

# INDUSTRY Today



**Uni leads rail brake research**  
PAGE 8



**Bravus and Skytrans flying high**  
PAGE 11



Hastings Deering's 2023 apprentices.

## Hastings Class of 2023 gets to work

The class of 2023 rolled up their sleeves for work at Caterpillar dealer Hastings Deering this month as the company inducted 50 new apprentices. **STORY PAGE 6**

## Recruits ready for rail careers

Ten railway recruits are ready for the workforce after graduating from Energy Skills Queensland's Rockhampton Rail Infrastructure Program on 31 January.

Workforce Australia employment facilitator Anthony Clements said the industry is growing and he is confident the graduates will find employment.

The program ran from December to January, with the graduation held at Archer Park Rail Museum.

**STORY PAGE 12**

## First turbines set to depart Gladstone

**By Brittney Manning**

The first turbines to leave Gladstone port storage grounds will make their way out of the region on state and local roads in February.

Squadron Energy, which owns 75 per cent of Windlab, will use the blades to construct its \$3 billion Clarke Creek Wind, Solar and Battery Farm. A Squadron Energy spokesperson said the blades will leave the port once road upgrade works are completed.

Each of the 24 turbine blades are 76 metres long, weighing more than 22 tonnes.

**STORY PAGE 14**

# Copper is gold

**By Karen Simmons**

The demand for copper is set to increase dramatically as the country moves toward zero emissions.

Copper is thermal and electrically conductive; 100 per cent recyclable; tough, malleable, and ductile; and corrosion resistant.

Cannindah Resources Limited is primed to take advantage of this increase in demand, and build wealth for its shareholders.

The company believes no mineral resource is more crucial to the transition to renewables than copper.

Copper plays a vital role in EVs, Solar Panels, Wind Turbines, Batteries, and Hydroelectricity.

Cannindah Resources Limited is an ASX-listed Queensland-based exploration and resource development company.

With a focus on copper and gold mineral exploration, evaluation, and progressing of various mineral projects.

The Mt Cannindah Project, located 100 kilometres south of Gladstone represents a large, high-level mineralised system with the potential for gold mineralisation within the existing mining lease area.

Cannindah Resources Limited commenced digging in 2018 at the location, an area that had previously been underexplored on top of its existing resource.

Good news for Cannindah Resources Limited has been announced with the most recent set of assay results from the Mt Cannindah drilling project.

Drilling west to east for the first time late last year, in the opposite direction to holes 9 and 11, Cannindah's Hole 14 revealed a thick copper hit.

**STORY PAGE 3**

## GlenTech's pathway to the future

A new initiative by Glenmore State High School will engage Rockhampton, Yeppoon and Mount Morgan students looking at starting a pathway in the automotive and transport industries.

In partnership with Motor Trades Association Queensland (MTAQ), GlenTech Auto will provide Year 11 and 12 students with the opportunity to complete a Certificate 2 in Automotive Vocational Preparation.

**STORY PAGE 20**

# More news and more of CQ

Today we are publishing our the first of our new look Industry Today.

With the support of our local businesses, we have been able to not only increase the size of our monthly Industry feature, but we are now extending the footprint as well.

Our new look publication will now be inserted into the newspaper that cover the greater Gladstone region, Gladstone Today, the historical Longreach Leader and Central West Leader this Friday, as well as being available to the Central Highlands through Emerald Today.

I encourage you, our loyal readers to delve into the stories that are published throughout this initial 24-page product.

You will pick up on the people, the businesses, and the community we have in our regions and the activities of value that Industry provides. Central Queensland has long been one of the leaders in resources in this state with names like BHP, Rio Tinto, Bravus and Glencore already well known in the resource sector.

Our focus and aim for Industry Today will not only be to provide our readers with an overview of these large companies and their operations, but to shine a light on the local and home grown businesses that are providing employment and economic benefits to our communities.

As you would be aware a lot of our industries are centered around resources and minerals but there are also a vast number of other industries such as primary production, export, transport, chemical, hydrogen, energy, and tourism which just scratch the surface of our Central Queensland diversity and success.

We look forward to bringing all the people and businesses involved into your life through the pages of Industry Today. Over the coming months you will read of the challenges faced, the innovation involved and the sheer tenacity of our locals, who are entrenched in Central Queensland.

I would also like to take the opportunity to sincerely thank those local businesses and organizations, especially the CQ Industry Collaborative for their support and encouragement to bring this publication to a larger audience throughout all of Central Queensland.



Account executive Peter Lynch welcomes readers to Industry Today.

We are always after feedback and suggestion, if you would like to help us improve, please don't hesitate to contact.

Once again, I would like to thank those that have helped us over the last two years. As you read through this edition, I believe you will be surprised with what our people and business-

es in Central Queensland are capable of.

**Peter Lynch**  
Account Executive  
CQ Industry Today

## New chairman joins Australian Sugar Milling Council

Jannik Olejas has been elected to the position of Chairman of the Australian Sugar Milling Council (ASMC) following the retirement of John Pratt who had led the organisation since September 2015.

Mr Olejas is the chief executive officer of Mackay Sugar, Australia's second largest raw sugar producer.

Mr Olejas's election to chairmanship of the Milling Council comes at an interesting time for the sugar industry as it emerges from the challenges of two La Nina influenced growing, harvesting and processing seasons that made conditions difficult. In some districts, this was combined with mill related operational challenges that has brought about a longer than desired season in 2021 and 2022.

Despite these challenges, raw sugar exports will be worth an estimated \$2.2billion to the Queensland economy in 2022. With the world price for sugar continuing to provide a profitable return for Australian producers, Mr Olejas remains optimistic that the Australian industry has a strong foundation on which to build.

He said that his optimism for the future of the Australian sugar sector brought with it a range of challenges and opportunities, with the Milling Council concentrating policy and advocacy efforts around 4 key issues.

Major focus areas for ASMC are stabilising land under cane and cane supply; energy and carbon policy and the interaction with renewable energy; continuing efforts around trade and market access; and decreasing the regulatory burden that inhibits our industry.

The sector is energised by the opportunity to contribute to the dual goals of increasing Queensland's renewable energy supply while reducing emissions following the release of



Mr Jannik Olejas, chairman of the Australian Sugar Milling Council.

the Queensland Energy & Jobs Plan," Mr Olejas said.

"In addition, ASMC will continue to offer a range of direct value add benefits to members such as advocating for a regulatory and

policy environment that can unlock future investment and a focus on regional communities where we can attract the skills and labour needed to maintain and grow our industry.

Mr Olejas said he was looking forward

to working with his fellow ASMC Directors and the broader sugar industry to ensure a continuation of the common advocacy and policy response to matters that impact the whole sugar industry.



The Mt Cannindah Project, located 100 kilometres south of Gladstone has been very fortunate with recent rain and weather events missing the project area.

Picture: SUPPLIED

# Copper more vital than ever

By Karen Simmons

Copper is thermal and electrically conductive; 100 per cent recyclable; tough, malleable, and ductile; and corrosion resistant.

The demand for copper is set to increase dramatically as the country moves toward zero emissions.

Cannindah Resources Limited is primed to take advantage of this increase in demand, and build wealth for its shareholders.

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Cannindah Resources Limited is an ASX-listed Queensland, Australia-based exploration and resource development company.

With a focus on copper and gold mineral exploration, evaluation, and progressing of various mineral projects.

More good news for Cannindah Resources Limited with the most recent set of assay results from the Mt Cannindah drilling project.

The Mt Cannindah Project, located 100 kilometres south of Gladstone represents a large high-level porphyry style Cu-Mo-Au mineralised system with potential for gold mineralisation within the existing mining lease area.

Cannindah Resources Limited commenced digging in 2018 at the location, an area that had previously been underexplored on top of its existing resource.



Copper plays a vital role in EVs, solar panels, wind turbines, batteries, and hydroelectricity.

Drilling west to east for the first time late last year, the opposite direction to holes 9 and 11, Cannindah's Hole 14 revealed a thick copper hit.

"Hole 14 has been another success for Cannindah," Executive Chairman Tom Pickett said.

"Drilling Hole 14 in the opposite direction to previous CAE holes 9 and 11 has confirmed the high-grade copper and gold within the Mt Cannindah breccia zone extends laterally from

west to east in excess of 100m."

Pickett said in November last year the company intended to explore further extensions in the Mt Cannindah breccia zone and is firmly focused on increasing the resource size.

In January Cannindah Resources reported holes 15,16, and 17 have been completed and the drill rig remains on site with drilling recommencing for the 2023 year with hole 21CAEDD018 at Mt Cannindah.

This hole is currently at shallow depths. After completing hole 13 and opening the southern section, the rig was moved further to the north-west to drill back across the Mt Cannindah breccia zone to outline the width potential of the area.

Completed assay and reporting results of holes 15,16, and 17 are expected to be received shortly from both the lab and our geologists where they will be released with 15 and 16 being first followed later by 17.

The team said they have been very fortunate with recent rain and weather events which affected other areas of Queensland but missed the Mt Cannindah project area.

A company statement said current exploration successfully being undertaken by the company demonstrates the underlying value of the Mt Cannindah copper-gold project.

"This is a massive opportunity for our shareholders and is located within existing mining leases approximately 100km from the port of Gladstone."

The nearby town of Monto services all the current project needs for accommodation, hardware and transport.

During 2022 the mining leases were renewed until 2034 which is an excellent outcome for the company and its future plans. Work is currently being undertaken to update the resource estimate.

The Mt Cannindah project is going to provide the company with a significant amount of target area to explore in the coming months.



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# Delivering grad program

Graduate engineers and environmental scientists have a unique opportunity to build on their tertiary education through a new graduate recruitment program on offer from Bravus' Australian businesses.

Beginning in 2024, Bravus Mining and Resources and Bowen Rail Company have developed an integrated 18-month program, giving graduates the chance to immerse themselves in both the mining and rail businesses.

Head of HR, Rebecca Wells said it was a once-in-a-lifetime offer for grads to work on a new mine and Australia's first new rail business in more than a decade.

"This isn't your run-of-the-mill grad program where you are pigeon-holed into a single discipline," Ms Wells said.

"We're looking for the best and brightest who are ready to challenge themselves, step outside their comfort zone and soak up everything they can across our two newest businesses.

"With both now full steam ahead into operations, this is an extraordinary opportunity for new graduates to learn, while earning and gaining critical industry experience across two industries.

"As both businesses are still very new, we have the benefit of being agile, responsive, and open to new technology and ideas to better our operations and make sure we are meeting our strict environmental and other regulatory conditions."

**The program is open to graduates up to two years post-graduation, in the following fields:**

- Mining Engineers
- Civil Engineers
- Mechanical Engineers
- Electrical Engineers
- Environmental Science

Successful graduates will join our 18-month graduate program that includes competitive salaries, a lifestyle-friendly seven-days on, seven-days off roster, free air travel to and from the Carmichael mine from Townsville, Mackay or Rockhampton, as well as free meals and accommodation at the site.

Graduates will benefit from the tutelage of our senior team members on-site, with additional off-site training provided through our learning partner, CQUniversity Australia.

"We are a proudly regional Queensland-based company with Bravus Mining and Resources headquartered in Townsville and Bowen Rail Company in Bowen," Ms Wells said.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to take advantage of the relaxed north Queensland lifestyle as well as the economic benefits that come with living in regional Queensland such as lower cost of entry to the housing market, access to top-notch schooling and world-renowned tertiary institutions."

Bravus Mining and Resources and Bowen Rail Company are part of Bravus, an Adani Group business that is at the forefront of the global energy transition and committed to delivering a sustainable energy mix.

Our other Australian businesses include Rugby Run solar farm, North Queensland Export Terminal and Abbot Point Operations.

For more information about the Graduate Program, visit [www.bravus.com.au](http://www.bravus.com.au) or [www.bowenrailcompany.com.au](http://www.bowenrailcompany.com.au).



Bowen Rail Company staff with past graduate, Nikita.



Bravus Mining past graduates welcomed to Carmichael mine site.

## Skilling Queenslanders for Work funding is now open

The State Government's \$629 million Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative continues to deliver valuable support that benefits individuals, businesses and communities across the state; as it opens its first funding round for the 2023-24 financial year.

With employers desperate for more job-ready applicants, reaching out to groups who are under-represented in the workforce and training them for new job opportunities, unlocks more of the potential in our state.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work has helped over 47,000 Queenslanders into jobs, and is the most successful program of its kind in the nation.

It has been one of the ways the State Government has delivered record low unemployment figures.

Minister for Training and Skills Development Di Farmer said organisations committed to improving skills development and work opportunities for disadvantaged Queenslanders have eight weeks to apply.

Minister Farmer said a recent survey of participants highlights the initiative's success.

"Seventy-six per cent of participants find work or take on further training around 12 months after completing a Skilling Queenslanders for Work program," Minister Farmer said.

"We are looking for new and innovative ideas that will see vulnerable Queenslanders across the state receive the support they need to find meaningful work.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work provides

skills development, training and job opportunities for young people, mature-age job seekers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with disability, women re-entering the workforce, veterans, recently released prisoners and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds through a suite of targeted skills and training programs.

Minister Farmer said the Palaszczuk Government has allocated \$80 million each year to the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative to help up to 15,000 Queenslanders gain the skills they need to join the workforce.

"It not only benefits the state by delivering job-ready staff to employers, but it also ensures those looking for work have pathways to assist them," Minister Farmer said.

"The initiative supports many focus areas from the Good people. Good jobs: Queensland Workforce Strategy 2022-2032, which aims to attract, connect and educate a thriving workforce to set our state up for success now and into the future.

"We're calling for project applications from our current providers and interested community-based organisations that can deliver career advice, job preparation skills, foundation skills and individual case management, so Queenslanders can confidently join the workforce."

The funding application round will close on 30 March 2023.

For further information visit [www.qld.gov.au/skillingqueenslanders](http://www.qld.gov.au/skillingqueenslanders) or call 1300 369 935.

# Adopting a growth mindset



At Jobs In Central Queensland we are privileged to work alongside many different companies and gain insight into their differing workplace cultures. Increasingly we see many moving to a culture that embraces a 'growth' rather than 'fixed' mindset.

Usually, we think of this being a characteristic in individuals, but when I see whole teams adopting this approach to working, their results are enviable.

The concept of the 'growth mindset' was originally presented to us by Dr Carol Dweck, a Professor of Psychology at Stanford University.

In summary, individuals with fixed mindsets believe that their success is confined within the range of their abilities – they are good at something, or they are not, and that fact can't be changed.

Those with growth mindsets believe their success is linked to effort, overcoming obstacles through learning.

When workplaces are led by individuals whose mindset is naturally skewed to growth their ability to influence their co-workers to the same way of thinking can be very powerful.

High performing teams are generally not afraid of taking risks, such as trying new processes or tools to enhance their ways of working. They set themselves BHAG's\* (big hairy audacious goals) that energise the company and stimulate employees to perform to their best ability. (\*Read Jim Collins book Built to Last:



Plan for growth and success in business.

Successful Habits of Visionary Companies for more on what makes a company great.)

There are a couple of areas you can look

at in your own company to determine which mindset you are operating from.

First, how is information shared in your

company? Are the leaders and managers custodians of decisions and priorities until it's the right time to flow that information down? Or does everyone have the opportunity to contribute their information to aid decision making?

Secondly, how do you gauge productivity? Do you measure your team's performance with timesheets and tick lists? Or do you trust that everyone understands the BHAG and is focused on its achievement?

The thing I find interesting about team mindsets is that it is possible to move from a fixed to a growth mindset and lift the performance of the whole company.

Dr Dweck explained in one of her articles that leaders and managers can signal to their employees what types of mindsets are valued in the organisation and those that embrace a growth mindset see their employees feeling empowered and committed.

To cultivate a growth mindset within your workplace, think about embracing some of these concepts into your company culture:

- Value hard work and perseverance to constantly improve
- Provide opportunities for employees to learn new skills. Encourage them to share their own, and respect others, points of view. See failures as learning opportunities, encourage team and individual accountability, using feedback to inform learnings and drive inspiration to improve
- Don't be afraid to try something new, this is how you innovate!

I endeavor to operate from a mindset of growth within Jobs In Central Queensland, and the journey is exciting, sometimes scary, but ultimately rewarding! If you'd like to compare notes, please get in touch!

## What will life look like in Rockhampton by 2028?

It's an interesting question, isn't it? While I am no fortune teller, I can say the economic future of our great city is looking bright.

After 18 months of community consultation by Advance Rockhampton, the Rockhampton Regional Council have recently endorsed the new 2023-2028 Economic Development Strategy and Economic Action Plan.

These documents highlight an abundance of opportunities over the next five years.

As the region's lead economic development agency, Advance Rockhampton was proud to bring these two documents before the council chamber and welcomed its full endorsement in January following the community feedback period in November.

As the economic capital of Central



Queensland, Rockhampton region is currently home to over 82,000 residents with a \$5.5B economy supporting 36,000 FTE (Full-time equivalent) jobs.

By committing to this strategy and actively pursuing opportunities the Rockhampton region has the potential to become a \$12.9B economy, home to 148,000 people supporting 94,000 regional jobs by 2041.

Rockhampton is already a great place to

live, visit and invest - and we are working to create an even stronger, more vibrant community.

We've identified key areas of opportunity and developed an action plan that calls upon collaboration with state and federal government to deliver our future jobs.

In the development of these documents, we have been realistic and identified the growth opportunities and the challenges we need to overcome, including the current worker shortage and the current accommodation demands.

Some key growth opportunities of which we will speak more about in coming months include Agriculture, Defence, Professional Services, Energy & Mining, the visitor economy, and major events.

We will approach our future economic growth through five important pillars:

1. Future Jobs and Investment Attraction
2. Infrastructure for Future Growth
3. Regional Promotion and Major Events
4. Regional Collaboration and Partnerships
5. Talent Retention and Attraction

Over the coming 5 years these two documents will guide councils' economic development focus to support growth in the Rockhampton region.

I encourage you to read both documents and reach out to the team at Advance Rockhampton if we can assist in your business ventures.

Our mission is to 'Put Rocky on the Radar' across the country and internationally, and with this 5 year plan we are well on the way.

A plan to realise the future growth opportunities in Rockhampton Region

# THE PLAN FOR OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE



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Hastings Deering has inducted 50 new apprentices.

# Class of 2023 starts work

The class of 2023 rolled up their sleeves for work at Caterpillar dealer Hastings Deering this week as the company inducted 50 new apprentices.

Close to 2000 hopefuls applied to join Hastings Deering's apprenticeship program when applications closed last year.

The major employer and apprentice trainer welcoming the successful applicants to the company from Queensland and the Northern Territory.

Hastings Deering chief executive officer Mark Scott said the company continued to target a diverse range of apprentices with this cohort a mix of school leavers, mature age workers, females and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. The youngest is 17 and the oldest 38.

"It's a diverse group – 50 of the best and a larger intake than in previous years as we continue to build the skills pipeline," Mr Scott said. "Our training is world's best practice as we train and work to a global standard."

Ben Jones is one of the eight apprentices who will train in Rockhampton. At 38, Mr Jones is the oldest of the 50 new recruits, joining 17 other mature age apprentices, all proving age is no barrier to upskilling or making a career change later in life.

"I have worked previously as a sales rep and a greenskeeper; more recently at Rockhampton Hastings Deering as a parts interpreter for the last five years," he said.

"I've always wanted to be a diesel fitter: I love working on my own cars and getting my hands dirty. Once I started with the company I



Ben Jones - the oldest recruit out of the 50 cohort.

decided to apply. I'm keen to put all my knowledge of those parts together with machines – it's the logical next step.

"You are never too old to take on new challenges: I applied two years ago and was not successful but that did not stop me applying again. You really do have to persevere to follow your dreams. I love working for the company; it's like a big family and they really look after you."

Hastings Deering executive general man-

ager- Australian operations Daniel Viero said this year's higher apprentice intake reflected anticipated future demand.

"We try to envisage what the market will look like in four years' time," Mr Viero said.

"We take a long-term view about the continued investment in skills for the future. That means we are always looking forward to anticipating future skills needs and ensuring we have qualified tradespeople meet the market.

Mr Viero said while there continued to be

fierce competition for skilled workers across all industries, the high application numbers showed apprenticeships were highly sought after, with trades offering a successful career path.

"Figures from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) show as of June 2022 there were over 415,000 apprentices and trainees, in training with 58.2 per cent training in the trades," Mr Viero said.

"NCVER figures also show 91.8 per cent of apprentices who completed their training were employed afterwards which is consistent with our figures of offers of fulltime employment after training. Almost every one of our apprentices is offered fulltime work at the end of their apprenticeship.

"As in previous years, most applications were for diesel fitter and auto electrician apprenticeships and these two fields have the placements to meet the market.

"The calibre of applicants was strong across the board, with Mackay and Rockhampton apprentices again dominating the cohort driven largely by our pipeline of work in the regions, linked to the resources' sector as well as supporting the construction industry.

"The high number of applications is also a reflection of our commitment to promoting STEM by actively partnering with the Queensland Resources Council and the QMEA program which reaches 80 affiliated schools from as far north as Mount Isa and Townsville, to Central Queensland and the Coalfields as well as Brisbane in the Southeast."

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# Collaborate now for future

By Rick McElhinney, CEO of Sunshine Hydro

The need to power Australia with reliable green energy is intensifying and big-picture thinking is key for local government authorities to collaborate successfully with the renewables sector.

If councils are to boost jobs, create legacy infrastructure and keep the lights on for generations to come, an open mind, willingness to listen to proponents and a desire to embrace change for the betterment of their regions are vital.

Working with renewable energy providers can be a new frontier for local government, so reframing traditional thoughts and processes is an important first step.

### Flexibility to meet challenges

Renewable energy, the way it interfaces with the energy grid and how it benefits LGAs and residents is a departure from the usual roads, rates and rubbish roles that councils play.

There are no easy mechanisms for collaboration, including in the Local Government Act (2009) and other regulations.

Sunshine Hydro's AUD\$2.5b Djandori Gung-i (Flavian) Superhybrid project, in development outside Miriam Vale in Central Queensland, requires a long pipeline from the Gladstone Regional Council (GRC) desalination plant to our power plant.

At present, neither legislation nor the council's own processes exist for us to do that together – but both parties are working on a solution. We need the infrastructure to operate, and the council would gain ownership of it and income from charging us to use it.

Solutions to this type of challenge could potentially be through joint venture, private-public partnership, or some other mechanism.

With large-scale renewable projects, approval pathways can be long, complex, and often out of council hands. There is a real need to explore how processes at other levels of gov-



The Signing of the MoU for the Djandori gung-i (Flavian) project with Rick McElhinney, Sheila Charlesworth, Michael Myer and Dr Kerry Blackman on the project site at Forestry Rd, Colosseum in August 2022. Pictures: SUNSHINE HYDRO

“ Many regional Australian local governments have a traditional industrial, fossil-fuel employment base.”

ernment could work on a local level.

A sense of urgency to work together to decarbonise without curbing community benefit is key. Investigating pathways through council processes can reduce approval time, in some cases, by several years.

If we don't have the frameworks to make a difference together, we have to create them.

Many regional Australian local governments have a traditional industrial, fossil-fuel

employment base, and there is concern about the inevitable energy transition and how this will impact communities.

Energy can attract business to a community – if the right infrastructure is in place.

Understanding the quantity of demand that is coming is vital, too. In Gladstone, for example, they expect energy demand to triple, and that's likely to be duplicated worldwide.

In the broader picture, all Southeast

Queensland LGAs are looking to use green energy for the Olympics in 2032, so there is a wider imperative for them to come on board in the next decade.

Only one in 10 or, in some cases, one in 20 large-scale renewables projects of all stripes ever get up, so unfortunately councils are used to disappointment and new projects can be met with cynicism.

It's vital for councils to work with proponents to ensure these future developments will not result in a 'boom-bust' scenario, as has been the case with some fossil fuels.

All stakeholders must be involved. Including schools, tertiary institutions, traditional owners, land custodians and other community groups can help limit push-back and build genuine excitement for projects.

So how do we leave a lasting benefit at a local level? The opposite of fly-in, fly-out.

The win for local governments comes from looking at the green energy revolution through the prism of the future, collaborating with sustainable industry from a project's early days to production and beyond.

Councils should know these projects can also create associated green industrial hubs, where other industries can grow in green energy's wake. Perhaps these regions could become producers of 'green' steel? This will be a long-term win for regional Australia.

We have a decade to get sustainable projects working, not a decade to just decide if it's a good idea. If we want to avoid the catastrophic effects of global warming, we need fresh approaches and swift decision-making now.

Local governments have a long-term and vital role in allowing visionary companies to build strong industry, securing reliable, renewable energy and ensuring the overall futures of their communities.

■ First published in governmentnews.com



Rick McElhinney, CEO of Sunshine Hydro believes renewable energy, the way it interfaces with the energy grid and how it benefits LGAs and residents is a departure from the usual roads, rates and rubbish roles that councils play.



The site of Sunshine Hydro's \$2 billion Miriam Vale pumped hydro renewable energy project.






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Railway team leads multi-national collaborative research.

# Railway is leading the way

Brakes – you can't stop without them — and just like those for cars, brakes are a critical safety system for railway trains.

Unlike brake systems for cars though, those for trains are significantly larger and more complex, especially for long freight trains that use air brake systems.

According to CQUniversity rail researcher Dr Qing Wu, air brake systems use many metal air pipes mounted underneath the train from the head of the train to its tail. Total length of these pipes can be over 3 km long for freight trains.

“The air pipes are used as a brake action transmitting line by changing the air pressure in the pipes,” Dr Wu explained.

“This design is used because of its low-cost,

however, due to the difficulty to accurately control the pipe pressure and the slow reactions in pipe pressure changes, the control of these brakes has been challenging for freight train operations.”

As a result, Dr Wu along with fellow researchers from CQUniversity's Centre for Railway Engineering (CRE) in Rockhampton are leading the charge in attempting to conquer the challenge of developing accurate and fast freight train air brake models.

“Driven by the rapid development of Intelligent Transport Systems and the ever-increasing demands for faster and heavier trains, as well as energy savings and sustainability, there has been enormous interests from the industry and academia for accurate and fast freight train air brake models,” Dr Wu said.

“CRE is the only Australian research institute who has the capability to conduct air brake lab tests and detailed computer modelling.”

Dr Wu has a team of more than 30 international collaborators from 24 institutions and 12 countries around the world working alongside him on the research, with their initial research findings having been recently published in the International Journal of Railway Transportation.

“The publication has generated wide impact in railway academia and it has already attracted nearly 20 citations,” Dr Wu said.

“Using the research findings, the rail industry will be able to come up with accurate and fast brake modelling that can be used to facilitate better development of intelligent transport

systems, such as driverless trains and train platooning.”

Dr Wu is now collaborating with international brake expert from the University of Florence, Professor Luca Pugi, and has organised a virtual international conference that will be held in September.

“This low-cost virtual conference will bring together more latest research to achieve an even better understanding of the behaviour and mechanisms of railway brake systems and associated phenomena,” Dr Wu explained.

“The aim is to further broaden the benefits that we have gained from previous research and to collect more knowledge form the industry and from academia while sparking more research interest on this important topic.”



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# Dedicated resource for local industry

I would like to congratulate all the team at CQ Today for their persistence and vision in supplying this region with a dedicated news resource.

One that is focused on the industries and resources of Central Queensland.

These industries and resources assist by providing long term economic growth through employment and supporting business. Industry Today assisted us by showcasing exactly that.

Industry Today in the past have highlighted our great investment in apprentices and trainees, bolstering our business culture.

As a local business we have helped support the community in many different ways.

Our business services many different other industries not only in Central Queensland but also other regions across Australia and New Zealand.

We have worked closely with the team from CQ Today and especially Peter Lynch to help to inform the readers of this monthly publication and we look forward to our continued association within the printed pages and online articles of Industry Today.



Paul Thompson, managing director of The Hydraulic Shop.



James Wetzler, director of Wetzler Weed Management and Site Maintenance.

## A new era

Wetzler has been around for the last 20 years, and the business and I are great supporters of the CQ Industry Today publication.

The type of work we perform has many different components to it. One being the Agria 9600-112 remote control mower.

Many people across CQ would not even know what it does.

We utilise the CQ Today publication to get the word out there with many other parts to the business.

Congratulations on where you have come from being a four-page run of press section in the paper to now a 24 page inserted publication that has the coverage of most of Central Queensland.

We look for to working with Peter Lynch and the team promoting our industry in CQ. I urge you out there to brand your business with the CQ Today publication.

## Backing a great news initiative

Congratulations to CQ Industry Today.

Many years I have been a very passionate supporter of our regional industries and their communities of who regional industries support through their presence.

CQ Industry Today now assists the region by utilising this form of media to help showcase and highlight the capacity and capabilities that our region has to offer.

Peter Lynch who champions CQ Industry Today also a passionate advocate of the region and is always working hard to enhance the prosperity and growth of our region.

I would entice industry out there to get behind Peter and the team by supporting this new-look 24 page insert into Gladstone Today, Emerald Today, Longreach Leader and of course CQ Today.

Dave Grenfell, chairman of Apprentices and Trainees Queensland.



## Telling the stories that matter

Well done Industry Today.

Of late I have become a great supporter of the Industry Today section of the Today publication.

I have realised after making contact with Peter Lynch from Industry Today that he has a strong passion and determination to tell the good news stories from industry across CQ and show the rest what we have got.

We brand our business in Industry Today not only as an awareness tool to have our name out there but also help support the Industry team and their efforts to grow and de-

velop our regional industries.

Peter also through his networks conducts in my opinion very valuable networking / information and workshop sessions that aid us to be able to work together as a bigger family.

I have made quite a few connections through these experiences and now know the importance of working collaboratively.

Keep up the good work Peter and the Industry Today team and I do hope other businesses out there will jump onboard and support what I believe is a good case for our Central Queensland communities.



Arty Stokes, director of Stokes Mining Services.



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**Marcus Lang,  
Asset Management**

Marcus is currently the managing director and co-founder of Asset Management Australia (AMA).

Having spent over 20 years in senior professional and executive roles for some of the largest government, private, and publicly listed companies in the world, Marcus has been interested in giving back to the next generation and advises to the mining, manufacturing, power, rail, transport and logistics-based industries nationally and internationally.

Marcus holds an Honours Degree in Mechanical Engineering (Co-op), a Degree in Maintenance Management, and a master's in business.

He is also a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a member of the UK Chapter of the Institute of Asset Management (IAM), the Project Management Institute (PMI), and an underground

monitor for the Australian Coal Association Research Program (ACARP)

Recent projects worked on include involvement with multi-billion dollar mergers and acquisitions of mine and port assets (>\$5B), indigenous mentor for professional Nationals in Papua New Guinea and founding advisory board member for an indigenous business in Australia, development and implementation of several of the world's largest resource companies ERP implementations, development of national asset management frameworks for several of the world's largest resources companies and develop the rail network modeling program which integrates all of the CQ Coal Network train sets and 800+ operators in Central Queensland from Abbott Point through to Gladstone on a daily basis.



**Jack Trenaman,  
Chief Executive**

Before helping found the now SMW Group, Jack gained considerable experience in management.

Working with QCL, BHP, and Tier 1 supply contractors.

Starting out from school as a plumber's laborer to then starting and completing an apprenticeship as a fitter and turner machinist at the original CQ Cement company and continuously taking opportunities working up through the management ranks and throughout Australia and New Zealand.

These opportunities all started from very humble beginnings, being the youngest of six kids and growing up in Clermont, Mt Isa, and then still living in a small country town of The Caves.

Jack's reputation for excellent customer focus and culture of fairness, coming from his background in maintenance and management strategies, has enabled

SMW Group to grow to over 400 employees through an unprecedented downturn.

Jack believes that hard work and strong relationships have shaped SMW Group to prosper in a tough industry.

The company has been acknowledged as a leader in the mining and industry sectors and Jack is committed to leading SMW Group's culture in continued growth by valuing all employees.

While ensuring zero discrimination, discipline in safety, quality, and productivity, encouraging employee personal development, focusing on continuous improvement through innovation in the workplace and always committing to local employment as a priority, and leading with ongoing community support.

Jack believes that hard work, discipline and continuous improvement of all relationships with employees and customers have guided SMW Group to prosper in a competitive industry while still navigating out the other side of an unprecedented Covid financial downturn.



**Brett Donaldson,  
Chauvel Industrial**

Having completed a mechanical trade with Toyota, and learning lean and six sigma operating systems, Brett has spent the last 15 years working within a local family-owned business where he now holds the role of general manager.

As an industry leader, Brett's focus is on attracting and retaining quality person-

nel to deliver exceptional results for their clients, while building capability in his employees through personal development initiatives such as Apprenticeships and Industry upskilling.

As a born and bred Rocky boy Brett is passionate about the local community and is involved with a number of local clubs and supports many charities and groups through sponsorships and other in-kind support.



**Jordan Geddes,  
Brawd & Co**

Having previously worked in a variety of commercial roles within BHP, Shell (QGC), and the Queensland Government, Jordan is an accomplished resource.

An industry professional with trade and procurement expertise in mining, energy,

international agriculture, and indigenous procurement.

Jordan holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (BASc), a Diploma in Export Management, and a Master of Business Administration (MBA).

# Plane perks for workers

Workers at Bravus Mining and Resources' Carmichael mine will be flying in style under a new deal struck between the miner and Skytrans Airlines.

Skytrans has signed on to operate two Dash 8 300-series aircraft to exclusively service 24 direct flights a week to or from the Central Queensland coal mine and Townsville and Rockhampton.

The first of the multi-million-dollar planes has entered service this month.

Bravus Mining and Resources Chief Operating Officer Mick Crowe said the new aircraft would get Carmichael's workforce to site and back home again more quickly, safely, and in greater comfort.

The average flying time for the Dash 8 300 is just 45 minutes between the Carmichael mine and Townsville, and 50 minutes between the Carmichael mine and Rockhampton.

"Like every mine, the safety and wellbeing of our people, contractors, and suppliers is always our number one priority," Mr Crowe said.

"Our somewhat unique challenge is the remoteness of our operation. Carmichael is more than a 160-kilometre drive to Clermont, and more than 300 kilometres from Queensland's east coast.

"So that means fatigue risk management and maximising quality of life for our workforce are top of mind when it comes to getting people to work and back home again safely and efficiently.

"These news planes will do just that. Those of our team who can't drive in from the Isaac Region will be at work or at home in about an hour. That means less of their RandR lost to work-related travel, more time to spend with friends and family, and, hopefully, happier, safer, and more productive workers."

Skytrans co-owner Johnathan Thurston said it was a credit to Bravus to be investing in local companies.

"From a Skytrans point of view, we are very



Wayne Croton, Bravus Mining and Resources, Johnathan Thurston, Skytrans co-owner, Jacquelyn Blanford, Bravus Mining and Resources, Kaitlyn Fitzsimmons, Skytrans Cabin Crew, Ted Pham, Bravus Mining and Resources.



Jacquelyn Blanford, Bravus Mining and Resources, Johnathan Thurston, Skytrans co-owner, Wayne Croton, Bravus Mining and Resources and Ted Pham, Bravus Mining and Resource.

excited to have the relationship with Bravus," Mr Thurston said.

"This contract is going to create around 20 new jobs for Skytrans, employing local people in Townsville and Rockhampton, so it is great work from Bravus and Skytrans."

Skytrans CEO Alan Milne said the company would establish bases of operation in Townsville and Rockhampton and recruit pilots and flight attendants who live locally to service the contract.

"This is really exciting news for the workers at Carmichael, who are going to receive an incredible level of service, and for Townsville and Rockhampton who'll see new jobs and invest-

ment," Mr Milne said.

"Townsville and Rockhampton airports will now be formal bases of operation for us with local pilots, flight attendants and maintenance crews, just like we have in Cairns, Brisbane, and Horn Island.

"It's terrific to see Bravus Mining and Resources continue to back fully Queensland-owned businesses like ours, and we look forward to building on this successful partnership long into the future."

The Carmichael mine is producing high quality coal for export to nations around the world that want to lift their people out of energy poverty.

The mine continues to safely and efficiently ramp up to its constructed level of production which is in the order of 10 million tonnes per annum.

Townsville and Rockhampton remain the primary employment hubs for the Carmichael mine and we continue to recruit workers who can drive to site from the Isaac Region.

More than 2,600 people were employed and more than A\$1 billion paid to regional Queensland contractors and businesses since construction began on the Carmichael project in 2019.

Although the primary construction phase is finished, Carmichael still has more than 750 people on site at any time while another third are on days off.

Carmichael coal is high quality 5,000-5,400 kcal/kg coal with low sulphur, low trace elements and low ash which will meet the import requirements of many international markets, including those in the Asia-Pacific region.

Carmichael coal is sold into the international seaborne export market and its ultimate destination depends on market demand.

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# Railway careers on track

By Breanna Lloyd

Ten railway recruits are ready for the workforce after graduating from Energy Skills Queensland's Rockhampton Rail Infrastructure Program on 31 January.

Workforce Australia employment facilitator Anthony Clements said the industry is growing and he is confident the graduates will find employment.

"The first group of 10 completed their training in October, and the whole lot got jobs, and it is a very much growing industry so we are expecting the same outcome for this group," he said.

Six out of the 10 graduates were Indigenous people. The program ran from December to January, with the graduation held at Archer Park Rail Museum. Anthony said the next lot of training would begin in July.

"This group is the final lot because this is my last round of funding, as my funding gets renewed every financial year, so we are looking about July for the next group to start their course," he said. Anthony believes there was a positive response from the graduates as all 10 have completed their course and their goal.



Graduates from the rail careers Rockhampton.



Employees of the rail careers organisation.

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# Drilling down on skill needs

A new study is underway in the Darling Downs to determine the skills needed by the local hydrogen industry workforce.

Minister for Training and Skills Development Di Farmer visited the Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise (TSBE) today to review progress of the study to be conducted at CS Energy's Kogan Renewable Hydrogen Demonstration Plant.

"We don't know the skills and training that are needed yet within the emerging hydrogen industry and this study is an exciting opportunity for us to learn more about what the industry will need, and the opportunities it will provide," Ms Farmer said.

"This key action of the Hydrogen Industry Workforce Development Roadmap 2022-32 will provide vital industry workforce intelligence on the hydrogen skills needed in the Toowoomba, Western Downs, Maranoa districts, and across the state more broadly," Minister Farmer said.

Under the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan emerging industries, it's estimated that the state's hydrogen industry will grow by \$19 billion by 2040, creating an additional 10,000 jobs.

Minister Farmer said as the demonstration plant is built and operated, a dedicated Skills Officer will work to understand the skills and training needed and will connect local suppliers with hydrogen manufacturing opportunities."

CEO of TSBE Ali Davenport said the project will identify current skills, accreditation and qualifications seen in traditional resources, and look to uncover how these can apply in aspects of hydrogen projects.

"The findings will support the wider supply chain to invest in upskilling and training opportunities to enable them to transition to emerging energy industries," Ms Davenport said.

Minister Farmer said the partnership with TSBE and CS Energy aims to prepare a job-



TSBE chief executive Ali Davenport, CS Energy Head of Commercial Partnerships Pauline Elliott and Minister for Training and Skills Development Di Farmer with an artist's impression of the demonstration plant. Picture: SUPPLIED

ready workforce for the hydrogen industry's expansion.

"Growth of the hydrogen industry relies on a skilled and capable workforce, which is de-

veloped through government, the training sector and industry working together.

"The TSBE project is a \$161,000 investment from the VET Emerging Industries' Hydrogen

Skills Fund, which aims to ensure we have the workforce to meet the anticipated growth of the industry by \$19 billion and 4,350 jobs by 2040."

## Cooling tower return pushed back at Callide Power Station

The Callide C Power Station Joint Venture (JV) has revised the forecast return to service date for one of its power plants, unit C3, following a structural failure at the plant in October last year.

Callide Power Station is comprised of two power plants, Callide B and Callide C, each with two generating units (B1 and B2, C3 and C4).

CS Energy owns Callide C in a 50/50 joint venture (JV) with InterGen Australia.

The Callide C JV, together with CS Energy as the operator, have continued to assess options for safely returning the Unit C3 cooling tower to service, following a structural failure of a section of the tower on 31 October 2022.

As a result of the scope of work being refined, the JV advised the market last Friday, 20 January of a changed, staged return to service date for C3 from 8 May 2023 to 30 June 2023 (operating at 300MW) and then 30 September 2023 (full load – 425MW).

It not unusual for generators to adjust their return to service dates for units that are undergoing major maintenance or repairs, depending on issues identified during the process.

Callide Power Station has a permanent workforce of 226 people and is comprised of two power plants, Callide B and C, each with two generating units (B1 and B2, C3 and C4).

CS Energy owns 100 per cent of Callide B and owns Callide C in a 50/50 joint venture (JV) with InterGen Australia. CS Energy operates Callide C on behalf of the JV owners.



On Monday 31 October the cooling plant at Callide Power Station suffered a structural failure. Picture: SUPPLIED



The first turbines are expected to begin their journey from Gladstone Port to the Clarke Creek Wind, Solar and Battery Farm in February.

Picture: SQUADRON ENERGY

# Turbine blades hit the road

By **Brittney Manning**

The first turbines to leave Gladstone port storage grounds will make their way out of the region on state and local roads in February.

Squadron Energy, which owns 75 per cent of Windlab, will use the blades to construct its \$3 billion Clarke Creek Wind, Solar and Battery Farm.

A Squadron Energy spokesperson said the blades will leave the port once road upgrade works are completed.

Each of the 24 turbine blades are 76 metres long, weighing more than 22 tonnes.

“Regional road infrastructure upgrades are currently underway to facilitate the transport of wind turbine components from Gladstone to the Clarke Creek Wind, Solar and Battery

Farm via Marlborough,” the spokesperson said.

“Clarke Creek Wind, Solar and Battery Farm is currently the biggest grid connected renewable energy project underway in Australia.”

A spokesperson for Transport and Main Roads said the wind farm components were classed as Oversize Overmass (OSOM) movements and that the proponent was required to undertake upgrades to the road corridor to facilitate their travel, at their own expense.

“All works required to be undertaken by the proponent in the Gladstone region are underway,” the spokesperson said.

“The OSOM loads will ultimately travel to site under-permit and pilot managed through

the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator process and permit portal.

“Works in state-controlled road reserve are currently being undertaken by the proponent and expected to be completed in early this year, ahead of commencing transportation of components.”

A \$2 million business case for the Access to Gladstone Port upgrade project recommended upgrading the Gladstone to Mount Larcum Road, known locally as Hanson Road, to improve road access to the port and improve network efficiency for all road users.

“Detailed design is expected to start this year and the timeline for the project’s delivery, including formal works, will be determined once detailed design has been completed,” the spokesperson said.

Windlab is constructing Stage One of the project which will produce 450MW of clean energy from about 100 turbines.

Once Stage One and Two are complete, the project will produce enough clean energy to power more than 660,000 homes, displacing 2.7 million tonnes of carbon from the nation’s electricity market every year and putting downward pressure on energy prices for Australian consumers.

“The project will deliver up to 350 construction jobs and inject millions of dollars into the regional economy.”

The Clarke Creek Wind, Solar and Battery Farm is located around 150 kilometres inland between Rockhampton and Mackay.



## Here for Gladstone

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SLH crew with Rhomberg Crew Bluff Track Recon.



Specialised Labour Hire has many years experience in the mining industry.

# A year of growth for SLH

By Specialised Labour Hire and Recruitment operations manager Jeff McIlroy

So here we are at the start of 2023. Specialised Labour Hire (SLH) has done a lot of growing over 2022.

We are a local company operated and managed by local people, which ensures our local knowledge is up to-date and current.

Our Mining, Rail and Civil footprint has increased dramatically. To enable this to happen, good well trained staff are a must to service the team members that make up our active database.

Our main office is in Rockhampton with a highly skilled team in Taylah (consultant) and Cassie (admin) who look after our team members from Mackay down to Brisbane.

Our team members come from all walks of life and locations, experienced hands to first timers all with one 'thing' in common, the will and knowledge to deliver for our clients.

SLH has built a reputation for reliability and results.

SLH has a strong lineage from our parent company, JWB Constructions in Brisbane, where Civil and Rail Maintenance are among their core delivery.

We are now your one-stop shop for mining recruitment services!

Our team has many years of experience within the mining Industry.

They can quickly identify permanent placement, contract placement and provisional placement workers that fit your position descriptions and project requirements.

From Cairns down to Brisbane and out to Emerald, SLH has a number of qualified personnel in most cities and regional hubs.

We as an organisation are constantly refining and developing our delivery system to enhance the business experience between client and our team.



Taylah and Cassie at the ESQ Rail Graduation in Rockhampton.

Specialised Labour Hire has a new mining consultant starting this month, Tammie O'Connor (0438 804 415), who is very experi-

enced and will be a huge asset to our organisation and our clients.

If you are searching for a labour hire and re-

ruitment company who delivers and takes its relationship with clients and team members very seriously, give us a call on 1300 447 347.



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# Award for Rookwood Weir

The \$367.2 million Rookwood Weir project has been acknowledged for its ongoing commitment to good, local jobs, as well as its sustainable design practices.

The Infrastructure Sustainability Council (ISC) has awarded the project an “excellent” rating after evaluating economic, social and environmental performance during its design phase.

Federal Minister for the Environment and Water Tanya Plibersek has praised the project’s rating.

“The Rookwood Weir project has prioritised sustainable design and it’s great news that this has been recognised,” Minister Plibersek said.

“This is the first time that a weir in Australia or New Zealand has been certified for an Infrastructure Sustainability Rating.

“The weir will deliver essential water infrastructure for Central Queensland, allowing the local agricultural industry to grow and thrive.

“The additional water storage provided by the weir will also support population growth in the region. I would like to congratulate everyone involved in developing this important project.”

Queensland Water Minister Glenn Butcher said the project’s outstanding rating is due to a range of measures regarding habitat connectivity, energy savings and local employment and training.

“Rookwood Weir has so far provided 170 good, solid jobs for Central Queenslanders, meaning locals are playing a key role in building an essential infrastructure asset that will benefit their community for generations,” he said.

Rockhampton MP Barry O’Rourke said the rating reflects the dedication of the Rookwood Alliance, which comprises Sunwater, construction partners ACCIONA, McCosker Contracting and design partner GHD.

“It’s fantastic to see these organisations working together to deliver a large project in a way that limits the impact on the environment while contributing to the future prosperity of the region,” he said.

“We know Rookwood Weir is also going to open up so much more agricultural land in the Rockhampton region too, which is just another feather in the cap for this critical project that the Palaszczuk Labor Government is delivering.”

Keppel MP Brittany Lauga said while Rookwood Weir will deliver water security long into the future, it’s already boosting the CQ economy.

“The project has invested more than \$130 million into the local economy delivering flow-on benefits, while a second tender is underway that will make water available so farmers in the region can expand and diversify their operations.”

The project has been recognised for its innovative fishlock and turtle passage, both of which will help local river species safely navigate the weir with the flows of the Fitzroy River.

It has also achieved significant energy and carbon savings, with design elements reducing both the amount of cement required for



Rookwood Weir is a \$367.2 million project delivering over 150 jobs for Central Queensland.

Pictures: SUPPLIED



The Infrastructure Sustainability Council has awarded the Rookwood Weir project an “excellent” rating.

construction and the volume of earth to be extracted.

The Infrastructure Sustainability Council administers Australia and New Zealand’s only comprehensive rating system for evaluating economic, social and environmental performance of infrastructure across planning, design, construction and operational phases.

ISC Chief Executive Officer Ainsley Simpson

commended Rookwood Weir for demonstrating leadership in sustainable infrastructure.

“Not only has the project made an effort to plan, design, construct, and maintain the weir with sustainability in mind, it has gone further in having its impact measured against a third-party rating scheme,” she said.

Sunwater CEO Glenn Stockton said the Rookwood workforce was making good progress

on the weir’s construction.

“Construction activities at Rookwood Weir are on track to be completed in late 2023, which will be followed by a period of commissioning of the infrastructure,” he said.

The Rookwood Weir project is jointly funded by the Australian Government through the National Water Grid Fund (\$183.6 million) and the Queensland Government (\$183.6 million).

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der for regional projects as well as encompassing the mining industry.

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vides an enhanced customer service experience by not only identifying key priorities for customers, but also outlining processes to further optimize these priorities based on customer expectations and needs. Products with enhanced quality translate into reduced customer complaints and more satisfied consumers. The most successful manufacturers of today know that delivering a better product experience is what will keep customers coming back. Producing a product in a way that reduces waste and cuts costs means that you can bring more value to your customer, which further reinforces their loyalty to your business.

## Pride in new project

Nitro Rides next gen hydraulic accumulators are made right here in Rockhampton by our experienced team and are changing the way underground mine cars ride.

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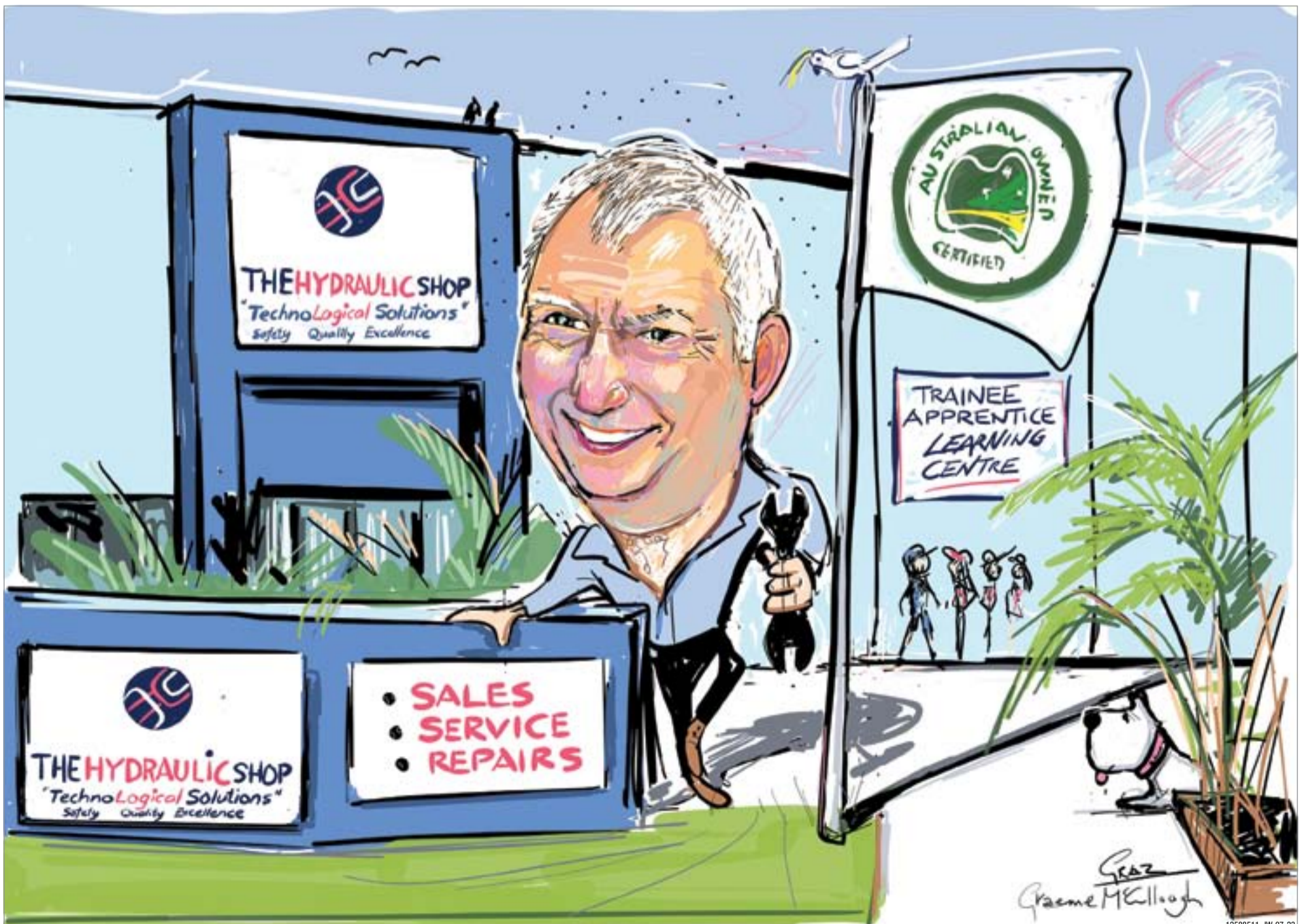
The engraving is done by NG Engraving and the heavy-duty canvas by Bells Canvas, both Rockhampton locals.

We are proud to support local industries and produce such an amazing product right here in CQ.

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Nitro Cylinders.



# Call for fresh eyes on coal

The Queensland Resources Council (QRC) has called on the Palaszczuk Government to rethink a third controversial state tax hurting Queenslanders.

This follows last week's decision by the State Government to review how it applies payroll tax to GP clinics, on top of its reversal of plans to charge a new land tax on interstate properties.

QRC Chief Executive Ian Macfarlane said it's time for the government to rethink its decision to lift Queensland's coal royalty taxes to the highest rates in the world.

The decision has already forced the cancellation of billions of dollars of new resources projects in Queensland, and there are concerns this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Mr Macfarlane the situation requires urgent review by Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk and Treasurer Cameron Dick before more damage is done to Queensland's reputation as a safe and reliable place to invest in resources projects.

Last month, the world's biggest mining company BHP confirmed it will not support any significant new investment in Queensland because of the new royalty taxes, and another large-scale miner Glencore has cited higher royalties as a factor in its decision to shelve its \$2 billion Valeria project in Central Queensland.

Mr Macfarlane said the people of Queensland desperately need the Palaszczuk Government to look at the royalties' issue with fresh eyes before more projects are cancelled.

"This short-sighted decision by the government has placed at risk a \$105 billion pipeline of future energy and resources projects in Queensland according to an independent report commissioned by QRC last year," he said.

"There is a lot on the line. If we lose more projects, that is going to cost more jobs and that means less money flowing through the state economy.

"We need the government to sit down with our industry, like it has done with the AMAQ and RACGP on the GP payroll tax issue, so it can get a better understanding of why this new tax is causing companies to pull back on investing in Queensland.

"The government doesn't seem to understand that imposing the world's highest royalty tax rates on our coal producers is affecting future investment in all Queensland commodities, not just coal.

"This decision has jeopardised 450,000-



QRC Chief Executive Ian Macfarlane.

Picture: SUPPLIED

plus Queensland jobs, thousands of businesses and the future of regional communities who rely on the continuing prosperity of our sector to survive.

"As the number one contributor to the

Queensland economy, number one regional employer and number one export industry, our industry should have been consulted before new costs of this magnitude were imposed on our sector.

"We are calling on the Palaszczuk Government to step in and do the right thing by Queenslanders and review a decision of its own making, before the damage done to the state economy is irreversible."

## Push for net-zero a 'once-in-a-generation' chance: MCA

Australia's world-class mining industry has the tools to become a leader in the global effort to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, but the move will require government action, according to the Minerals Council of Australia (MCA).

In its 2023-24 pre-budget submission, the MCA has expressed that in order for Australia to reach the net-zero goal for 2050, the world will require an astronomical quantity of minerals and metals.

By 2030 alone, the MCA said, the country will need 50 new lithium mines, 60 new nickel mines, and 17 new cobalt mines to meet electricity-storage demands.

"The MCA is calling on the Federal Government to seize this once-in-a-generation opportunity by providing the right business and regulatory environment," the MCA said in its submission.

According to the MCA, the mining industry already makes significant contributions to the Australian economy are significant, accounting for \$2.4 trillion in resources export revenue, and 21 per cent of the economy's growth over the last decade. And these contributions could conceivably balloon in the coming years.

"Since the peak of the mining investment boom in 2013, the industry has produced \$2.4 trillion in resources export revenue, \$252 billion in mining wages, \$143 billion in company taxes, \$112 billion in royalties, and generated 21 per cent of Australia's GDP growth," the MCA said.

"Australia's minerals industry could increase its contribution to the economy with the right policy settings."

But the economic boom is not guaranteed.

The MCA has previously called out the Federal Government for harmful workplace relations, tax, environment, climate change, and energy policies, which it believes threaten investment in the resources sector industry. It also believes rising costs, declining productivity, and increasing policy risk are making Australia a less attractive place to do business.

The MCA has now called on policymakers to provide the healthy regulatory environment needed to attract potential investors.

"Global mining investment is expected to increase by \$US100 billion annually from current levels to produce the mineral commodities required for the world to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050," the MCA said.

Among many proposals detailed in the pre-budget submission, the MCA has stressed the point that the industry's long-term success depends on the discovery of mineral deposits of global significance.

It has proposed that the Federal Government adequately and permanently fund geoscientific research bodies, allowing for the production of data necessary to attract investment in exploration, allowing Australia to truly capitalise on what the MCA believes is a very unique opportunity.



Minerals Council of Australia Chief Executive Officer Tania Constable.

Picture: SUPPLIED

# A new career start at GPC

Much like the first day of school, there were a few nerves but plenty of excitement and eagerness to learn as Gladstone Ports Corporation (GPC) welcomed their 2023 Apprentice and Trainee, and Resource and Infrastructure Trainee recruits to the workforce this week.

11 apprentices and five Resource and Infrastructure Trainees have tackled their first week on the job at the Port of Gladstone, after accepting their invitations into the highly sought-after programs.

GPC CEO Craig Haymes welcomed the new starters on Tuesday, asking them to stay safe, take every opportunity presented to them, and to enjoy their training.

"This is such an exciting and important time for our new recruits, and all of us at GPC are looking forward to being part of their industry journeys," Mr Haymes said.

"We saw more than 522 applications over the two programs this year, which reflects a continued strong interest in training here at GPC.

"The new apprentices and trainees join our current cohort of over 42 and have been given an invaluable opportunity to learn their chosen trade under the guidance of our skilled supervisors and mentors," Mr Haymes said.

Transport and Main Roads Minister Mark Bailey said the new recruits were receiving an excellent opportunity to gain skills in several fields.

"There's a lot of work happening at Gladstone Ports at the moment – including getting hydrogen ready – so it's exciting to see the next generation of workers starting their journeys at one of Queensland's most important ports.

"The Palaszczuk Labor Government is connecting people all over the state to good, secure jobs, helping Queenslanders move their careers forwards.

"Good luck to the 16 new starters – I'm looking forward to seeing what you all achieve."

GPC Executive General Manager People



Sixteen new recruits at GPC.

Jane Blackbourn said GPC support their apprentices and trainees to develop world-class skills and expand their horizons, both with GPC and within the local community.

"The new starters will hit the ground running, with an intensive program that includes exposure to a variety of port area rotations, equipment, and a priority focus on safety in the workplace," Ms Blackbourn said.

"The Resource and Infrastructure Traineeship program is designed to support the region's future Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Australian South Sea Islander leaders in their journey from education and training to employment.

"We are so proud to provide these programs for our communities and look forward to our apprentice and trainees integrating and

becoming not only part of our workforce but integral members of our community and advocates for trade training and careers in the local industry."

The apprentices and trainees will spend up to four years at GPC, learning their chosen trade.

Visit the Apprentice and Trainee webpage for more information about the program.

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Rockhampton MP Barry O'Rourke, GSHS principal Brendan Shannon and MTAQ's Anthony Bonaccorso cut the ribbon to officially open the building.

Pictures: BREANNA LLYOD

# Student learning revs up

By Khrysti Balaney

A new initiative by Glenmore State High School will engage Rockhampton, Yeppoon and Mount Morgan students looking at starting a pathway in the automotive and transport industries.

In partnership with Motor Trades Association Queensland (MTAQ), GlenTech Auto will provide Year 11 and 12 students with the opportunity to complete a Certificate 2 in Automotive Vocational Preparation from Thursday, 9 February.

GSHS principal Brendan Shannon said the opening of the new facility was a culmination of many years of work and would put the students in a fantastic position for their future careers.

"We will see approximately 60 students from the region's state high schools participate in the Certificate 2 or MTAQ's auto ready school holiday program," he said.

"This will ensure they reach their potential as work-ready individuals.

"Funding from the State Government has revitalised the educational infrastructure necessary to deliver this training.

"We are keen to open the next chapter of our journey, which will engage industry partners to complete the fit-out of our workshops with the tools and equipment our students need to have authentic learning experiences.

"Glentech Auto is the first training bundle we will deliver for our high school students.

"We envision it will continue to grow as we develop into construction, mining, and logistics industries."

Glenmore State High School student Amber Delaware said she was excited about the opportunity to complete the qualification at school.

"I started working on cars when I was six years old, my favourite being Patrols," she said.

"My dad is a mechanic, and I also hope to become a mechanic.

"I'm interested in how cars work and how an entire car can stop because of one thing."

MTAQ's senior business development manager Anthony Bonaccorso attended the opening of the GlenTech Auto workspace and said he was looking forward to the partnerships.

"I started in the automotive industry at the age of 15 in an apprenticeship capacity," he said.

"From there, I've been able to pursue career opportunities within the automotive industry, for which I have been grateful.

"It is now a full circle where I now work alongside schools with initiatives like this one today.

"It is great to see the State Government back us to bring auto ready to the Queensland regions."



Cameron Johnson, Coen O'Brien, Dawson Morlei, Tyler Anderson.



Janita Ray, Jasmine Ward, Ella Sinclair and Logan Heald.



Amber and Angel.

Picture: SUPPLIED

# Link Your Business with Opportunities in 2023

**Gladstone Engineering Alliance Inc.**



## Working together for a stronger Central Queensland Industry Supply Chain

Gladstone Engineering Alliance (GEA) is celebrating 20 years of creating strong opportunities for local industry to collaborate, grow and support the Central Queensland region.

With decades of experience, GEA now anticipates an eventful year ahead while working hard for more than 200 of its members amongst the Central Queensland Industry Supply Chain.

As the go-to-organisation within the region, GEA links members and non-members in a number of opportunities to become part of a proactive and engaged alliance of businesses.

Promoting, linking, influencing, growing and fundraising are some of their key actions.

The not-for-profit incorporated association was established in 2003 and is directed by a board which provides strategic leadership, while setting the current and future direction for the organisation.

Earlier this month, the alliance launched its GEA Gladstone Connects Supplier Platform to develop a virtual platform to facilitate connection and collaboration between suppliers in industry.

The platform will also develop innovative engineering solutions and will increase local manufacturing opportunities.

This year alone, the alliance is looking forward to a number of events including an International Women's Day dinner, charity golf day, and the Major Industry Conference and Awards Night which will attract a number of professional industries across the board in a prime networking event in October.

GEA will also play an important role in helping to facilitate the skilled workforce required to support emerging technology, such as the transition to renewable energies, through the Central Queensland Hydrogen Technology Cluster (CQH2).

GEA and its members will realise its vision to bring engineering, manufacturing and supply chain services in the region to meet world-best-practice.

To learn more about GEA and its upcoming events, head to their social page on Facebook or visit [www.gea.com.au](http://www.gea.com.au)

## IMPORTANT DATES IN 2023:

**23rd February:** Attract & Retain Staff breakfast followed by Masterclass

**8th March:** International Women's Day Dinner

**27th April:** Supply Chain Expo

**August:** GEA Charity Golf Day

**September:** 20 Years in Business Celebration

**October:** Major Industry Conference & Awards Night

**November:** Annual General Meeting



**To become a member contact us today:**

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 07 4972 9060  [info@gea.asn.au](mailto:info@gea.asn.au)

# Big year predicted for ag

2023 is shaping up as another strong year for Australia's agricultural sector, although a repeat of last year's "exceptional" performance is unlikely, Rabobank says in a newly-released industry outlook.

In its flagship Australia Agribusiness Outlook 2023, titled 'Continuing on a successful path', the agribusiness banking specialist says a stand-out 2022 – with high, often record, commodity prices and good to partly-record production volumes – has put the nation's farm sector in a healthy position for the year ahead, allowing for "record high farm incomes across the country, well above the already very good 2021 results".

But it cautions against expectations of a repeat of last year's stellar conditions in the agricultural sector, which were overall "exceptional", despite the impacts of severe flooding in some regions.

"Beef, dairy, grain, oilseeds and canola prices all hit excellent and often record levels in Australia at a time when our farmers produced good to excellent volumes," the report said.

"This was a fantastic combination which allowed Australian farmers to cash in because these factors far outpaced the significantly-elevated cost of fertilisers, energy, interest rates and farmland.

"2023 will bring many opportunities, (but) those with overly-inflated expectations of a repeat of 2022 might be disappointed as the world heads into recession."

Agricultural commodity prices – last year driven to record levels as a result of the war in Ukraine, supply chain issues related to Covid and labour shortages as well as global market tightness and volatile input prices – are forecast to track at less elevated levels through 2023, albeit "well above the five-year average", according to Rabobank.

Report lead author, RaboResearch general manager Australia and New Zealand Stefan Vogel



RaboResearch general manager Australia and New Zealand Stefan Vogel.

Vogel said prices for grains and oilseeds and beef had moved notably below highs seen last year, and 2023 was likely to "deliver good, but not record, prices in an environment of elevat-

ed costs and global recession".

The Rabobank Rural Commodity Price Index – which tracks local prices of key commodities in Australian-dollar terms – is fore-

cast to continue to ease from record highs reached in Q2 2022 over the course of this year, albeit to still track above the five-year average with a chance of rising again in late 2023.

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# New faces land at council

Gladstone Regional Council (GRC) has welcomed 16 enthusiastic apprentices and trainees for its 2023 intake at an induction ceremony held on Monday 6 February at the Boyne Tannum Community Centre.

The 16 apprentices and trainees will enter areas including Certificate III Business Administration (11 roles), Certificate III Parks and Gardens, Certificate III Waste Management, Certificate III Plumbing, Certificate III ICT, and Certificate III Events. These recruits will fill roles at locations across the region including Agnes Water, Benaraby, Calliope and Gladstone. Gladstone Region Mayor Matt Burnett was excited to welcome Council's 2023 apprentice and trainee intake. "It's fantastic to see so many new faces join an organisation that is committed to delivering outstanding service to the community," Councillor Burnett said.

"Council is proud to serve more than 63,000 residents across 10,489 square kilometres so it's great to see roles have been filled in a variety of different locations within the region.

"I'd like to thank everyone who took the time to apply and wish the successful applicants the best of luck on their GRC journey."

Council's 2023 apprentices and trainee intake has been assisted by the First Start program under the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative. First Start provides wage subsidies to local councils and community-based organisations to employ additional trainees. The program offers opportunities to young people and disadvantaged job seekers to gain nationally recognised qualifications and 12 months employment by undertaking a traineeship or longer for apprenticeships.

First Start is one of seven programs that make up the Queensland Government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative.

Visit [gladstone.qld.gov.au/jobs-council](http://gladstone.qld.gov.au/jobs-council) to find out further information on how to apply for available positions within Gladstone Regional Council.



Back row (L to R): Cr Rick Hansen, Maiella Donohoe, HarleyAnn Carruthers, Isabel Oakley, Mitchell Conlan, Sam Lockwood, Cassie-Lee Hayward, Scott Stevens, Dannielle Nolan, Zack Iserbert, Theunis Mienie. Front Row (L to R): John Tumbers, Cr Desley O'Grady, Zani Vermaak, Jamee Nankervis, Chang Nguyen, Emily Kirkwood, Diaz Byers, Nicola Bradshaw, Leisa Dowling, Mark Holmes, Carly Quinn, Cr Kahn Goodluck. Picture: SUPPLIED

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## Off to a flying start

It has definitely not been a slow start to 2023 for RACQ CapRescue!

With 50 tasks and a significant amount of flight hours, the operational costs this month are their highest in over a year.

In January, Central Queenslanders relied on the Rescue300 crew for access to advanced health care and so much more.

On January 12th RACQ CapRescue left the hangar tasked to a horse fall south of Theodore.

The patient, a man in his early 30s, was thrown from his horse whilst mustering on a property.

Queensland Ambulance Service was on scene treating for suspected chest and spinal injuries.

Upon the arrival of Rescue300, the onboard Doctor and Critical Care Paramedic stabilised the patient in preparation for transport to Rockhampton hospital for further scans and treatment.

With a return flight time of just under three hours, the Rescue300 crew really makes a difference. Facing over three hours by road from the accident site to the hospital, RACQ CapRescue provides the fastest and most efficient means of assistance for those in remote areas.

Wet weather this month meant less than ideal road conditions with two families experiencing some distress when they were trapped in their car on a road between flooded areas.

RACQ CapRescue, successfully completed the retrieval of nine people including five adults, a child and three infants.

Transport to hospital by Rescue300 was not required with no injuries reported.

In the final days of January, RACQ CapRescue continued to be busy, tasked to a property in the Bauhinia area to attend to a suspected snake bite.

It was reported that a 2-year-old was playing with his dog when he alerted his Mum that he had an injured leg.

On inspection of the marks on the toddler, the mother applied effective first aid treatment for a snake bite.

Queensland Ambulance Service road paramedics were on the scene upon arrival of Rescue300. It was determined that the child should be transported to Rockhampton Hospital by air for further assessment and treatment.

It is a reminder to all about the importance of First Aid, especially when in remote areas where help may be some distance away.

You can be assured you will continue to see RACQ CapRescue fly in February.

If you would like to support their lifesaving service, head to <https://caprescue.org.au/donate/>

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RACQ CapRescue

A big region needs a fast response.

## The club that saves lives hits milestone

RACQ CapRescue are excited to announce that they have reached 139 Rescue300 members!

When their new AW139 arrived, the team were determined to boost the lifesaving club to the now significant number.

Congratulations to Emerald Medical Group for jumping on board as the 139th member!

Emerald Medical Group have joined like-minded businesses and individuals who care

about their local community and want to keep the world-class aeromedical service flying.

Since reaching this number, the club has now exceeded 140! RACQ CapRescue cannot thank you their Rescue300 members enough!

If you would like to join the club that saves lives, contact Kim from RACQ CapRescue at [kimw@caprescue.org.au](mailto:kimw@caprescue.org.au).

