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\$4 Billion Added to the Pot in 3 Months

The latest update of REDC's Regional Development Register indicates that business and investor confidence remains high in the region, with strong investment continuing in the mining, construction and manufacturing areas. The register, released this month, details nearly \$34 Billion in major developments, an increase of over \$4 Billion in the past 3 months alone.

The proposed \$2.2 Billion Chalco Aluminium Refinery at Abbott Point is just one of the projects making up a total of nearly \$7.5 Billion in manufacturing/industrial developments this quarter. Strong performance by the manufacturing/industrial sector is highlighted by the register which features several new industrial precincts including the new \$17M Site Businesspark and \$200 Million Evolution Industrial Parks both currently under construction in Paget.

The mining industry continues to grow with the BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance pursuing plans to open two new mines, Daunia and Caval Ridge, in the Bowen Basin. Mining ventures contributed over \$8.2 Billion to the region's developments.

There has also been strong investment in local infrastructure with over \$665 Million spent on regional water projects and \$202 Million on the region's roads, including the planned upgrades to the Eton Range and the \$22 Million upgrade currently underway on Mackay-Bucasia Road.

Other projects highlighted in the register this month include:

- The \$7M Ethanol Pilot Plant planned for Racecourse Mill
- A \$7M Skills Tech Australia College – an engineering college for high school students
- Energy World Corporation's proposed \$1.5 Billion Liquefied Natural Gas plants for Abbot and Hay Points to be connected via pipeline to the Bowen and Cooper Basins.
- The recommencement of the Moranbah Ammonium Nitrate Plant. Incitec has now purchased Dyno Nobel and will proceed with construction of the \$935 Million plant.

REDC CEO Narelle Pearse is pleased to see strong investment in the region continuing. "The Regional Development Register showcases the business and investor confidence in the region. It provides evidence that businesses are investing in a long term future given the significant amount of investment that is being poured into our region".

"As you can see from the latest Regional Development Register, there are many exciting projects underway as the region strives to cater for the increased demand for services. We are happy to see an increase in the spending on regional infrastructure, however we must remain vigilant and take a proactive approach to planning for our region's future growth."

