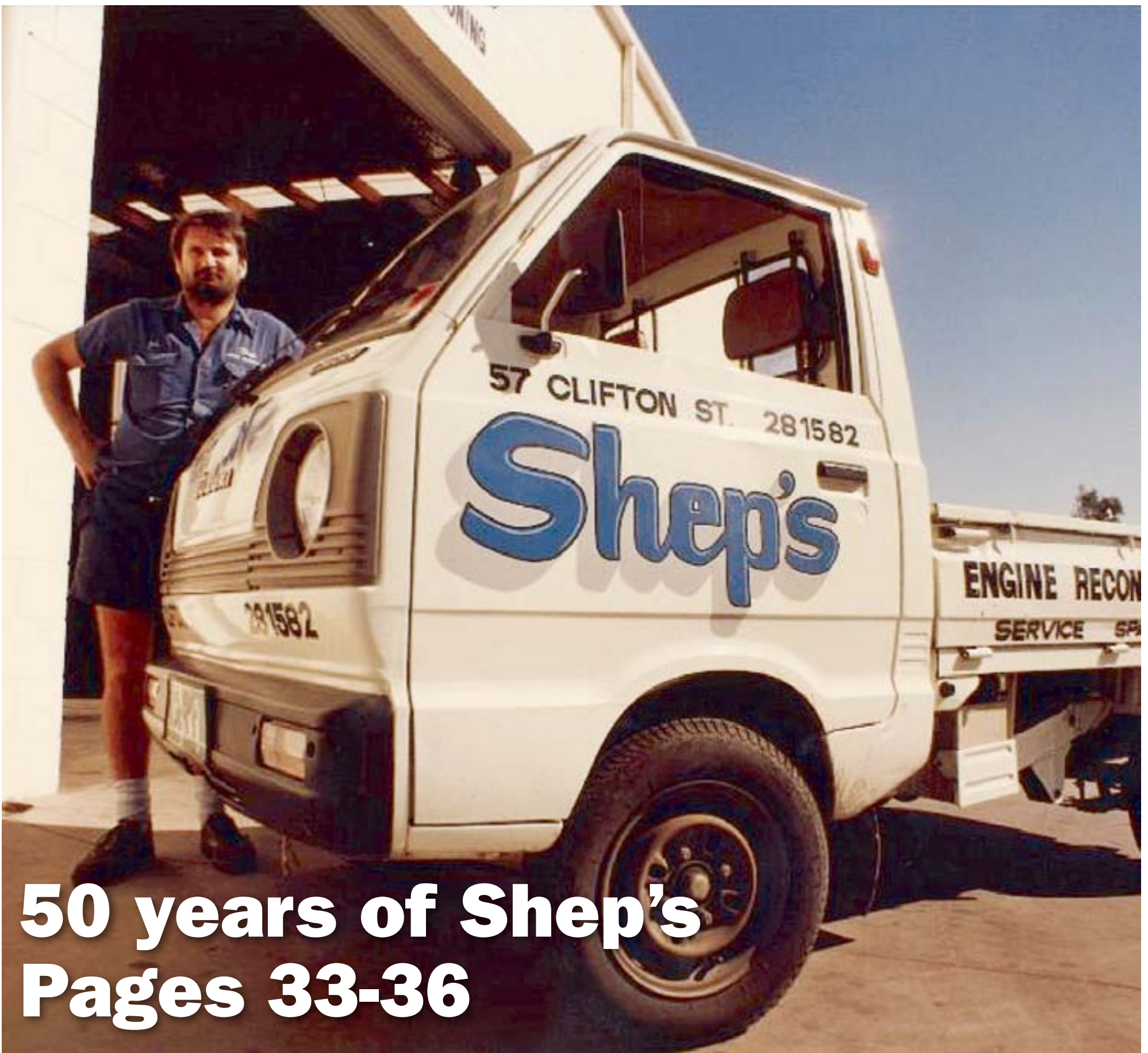


# Industry Today

Our local industries supporting our local communities



## 50 years of Shep's Pages 33-36





"In Argentina and the US price caps cut supply, killed new investment, caused producers to leave the market and led to rationing and shortages forcing them to rely on imports." Picture: AERIAL MEDIA GLADSTONE

# \$1 billion Surat Basin gas investment plan suspended

Senex Energy has announced this week it will suspend its investment plan in the \$1 billion Atlas gas project in the Surat Basin.

Leader of The Nationals and Maranoa MP David Littleproud and Shadow Minister for Resources Senator Susan McDonald say they are profoundly disappointed the \$1 billion Atlas gas project in the Surat Basin has been halted.

Senex Energy, jointly owned by POSCO International and Hancock Energy, has announced the project is being delayed due to legislative uncertainty and the Labor government's intervention in the gas market.

"This will result in less gas, electricity shortages, fewer jobs and weaker regional communities that rely on the resources sector," Senex said in a statement on Thursday of last week.

Mr Littleproud said the crucial project in his electorate was the first casualty of Labor's

war on resources and demonisation of gas.

"Senex Energy's decision to hold off on the project is a huge blow to the region," Mr Littleproud said.

"This decision is a serious consequence of Labor's control over gas, for failing to back our gas industry and putting unrealistic ideology ahead of the practical reality of the need for energy."

The project would have delivered 300 construction jobs and 70 permanent jobs in Maranoa and brought 60 petajoules to the domestic market (10 per cent of the annual east coast demand and 40 per cent of the annual Queensland demand).

Senex Energy warned of a looming gas shortage, saying no new projects meant manufacturers would have unpalatable options of spot prices from retailers unregulated by the

mandatory code, or no gas at all by as soon as next year.

It said despite plenty of interest, it was impossible to sign up to new gas sales contracts due to the Labor government's recent intervention, which imposed \$12 a gigajoule cap on uncontracted gas on the east coast.

Shadow Minister for Resources Senator Susan McDonald said Labor was told about the inevitable outcomes of rushed legislation but ignored all the warnings.

"Now Australians will pay the price with higher power bills and more blackouts," Senator McDonald said.

"The added cost is the loss of royalties, taxes and good paying jobs that restricting gas supply will cause. Companies now cannot sell their gas due to the legislative changes. This government doesn't understand basic market

principles, and we will look back and say this was when Australian prosperity died."

A statement released by the Shadow Treasurer, Shadow Minister for Resources and Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy earlier this month, stated, "In Argentina and the US price caps cut supply, killed new investment, caused producers to leave the market and led to rationing and shortages forcing them to rely on imports."

"There have been countless warnings from the ACCC and others about the growing likelihood of imminent gas shortages due to undeveloped reserves and lack of investment in new gas supply."

"Experts are loudly warning that gas price-fixing will result in 19 years of gas supply being commercially stranded and will increase the risk of blackouts in 2023."



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# Buzz about scholarships

Energy Queensland has signalled its commitment to training the electrical engineering workforce of the future with \$2 million in undergraduate scholarships being offered each year to support students studying electrical engineering at Queensland-based universities.

Energy Queensland CEO Rod Duke said 100 scholarships of \$20,000 per year would be available for bachelor degree undergraduate students in their second, third and final years of study across all seven Queensland universities with electrical engineering faculties.

“The energy sector is going through massive growth, no more so than in Queensland where the State Government has a Jobs and Energy Plan to transform its networks to deliver a renewable energy future,” Mr Duke said.

“Energy Queensland already has a highly skilled electrical engineering workforce, and the annual Future of Energy Engineering Scholarships will help to grow that to ensure Queensland has some of the best trained electrical engineers anywhere in the world.

“We will need even more highly technical people to deliver a net zero future.

“Homes and businesses are likely to move towards a state of deep electrification using renewable energy, and it’s possible that electricity may move from providing about a quarter of Australia’s energy needs to perhaps about 75&percnt; over the next few decades - that means more demand on our networks.

“Engineers will play a fundamental role in designing the infrastructure to support the massive growth in the use of renewable energy.”

Half the scholarships will be available to students from regional Queensland and the other half to students from south-east Queensland.

Successful applicants will also be offered employment opportunities in one of Energy Queensland’s distribution network businesses – Ergon Energy and Energex – or its energy solutions business Yurika.

“We will maintain a cohort of 100 scholarship holders each year, so we continue to expand the expertise and cultural and gender diversity of engineers we have across the business,” Mr Duke said.

“Successful applicants will have opportunities to gain real world experience working with some of Australia’s most innovative electrical engineers.

“They’ll have the opportunity to collaborate with experts in new and emerging technologies that support Australia’s largest electricity network – designing and building infrastructure for the influx of renewable energy, electric vehicles and energy storage.”

In addition to the scholarships, Energy Queensland will also provide paid work experience through university vacation periods as well as flexible part-time work arrangements during the semester while students study, as permitted by their timetable.

“We’re serious about attracting the best young minds in Australia to do electrical engineering and join us on this journey, and that’s why scholarship holders will also be offered a placement with Energy Queensland through



Picture: SUPPLIED



our graduate program and ongoing employment,” Mr Duke said.

Applications for the Future of Energy Engineering Scholarships program open in February 2023.

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# Fighting for our region

By the Central Queensland Industry Collaborative

Central Queensland industry Collaborative (CQIC) is a group that been formed specifically to organise and lobby for more procurement in the Central Queensland region. CQIC applauds the decision to begin the Rockhampton Ring Road in 2023.

The collaborative believes now that there is a greater opportunity for Government to work harder and take charge to create a legacy for the region.

This legacy will be to mitigate the labour shortages we have, and continue to, suffer from by making a determined effort to grow our local and regional skills capabilities.

This in turn promotes local labour, from which the communities will gain economically rather than the FIFO scenario.

Governments need to look at the model in which these major projects are conducted.

The key is to focus on value for money, rather than a simplistic adoption of the immediate dollar figure of any quote. Factors such as the ability to call on local suppliers to immediately rectify problems, shorter supply chains (reducing both cost and time) need to be given greater weight in the shorter term. Longer term, recognizing that local procurement strengthens the future of the region by skilling and upskilling our own home-grown labour opportunities should also be taken into account.

Some time back there was a project running in the Rockhampton region and a member of parliament commented in the media that the project would create 30 new jobs. In fact, all it did was create jobs in the region but for workers from outside the region. Suppliers from outside the region often deliberately misuse the requirements for local supply by just setting up a front office. This practice must be brought to an end.

When tenders are being called, rather than a pro-forma consultation where what the "the book says" is just put into the public domain, governments and prime contractors need to put far more effort into talking to potential local suppliers to gain a detailed, verifiable assessment of local capabilities.

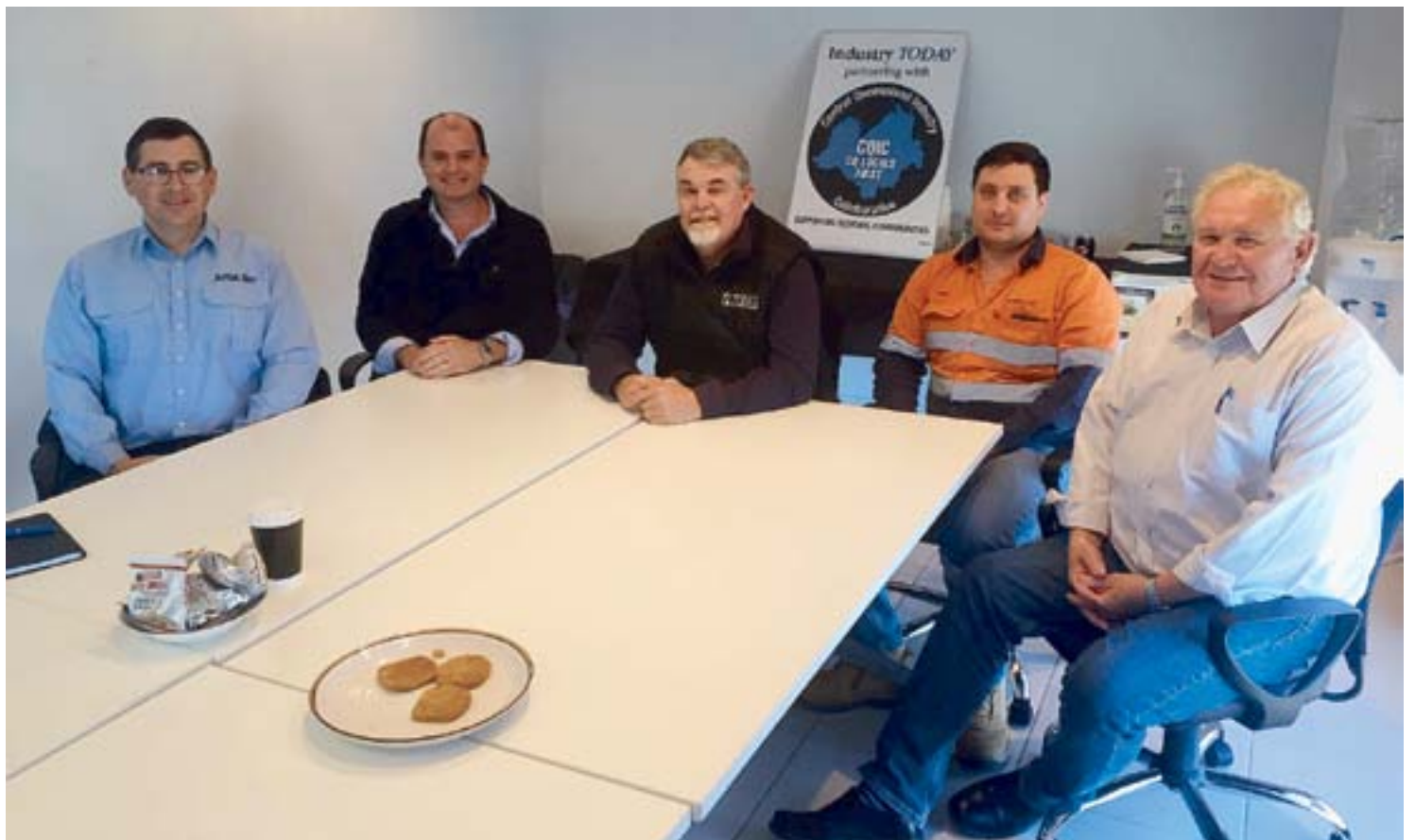
The above is simple good business practice.

So, let's have our governments change the model and properly implement the requirements of their procurement policies. This means consulting more deeply with the people who have skin in the game, before just appointing the now "usual suspects" that at the end of the day have no interest of a legacy in the region.

Tier 1 and Tier 2 contractors must be made aware that requirements for local supply are aimed at building local capability in the longer term.

At the same time, local suppliers must look to continually enhancing their capacity and capabilities. However, this will take some support, both through availability of government programs as well as ensuring local suppliers get a fair go.

The other major issue we have as a region is that the pipeline of Government infrastructure



Marcus Lang, Jordan Geddes, Jack Trenaman, Riley Bowen, and ATQLD Chair Dave Grenfell discuss the future prosperity of our region.



Jordan Geddes, Daniela Espinoza and Minister Mick De Brenni at a meeting of the Central Queensland Industry Collaborative.



Grantley Jack, Jason Thomasson and Jack Trenaman were among the local business people fighting for the Rockhampton Ring Road.

Pictures: KENT MURRAY

funding has all but dried up with a great deal of funding going to what we call the Golden Triangle in the southeast of the state.

Looking through the raw data files, the Government funded projects (pre the Ring Road back on the map,) that are either under construction, under procurement or been announced ie. a sure thing totals 21 per cent for the whole of regional Queensland. The 200km Golden triangle from Toowoomba to the Tweed River to the Maroochy River plus the inland rail project in the Maranoa which is built on the business case of benefitting the golden triangle makes up 79&percent; of all projects ei-

ther under construction, under procurement or have been announced in Queensland for the next five years.

With the Ring Road back on the map there is still no significant government funding heading our way after the five years.

Suggestion of a continuous dual lane carriage way from Rockhampton to Gladstone to assist with opportunities to cater for the labour situation for proposed large projects.

There are quite a few projects in the future for the region, but these projects are privately funded. This means that the company or companies who take up these opportunities have

no real social responsibility to the regional communities.

The private companies usually have their own labour force to complete these projects utilising FIFO, taking away the opportunity for the regions to grow their legacy of capability and capacity.

As the independent CQIC group consists of likeminded passion individuals with skin in the game, they believe they need to stand up and send the message for fairer opportunities and with the focus on enhancing our region for the benefit of our kids and their kids.

This is why CQIC has been formed.

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Federal Member for Capricornia Michelle Landry joined with the like-minded business representatives attending August's meeting.



Advance Rockhampton's Wade Clarke, Patrice Brown from CQG Consulting and SMW's Jack Trenaman at the CQIC information session in August.



Sharon Bailey and Phil Henry at a meeting of the Central Queensland Industry Collaborative.

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<b>Total System price, Automatic, to top of bore:</b>	<b>"Complete. \$5290 incl GST</b>

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# Regional capability on show

Bravus Mining and Resources and SMW Group are celebrating the completion of one of the Carmichael mine's largest local manufacturing contracts following the arrival to site of the 23rd Ultrahaul tray.

SMW Group's Rockhampton and Mackay workshops were tasked in August 2021 with fabricating the order of proprietary design haul truck trays, each of which uses 40 tonnes of steel to make.

Bravus Mining and Resources Chief Operating Officer Mick Crowe said the multi-million-dollar works package was evidence of both the capability of regional Queensland's mining sector and Carmichael's commitment to provide contracts, jobs, and opportunities to local people and businesses.

"SMW Group's contribution through this contract is fundamental to the Carmichael mine in a number of ways and demonstrates exactly what our regional content strategy is all about," Mr Crowe said.

"It's been people in Mackay and Rockhampton doing the work. The product we've got on site is fantastic and it's helped make the mine more efficient and productive which in turn is creating more local jobs.

"There's a lot of coal in the world, but the reason Bravus chose to invest here is not only the quality of our mine's resource but the quality of the supporting resources available to us in regional Queensland.

"We're a leading provider of safe, efficient, environmentally-compliant mining, and being able to tap into local expertise and add value is one of the key things to being a sustainable, long-term operation."

SMW Group Chief Operating Officer Cameron Tragardh said they had employed eight new apprentices to service the contract.

"It's been great working with Bravus Mining and Resources," Mr Tragardh said.

"A lot of major companies talk about their local content and regional commitments but to get an order of this size from Bravus really



SMW Group has delivered its 23rd Ultrahaul tray to Bravus Mining and Resources' Carmichael mine.

shows they're happy to put their money where their mouth is and invest locally.

"For us we've been able to put on eight new

apprentices and spread the order between our Rockhampton and Mackay facilities.

"The consistent work has also given our

boilmakers an opportunity to hone their skills further and get ready for the next major project, like the Rockhampton Ring Road."

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# Silly season is real for jobs



The term "silly season" has become associated with this festive time of year, when there are typically a higher than usual number of social engagements involving lots of indulgent food and drink.

Many segments of the job market usually slow down in November and December as businesses prepare for the summer break and reset. However, this year we are seeing few signs of any slow down! On the contrary, new vacancy levels remain very high and demand for skilled workers is continuing strongly.

#### Demand for workers still high

The demand for staff continues to be elevated, with labour and skills shortages remaining a major concern for local businesses. Shortages are across a wide range of industries and roles, but interestingly we have seen demand from employers in workers with skills in technology and cyber security, perhaps off the back of recent high-profile incidents.

#### Skilling Queenslanders for Work investment in Central Queensland

It was recently announced by Di Farmer, the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development, that the Queensland Government has assigned \$2.2 million to assist 178 people in Central Queensland as part of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work (SQW) initiative.

Community based organisations can apply for the funding to help them provide training to participants in the local area.

Within Gladstone, the funding will assist 20 people transition into work through the Gladstone Area Group's program "Ignite your Opportunities". Trainees will complete work-



Even over Christmas there's still work to be done.

place skills certification with not-for-profit organisations throughout Central Queensland, providing future employment opportunities for the trainees and extra support for the organisations.

Also receiving funding from SQW is Multicultural Australia in Rockhampton, with funding to support the creation of 26 jobs by connecting employers with jobseekers from migrant backgrounds.

There are lots of skilled migrants living in our local region with either un-utilised or under-utilised skills, where their experience

was obtained overseas. At Jobs In Central Queensland, we know that these programs are a great way to assist migrants with their transition to the Australian workforce and in turn help businesses to fulfill their skills shortages with motivated workers.

#### Capricorn Enterprise releases its economic profile

Capricorn Enterprise has presented its economic overview of the Capricorn Coast and Rockhampton area, reporting that the data "reveals a prospering regional economy". CEO, Mary Carroll reported that along with expect-

ed growth in the health care sector, the value of housing increased, unemployment decreased, and airport passenger numbers grew.

The report also revealed increases in the agricultural industry, from livestock production and fruit crops. In line with this, unemployment across the Capricorn Coast and Rockhampton region decreased to 4.7%, with the majority of jobs growth met by people living in the area.

#### Seasonal influences

With Christmas just around the corner, we have naturally seen a spike in employment across the retail and transport and logistics sectors. Although its business as usual as far as COVID-19 is concerned, the latest wave has seen staffing in these sectors tighten, as those of us waiting on our parcel deliveries will have experienced.

Casual vacancies in hospitality have increased to meet demand over the holiday period.

It remains to be seen what impact the rising cost of living has on the local economy over the holiday season. It is expected that the cost of groceries in the lead up to Christmas will skyrocket, after the effects of repeated flooding of crops this year, whilst fuel prices are set to rise. Whether businesses put in place strategies to assist their staff through this period of financial pressure remains to be seen.

Queensland's economy leads the nation and has the strongest jobs growth, and we're certainly continuing to experience strong demand for staff here at Jobs In Central Queensland. Whilst we may be reallocating our personal spending, the hope is that Central Queenslanders will be in position to enjoy all that our beautiful region has to offer over the Christmas and New Year break.

The team at Jobs In Central Queensland thank you for your support over the year and extend our very best wishes for a happy and safe Christmas and New Year!

For more information and insights about local job opportunities and recruitment support visit [JobsInCentralQueensland.net.au](http://JobsInCentralQueensland.net.au)

## Rockhampton is the place to be this holiday season

By Greg Bowden, executive manager, Advance Rockhampton

By this time, you're probably still wondering what day it is, after celebrating Christmas Day with the ones closest to you. Take a moment to recharge the batteries, because there's plenty to see and do in Rockhampton in 2023.

Whether you've been in Rockhampton for decades or new to the city- there's something for everyone.

The Rockhampton Museum of Art, fishing the Fitzroy, enjoying an on-country or farm stay experience, relaxing on the riverfront or on top of Mount Archer, visiting our cheeky mob at the zoo, the opportunities are endless!

As the region's lead economic development agency, Advance Rockhampton continues to promote these activities and secure stellar events for the beef capital.

With New Year's Eve fast approaching why not head to the iconic Great Western Hotel and saddle up for some professional bull riding action on both 20 and 31 December.

If ringing in the new year with a bang is more your style - head to the Riverside Precinct along Quay Street, for the Rockhampton Regional Council and Triple M Light Up the Sky event. The evening kicks off at 6pm with fireworks displays at 7.30pm and midnight. And while you are at it 'Get voting on the number 1 song to play on the LiSTNR New Year's Eve playlist' by visiting

[triplem.com.au](http://triplem.com.au)

Advance Rockhampton recently launched its 2023 Major Events Calendar ([www.explorerockhampton.com.au/Whats-On](http://www.explorerockhampton.com.au/Whats-On)) and it's shaping up to be an action-packed year ahead.

We'll kick it off with Australia Day celebrations down at Kershaw Gardens with an afternoon filled with quality entertainment, and delicious food from 3.30pm teaming with local musicians and with the headline acts yet to be announced it is going to be a great afternoon and evening.

The award winning Rockynats car festival is ready to rock again over the Easter long weekend, and early bird tickets are now on sale. Lovers of horsepower, show cars, burn-

outs and drifting will experience some of the wildest modified cars in the country.

Tickets are selling fast, entrant numbers are already exceeding our expectations, the line-up of events is being finalised and the Advance Rockhampton team cannot wait to deliver the best event yet!

And there's so much more in store. I encourage you to head to the Advance Rockhampton website, download the Explore Rockhampton Self-Guided Tour App and follow our Explore Rockhampton social media accounts to start planning your 2023 in the region!

And remember to hashtag #ExploreRockhampton and #PutRockyonYourRadar' when posting on social media.

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# Ports apprentices win big

Five apprentices from the Gladstone Ports Corporation (GPC) based locally and in Bundaberg have taken out top spots in the WorldSkills Queensland competition.

Skill competitions are an opportunity for Australia's trainees and apprentices to test their skills and knowledge in their chosen field against their peers.

Dirk Homes took out first place in the Diesel Category, followed by Lleyton Baguley in second and Matthew Hall in third.

Joshua Pedersen won in Electrical Control, and Christopher Benson took out third placed in Electrical Install.

Judges for all the competitions were extremely pleased with the level of skill and knowledge of GPC apprentices demonstrated throughout the competitions.

Having competed in the regional competition testing the Apprentices skills against others in their region, Joshua Pederson and Dirk Holmes will begin several months of training for the National Championships – an exciting, three-day competition where regional winners

from all across the country meet up to compete, network and learn.

Held every two years, the National Championships are the biggest trades and skills competition in the country.

The next one is due to be held in Melbourne from 17 to 19 August 2023, and will consist of more than 50 competitors.

Some of the World Skills apprentices were also recognised for outstanding achievement at the GPC's Apprentice and Trainee awards in late November.

Joshua Pedersen won GPC Apprentice of the Year award, and 4th year electrical trade

Award, and Matthew Hall won Most Improved Apprentice of the Year.

Dirk Holmes won GPC's Brent Holland Merit Award, which was introduced in 2021 in honour and memory of the 4th year apprentice who sadly lost his battle with a rare form of leukaemia in 2017.

The award empowers and encourages apprentices and trainees to strive for success, no matter what obstacles are placed before them.



Apprentice Joshua Pederson took first place in the Electrical Control category at the Queensland WorldSkills competition. Picture: SUPPLIED






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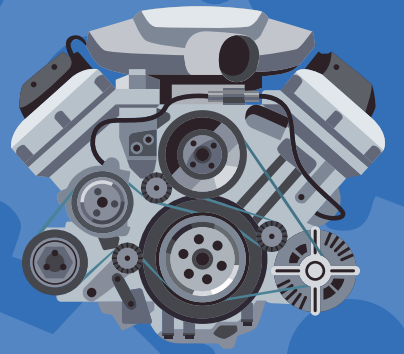
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# Celebrating Shep's 50 YEARS in business



George Sheppard Sr's original house where the business stands now.

## Fifty years of Shep's

By Matthew Pearce

Shep's Engine Reconditioning has served the Rockhampton community for 50 years - and the family-owned business plans to be around for many more.

John Sheppard first opened Shep's in April 1972, at 57 Clifton St, North Rockhampton.

"Dad worked at Main Roads, and at Bluewater Marine across the road and he used to tune up motorbikes," John's son George said.

"Then somebody told him he should start charging people instead of doing it for nothing and it just grew from there."

John's good mate Garry Lamb still remembers the party they had to celebrate the arrival of Shep's first machine.

The business was originally based under the house of John's father, George Sr, before the current building was later built on the same site.

The original house can now be found in Port Curtis and still had 'Shep's' written on the roof for many years.

Later, Shep's became a Suzuki dealer,

before Fairways took over the local Suzuki dealership.

These days, Shep's recondition all types of motors from stationary engines to heavy Caterpillar machinery.

The team offers a comprehensive range of reconditioning services ranging from acid bathing and grit blasting to cast iron and thread repairs.

George started working for the business full-time in 2004, but he has many fond memories from his childhood of Shep's and the close-knit Rockhampton business community.

"When I was growing up you'd have people coming in on Saturday morning just for smoko and a catch-up."

But while some things have changed, others have stayed the same.

"We still do motorbike barrels, cranks and cylinder heads and some of our customers have been coming here since the 1970s, including one who came here in the early days when the house was here," George said.

"A lot of people take time away from motorbikes and then come back to it - they

may have had kids or grandkids or something else has happened in their life - and then they come back 10, 20 years later.

"We've seen that happen with people in motorsport over the years numerous times."

The Shep's building itself has had many extensions over the years, with the front shop added in 1988, a rear workshop extension in 1994 and a further extension in 2001. The current workshop is just over 1000 square metres, with 800 square metres at the front.

George took over from his dad in 2013 at age of 29, following John's diagnosis with Alzheimer's.

"That was one of Dad's proudest moments of having a son."

George remembers everyone pitching in, including his grandfather, "Big George".

"He was always here, moving equipment and assisting Dad."

John was heavily involved with the speedway and drag bikes, and Shep's has continued that association by sponsoring motorsport, including the Benaraby Dragway, Mount Morgan Gold Rush Hill Sprint

and the speedway and bikes at the show-grounds.

Shep's has a long history of working with local businesses, whether they're big or small.

"Over the years Shep's has worked with everyone from quarries to earthmoving businesses to motorbike shops, mechanical shops, marine shops... even smaller places."

Many of the current staff have worked for Shep's long-term, including one for 18 years and another for 21 years.

"In Rockhampton we're particularly affected by people leaving town to work in the mining industry, considering how close we are to Emerald and Blackwater compared to somewhere like Brisbane," George said.

"The people that have been here at Shep's long term are the more mature fellas, who come here and enjoy what they do.

"It's a good place to work... They have job security, we value them very much and they have become part of the family."

More photos page 34

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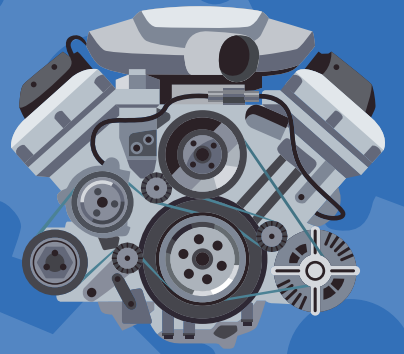
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# Celebrating Shep's 50 YEARS in business



From page 33



An arial view of the workshop from back in 1990.



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A Gold Rush Hill Sprint trophy takes pride of place at Shep's.



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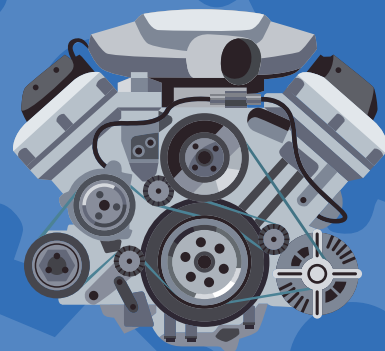


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# Shep's 50 YEARS in business



John Sheppard with his reliable Suzuki Carry.



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An overview of the showroom in 1990.

**Congratulations to George & the team at Shep's on 50 successful years!**



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The original workshop after the removal of George Sr's house.

Continued page 36

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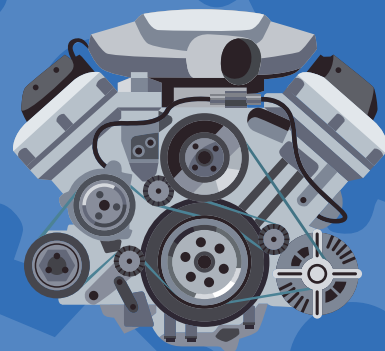
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# Shep's 50 YEARS

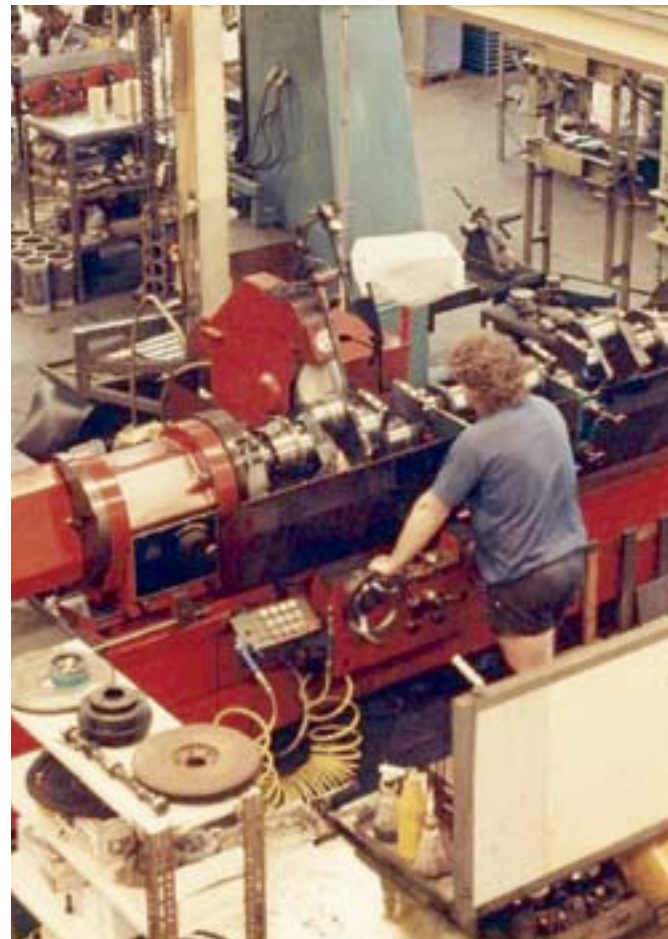
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From Page 35



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12584253-SN52-22



# Price cap 'won't end well'

The Queensland Resources Council (QRC) is warning the federal government's gas price cap will only worsen the supply shortages by destroying investor confidence in exploration and development of new gas fields in Queensland and Australia.

QRC Chief Executive Ian Macfarlane said such heavy-handed government intervention in energy markets will not end well.

"The only thing short-sighted and misguided strategies like price caps and tax increases will reduce is the incentive for energy companies to invest in new projects in Queensland," Mr Macfarlane said.

"Less investment means less long-term gas supply in Queensland, and the loss of billions of dollars in investment and thousands of future jobs.

Last year in Queensland, gas companies spent \$3.1 billion dollars supporting almost 2500 local businesses and paid \$730 million in wages to 4330 Queenslanders.

"The new price cap has already wiped more than \$1.5 billion off the value of energy companies in a day, without adding one single petajoule to gas supplies.

"Companies like Shell, APLNG, Santos, Senex and Arrow Energy have invested billions of dollars in Queensland over decades to produce gas and have all flagged the price cap will negatively impact their operations and plans for future investment."

Mr Macfarlane said Queensland gas producers are paying the price for policy failures of southern states.

"While Queensland has been developing a mature and well-regulated onshore gas industry, Victoria placed bans on gas exploration and New South Wales has delayed making a decision on new projects," Mr Macfarlane said.

"The industry has long flagged this will become a problem for Australia, and that's exactly what has happened.

"The government needs to be aware of the damage a gas price cap will have on jobs across the Darling Downs through to Gladstone, along with nearly 2500 local businesses and contractors the gas industry supports.

"The Queensland gas sector directly and indirectly supports the jobs of more than 52 thousand Queenslanders and generates over \$11 billion of economic activity in the state.

"If the Federal Government really wants to lower energy prices for households and businesses, it should be looking at ways to increase investment in gas projects to build supply," Mr Macfarlane said.

"Queensland gas producers play a crucial role in balancing up Australia's energy supply as we decarbonise our electricity supply, but ill-considered policies like a price cap threaten its capacity to continue doing so.

"Families, businesses, and industry will be worse off in the long term from a price cap, along with the damage it will cause to the Queensland and national economies.

"The QRC urges the government to rethink its response and instead consider how to increase Australia's gas supplies to bring down prices."



The natural gas industry supports jobs from Gladstone to the Darling Downs.



QRC Chief Executive Ian Macfarlane.

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# Coal still king

By Australian Mining Magazine

The ongoing energy crisis has pushed coal prices to historical highs, with Australia's resource exports set to hit a record \$459 billion this financial year.

The revised export number, up from the \$450 tipped earlier this year, was included in the Federal Government's Resources and Energy Quarterly: December 2022.

Much of the growth in Australian resources has been driven by a global energy crisis and geopolitical instability as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the resulting sanctions.

"Many Western nations are having to pay substantially more for energy, on the high chance that sanctions on Russia will see some Russian production – particularly gas and coal – become stranded from world markets," the report from the Department of Industry, Science and Resources stated.

With prices having been pushed to "historically high" levels, Australia's combined coal exports, which includes metallurgical coal and thermal coal, are now forecast to earn \$132 billion in 2022-23.

Such high prices and increased demand have also pushed coal to become Australia's most valuable export, taking the top spot long held by iron ore.

Earnings from iron ore have been revised down for the financial year, with demand for the key steelmaking ingredient taking a major hit amid a slowing housing market in China, by far Australia's biggest iron ore customer.

"Lower prices over the outlook period are expected to see Australia's iron ore export earnings ease from \$133 billion in 2021-22 to \$113 billion in 2022-23, and then to \$95 billion in 2023-24," the report stated.

News of the increased earnings for coal exports comes soon after the Federal Government placed a temporary cap on coal and gas prices as part of its efforts to curb runaway energy prices. The price of coal has exceeded \$US400 per tonne in 2022. It currently sits at around \$US240 (\$358.60) per tonne.

It should be noted, however, that despite high prices and major company windfalls, the longer-term outlook for coal remains uncertain as the world increasingly looks to renewables as a source of power generation.

"Thermal coal remains subject to challenges with finance, insurance and long-term global demand, all of which have made supply side responses slow and difficult to manage," the Government report stated.

"These factors will likely become more forceful over time, putting the sector into a permanent higher-price phase."

## The new Agria 9600-112 remote control mower



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12532736-BL04-22

## Aurizon donates \$20K

Aurizon, the largest rail-based transport business in Australia, has announced the successful recipients in the latest round of its Community Giving Fund.

The Aurizon Community Giving Fund is part of Aurizon's ongoing commitment to supporting and engaging with the local communities in which it operates, with funding provided in the areas of education, community safety, environment, and health and wellbeing.

Managing Director and chief executive Andrew Harding said this current round of assistance will see support given to six local projects in Central Queensland.

"It is important for us to be able to give back and support the communities in our areas of operations and we do this by providing grants to assist a range of community initiatives," he said.

"It is pleasing that this financial assistance will support the important work that these local charities deliver to those communities, where our employees live and work."

### Recipients for the latest round:

- LifeFlight Foundation Ltd. will use the funding for their 'First Minute Matters' community trauma training program at locations across Bowen, Moranbah, Emerald and Blackwater. The training, open to all community residents in these regional areas, will equip participants with the necessary lifesaving skills, including emergency first aid protocols enabling them to deal with emergencies as first responders on the scene of a traumatic accident or medical episode.
- Bowen Old People's Home Society will use the funding to purchase two scan boxes; thermo food transport systems for holding and transporting food at the optimal temperature. This will allow for meals to be kept at the appropriate temperature as they are moved to various dining and resident rooms from the centrally located kitchen where they are freshly prepared.
- Variety Queensland Inc. will use the funding to deliver the Variety Financial Lit-

eracy Program for students in two Special Schools in Rockhampton and Gladstone. This program teaches young people with disabilities about the value of money, empowering them to make informed judgments and effective decisions about the use of money.

- Women's Health Information and Referral Service CQ Inc. will use the funding to purchase basic necessities such as toiletries and clothing for their Dignity Hub program in Rockhampton. This program provides women experiencing homelessness or escaping domestic violence with access to these basic necessities while also providing a referral point for other support services.
- Outback Mind Foundation Ltd. will use the funding towards travel and facilitation costs to provide education sessions in the workplace and at sporting clubs throughout the Rockhampton and Gladstone regions. These domestic violence education sessions are designed to help men understand and embrace their self-awareness, learn to self-regulate their emotions, and get ahead of their problems before they escalate.
- Kalyan Youth Service Inc. will use the funding to install a CCTV security camera system, duress alarms for staff and security window alarms at their transitional housing and short-term crisis accommodation in Mackay providing a more secured facility for residents and staff.

Mr Harding thanked all community groups who took the effort to apply and encouraged applicants to consider the next round of the Community Giving Fund in March 2023.

Aurizon's Community Giving Fund distributes funds bi-annually and provides grants of up to \$20,000.

More than 540 charities and not-for-profit groups across Australia have received grants since the Fund was established in 2011.

For more information about the Community Giving Fund, visit [aurizon.com.au/community](http://aurizon.com.au/community)



LifeFlight Foundation is one of six recipients in the latest round of Aurizon's Community Giving Fund. Picture: SUPPLIED



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# New EPA for BHP

Workers at four BHP mines in Central Queensland have voted up a new Enterprise Agreement (EA) that guarantees growth in permanent job numbers.

Voting by workers at Goonyella Riverside, Saraji, Peak Downs and Blackwater mines concluded at midday on Thursday, with a majority voting in support of the new agreement.

The new EA requires BHP to hire 105 new EA positions across the four sites within the first year;

Guarantees that EA numbers don't fall below current levels across all mines;

Provides for one-for-one replacement of EA employees within the same mine site and work area.

MEU Queensland President Stephen Smyth said these job security measures would reverse the trend of declining permanent jobs at the large Central Queensland mines.

"Negotiations for the new EA were long and

tough; but members said that standing up for permanent, secure jobs was their top priority and we were able to achieve some important protections," Stephen Smyth said.

"BHP will no longer be able to cut permanent jobs and replace them with labour hire.

"Maintaining permanent jobs will be a priority when there is a labour surplus and EA jobs lost through attrition must be replaced by EA jobs.

"These are important provisions that will ensure there are more pathways to permanency."

**The three-year agreement also includes:**

- Annual pay rise of 4 per cent (with the first increase back paid to March 2022)
- \$2000 Sign-on bonus
- Voluntary early retirement scheme
- Improved protections to ensure training of permanent employees

- The new EA introduces a new four-level classification structure for new starters, based on skills and length of service.

BHP will be required to move new starters through the classification levels with no more than two years spent at each level.

"Overall, it's an agreement that grows permanent jobs, gives workers a pay rise and contains improvements in a range of areas from redundancy pay to union rights," Mr Smyth said.

"There's no doubt BHP is a tough negotiator. But members have achieved a result that will have a positive impact across the four mines and the broader Queensland coal industry.

"I thank the bargaining committee for their hard work and our members for their determination to take action in support of their claims."



MEU Queensland President Stephen Smyth.

## Call for Queenslanders to get gas safe this holiday

Queenslanders planning a backyard barbecue, or a camping, boating or caravanning holiday are encouraged to follow some simple tips to have a gas safe summer.

Minister for Resources Scott Stewart said gas safety checks on popular portable gas appliances like barbecues, camp cookers, refrigerators and lanterns should not be overlooked.

"We know getting outside is part of Queensland's great lifestyle but it's important people put gas safety on their summer checklist," he said.

"Gas appliances can be dangerous if they aren't regularly checked for damage, transported safely, and used according to manufacturer's instructions.

"Gas barbecues leaking is one of the most common causes of gas incidents in Queensland.

"Before you host that sausage sizzle or hit the road on your great outdoors holiday, be sure to use our simple gas safety checklist."

Resources Safety and Health Queensland has prepared some simple gas safety checks to ensure portable gas appliances are safe to use these holidays:

- Follow manufacturer's instructions for safe assembly and use.
- Check cylinders for holes, rust, dents and damage and if it is damaged don't use it.
- Check your cylinder's test date stamp and if it hasn't been tested in 10 years, get a new one.
- Check fittings on barbecues, valves and hoses for any signs of fading, fraying, cracking or splitting and check for missing 'O' ring seals.
- Apply soapy water to connections between



Be gas safe this holiday.

Picture: PAUL HERMANN

the appliance and the gas cylinder to check for bubbles, which indicates a dangerous leak.

- Check your gas cylinder connection is compatible with older barbecues.

- Secure gas bottles firmly in transit and keep them out of the sun, which can cause gas expansion and leaks.

- Always use a licensed gas fitter to fix, test, or install new appliances. You can look

up licensed gas fitters on the Gas Safety Queensland site.

For more advice on gas safety visit: <https://www.qld.gov.au/emergency/safety/home/gas>



## Here for Gladstone

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## November presents mixed month of rescues

November saw RACQ CapRescue tasked to a variety of incidents across Central Queensland. Displaying the numerous possibilities of situations where their service is vital.

Starting on the 2nd of November, Rescue300 attended a vessel in Shoalwater Bay to retrieve a woman in her 50s. It was suspected she had suffered lacerations to her head after falling and impacting with the propellers of a tender.

The on-board medical crew stabilised the patient and she was transported to Rockhampton Hospital.

Early on the evening of the 5th of November, a male patient in his 30s required assistance after suffering from a suspected dislocated / fractured ankle.

Initially, the RACQ CapRescue crew were tasked to the Marlborough township to meet with Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS). Unfortunately, there were some difficulties moving the patient by road, so Rescue300 picked up the flight paramedic from Marlborough and diverted to the Clarke Creek Wind Farm.

The patient was initially treated on scene by the site medical staff and QAS Paramedics. Upon arrival, the onboard flight medical team provided further assistance and relocated the joint back into place.

He was then airlifted to Rockhampton Hospital in a stable condition for further treatment.

On November 12th, RACQ CapRescue was tasked in the afternoon to attend to a

male patient in his late 30s on a property approximately 340 kilometres southwest of Rockhampton.

The man was working in a yard when the incident occurred. He sustained possible pelvic fractures in an altercation with a beast and was treated on scene by QAS Paramedics.

He was in good spirits when the helicopter arrived and was packaged for the flight back to Rockhampton and remained in a stable condition. He was to undergo scans to ascertain the full extent of his injuries.

Another animal was the cause for the Rescue300 crew to be called out in the afternoon of the 20th of November. It was suspected that a male patient in his early 30s had been envenomated by a sea snake on

Great Keppel Island.

The man was walking in shallow water when he looked down and saw a sea snake under his foot and thought it might have bitten him. As sea snakes are potentially deadly, it was decided by the family to ring 000.

Upon arrival on the Island, the Rescue300 Intensive Care Paramedic assessed the man, who was not showing any clear symptoms. He was treated as a precaution and flown to Rockhampton Hospital, where he remained in a stable condition for the duration of the flight.

From boats to properties, islands to wind farms, you can rely on RACQ CapRescue to be there for you on your worst day.



MERRY Christmas

Donate this Christmas @caprescue



## Single vehicle accidents dominate in November

As we head into a busy time on the roads RACQ CapRescue urges the Central Queensland community to be attentive and safe whilst travelling.

This comes after a month that saw all motor vehicle accidents attended by the Rescue300

crew involving a single vehicle.

It started on the 7th of November when the RACQ CapRescue crew were called to Emu Park for a woman in her mid-40s who had exited the road and impacted with a tree, causing her vehicle to ignite.

Multiple emergency service personnel attended the scene to assist the woman.

She suffered suspected head injuries and burns from the incident and was treated onsite by the on-board medical crew and flown to Rockhampton Hospital in a serious but stable condition.

It was an awful day on the roads on the 26th of November, with two motor vehicle accidents within 12 hours of each other.

Early in the morning, RACQ CapRescue was tasked to Yeppoon Hospital to meet Queensland Ambulance Service Paramedics, who had responded to a single motor vehicle accident.

It is believed the vehicle carrying two males aged in their late teens and early twenties, exited a section of Adelaide Park Road in Yeppoon. Both patients were treated on scene for suspected head and spinal injuries. One was transported to the Yeppoon Hospital helipad, where the Rescue300 medical crew conducted a further assessment. He was stabilised and air transported to Rockhampton Hospital for further scans and treatment.

The remaining male patient was road transported to Rockhampton Hospital in a stable condition also for further treatment.

Later that afternoon, another motor vehicle accident prompted a call out to RACQ CapRescue to Kokotungo, approximately 100km Southwest of Rockhampton.

It is believed the vehicle exited a section of road on the Leichhardt Highway, impacting a tree. The driver, an elderly woman in her 80s, was removed from the vehicle by a passer-by before the vehicle erupted into flames.

The patient was stabilised by the on-board medical crew, and air transported to Rockhampton Hospital for further treatment in a serious condition.

The holiday season is just around the corner, and RACQ CapRescue again reminds those driving of the fatal 5 avoid Distraction, Don't drive under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, Don't Speed, Take breaks and plan your trip and always remember to wear your seatbelt!