

# REIMAGINING MINE LAND FOR COMMUNITY FUTURES

PLANNING FOR LONG-TERM JOBS, INVESTMENT AND LAND USE AFTER MINING



For more than fifty years, resource regions like Isaac have powered Queensland.

Our mines, our workers and our local businesses have driven the State's exports, steelmaking industry and national energy security.

We are proud of what we contribute.

But every mine has a life cycle.

What happens after mining matters just as much as what happens during it.

Right now, rehabilitation planning focuses almost entirely on returning land to a pre-mining state.

While this is important, it also means we are overlooking opportunities to build new industries, new jobs and new long-term economic value on land and infrastructure that already exists.

There is a better way forward.

## ↓ WHY IT MATTERS

Mine rehabilitation is often talked about as the end of the story.

For our region, it is the start of the next chapter.

If we plan early and plan together, post-mining land can support:

- Agriculture and aquaculture.

- Renewable energy production and storage.
- Minerals reprocessing and circular economy industries.
- Industrial and training precincts.
- Community and environmental outcomes.

These opportunities are real and already being explored across the Bowen Basin.

They create jobs, support business growth and help our region stay strong and liveable long after mining operations transition.

This is about shaping a future where our young people do not have to leave to find work.

Where industry can diversify and grow.

Where our communities remain stable and connected. The role as part of IREP.

## ↓ OUR POSITION

We support responsible rehabilitation.

We also believe communities should have the chance to benefit from future land use, not just watch land be closed and locked away.

Post-mining land use planning must be seen as regional economic planning, not only environmental compliance.

That means:

- Starting planning early.
- Involving community, councils and Traditional Owners.
- Working with industry on commercially viable opportunities.
- Supporting collaboration between researchers, developers and landholders.

This unlocks long-term value while still respecting environmental standards and cultural connections to Country.

## ➔ WHAT WE'RE ADVOCATING FOR

### 1. Policy settings that allow post-mining land to be repurposed

Enable practical, safe and commercially viable uses rather than requiring full return to pre-mining conditions where other outcomes make more sense.

### 2. Early regional planning with councils and communities

Planning should begin long before mine closure. Communities deserve certainty, time and a voice in shaping future land use.

### 3. Support for industry and investment partnerships

Government assistance in feasibility studies, approvals pathways and project coordination helps move ideas from concept to commercial reality.

### 4. Recognition that post-mining land use is part of regional transition

This is not a side issue. It is core to the future sustainability of resource regions.

### 5. Exit Planning for land and community infrastructure

Mine closure planning must also consider the transition of community infrastructure such as roads, water, housing, utilities and social assets to ensure towns remain functional and liveable.

## ↓ OUR GOAL

A future where the end of mining does not mean the end of jobs. Where the land continues to support work, training, innovation and community wellbeing. Where regions like Isaac remain strong, liveable and economically diverse. This is not about moving away from mining. It is about ensuring our communities continue to thrive long after each site reaches the end of its operational life.

## ↓ WORKING TOGETHER

Councils, industry, Traditional Owners, researchers and local businesses are already working to identify opportunities and partnerships. The foundations are in place. What is needed now is government support to move this work forward at scale.

This is how we take mine rehabilitation from a compliance requirement to a chance to build the next chapter of our regional economy.

We are ready to work together to make that happen.

