

NATIONAL REGIONAL SKILLS AND TRAINING PILOT

DELIVERED FROM THE HEART OF AUSTRALIA'S RESOURCES COMMUNITIES

PURPOSE

Australia needs a workforce that is ready for the changing energy and resources landscape.

The skills needed on mine sites, in manufacturing, construction, energy production and advanced trades are shifting.

Regional workers are already adapting. They are leading the transition on the ground.

What is missing is a nationally recognised training model based in the regions, shaped by industry, unions and government, and delivered where this work actually happens.

The Isaac region, together with the Resource Centre of Excellence in Mackay, is ready to deliver that model through the Isaac Resources Excellence Precinct.

THE NEED

Regional Queensland produces the resources that power the nation. Our communities train apprentices, tradespeople, operators, engineers and supervisors who work across Australia.

The shift in technology and industry is moving quickly. Workers now need skills in automation, digital systems, new energy systems and advanced manufacturing. Employers need training that is hands-on, responsive and based in real operational environments.

A national training pilot located in a working resource region will allow workers to learn these skills without needing to leave their communities or their jobs.

THE PROPOSAL

Establish a National Regional Skills and Training Pilot based in Isaac and delivered through the Resource Centre of Excellence network.

This pilot would:

- Train workers in the skills needed for current and emerging industries.
- Support apprentices and trainees to stay and learn in their communities.
- Offer upskilling and reskilling programs for existing workers.
- Connect industry experts, training providers and research partners.
- Establish a model that can be scaled to other regional locations.

This is not about creating a new institution.

It is about using the partnerships, training capability and industry access that already exist, and lifting them to a national platform.

HOW IT WILL WORK

1. **National Recognition**
   Seek Federal acknowledgment of the pilot as a national model for regional workforce development.
   Outcome: A shared commitment to develop the pilot in partnership.
2. **Coordinated Training Partnerships**
   Training programs delivered through TAFE Queensland, CQUniversity and participating industry partners, supported by universities including UQ and QUT where specialised expertise is required.
   Outcome: Training that matches industry demand and supports both new and experienced workers
3. **Infrastructure and Delivery Platform**
   The Isaac Resources Excellence Precinct becomes the delivery hub for training, hands-on demonstration, research collaboration and workforce development.
   Outcome: A working precinct that trains workers on real equipment and real sites.
4. **Pilot Skills Programs**

Programs to be co-designed in areas including:

- Advanced mechanical and electrical trades.
- Digital operations and automation.
- Renewable energy integration.
- Critical minerals and circular processing skills.

Our goal: To have the first training programs operating by 2027.

WHY ISAAC AND RCOE

This region has:

- One of the largest skilled resource workforces in Australia.
- Strong relationships between industry, training providers and communities.
- A proven training and innovation platform through the Resource Centre of Excellence.
- A precinct already in development that can serve as the national training base.

This is the right place to test and refine a model before replicating it across the country.

WHAT WE'RE ADVOCATING FOR

We are seeking:

1. **Federal recognition and funding** of the pilot as a national demonstration program.
2. **Support** to complete feasibility and delivery planning.
3. **Partnership across industry, union, education and government** to roll out the first training streams.

