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Region's growth to continue

Mining, manufacturing and construction projects dominate a listing of regional projects that totals \$25 billion. The latest update of REDC's Regional Development Register has been released and provides further evidence that the region's 'boom' is far from over.

The \$6.5 billion of mining projects identified in the register encompass 2 completed projects, 2 projects currently under construction, 3 committed projects and 10 mines or mine expansion projects in advanced stages of investigation.

The \$5.3 billion of manufacturing projects includes the proposed Abbot Point State Development Area and 5 other industrial estates in the region.

The register identifies 49 construction projects totalling \$4.9 billion, ranging from luxury resorts in the Whitsundays to mixed commercial/developments and residential estates across the region. Within this category are 10 separate apartment developments in Mackay City Centre.

The register also identifies road, rail, water, energy, tourism and retail projects across the region.

The \$25 billion total is impressive, but REDC Chairman Darryl Camilleri is not satisfied.

"The Mackay Whitsunday region is experiencing significant growth. As you can see from the latest Regional Development Register, this growth is going to continue through to at least 2011. There needs to be more investment in regional infrastructure to ensure the region is not negatively impacted by this growth."

Mr Camilleri said, "REDC has recognised this issue and with support from key regional partners, we are working to develop a case for strategic regional infrastructure."

REDC projects aimed at improving regional infrastructure include Energy Audit (establishing a case for a baseload power station in North Queensland), an investigation into the Economics of Freight Transport (including future demand for infrastructure) and a Liveability Audit (identifying key social infrastructure that is needed to attract and retain a skilled workforce).

The Regional Development Register is updated quarterly and can be found on REDC's website – www.mwredc.org.au

For more information on the Register and REDC projects, contact REDC CEO Narelle Pearse on 4953 2655.