

Recent events in Townsville have highlighted the strength of the **Mount Isa to Townsville corridor** and the opportunities that come from connecting our regional capabilities with international markets.

I was pleased to attend the official opening of the **Queensland Resources Common User Facility (QRCUF)**, an important addition to our critical minerals capability. The facility will help companies test processing technologies at a larger scale, generate operational data and produce samples, building the evidence needed to progress towards commercial production.

For our corridor, this strengthens the connection between the North West's mineral resources and Townsville's processing expertise, workforce, suppliers and export pathways. It creates opportunities to attract investment, grow local businesses and retain more value from our resources within the region. Read more about the facility's opening here.











Alongside this milestone, MITEZ welcomed visiting **European Union delegates on 23–24 October**, hosting a networking reception with members and strategic partners and facilitating a Port of Townsville tour. These engagements provided an opportunity to showcase the corridor's capabilities and explore connections across critical minerals, processing, technology and investment. The conversations reinforced why we must tell the corridor's story as a whole. Realising our resource potential requires reliable, affordable energy, secure water, efficient freight connections and a skilled workforce. These foundations remain central to MITEZ's advocacy and to attracting investment that delivers lasting regional benefits.

This directly connects with our work with **GHD** to develop the **MITEZ Investment Attraction Prospectus**. We are developing this resource to give prospective investors a clear picture of the corridor's opportunities, the capabilities that support them and the infrastructure needed to bring them forward. By drawing together investment-ready projects and future opportunities, we can turn growing interest in our region into more focused investment conversations. *Read more about the GHD project and how you can contribute in the next article.*











Thank you to our members and strategic partners, including **NQ SPARK**, **Australian Industry Group** and **Trade and Investment Queensland**, for supporting the delegation's visit. A special thank you to **Drew Penny** and the **Port of Townsville team** for welcoming the delegates and demonstrating our corridor's connections to global markets.

I look forward to building on these relationships and working together to create opportunities across our corridor.

PORT OF TOWNSVILLE

GHD appointed to deliver MITEZ Investment Attraction Prospectus

MITEZ is pleased to announce that following a competitive procurement process, **GHD** has been appointed to undertake the research and development of the new **MITEZ Investment Attraction Prospectus**, proudly funded by the Queensland Government's Remote Area Board Funding Program. The project will showcase investment-ready and future pipeline opportunities across the seven local government areas in the MITEZ region.

The prospectus is being developed to position North and North West Queensland as a compelling destination for national and international investment, highlighting opportunities across key sectors including critical minerals, renewable energy, agriculture, manufacturing, energy, regional infrastructure, and more.

The project includes stakeholder engagement, regional research, economic data compilation and the development of investor-focused content that will be published in both digital and print formats. The final prospectus will provide a valuable tool for attracting new investment and promoting the region's economic potential to domestic and international audiences.

Over the coming months, representatives from GHD will be reaching out to councils, businesses, industry organisations and project proponents across the MITEZ corridor to gather information on significant projects and emerging opportunities. This engagement will help ensure the prospectus reflects the breadth and diversity of investment opportunities across our region.

Do you have a project we should know about?

We encourage MITEZ members and stakeholders with projects in development, expansion plans or future investment opportunities to contact MITEZ. Whether your project is seeking investment, progressing through approvals, or represents an emerging opportunity for the region, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss its inclusion in the prospectus.

Importantly, the prospectus is intended to promote investment opportunities and regional strengths. No commercial-in-confidence information will be published, and project information will only be included at a level appropriate for public investment promotion.

If you have a project that could help showcase the future of the MITEZ region, please contact the MITEZ team. We look forward to working with businesses, industry and local governments to tell the region's investment story.

GHD







Queensland Government

Welcome New MITEZ Member: Bumi Resources Australia

MITEZ is pleased to welcome **Bumi Resources Australia** as a new member, bringing significant investment and renewed mining activity to the North Queensland resources corridor.

Part of the Indonesian-listed **PT Bumi Resources Group**, the company has established a growing presence in North Queensland through its subsidiary **Wolfram Limited**, with operations centred on the Mount Carlton gold, silver and copper mine, located approximately 60km south of Charters Towers.

Over the past 18 months, Bumi Resources has moved quickly to expand its regional footprint. The company has led the restart of the Mount Carlton operation, bringing the mine back into production and recommissioning its processing plant, while also advancing both open pit and underground mining activities. Commercial production commenced during 2026, supported by major mining contractor Macmahon Holdings.

Bumi has also demonstrated its long-term commitment to North Queensland through proposed investments in additional mineral projects, including the Highway Reward copper-gold project near Charters Towers.

With growing exploration, mining and processing activities located along the strategic Mount Isa to Townsville supply chain, Bumi Resources is contributing to regional jobs, investment and the continued development of North Queensland's resources sector. MITEZ looks forward to working with the Bumi team as they expand their operations and strengthen economic opportunities across the corridor.

Find out more: LinkedIn







BUMI RESOURCES

Welcome New Member: Strategic Minerals Corporation

MITEZ is pleased to welcome Strategic Minerals Corporation as a new member.

Strategic Minerals Corporation is advancing the **Big Vein South (BVS) Gold Project** in North West Queensland. North of Richmond, the project is located in the Woolgar Minerals Province, home to extensive mineral exploration areas and potential future projects.



As a company focused on unlocking the region's mining potential, Strategic Minerals Corporation shares MITEZ's commitment to regional development, investment and opportunity. The BVS Gold Project has the potential to generate long-term economic benefits for the region through exploration, construction, operations and local supply chain opportunities.

We look forward to working with the Strategic Minerals Corporation team, building valuable connections across our membership network and supporting the continued growth of Queensland's North West Minerals Province.

Connect with Strategic Minerals:
Website: [QGold | QCoal Group]

Rail incentives welcome as MITEZ pushes for competitive freight

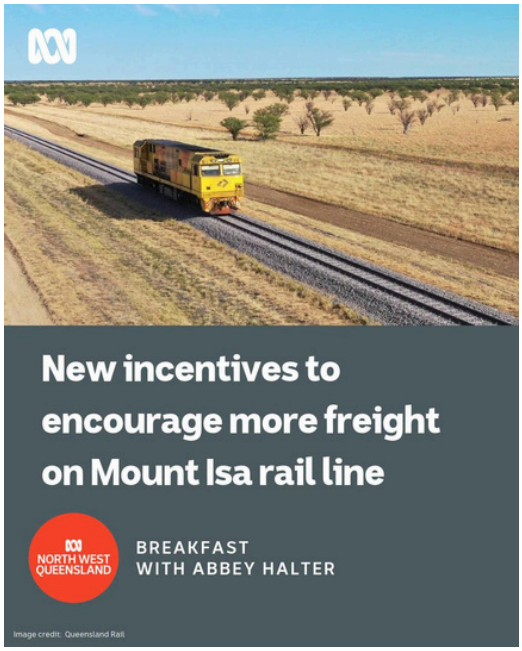
MITEZ has welcomed **Queensland Rail's** freight incentives as a positive step towards greater use of the Mount Isa Line, while calling for continued action on freight costs across the corridor.

More competitive freight remains a top advocacy priority for MITEZ. Access discounts must translate into affordable end-to-end transport, reliable services and practical loading and unloading options that make rail viable for more businesses.

Achieving this requires Queensland Rail, above-rail operators, logistics providers, government and industry to work together to address challenges across the supply chain.

MITEZ will continue advocating for a coordinated freight network that supports existing industries, attracts new investment and improves safety for regional communities.

The **Queensland Freight Delivery Plan 2026** provides a welcome foundation for this collaboration and for delivering tangible improvements in freight productivity and reliability.



READ MORE



Expands Project Footprint

Richmond Vanadium Technology Limited (RVT) has announced plans to acquire Boomarra Minerals Ltd for the exploration permit, which partially overlaps the company's existing mining lease application for the Richmond–Julia Creek Vanadium Project. The move is expected to strengthen land tenure continuity across the project area and support a more streamlined pathway for future project development.

The additional tenure will provide greater flexibility as RVT progresses environmental studies, approvals and long-term planning for one of Australia's largest vanadium development projects. Located near Richmond and Julia Creek, the project is expected to play an important role in supplying vanadium for emerging energy storage and critical minerals markets.

According to Executive Chair Brendon Grylls, the acquisition will provide greater flexibility in managing tenure interests while helping advance environmental assessments and mining approvals for the project.

View the ASX announcement:
https://mcusercontent.com/098f0e4bd45e05b34d4c5e250/files/61b35868-c562-d129-d09a-937f6a4b852a/3140038.pdf

Nationwide GESSS 2026: Connecting Australia's Next Generation of Earth Scientists

Students, researchers, and industry professionals are invited to be part of Nationwide GESSS 2026, the first-ever national edition of the GSA Earth Science Student Symposium (GESSS), taking place on 5-6 November 2026 at James Cook University in Townsville. Run by students, for students, the free event provides a supportive and collaborative environment for undergraduate students, postgraduates, PhD candidates, and early-career researchers to showcase their work, build presentation skills, and expand their professional networks.

For the first time, GESSS will connect participants across Australia through a hybrid format, with in-person events hosted in capital cities and presentations streamed nationally via Microsoft Teams. This innovative approach creates a truly connected Earth science community, offering attendees opportunities to engage with research from across the country while building valuable industry and peer connections.

Whether you're presenting your latest research, exploring emerging trends in geoscience, or looking to strengthen your professional network, Nationwide GESSS 2026 promises two days of learning, collaboration, and inspiration. Don't miss this opportunity to support and celebrate the future of Australia's Earth sciences sector.

More information including the program: **https://chipper-druid-ca3864.netlify.app/**





Brisbane 2032 Roadshow Highlights Opportunities for North West Queensland

MITEZ recently attended the first **Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Community Roadshow** in Townsville, providing valuable insights into how regional Queensland can position itself to benefit from the state's largest ever sporting event.

The event was opened by **Tim Mander MP,** with attendees hearing from Mount Isa-born golfing legend **Greg Norman AO**, who now serves as a Director on the Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee Board. Greg spoke passionately about Queensland's opportunity to showcase itself on the world stage and highlighted the long-term legacy the Games will leave for future generations.

A panel discussion featuring Greg Norman, Jamie Fitzpatrick Board Member of the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority (GIRCA), Paralympian Raissa Martin PLY, and emerging Townsville sprinter Uwezo Lubenda explored what the Games could mean for communities across Queensland. Discussions centred on the development of training facilities, opportunities for regional centres to host training camps and competition events, and how infrastructure investments can continue delivering benefits long after the closing ceremony.

Brisbane 2032 is far more than a sporting event. It represents a state-wide economic opportunity that will reach well beyond South East Queensland.

A dedicated procurement session provided practical information for businesses looking to become part of the Games supply chain. Director of Procurement Rob McRuvie outlined upcoming procurement pathways, with all opportunities to be listed through the ICN Gateway platform. Businesses were strongly encouraged to register their details and select the "Keep Me Posted" option to receive notifications as opportunities are released.

James Doyle, Regional Director NQ Office of the Department of State Development Infrastructure and Planning shared tips for businesses seeking government contracts, emphasising the importance of understanding mandatory requirements while clearly demonstrating value for money. Attendees were encouraged to view government as the customer, completing forms in full, and focus on being visible, connected and engaged now to take advantage of opportunities.

Businesses were also reminded that even if they can only supply part of a larger contract, organisers want to understand the capability that exists. Townsville City Council reinforced this message, encouraging businesses to register on council vendor panels to improve their visibility for future opportunities.

Commonwealth Bank representatives discussed financial readiness, noting that preparation should start now. Businesses were encouraged to seek advice early, particularly around working capital requirements, workforce planning, supply chains and systems capacity. Dedicated Brisbane 2032 resources and education programs are expected to become available from 2027.

Coinciding with Indigenous Business Month, the roadshow also featured discussions on the role of First Nations businesses in the Brisbane 2032 supply chain. Representatives outlined the support available through government programs to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprises build capability, access procurement opportunities and connect with major project proponents.

With the Games now six years away, early preparation emerged as a recurring theme throughout the day. While major infrastructure projects will attract attention, procurement opportunities are expected to span a vast range of industries, including accommodation, transport, food services, construction materials, event infrastructure, uniforms, signage, safety equipment, logistics and professional services. For the MITEZ region, the question is: how far will this supply chain extend into regional Queensland?

Many businesses are already feeling the effects of workforce and skills shortages. As demand continues to grow across major projects and industries, Brisbane 2032 may present an opportunity for businesses and regions to think differently about productivity, innovation and collaboration. The challenge may be less about working harder and more about working smarter.

With millions of visitors expected to travel to Queensland in the lead up to and during the Games, the opportunities are substantial. Whether supplying goods and services, hosting visitors, supporting logistics, or contributing specialised expertise, regional businesses have the chance to play a role in one of the most significant events in Queensland's history.

The opportunity is coming. Will we be ready?

Find out more:
Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games | Brisbane 2032
Gateway by ICN - BRISBANE2032GAMES - Home
2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games | State Development, Infrastructure and Planning
Procurement & Tenders - Townsville City Council
CommBank Business Masterclass
Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism

Australian Government
Productivity Commission



Have Your Say on Regional Airfares

The Productivity Commission is seeking input as part of its inquiry into the Determinants of Regional Airfares, with registrations now open for upcoming public hearings.

The hearings will be held online on 27 November, 30 November and 2 December 2026, providing individuals, businesses and organisations with an opportunity to respond to the inquiry's interim report, due for release in mid-November.

Reliable and affordable air services remain critical for regional communities, tourism operators and businesses across North and North West Queensland. Members with an interest in regional aviation are encouraged to participate and share their experiences and perspectives.

Registrations close on 19 November 2026.
For more information or to register, visit: **https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries-and-research/regional-airfares/public-hearings/**

Queensland's Minerals Acceleration Program to Drive Future Growth

The Queensland Government has launched the **Minerals Acceleration Program (MAP)**, investing almost $20 million over three years to accelerate mineral exploration and project development across the state.



Of particular interest to Northern Queensland is the program's focus on improving understanding of copper systems in the North West Minerals Province, one of Australia's most prospective mineral regions. New geological data, geophysical surveys and mineral systems studies will help explorers better target future drilling programs and identify new opportunities.

The program will also map critical mineral opportunities across Queensland and establish a Development Accelerator to help promising projects overcome technical challenges and progress more quickly towards production.

For MITEZ, MAP represents a significant investment in the future of regional Queensland, supporting exploration, attracting investment and creating opportunities across mining, transport, logistics, manufacturing and professional services. By delivering better data and stronger industry collaboration, the program aims to reduce exploration risk and strengthen the pipeline of future resource projects.



Don't Miss: Digging Deeper 2026

The Digging Deeper 2026 - The GSQ Showcase will be held in Brisbane on 2 December, bringing together industry, government and researchers to explore the latest geoscience insights, mineral exploration opportunities and outcomes from the Minerals Acceleration Program. The annual event provides a valuable forum for learning about new datasets, geological discoveries and emerging opportunities across Queensland's resources sector.

For more information and registrations, visit the Digging Deeper 2026 event page.
Digging Deeper 2026 - The GSQ Showcase



Academics, researchers and industry representatives came together at **James Cook University** in October for the DBI International Network Workshop: From Waste to Walls – Reimagining and Repurposing Materials for Circular Concrete and Masonry. The workshop highlighted emerging research, practical industry innovations, and the growing need to rethink how materials are used across the construction sector.

A key theme throughout the day was the importance of collaboration to address the dual challenges of decarbonisation and disaster resilience. Presenters emphasised that delivering more sustainable infrastructure will require stronger connections between research, industry, standards development, procurement and investment, helping to break down traditional silos that can limit innovation.

Discussions explored a range of approaches to reducing the environmental footprint of construction materials, from measuring embodied carbon and improving product transparency through Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs), to increasing the circularity of bricks, concrete and masonry products. Presenters also showcased innovative research into waste-derived graphene oxide, investigating how materials sourced from tyres, food waste and other waste streams could enhance construction products while reducing environmental impacts.

The concept of designing buildings for future disassembly and material reuse generated significant interest. Speakers challenged traditional "take, make and dispose" construction models, encouraging the industry to consider how buildings can be designed so valuable materials remain in circulation for longer.

A panel discussion on how decarbonisation is shaping the building industry highlighted both opportunities and barriers. While industry interest in sustainable materials continues to grow, challenges remain around cost, risk, standards, workforce capability and market adoption. The potential role of automation, robotics and AI in supporting productivity and quality assurance was also explored, particularly in addressing labour shortages across the sector.

The day concluded with a tour of JCU's research facilities, providing attendees with an insight into the innovative work being undertaken in North Queensland.

As the construction sector continues its transition toward circular economy principles, events such as this play an important role in connecting industry and researchers to accelerate the adoption of new ideas and technologies.

For more information:

DBI – Decarbonising The Building Industry
Home | Think Brick
Sustainable synthesis of graphene oxide from Tyre-Char and its applications in cement
Josephine Vaughan | About | University of Newcastle
The Centre for Disaster Studies - JCU Australia

Interested in more on Modern Methods of Construction? The 6th Annual Modern Methods of Construction event will be held in Brisbane February 2027 -
6th Annual Modern Methods of Construction Brisbane (Brochure) 2 Casey.pdf - Google Drive

Unlocking Prefab and Modular Housing in Regional Queensland

Industry, government, finance and training leaders came together earlier this month for a webinar hosted by RDATNWQ, RDATN and prefabAUS to explore how prefabricated and modular construction could help address Queensland's housing shortage, particularly in regional communities. Discussions highlighted the potential for modern methods of construction to deliver homes faster, reduce waste, improve productivity, ease workforce shortages and support more affordable housing outcomes. The term Modern Methods of Construction (MMC), used during the webinar includes prefabricated, modular and off-site building techniques designed to deliver housing and infrastructure faster, more efficiently and with improved quality.

As Australia's peak industry body for prefabricated and offsite construction, prefabAUS works with industry, government and researchers to advance innovative building methods that can deliver housing and infrastructure more efficiently, sustainably and affordably. A consistent theme throughout the webinar was that the technology, expertise and manufacturing capability already exist in Queensland, including in regional centres. However, greater certainty around project pipelines, procurement, financing and regulatory approvals will be needed to encourage investment and industry growth. Planning and approval processes were identified as some of the key barriers to wider adoption.

Workforce development was also recognised as a critical part of the solution. The TAFE Centre of Excellence Construction Tech, led by TAFE Queensland, is developing training, research and industry partnerships to address workforce shortages and support the adoption of modern construction methods. A range of short courses and micro-credentials are already available to help workers and businesses build capability in this emerging field.

Access to finance was another major topic of discussion. In 2025, Commonwealth Bank of Australia became the first major Australian bank to join prefabAUS and introduced lending reforms to better support prefabricated housing. Webinar speakers noted that financing solutions are evolving to recognise that much of the value in prefab construction is created off-site, requiring a different approach to traditional building finance. These changes are helping reduce barriers for both manufacturers and home buyers.

Practical examples helped demonstrate the potential of modular construction beyond housing. One case study featured ME Technology Group's Off-Grid Command Centre, a prefabricated, solar-powered site office designed for remote locations. The project showcases how modular solutions can deliver sustainable, fit-for-purpose infrastructure quickly and with minimal site establishment requirements.

Participants were also encouraged to explore EPIC Builds, a television series produced by prefabAUS and available on 9Now. The series highlights innovative prefabricated and modular projects from around Australia, demonstrating how modern construction methods are being used to deliver homes, schools and other infrastructure faster, smarter and more sustainably.



WATCH VIDEO

The webinar highlighted growing support for the sector from industry, training providers and the Queensland Government, including Rebecca Young MP, who has advocated for the role modern construction methods can play in addressing housing challenges across the state. For regional Queensland in particular, prefab and modular construction is increasingly being recognised as an important tool for delivering housing, accommodation and workforce infrastructure where it is needed most.

The strongest message from the session was that education and awareness will be critical to the successful adoption of prefabricated and modular construction. As housing demand continues to grow, industry, government, financiers and communities will need to embrace new technologies and modern building methods rather than relying solely on traditional approaches. The future of construction is not about doing what has always been done, but about adopting smarter, faster and more efficient ways to deliver the homes and accommodation infrastructure regional Queensland needs.

Further information and resources:
·TAFE Centre of Excellence Construction Tech | TAFE Queensland
·prefabAUS | Advancing Modern Methods of Construction
·Watch Epic Builds Season 1, Catch Up TV - 9Now - Watch Channel 9 Live TV Streams
·ME Tech Off Grid Command Centre - Meet The Buyer.pdf - Google Drive
CBA backs prefabricated construction industry to boost housing supply

Webinar Participants Highlight Strong Support for Modern Methods of Construction

Feedback from attendees at the recent Unlocking Prefab & Modular Housing in Regional Queensland webinar highlighted strong interest in accelerating the adoption of Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) across regional Queensland. Participants identified planning, regulation and approvals as the biggest barrier to activating MMC, while also nominating greater planning and regulatory certainty as the most important factor for building industry confidence and investment.



Attendees saw the greatest near-term opportunity for MMC in delivering social and affordable housing, followed by key worker housing and remote and First Nations housing. Encouragingly, many organisations indicated they are interested in participating in MMC projects over the next two years and are actively seeking partners to help bring opportunities to life.

The results reinforce the growing recognition that prefab and modular construction can play an important role in addressing regional housing challenges, provided the right policy settings, project pipeline and industry collaboration are in place.

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**

Expressions of Interest Open for Queensland Exploration Opportunities

The Queensland Government is inviting resource companies to submit Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for areas they believe should be considered for future exploration and production opportunities. The process allows industry to help shape future land releases by identifying prospective areas for coal, petroleum and gas exploration across Queensland.

This is an opportunity for companies to highlight areas with development potential, including greenfield opportunities and locations that can leverage existing infrastructure. EOIs submitted through this process will help inform future competitive tender releases planned from 2027.

Industry participants interested in future exploration opportunities are encouraged to review the requirements and submit an EOI before the closing date of 30 November 2026. Further information is available through Business Queensland.

Expressions of interest for exploration | Business Queensland
For a map of the area, view here: **eoi-petroleum-basins.pdf**

Connections & Opportunities: Townsville Indigenous Business Expo

Regional businesses, organisations and industry representatives came together at the Townsville Indigenous Business Month Expo on 21 October, with this year's event attracting approximately twice the attendance of last year's expo and creating a vibrant environment for networking, collaboration and new business opportunities. Drawing participants from across North Queensland, the expo highlighted the strength and diversity of Indigenous businesses and showcased opportunities to build stronger connections with government, industry and the broader business community.

Held at Quayside Terminal, Port of Townsville, attendees heard from Indigenous business leaders, Traditional Owner representatives and industry stakeholders on the importance of strengthening Indigenous participation in procurement, tourism and economic development. Presentations from the Port of Townsville, Mungalla Aboriginal Tours and Gudjuda Reference Group Aboriginal Corporation highlighted the growing opportunities available through local procurement, partnership arrangements and cultural tourism experiences.

A key theme throughout the day was the importance of being procurement-ready and building capability so local Indigenous businesses can access supply chain opportunities with major organisations and government. Attendees also learned about emerging opportunities in Indigenous tourism, including cultural experiences, eco-tourism initiatives and alignment with Queensland's Indigenous Tourism Strategy.

The Indigenous business panel discussion provided valuable insights from business leaders who shared their experiences, challenges and successes, while the fashion showcase and exhibitor displays celebrated Indigenous creativity, entrepreneurship and innovation.

Most importantly, the event created countless opportunities for meaningful conversation and new connections. The strong turnout and positive energy throughout the expo demonstrated the growing interest in supporting Indigenous businesses and fostering partnerships that will contribute to the continued economic development of North Queensland.

More on Indigenous Business Month - https://www.dwatsipm.qld.gov.au/our-work/aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-partnerships/business-economic-development/indigenous-business-month











Cloncurry Airport investment strengthens regional connections

MITEZ welcomes the Australian Government's commitment of **$10 million** for upgrades to Cloncurry Airport, an important outcome for Cloncurry Shire Council and the wider Mount Isa to Townsville corridor.

Announced on 24 October, the funding builds on $11.5 million previously provided jointly by the Australian and Queensland governments for emergency repairs and flood resilience works following significant flood damage. The additional investment will support completion of upgrades needed to maintain regular passenger and mining workforce operations.

Reliable airport infrastructure underpins business travel, tourism, workforce access and essential aeromedical services. For communities and industries across North West Queensland, these connections are fundamental to economic development and regional resilience.

MITEZ congratulates **Cloncurry Shire Council** on securing this investment and welcomes continued support for the transport infrastructure our members and communities rely on.
Read the funding announcement.



MITEZ is proud to be a supporting partner of the Townsville Summit, taking place on 11–12 November 2026 at The Ville Resort-Casino, Townsville. Bringing together business, industry and government, the Summit will explore the major projects, investment opportunities and infrastructure shaping North and North West Queensland.

View the agenda and register.

MITEZ CEO Maria James will chair Day 1 and present "Update from MITEZ: Strengthening North and North West Queensland", highlighting the priorities and opportunities across our corridor.

The Day 1 program includes updates on Eva Copper, the Lindfield vanadium project, Mt Oxide and the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct. Sessions will also examine energy and domestic fuel opportunities through Project Ulysses and Project Lion, workforce development, liveability and investment insights from QIC and NAIF.

Our partnership provides an opportunity to bring the corridor's priorities into broader discussions about regional investment and growth.

We encourage MITEZ members and stakeholders to attend, hear directly from project leaders and build connections with potential partners, customers and investors.

"Projects across our corridor depend on reliable energy, secure water, efficient freight and a skilled workforce. The Townsville Summit is an opportunity to bring project leaders, investors and government together to discuss these shared needs and build the partnerships that help investment move forward," said MITEZ CEO Maria James.

Major Projects Pipeline Breakfast: preparing for North Queensland's opportunities

What could Queensland's next wave of infrastructure investment mean for your business?
MITEZ encourages members and stakeholders to attend the 2026 Queensland Major Projects Pipeline Report Townsville Breakfast, hosted by the **Queensland Major Contractors Association (QMCA)** on Thursday, 26 November.

The regional launch will explore the investment pipeline across energy, defence, transport and emerging industries, with insights into the implications for North Queensland's economy, employment and communities.

For businesses across the Mount Isa to Townsville corridor, understanding upcoming demand can help guide decisions about workforce development, equipment, partnerships and supplier capability. The breakfast also offers an opportunity to connect with contractors, consultants, government representatives and industry decision-makers.

The event is particularly relevant to businesses involved in infrastructure delivery, subcontractors, suppliers and organisations seeking to participate in regional growth.

Event details

- Date: Thursday, 26 November 2026
- Time: From 7:00am
- Venue: The Ville Resort, Sir Leslie Thiess Drive, Townsville
- Host: Queensland Major Contractors Association

Secure your tickets and start planning for the opportunities ahead.
Register for the Townsville breakfast



Dreaming of an iconic Outback adventure? The **Julia Creek Dirt n Dust Festival** is giving one lucky winner the chance to secure their 2027 festival experience early, with a prize package valued at more than $600.

The prize includes four adult weekend passes to the festival, four Artesian Express Races day passes, a three-night camping pass at McIntyre Park, and $100 in Dirt n Dust Dollars to spend during the event.

From thrilling rodeo action and live entertainment to the famous Australia's Best Butt Competition, Dirt n Dust delivers an unforgettable weekend in the heart of the Outback.

Entries close at 11:59pm on 24 November. Entrants must be over 18 years of age. Visit the competition page for full prize details and terms and conditions.

ENTER HERE – **WIN Tickets to Julia Creek Dirt n Dust Festival 2027 – Julia Creek Dirt n Dust Festival**

Tourism Futures Forum Highlights Opportunities for Overlanders Way

Representatives from across North Queensland gathered at the **Tourism Futures Forum** in Townsville to explore emerging trends in tourism, with several key messages directly relevant to businesses and destinations along the Overlanders Way.

A major takeaway was that the domestic drive market remains one of the region's greatest opportunities, with travellers increasingly seeking authentic experiences closer to home. Operators were encouraged to promote their area as a connected journey rather than a collection of individual destinations, making it easy for visitors to discover and plan multi-stop itineraries.

The forum also highlighted the growing role of artificial intelligence in travel planning. Presenters emphasised the importance of maintaining accurate, detailed online information, with websites and tourism listings now being used by AI tools to recommend destinations, experiences and businesses to travellers. Ensuring tourism products are well represented on the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW) was identified as a practical step operators can take immediately to improve visibility and discoverability.

Another key concept was the 'string of pearls' approach to tourism development. Rather than relying on a single hero attraction, successful destinations connect a series of experiences that encourage visitors to continue travelling and exploring. For the Overlanders Way, every town, attraction, event and tourism business has a role to play in creating a seamless visitor journey that encourages longer stays and increased spending across the corridor.

The event also coincided with the launch of Queensland's new First Nations Tourism Strategy, reinforcing the growing importance of Indigenous tourism as a key driver of regional growth. Indigenous cultural experiences are already a significant strength of the Overlanders Way, and the strategy presents opportunities for Traditional Owners, tourism operators and communities to further develop and promote authentic cultural experiences that connect visitors with the region's rich heritage.



Discussions on events and cruise tourism reinforced the value of packaging experiences together, with opportunities identified in agritourism, Indigenous cultural tourism, science experiences, heritage tourism and nature-based attractions. Across every session, one message remained consistent: authentic local experiences continue to be the strongest drawcard for regional destinations.

For Overlanders Way operators: keep online information current, ensure ATDW listings are up to date, encourage visitor reviews, and work collaboratively to develop connected itineraries that showcase the best of the region.

ATDW

First Nations tourism | Tourism | Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, Queensland



New Attractions, Industry Initiatives and Opportunities Strengthen the Overlanders Way

Tourism development, new visitor experiences and industry initiatives are helping strengthen the visitor economy along the Overlanders Way.

Recent highlights include:

- Congratulations to the **Flinders Discovery Centre** being named a finalist in the 2026 Queensland Tourism Awards, recognising its contribution to regional tourism and fossil heritage experiences. **Queensland Tourism Awards Finalists - Queensland Tourism Industry Council**

- **Mount Isa's Underground Hospital and Museum** is expanding its visitor offering with a new escape room, upgraded visitor facilities, a new documentary featuring local stories, and plans for outdoor cinema experiences and enhanced twilight tours. **Home - Underground Hospital**

- A new prehistoric bird species, Tenuicruris piscanexum, has been discovered near Richmond, further enhancing the region's reputation as one of Australia's leading fossil and palaeontological destinations. **Richmond fossil reveals outback bird from 100 million years ago - ABC News**

- The **Outback Queensland Destination Management Plan 2030** has been launched, identifying priorities including ecotourism, events, connectivity, First Nations tourism, agritourism, wellness, food and beverage experiences, and dark sky tourism. **Outback Queensland Destination Management Plan 2030 by Outback Queensland - It's Somet... - Flipsnack**

- Community organisations can now explore funding opportunities through **Stronger Communities Program Round 10,** supporting local infrastructure and community development projects. Closes 19 January 2027. **Stronger Communities Programme Round 10 | business.gov.au**

"New experiences and local initiatives are strengthening the Overlanders Way, connecting visitors with Queensland's reef, red earth and outback."





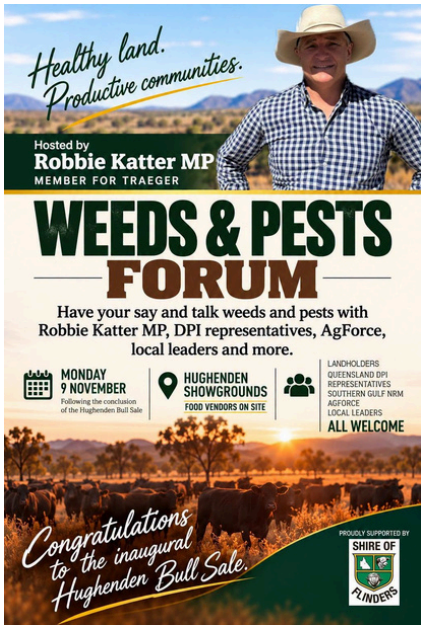


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QCOAL FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE PLANNING TO STUDY AT JCU IN 2027?









Applications Close 15 January, 2027

Established in 2015, the QCoal Foundation

Scholarship offers regional and remote students financial support for their studies at James Cook University (JCU).

Each year, a talented student from a regional or remote community is awarded $30,000 over 3 years to overcome the economic challenges associated with attending university.

More information on eligibility and how to apply is available at **www.qcoalfoundation.org**.

Applicants will be assessed on their aspirations to work in regional and remote communities after graduation, as well as academic performance, extra-curricular achievements and community involvement.

www.qcoalfoundation.org

QCOAL Foundation

Building resilient regional and remote Queensland communities

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