills, businesses and infrastructure that continue delivering benefits well beyond the life of a mine.”

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