

# Welcome push for jobs will boost workers and city

THE loss of local jobs at QNI and the threat of further job losses has seen a welcome push by the State Government to provide immediate support for shovel-ready, job-creating projects in Townsville.

Townsville Enterprise has met federal, state and local government leaders to ensure there is a clear agreement on the type and scale of projects needed to get the economy moving and to build confidence in the city and region.

City leaders are united on the importance of getting the people impacted by the QNI decision, as well as others affected by the mining downturn in particular, back into jobs as quickly as possible and to ensure they stay in our city.

There are many worthwhile public and private sector projects across the region that could proceed with government support — by cutting red tape, bringing forward money committed in future budgets or through straight funding injections.

There is a strong will among city leaders to ensure all of these options are considered.

These include big projects such as the Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor, which will create jobs in construction but by achieving more efficient rail movements promote increased export opportunities through the Port of Townsville.

There are road projects that can open up opportunities for agriculture, there are water



projects that will support water security as well as the development of industry and there are projects in the areas of education and innovation.

We also cannot underestimate the impact of the Adani Carmichael Coal Mine

and Rail Project and the thousands of jobs it will deliver to this region.

All of these projects must have a focus on local contracts and local jobs.

Other job-creating projects include the Integrated Stadium and Entertainment Centre which will create 550 jobs in construction alone.

The Townsville CBD walkways project is a 35km network of pathways and enabling infrastructure that will connect the dining, entertainment, cultural and retail precincts in the CBD via the Ross Creek Waterfront.

These projects will create hundreds of jobs and have the capacity to benefit people looking for work in carpentry

and joinery and metal fabricators.

Investing in the city heart will stimulate additional investment that will spur new private sector projects that in themselves deliver more employment.

Townsville Enterprise will continue to work collaboratively in coming days, weeks and months to ensure that the focus of every level of government remains on project support and delivery that generates much needed work.

This is about immediate shovel-ready projects, but it is also about ensuring a sustainable pipeline of work into the medium and long term.