



Major projects deliver massive jobs boost

BOWEN, GALILEE BASINS

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NINE major mining projects in the Bowen and Galilee Basins will generate the need for more than 4200 jobs with one occupation identified as the most in-demand.

The Australian Resources and Energy Group's workforce forecasting report, released yesterday, quantified the need for skilled workers across the mining and energy sectors to propel the COVID-19 economic recovery.

Using a number of industry-verified modelling techniques, the Australian Mines and Metals Association's Resources and Energy Workforce Forecast (2021-2026) report detailed the operational labour demand required for new mining and oil and gas projects scheduled for completion between 2021 and 2026.

Nationwide, the pipeline of job-creating projects was worth \$84bn and more than 24,000 jobs. It finds 98 projects worth \$83.8bn, either committed or considered likely by the Australian Government's Department of Industry to be completed within that timeframe, would demand a forecasted 24,433 production phase employees by 2026.

The report identified Queensland's resources and energy industry directly employed 63,700 people as at August this year, representing 26.5 per cent of the industry's workforce.

"There are 20 new or expansion projects either already committed or considered likely to proceed in Queensland between 2021 and 2026 year-end," the report found. All but one of the anticipated coal mines were in the Bowen or Galilee Basins with 4240 new jobs set to be generated.

"Collectively these projects are forecast to create demand for 6240 production-phase employees, lifting the state's direct resources workforce 9.8 per cent to about 70,000.

"Coal will be the largest driver of growth, with 22 projects forecast to create around 8000 new production jobs."

Plant operators would be the most in demand with 2474 needed, followed by mine engineering, technical and geology workers (1213 jobs) and supervisors, management and administration positions (1160) in the mining sector.

About 800 heavy diesel fitters would be required, while 334 jobs were classified as "other trades".

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