

Project 1.8

Identifying future economic development pathways for mining regions and increasing transition capacity

Why the project?

During consultation in 2022, CRC TiME heard strongly from regional, industry and government partners about the need for an improved evidence-base and practical tools to support decision-making for long-term prosperity in mining regions.

While long-term economic resilience is important to all communities, some mining regions are preparing for longer-term transformations due to structural changes. These include decarbonisation to reduce emissions and geo-strategic considerations.

CRC TiME is uniquely placed to develop tools and resources that enable regions hosting mining operations to develop their own vision for regional economic transformation. Part of this process involves identifying opportunities as well as challenges and exploring local economic resilience. Being able to analyse options underpins effective planning, engagement and consensus building.



What are the project objectives?

Developed through a consultative process, this project aims to develop tools and resources to support regions to identify potential economic development and transformation strategies. These include tools to build a shared vision for the future.

Project objectives include to:

- develop and demonstrate tools for analysing transition pathways and considering transition capacity
- establish a stakeholder consultation process to support regional economic resilience planning, including a shared vision
- provide locally relevant, customised data analytics through pilots planned to be in the Bowen Basin and Pilbara regions.

What will the project deliver?

The project will produce:

- an analytical framework for benchmarking and analysing transition readiness. It will support identification of regional economic development opportunities relevant to local governments and other regional stakeholders
- visuals to represent social and economic factors affecting capacity to transition and grow common across mining regions. These will include factors such as physical infrastructure and other regional growth drivers
- actions for local and state governments to consider to enable planning for structural economic change driven by decarbonisation and other global goals and trends
- case studies featuring pilot regions.

Who will the project benefit?

The project will develop tools and processes relevant to government agencies, regional development, community and Indigenous organisations and industry.

How can I engage?

Opportunities for involvement will be promoted, where appropriate, by the project team and CRC TiME.

Timeline

2023 - 2025

How does this align with CRC TiME Impact objectives?

Mines are closed in ways that deliver social, economic and environmental value

Closed sites are repurposed to enable a faster transition to diverse and resilient local economies

Mine closure business solutions drive new commercial and/or regional closure opportunities

Continued investment in Australian resources

Policy, decisions and management systems reduce risks



Project Partners

Partner Participants

Geoscience Australia, BHP, Rio Tinto, The University of Western Australia, MMG, CSIRO

Advisory Participants

Central Highlands Development Commission, Greater Whitsunday Alliance, Isaac Regional Council, Pilbara Development Commission, Department of the Premier & Cabinet (QLD)



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