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## \$30m investment in minerals group fuels jobs growth for FNQ

A Far North minerals company will deliver 180 new jobs for the region after receiving an eight-figure sum from the state government-owned funding body.

Samuel Davis

 less than 2 min read    October 22, 2025 - 6:00AM    The Cairns Post

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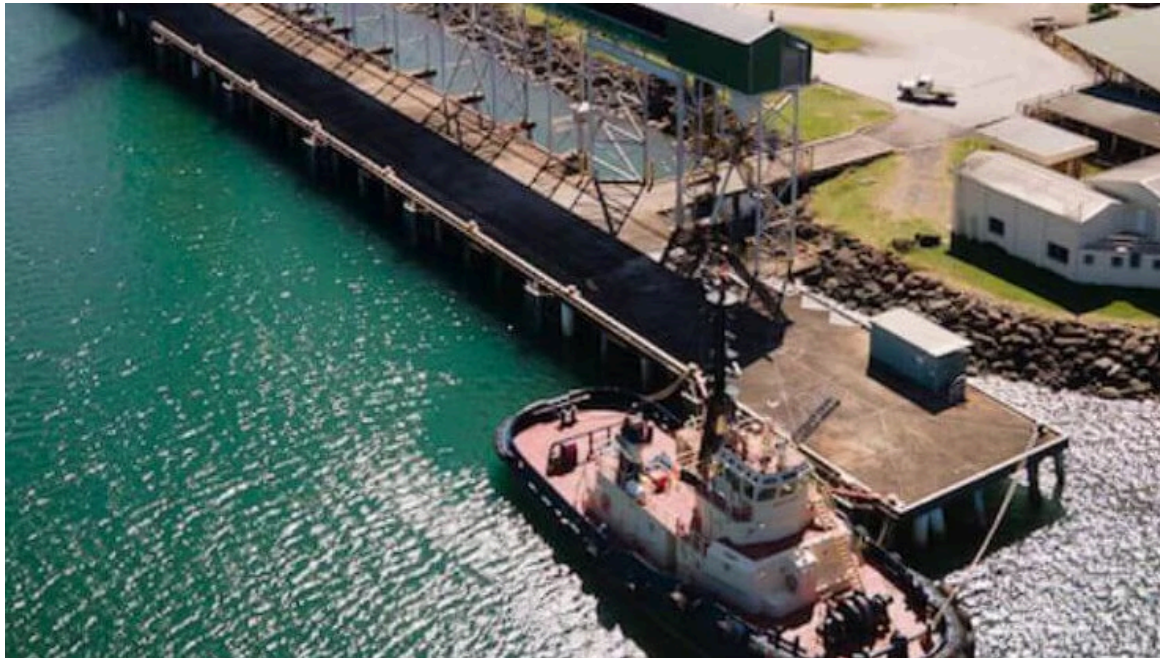
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Mourilyan Silica Sands has revealed plans to dramatically increase production while exporting to markets across Asia after receiving \$30m in funding from the Queensland Investment Corporation this week.

A Far North minerals company will deliver 180 new jobs for the region after receiving an eight-figure sum from the state government-owned funding body.

The Queensland Investment Corporation will tip \$30m into Mourilyan Silica Sands, located about 30km south of Innisfail, which plans to start exporting more high quality product from the Port of Mourilyan to trading partners across Asia.

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Trade Minister Ros Bates says Silica Resources Australia will ramp up annual production to more than 360,00 tonnes over the next 12 months. Picture: Richard Walker

Trade Minister Ros Bates said Silica Resources Australia would ramp up annual production to more than 360,000 tonnes over the next 12 months before reaching more than 750,000 tonnes in the next five years.

“The Crisafulli government is delivering a fresh start with new jobs, investment and trade opportunities, so Queenslanders can get on with building the lifestyles they deserve,” Ms Bates said.

“That includes investing in the development of high-quality assets, like the Mourilyan Silica Sands project.

“Silica flour is an essential precursor for silicon, a key component in advanced technologies like semiconductors and solar panels.

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“Demand in countries like Japan, Korea and Taiwan is growing rapidly, and we are taking strong action to make sure Queensland is essential in the global supply chain.

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“Our investment through QIC has delivered the plant, equipment, and land acquisitions for SRA to get on with creating jobs and mining the more than 50 million tonnes of silica sand on the project site.”



Silica Resources Australia CEO Rob Tindall says common user infrastructure will likely be developed at the Port of Mourilyan as production increases. Picture: Emily Barker

Silica Resources Australia managing director Rob Tindall said common user infrastructure would likely be developed at the Port of Mourilyan as production increased.

“This investment and our existing mining lease has allowed us to start extracting from a silica deposit requiring only shallow, low-cost extraction methods,” Mr Tindall said.

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“Silica flour is required to make the silicon used in solar panels and electronics, with other uses in construction sand, 3D printing and fibreglass.

“Demand driven by solar and clean energy technologies is anticipated to grow the global silica sand market to more than \$36bn by 2032, and this project allows North Queensland to secure a stake in that market while creating local employment and trade opportunities.”

Mr Tindall said the sector was grateful for the support.

“We thank our investors, the Queensland government and QIC for their ongoing support and look forward to what promises to be an exciting year ahead,” he said.

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**William\_B** 6 days ago *(Edited)*

Effectively taxpayers stumping up a business that can't attract private funding for a mineral supposedly in high demand internationally!

What is the taxpayers equity and profit share should Silica Resources Australia make a profit!

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**Mick59** 6 days ago

Same applies to the fossil fuels sector that get tax rebates and other public subsidies.

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**Cohuna** 2 days ago

They don't get funded. That's the difference. Tax rebates is a rebate for tax that has already been paid. There are no other public subsidies for mining industries unless under the umbrella of 'critical minerals'.

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**Nat** 4 days ago

Maybe if the Company was listed on the ASX it wouldn't have to be funded by Tax Payer's Money

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**Michael A** 5 days ago

Just about everything needs government money these days. Is nothing truly economic and able to stand on its own feet anymore!

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Cairns Regional Council will vote to determine limits on vehicle access to the Esplanade dining precinct at an ordinary meeting this week. TAKE OUR POLL TO HAVE YOUR SAY.

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