



Mackay Cutters operations manager Jamie McDonald, left, with Mackay Cutters chairman Greg Sutherland, Gateway International director Michael Stewart and general manager Michael Graham, right.

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Region's projects combine for total of \$25b

MINING, manufacturing and construction plans dominate a listing of Mackay regional projects totalling \$25 billion.

The latest update of REDC's Regional Development Register indicates that the region's boom is far from over.

The \$6.5 billion of mining projects identified encompass two completed projects, two under construction, three committed projects and 10 mines or mine expansions in advanced stages of investigation.

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

The register identifies 49 construction projects totalling \$4.9 billion, ranging from luxury resorts in the Whitsundays to mixed commercial/developments and residential estates.

Within this category are 10 separate apartment developments in Mackay's city centre.

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

The \$25 billion total was impressive but REDC chairman Darryl Camilleri was 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."

REDC projects aimed at improving regional infrastructure include an 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 livability audit, identifying key social infrastructure needed to attract and retain a skilled workforce.

Sponsor opens new gateway to success for Mackay stadium

By OWEN JACQUES
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GATEWAY International announced yesterday that it would be the new major sponsor for the planned Mackay stadium.

The group has been involved for years, helping with the concept plan for the project.

Gateway director Michael Stewart said becoming a primary sponsor was "the

position we wanted to take" "The community should benefit from us; it's not just about the money."

Mr Stewart's offside, Gateway International general manager Michael Graham, said the company took something of a "visionary role" for the stadium.

He said rugby league was the dominant code "right out to the mines".

"We identified that we did need a stadium," he said.

"Through a lot of negotiation we were able to get it through to this stage."

'The community should benefit from us, it's not just about the money.'

Gateway director Michael Stewart

Mr Graham said a big part of it was the prep-

aration of documentation and preparing the applications for the stadium.

Gateway is the sleeve sponsor for the Mackay Cutters and is sponsoring the pre-season training and development squad of Under 17 to Under 19 players.

Mackay District Rugby League chairman and Mackay Cutters chairman Greg Sutherland said the sponsorship change was a "great move".

Federal Member for Dawson James Bidgood said the \$8 million funding for the stadium was still "subject to the budget process".

Mr Bidgood said there were no "foreseen problems" ahead that would stop the funding.

Mr Sutherland said the money would provide a state-of-the-art facility.

"Our plan is for pre-season in 2009 to be the official opening."

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