The Draft North West Queensland Economic Diversification Strategy has been informed by the outcomes and findings of other blueprint actions and through extensive consultation with key stakeholders.

A Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) has provided advice and feedback on a range of regional issues. This input and support is vital to ensure that the final strategy achieves its objectives. The Queensland Government invites interested parties to have their say on the draft strategy by visiting www.dsdmip.qld.gov.au/NWMP.

The diagram below shows the consultation activities which occurred in 2018 throughout stages of the draft strategy’s development. A collaborative approach is required to implement the strategy and its initiatives.

Significant creative events and funding have provided a challenging visit to our for North West Queensland businesses, industries and communities. A key action of the Blue Ocean Strategy is to grow the region’s visitor economy. This can be achieved through a tourism strategy that captures the region’s unique character and natural beauty, as well as the cultural and natural experiences available.

The Draft North West Queensland Economic Diversification Strategy is a strategic blueprint for Queensland’s North West Minerals Province to build economic resilience in the region through enhanced investment, employment opportunities and increased business activity. It aims to attract new projects and support the growth of other industries that can build on the region’s competitive advantages in resources, agriculture, tourism and business.

For further information on consultation activities or to provide feedback on this draft strategy, please contact the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning.

**Resources**

- mining and mineral processing

- beef cattle production, cropping and commercial fishing

**Agriculture**

- $2.4 billion in GVP
- 88% total value of state agricultural production

**Tourism**

- 11,000 jobs in Queensland
- 3,000 jobs in the Northern Territory
- 11,000 jobs in the Pilbara

**Business and industry**

- small business, supply chain and emerging industry sectors

**Key messages**

- SACE: anything possible
- Five core principles
- Leadership and coordination
- Local government, business, and community partnership
- Innovation and implementation

**Gross Value Added (GVA)**

- Agriculture: $1.2 billion
- Industry: $1.8 billion
- Total: $3.06 billion

**Gross Value Production (GVP)**

- Agriculture: $1.2 billion
- Industry: $1.8 billion
- Total: $3.06 billion

**Economic diversification**

- Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning
- Agriculture, tourism, and other sectors

A Strategic Blueprint for Queensland’s North West Minerals Province provides a platform for collaboration by all levels of government, business, industry, and communities. A key action of Strategic Priority 2 is the blueprint for the development of the North West Queensland Economic Diversification Strategy (the strategy).

New in its draft form, the strategy presents a collaborative plan of action across four key sectors: resources, agriculture, tourism and business and industry. It aims to attract investment, strengthen supply chains and build sustainable communities.

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Although mineral resources remain the primary industry for this region, the draft strategy aims to expand the range of other industries. This will support diversified commodity cycles to optimise local employment opportunities. Creating jobs, increasing private sector investment and leveraging Queensland’s education, training and work place key priorities for the Queensland Government.

The strategic blueprint provides us with a collective vision for the future of North Queensland. The outcomes of this approach are evident today and will be a feature of the draft strategy. I invite you to provide feedback on this document, so we can continue working together to develop the final North West Queensland Economic Diversification Strategy.
**Scope**

The draft strategy identifies a range of diversification opportunities across the six local government areas which make up the North West Minerals Province: Burke Shire Council, Corrápyan Shire Council, Clancy Shire Council, Joycey Shire Council, Dowerin Shire Council, Yilgarn Shire Council, and Roebuck Shire Council. The draft strategy includes a range of initiatives and actions that will support the development of the North West Minerals Province. The map opposite identifies the geographic areas illustrated in the three themes of the strategy, which are:

1. Enhanced investment environment
2. Strong supply chain
3. Sustainable communities

**Approach**

Creating jobs, increasing private sector investment and supporting communities is at the heart of the Queensland Government’s priorities for the region. The Draft North West Queensland Economic Diversification Strategy includes a range of initiatives and actions across the three themes listed. The map opposite illustrates the geographic areas covered by the three themes, marked by the six local government areas highlighted. The strategy aligns with the Queensland Government’s strategic priorities to leverage the North West’s regional strengths to support jobs and economic growth.

**Draft North West Queensland Economic Diversification Strategy – Initiatives and Actions**

### Theme 1: Enhanced Investment Environment

- **Build the capacity of existing businesses and entrepreneurs to respond to market opportunities**
  - Consult with business networks to develop and deliver training and capacity-building programs.
- **Maximise the regional economic benefits of private sector projects**
  - Facilitate private-sector projects to progress in a timely and coordinated manner by working proactively to:
    - Identify investment partners and funding options, including Queensland and Commonwealth Government grants, for identified projects.
    - Address potential challenges and opportunities.
- **Strengthen local government economic development planning**
  - Roll out an Economic Development Toolkit to support local governments to:
    - Identify existing, developing and emerging strategic initiatives.
    - Enhance economic development objectives with regional priorities including freight transport, land use and infrastructure.
    - Identify project synergies and partnership opportunities across local government areas.
- **Develop a technology minerals industry supporting secondary prospectivity**
  - Disrupt an industry’s vision of the future, repositioning the region and its economies under mining tenures across the North West Minerals Province to:
    - Identify opportunities to ‘join up’ deposits to maximise investment and the stability of secondary prospectivity.
    - Promote the region’s prospectivity through the work of the Resources Investment Commissioner.
- **Increase agricultural production**
  - Strengthen local government economic development planning.
  - Double the number of existing businesses and entrepreneurs to respond to market opportunities.
  - Consult with business networks to develop and deliver training and capacity-building programs.
- **Increase the economic benefit of tourism along the Overlander’s Way**
  - Deliver tailor-made workshops to build capacity among regional tourism operators.
- **Create a system to enable the ongoing capture of region-specific data through visitor information centres**
  - Maximize the regional economic benefits of private sector projects.
  - Increase agricultural production.
  - Consult with business networks to develop and deliver training and capacity-building programs.
- **Maximise local economic development outcomes by implementing the Community Resilience Strategy**
  - Support the implementation of key projects that contribute to population retention, community capacity building and economic development.
  - Engage with potential employers/employees to development of capacity and skills requirements.
  - Advise on local workforce profile/industry partnerships and organizations.
  - Promote examples of successful regional employment models.
  - Address potential government funding or support.

### Theme 2: Strong Supply Chain

- **Investigate establishment of a mine training facility at the Hard Times Mine, Mount Isa**
  - Investigate establishment of a mine training facility at the Hard Times Mine, Mount Isa.
  - Audit regional, national and international interest from mine operators for training programs.
  - Deliver tailored workshops and networking events.
  - Support businesses to develop capability statements.
- **Maximise local business participation in regional supply chains supporting key sectors**
  - Consult with business networks to develop and deliver training and capacity-building programs.
  - Support firms and suppliers to identify education and training opportunities.
  - Delver tailored workshops and networking events.
  - Identify partnership opportunities between suppliers.
- **Develop a system to enable the ongoing capture of region-specific data through visitor information centres**
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- **Increase the economic benefit of tourism along the Overlander’s Way**
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  - Promote examples of successful regional employment models.
  - Address potential government funding or support.

### Theme 3: Sustainable Communities

- **Maximise local economic development outcomes by implementing the Community Resilience Strategy**
  - Consult with business networks to develop and deliver training and capacity-building programs.
- **Improve regional employment outcomes through streamlined workforce planning**
  - Consult with business networks to develop and deliver training and capacity-building programs.
  - Support the implementation of key projects that contribute to population retention, community capacity building and economic development.
  - Engage with potential employers/employees to development of capacity and skills requirements.
  - Advise on local workforce profile/industry partnerships and organizations.
  - Promote examples of successful regional employment models.
  - Address potential government funding or support.