



## **MEDIA RELEASE - GALILEE COAL AND GAS WILL ENERGISE REGION'S ECONOMY**

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**Coal and gas projects in the Galilee Basin have the potential to generate almost \$4 billion in economic activity and support more than 13,000 jobs in the Greater Whitsunday region, according to new research.**

Greater Whitsunday Council of Mayors (GWCoM), representing the Isaac, Mackay and Whitsunday regions, commissioned leading consultancy Synergies to study the annual economic benefit of resources activity in the Galilee for the three communities by 2030.

“The Galilee Basin is a vast untapped resource of coal and gas which, if sustainability and responsibly managed, will yield billions in economic output and create tens of thousands of jobs,” GWCoM chair and Isaac Region Mayor Anne Baker said.

“There is the potential for additional economic activity of more than \$1 billion per year, supporting 2400 jobs, during the construction phase of Galilee resources developments over the next decade.

“Under a medium development scenario, the regional economy could grow by \$3.9 billion by 2030, directly contributing to regional economic growth. Importantly, this economic activity will support some 13,400 jobs across all sectors of the region.

“Development of the Galilee Basin will be an absolute boon and we are tired of two-word slogans from activists who belittle the contribution of this region to the economy and seek to deny future generations access to the prosperity they have enjoyed by pulling the ladder up.”

Whitsunday Region Mayor Andrew Willcox said while the research foreshadowed a strong economic future for the Greater Whitsunday region, those billions of dollars in activity would, in turn, generate billions in revenues for federal and state governments.

“Those future revenues will deliver the better roads, public transport, schools, hospitals and essential services demanded by those in our cities, the same people who continue to say that we must stop one mine and pull the pin on developing the Galilee Basin.”

Mackay Region Mayor Greg Williamson said as part of the GWCoM research, Synergies completed a comparative analysis of the carbon footprint of one of nation's biggest capitals versus a coal mine.

“CO<sub>2</sub> emissions generated per hectare by the population of Melbourne was modelled at 402 tonnes annually, whilst the CO<sub>2</sub> output of an operating coal mine was 172 tonnes annually,” Mayor Williamson said.

“Before we arbitrarily shut down an industry which effectively powers our cities and affords urbanites their comfortable lifestyle let's start talking about the environmental impact created by those in our cities and how they are planning to deal with that.



“What we do need is a genuine national conversation about charting an achievable and sustainable path to a future energy mix that is more than just a target and a date.

“But all we are hearing is the need for our resource sector workers and communities to reskill for a transition to the new economy.

“Is that the same new economy that is providing opportunities for our displaced car industry workers in Elizabeth and Geelong or have we already forgotten about the impact of shutting down an Australian industry?”

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