1. A Strategic Blueprint for Queensland’s North West Minerals Province (the blueprint) was released by the Queensland Government in July 2017.
2. The $39 million blueprint sets out a collaborative plan for supporting strong and prosperous industries, businesses and communities in the North West Minerals Province (the NWMP).
3. The NWMP is defined as the 10 local government areas of: Mount Isa City; Cloncurry Shire; Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire; Burke Shire; Carpentaria Shire; McKinlay Shire; Richmond Shire; Flinders Shire; Croydon Shire; and Etheridge Shire.
4. A key deliverable of the blueprint, the Draft North West Queensland Economic Diversification Strategy (the Draft NWQEDS) presents a collaborative plan of action which leverages the region’s existing strengths in resources, agriculture, tourism, and business and industry.
5. Mining and agricultural production and communities in North West Queensland were significantly impacted by the February 2019 floods.
6. The Draft NWQEDS reflects the flood event and looks beyond the immediate disaster recovery phase by identifing opportunities that will help to support longer-term, incremental change in the regional economy. It has been developed with strong community and industry consultation.
7. Consultation has included meetings with local government representatives, the North West Stakeholder Advisory Committee and the North West Futures Forum held in Mount Isa in August 2018.
8. The release of the Draft NWQEDS provides the community with a further opportunity to provide feedback to help shape the final strategy.
9. The proposed initiatives are structured around three themes: enhanced investment environment; strong supply chain; and sustainable communities. They seek to facilitate local government economic development priorities and align with other blueprint actions.
10. Initiatives include the development of a technology minerals industry supporting secondary prospectivity; increasing agricultural production through industry and market development; development of a pipeline of tourism projects; project facilitation and assistance in workforce planning for private sector projects; and support for local business to increase participation in regional supply chains.
11. Cabinet approved the release of the Draft North West Queensland Economic Diversification Strategy for public consultation.
12. *Attachments*
* [Draft North West Queensland Economic Diversification Strategy](Attachments/DraftStrategy.PDF)