

Fastest growth in major projects to occur in northern Queensland

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NORTH Queensland is expected to see the fastest growth in projects of any Queensland region with or without Adani's Carmichael coal mine, according to a report.

The 2018 Queensland Major Projects Pipeline Report, developed by the Queensland Major Contractors Association, Construction Skills Queensland and the Infrastructure Association of Queensland, indicates there are projects worth \$8.2 billion proposed for the region over the next five years.

This is more than three times the value in the previous five years

Also, it estimates a further \$7.5 billion in projects are proposed for the Galilee Basin, including Adani's coal mine, but says these are unlikely to proceed.

Even so, CSQ CEO Brett Schimming said the report's projections were promising.

"After two years of low activity, the 2018 report indicates growth for major projects in Queensland and is a great indicator for tradespeople and businesses throughout the state to pre-empt construction work and plan for the future," Mr Schimming said.

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Southeast Queensland had the largest share of projects, worth \$13.6 billion.

Major projects listed in North Queensland included Bruce Highway work such as the \$515 million Haughton floodplain upgrade, \$800 million worth of defence work associated with Singapore defence training in Townsville, the recently completed \$1.45 billion Dugald River zinc mine near Cloncurry and renewable energy projects across the North.

The report says northern Queensland will benefit from projects related to mining, roads development and renewable energy but warns that many resources projects are unfunded and depend on the global economy and demand for metals and minerals.

On Adani's Carmichael project, the report says there remains a very high risk that it will not occur because of the long-term price outlook for coal as well as issues related to project finance, costs, remoteness and the environment.



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Mr Schimming said with Victoria and NSW ramping up infrastructure investment, there was a need to retain and upskill the workforce.

“Now is the time for workers and the industry to invest in skills and training to ensure longevity of the industry,” Mr Schimming said.

“I urge principal contractors to consider what skills they need to deliver on the future pipeline of projects outlined in this latest report and to start investing now in workforce planning, skills development and training.”

MAJOR North Queensland projects either announced or under construction:

- >Haghton River upgrade
- >Cattle Creek upgrade
- > Townsville port channel upgrade
- >Singapore defence training agreement
- > Haghton channel capacity upgrade
- > Burdekin Falls Dam improvement
- > Ross River Solar Farm
- > Kennedy Energy Park Stage 1
- > Kidston Solar Project
- > Clare Solar Farm

- > Collinsville Solar Farm
- > Whitsunday Solar Farm
- > Hamilton Solar Farm
- > Daydream Solar Farm
- > Hayman Solar Farm
- > Sun Metals Solar Farm
- > Dugald River zinc mine
- > Capricorn Copper Project