



JAMES BIDGOOD MP, MEMBER FOR DAWSON

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CONNECTING MACKAY BUSINESS

Government launches \$250 million Enterprise Connect network

Mackay is set to benefit after the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Kim Carr, last night delivered on a key election commitment by launching the Rudd Labor Government's \$251 million Enterprise Connect network.

James Bidgood said: "This is good news for businesses in Mackay, where one of the centres will be located, and for the nation."

"Enterprise Connect's \$14 million Mining Technology Innovation Centre will help to make the most of Australian mining technology expertise at home, and take a larger slice of markets overseas.

"The Centre will offer direct support to small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) in Mackay and across Australia.

"The Mining Technology Centre will provide:

- assistance in business strategies and operations;
- benchmarking of business and manufacturing processes against best practice;
- help in finding the latest research, technology and organisational knowledge to improve products and efficiency;
- access to prototyping and testing facilities to turn good ideas into products; and
- help to cut through red tape and get the best access to government programs.

"The Mining Technology Innovation Centre will work with companies in the sector to identify new opportunities for other Australian businesses to benefit from their cutting-edge technologies – providing pathways into new supply chains both at home and abroad.

"Almost 145,000 Australians are employed in the mining sector, including 6,000 in the Bowen Basin. Many more are employed in the technology companies that service the sector.

"Australia's mining technology sector is already an export success story – and Mackay's businesses are working together to make the most of it.

"The Rudd Labor Government will build on this record by directly supporting innovation, and sharing the great ideas coming out of the industry with the rest of the economy."

A new website with more information on the Mining Technology Centre is live at www.enterpriseconnect.gov.au or email miningtechnologycentre@innovation.gov.au. Alternatively, call the Enterprise Connect hotline on 131 791.

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