

Medics assess 5 after car blaze

Peter Carruthers

Five people have been assessed by paramedics after a car was destroyed by fire at an isolated community southeast of Cairns.

At about 11pm on Friday emergency services received a triple-0 call from East Trinity reporting a vehicle was on fire.

A Queensland Fire spokesman said when a single crew arrived from Cairns to extinguish the blaze the vehicle was fully overcome by flames.

"It does not look like it was from a crash, someone called it in and said a car was on fire," the spokesman said.

"Crews reported the vehicle was fully engulfed in flames but I don't have confirmation of how much damage there was."

The crew responding from Cairns arrived at the scene at 10.32pm after leaving the station at 10.08pm.

Given the "fair bit of travel time", according to the QFD spokesman, it is understood the car was completely destroyed by the fire.

A Queensland Ambulance Service spokeswoman said paramedics assessed five patients at the Giangurra Esplanade fire, four of whom were occupants of the car when the fire broke out.

"We don't know what happened to cause the car to go on fire," she said.

"There was one patient assessed for dehydration."

No patients required transport to hospital and paramedics were cleared from the scene at 11.23pm.

Police did attend the fire and stated the blaze was extinguished by firefighters. The car was completely off the roadway and didn't cause any traffic disruptions.

QFD were also called to a small rubbish fire on Bramp Close in Portsmith on Saturday morning but the blaze was quickly dealt with. Also on Saturday, paramedics were called to a vehicle and cyclist incident at the corner of Gatton and Brown streets at 8.17am.

Advance Cairns strategy launch hears

We have what the world is wanting



Qantas is moving towards an increasing intake of sustainable aviation fuel. Picture: Supplied



Arun Singh Mann

Far North Queensland possesses resources the world desires – that was the message to a sellout event in Cairns during a presentation on the region's emerging and growing sectors.

Advance Cairns launched its Roadmap 2035 strategy at the Cairns Convention Centre on Friday, underpinned by the key motive of ensuring the Far North was recognised as more than a tourism destination.

Elected officials, business identities and community leaders heard from the bosses of three locally-operating businesses, either producing or set to produce goods currently in global demand and often "challenging" to substitute – placing the region at an advantage.

It included Silica Resources

Australia's executive chairman Peter Lansom who spoke about the Mourilyan Silica Sands Project – a mining operation set to start in 2028, expected to extract what he described as one of the "purest" deposits in the world.

The deposit located near Kurrimine Beach would be exported via the Mourilyan Port – which primarily is used as a sugar port.

"The deposit there is quite unique, we've done a lot of exploration over the last three or four years and that project has a built up reserve of we're thinking 50 million tonnes," Mr Lansom said.

"It's a fine grade silica, because it's made with wind deposit, and it gets washed for thousands of years in one of the wettest parts of the world.

VOTE FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A BUCKET-LIST CRUISE HOLIDAY

Visit escape.com.au/cruiseawards to enter.

ESCAPE
2025 READERS' CHOICE
CRUISE AWARDS

PRESENTED BY

my cruises

VOTE NOW!

VOTE NOW



Entries close at 5pm 2/03/25. Terms and Conditions apply. SA Permit No. T25/130, ACT Permit No. TP 25/00208. Full T&Cs available at escape.com.au

how FNQ has plenty of in-demand resources



Advance Cairns chief executive Jacinta Reddan, EQ Resources operations manager Ryan MacNeill, Jet Zero industrial manager Adam Douglas, and Silica Resources Australia executive chairman Peter Lansom at the Advance Cairns Roadmap 2035 launch event. Picture: Paul Furse/FrontRowFoto



Above: The Advance Cairns Roadmap 2035 launch event.



Left: The white silica sand of Fraser Island is among the purest, but like most deposits, is protected against extraction.

That's created a very high purity product.

"In terms of silica, it is classified as a critical mineral, but is a very difficult mineral to access by mining, the reason being most of the silica deposits in the world sit on national parks and cannot be accessed.

"We're very fortunate, we don't have to do much to it—we dig it out of the ground at 99 per cent (purity) and then processing it hopefully to 99.5 to 99.9 per cent."

Mr Lansom said he expected the company to help boost the Cassowary Coast's economy by attracting current FIFO workers to a local opportunity, as well as upgrades to the Mourilyan Port.

Adam Douglas, industrial manager at Jet Zero – a sustainable aviation fuel manufac-

turer which is establishing its plant at Townsville – said the emerging industry led by a global demand for decarbonisation would help diversify North Queensland's sugar industry.

SAF which is created from renewable biomass sources is becoming increasingly self-mandated in the aviation sector.

"In 30 years going up and down the Queensland coast in the sugar industry, I've seen these small towns are really struggling," he said.

"We've partnered with Airbus and Qantas, who put their money where their mouth is and they take this aviation fuel on. We'll also be supplying here to Cairns Airport."

EQ Resources which operates a tungsten mine at Mount Carbine had grown from about 10 people to 150 in its six years

of operation.

Operations manager Ryan MacNeill said the critical mineral was used significantly in defence industries, however most of the western world had depleted its stocks, creating a reliance on China.

"China controls 83 per cent of the world's tungsten, so the west is starting to get pretty scared about it now.

"The west has depleted most of their strategic stocks, the US has stopped reporting because it's stocks have gotten so low.

"Obviously war is never a good thing, but sovereign independence in critical minerals supply is important."

Advance Cairns chief executive Jacinta Reddan said not many people "understand or know" just how much there is to the Far North beyond tourism.



Australian Government
National Indigenous
Australians Agency



NIAA

Are you an employer in a remote community or want to become one?

You can apply for a grant to create new jobs in your community, through the Remote Jobs and Economic Development (RJED) program.

This is the first stage in replacing the Community Development Program (CDP).

Grants will support eligible employers to hire local people in new jobs by funding wages and equipment.

To apply or find out more –
visit www.niaa.gov.au/remote-jobs
call 1800 079 098 or visit your local NIAA office.



XC1000_RJED_NIAA_188x129_V2

BRADFORDS

165 BUNDA ST CAIRNS

BUY • SELL • LOANS

\$50 - \$5,000

ANYTHING GOLD, SCRAP JEWELLERY, ANY AMOUNT

GOLD SILVER PLATINUM BULLION ALLUVIAL & COINS

ON SITE SECURITY

For current market purchase prices

P: 4051 3784

ESTABLISHED 40 YEARS

www.bradfordcoins.com.au