

Whitsunday Industrial Workforce Development

It is widely believed that the proposed mining activity in the Galilee and Bowen Basins will lead to the creation of an estimated 25,000 jobs across the region in the next few years once the accompanying infrastructure needs are also taken into account. In addition to the jobs in the mines, and building and maintaining the requisite infrastructure, many of these jobs will also be created in the mining services industry and other local support businesses.

The Whitsunday Industrial Workforce Development (WIWD) initiative has been established in an effort to ensure there are sufficient, skilled local workers available to meet this industrial expansion.

The purpose of WIWD is to build a sustainable, skilled, local workforce, capable of meeting the industrial expansion of the Whitsunday Region.

Where did this all start?

The Whitsunday Industrial Workforce Development initiative was born through a Skills Formation Strategy (SFS). Funded through Skills Queensland, an SFS is a framework to develop an industry and community network capable of planning and fostering a workforce relevant to its future.

The approach is to first gain an understanding of workforce issues and what industry's needs are, and collaborate with industry and community bodies to address the issues that will then impact on the ways in which skilling occurs. In a high-growth area such as the Whitsundays, where the local workforce cannot keep up with the demand, it is also about attracting and retaining skilled workers to the area.

With the WIWD structure mostly finalised and a firm direction in place, we are now well on the way to moving forward with our workforce development for the Whitsunday industrial expansion.

Leadership

Our Steering Group is made up of industry representatives only. This is to ensure that the initiatives that we undertake solely represent the direct needs of industry.

The role of the Steering Group is to guide the overall direction of the project, to provide individual leadership around the five platforms for action and to provide expertise and suggestions toward achieving WIWD's purpose.

Steering Group (so far)

CHAIR: Colin Thompson (Melco Engineering);
Simon Ormes (Abigroup); Tim McQuoid Mason (RPS); Andrew Yeatman (Conquest Mining); Matthew Magin (NQBP);
Malcolm Stanley (Leighton Contractors); Janice Avison (Adani Mining); Dave Nebauer (Sonoma Mine)

The Action Platforms

When defining the overall purpose of this project, it was recognised that there was a broad range of issues that needed to be addressed. As such, we decided to break down our activities across five action platforms (see diagram below).

A subcommittee has been formed around each platform and is charged with bringing together the appropriate members from industry and service to achieve the platform's objectives.

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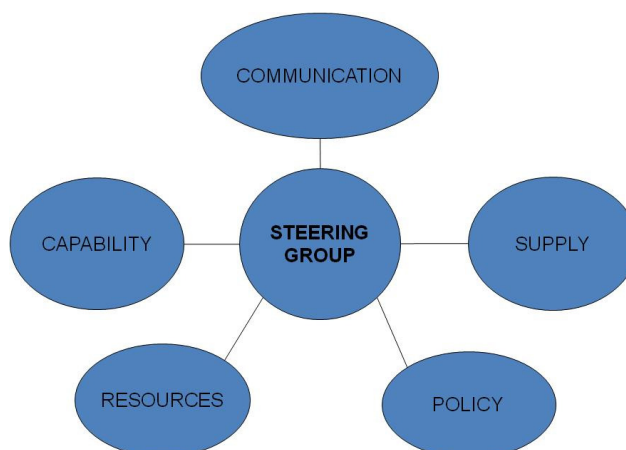
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Subcommittee Membership (so far):

Supply	Capability	Communication	Policy	Resources
COMMITTEE CHAIR: Simon Ormes (Abigroup) Tim McQuoid Mason (RPS)	COMMITTEE CHAIR:	COMMITTEE CHAIR: Andrew Yeatman (Conquest Mining)	COMMITTEE CHAIR: Matthew Magin (NQBP)	COMMITTEE CHAIR:
Leticia Huidobro (MISC)	Phil Oakley (Torgas)	Deborah Friend (Consultant)	Brett Guldbransen (ICN)	Leticia Huidobro (MISC)
Andrei Koeppen (EW)	Greg Archer (Torgas)	Greg Archer (Torgas)	Gary Smiley (MSQ)	John Bradford (BEST Employment)
Dorne Wallace (CQU)	Dorne Wallace (CQU)	Leanne Pascoe (DET)	De-Anne Kelly (Skills Visa Plus)	Janice Avison (Adani Mining)
Matthew Magin (NQBP)	Andrew Yeatman (Conquest Mining)		Greg Clark (DET)	
Mark Sanders (TBH)	Maria Conroy (CSQ)			
	John Bradford (BEST Employment)			
	Gary Smiley (MSQ)			
	Malcolm Stanley (Leightons)			

Our future

The committees and Steering Group plan to meet every 4-8 weeks to identify issues, develop solutions and drive implementation. The project is targeted to value-add for everyone who is represented and participating.

We would like you to consider how you can become involved in WIWD. We are asking for your commitment, knowledge and expertise.

If you have any questions or require any further information, please feel free to contact me on 0417 741 199 or Project Manager Kaylene Ascough on 4761 3690 or 0414 569 390.

Yours Sincerely,
Colin Thompson, WIWD Chair

