

# North West region resource industry workforce, 2023

## Introduction

The North West region of Queensland (Figure 1) is one of the world's richest mineral-producing regions, with large resources of metalliferous minerals such as copper, gold, lead, silver, vanadium and zinc. Resource operations in the region include metalliferous and phosphate mining and processing, as well as related infrastructure. Much of the output from mining and processing in the region is transported to the Port of Townsville for export.

The North West region's resource industry workforce includes local residents who live in the same local government area (LGA) as their place of work, and others who live elsewhere and fly-in/fly-out or drive-in/drive-out (FIFO/DIDO) to work.

This report provides information on the characteristics and place of residence of the North West region's resource industry workforce. Data were derived from the Resource Employment Survey, conducted by Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO), and other sources. The survey collected information for all existing resource operations and selected projects proposed for the region as at June 2023 (Figure 2).

## Key findings

Key findings of this report include:

- In June 2023, the North West region had a resource industry workforce of around 8,660 persons.
- Most of the region's resource industry workers in June 2023 were engaged in metalliferous mining operations and processing (7,790 persons or 90%), with the balance in other resource industries (870 persons or 10%).
- Around 7 in every 10 North West region resource industry workers in June 2023 were employees (6,150 persons or 71%). The remainder were contractors (2,510 persons or 29%).
- The combined LGAs of Mount Isa and Burke<sup>1</sup> had the largest number of workers, accounting for more than half of the region's total resource industry workforce in June 2023 (4,540 persons or 52%). The remainder worked in Cloncurry LGA (2,750 persons or 32%) and McKinlay (1,370 persons or 16%).
- The North West region's resource industry workforce includes local residents, who live in the same LGA as their place of work, and non-resident workers, who live outside the LGA where they work.
  - Place of residence was unknown for 17% of the workforce (1,500 persons). Almost all of these workers were contractors (1,490 persons).
- Of the 7,160 workers in June 2023 whose place of residence was known:
  - 43% (3,100 persons) lived and worked in the same LGA, with 2,840 persons in Mount Isa (including Burke)
  - 57% (4,060 persons) lived in a different LGA from where they worked.
    - Due to the remoteness of the North West region, many non-resident resource industry workers fly-in/fly-out from regions such as Townsville (1,550 persons or 22%) and South East Queensland (1,290 persons or 18%).
    - Very few workers travelled to work from other LGAs within the North West region (140 persons or 2%).

Figure 1 North West region

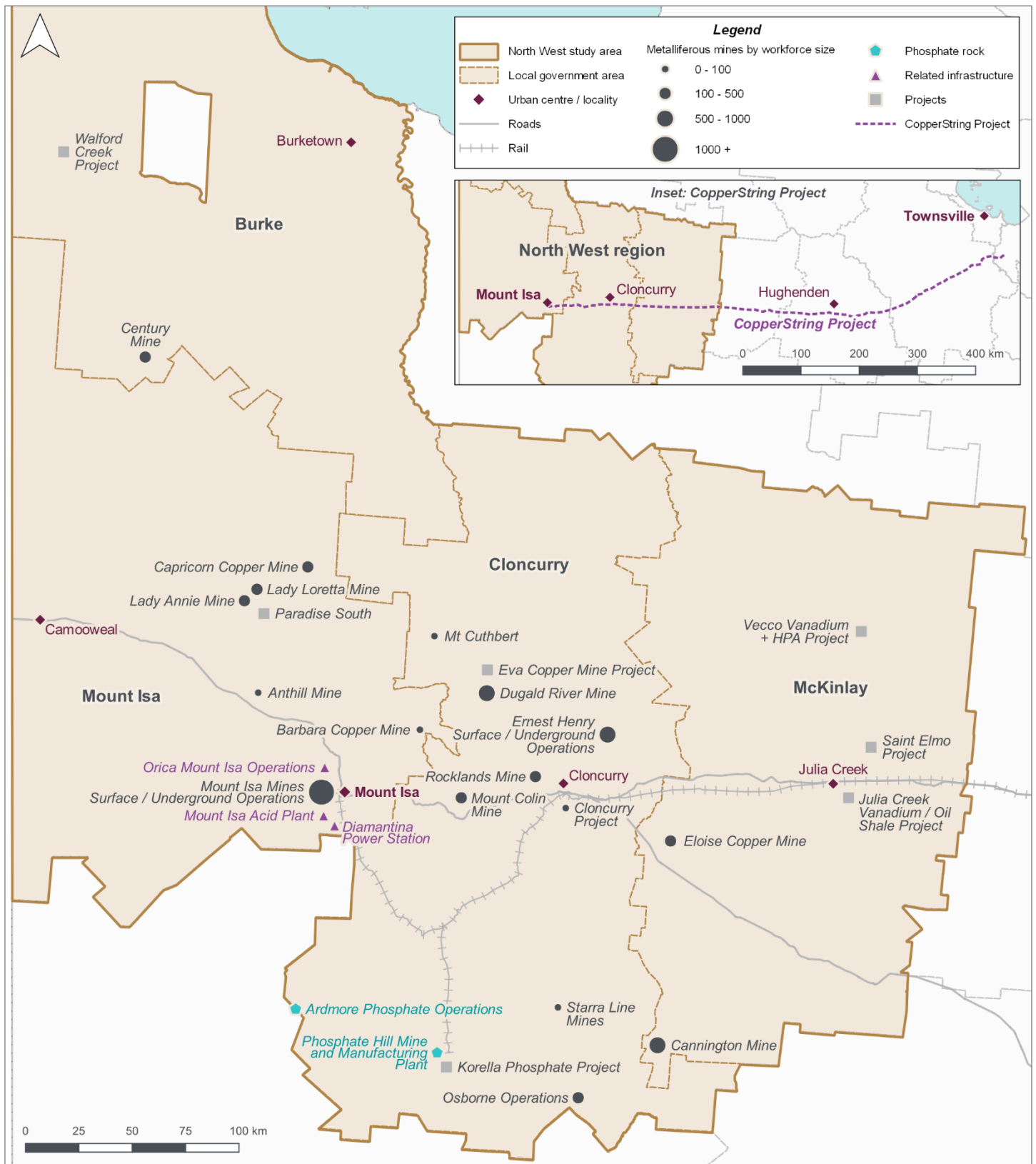


Source: QGSO, 2023

In this publication, the North West region comprises the LGAs of Burke, Cloncurry, McKinlay and Mount Isa (Figure 1).

<sup>1</sup> To preserve confidentiality, data for Burke LGA are aggregated with data for Mount Isa LGA.

**Figure 2 Existing resource operations and selected projects<sup>(a)</sup>, North West region, June 2023**



(a) Mining and mining processing operations by workforce size are based on numbers at June 2023 published by Resources Safety and Health Queensland (RSHQ), rather than confidential QGSO data. Operation and project locations shown in the map are indicative only. See Table 8 (page 11) for a full list of existing operations and projects by LGA.

Sources: RSHQ, 2023; QGSO, 2023

## Background

The North West region is one of Queensland's most remote resource regions, with the urban centre of Mount Isa situated around 900km from Townsville and 1,800km from the capital city of Brisbane (Figure 5, page 6).

The North West region has a long mining history. Silver and lead deposits were found at Mount Isa in 1923, and the mining company Mount Isa Mines was established the following year. A township developed alongside the mine and, in 1929, a railway line was constructed, connecting Mount Isa with Townsville (Queensland Government, 2015). During the early years, production focused on zinc-lead-silver and later expanded to include copper (Glencore, 2023a).

In June 2023, there were numerous metalliferous mining and processing operations in the region, as well as phosphate rock mining and related infrastructure operations (Figure 2, Table 8). As Figure 2 shows, in June 2023, Mount Isa Mines Surface/Underground Operations engaged the largest number of resource industry workers in the region. Developments proposed for the region include copper, vanadium and phosphate projects, as well as the CopperString 2032 project (see Figure 2 Inset), an 840km electricity transmission line from just south of Townsville to Mount Isa that will connect the region to the National Electricity Market (Powerlink, 2023).

The LGA of Mount Isa has the largest resident population in the North West region (19,050 persons as at June 2022) (ABS, 2023). The urban centre of Mount Isa functions as the administrative, commercial and industrial hub of the region and is the largest population centre (18,260 persons). Resource operations in Mount Isa LGA are located in and around the urban centre of Mount Isa, as well as in rural areas beyond daily commuting distance (Figure 2).

The other North West region LGAs of Burke (430 persons), Cloncurry (3,790 persons) and McKinlay (850 persons) have smaller resident populations. Within these LGAs, the resident populations of towns such as Cloncurry (2,620 persons) and Julia Creek (390 persons) are relatively small compared with the urban centre of Mount Isa. Many of the resource operations in Burke, Cloncurry and McKinlay LGAs are located some distance from population centres (Figure 2). The more remote location of these operations, combined with the small resident populations of these LGAs, has resulted in the use of non-resident workers, who live outside the LGA where they work.

## Workforce characteristics

In June 2023, the North West region had a resource industry workforce of around 8,660 persons (Table 1). The LGA of Mount Isa (including Burke) had the largest number of workers, accounting for more than half of the region's total resource industry workforce (4,540 persons or 52%). The remainder worked in the LGAs of Cloncurry (2,750 persons or 32%), and McKinlay (1,370 persons or 16%).

Almost all of the region's resource industry workers reported in June 2023 were engaged in metalliferous mining (7,790 persons or 90%). The balance (870 persons or 10%) worked in other resource industries, including phosphate rock mining and related infrastructure operations.

At the LGA level, Cloncurry had the largest proportion of other resource industry workers (21%), working in phosphate mining operations and processing. In Mount Isa (including Burke), other resource industry workers (6%) were all engaged in related infrastructure operations. In McKinlay, all workers were engaged in metalliferous mining.

At the time of QGSO's survey in June 2023, almost all resource industry workers in the region were engaged at existing operations. Only a few workers were engaged in the initial development stages of mining projects.

**Table 1 Resource industry workforce by sector of employment, North West region LGAs, June 2023**

Place of work	Metalliferous mining	Other resource industry <sup>(a)</sup>	Total	Metalliferous mining	Other resource industry <sup>(a)</sup>	Total
	— persons —			— % —		
Cloncurry	2,180	580	2,750	79	21	100
McKinlay	1,370	0	1,370	100	0	100
Mount Isa (incl. Burke) <sup>(b)</sup>	4,250	290	4,540	94	6	100
<b>NORTH WEST REGION TOTAL</b>	<b>7,790</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>8,660</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) 'Other resource industry' includes phosphate rock mining and related infrastructure operations. Refer to Notes at end of report for additional information.

(b) To preserve confidentiality, data for Burke LGA are aggregated with data for Mount Isa LGA.

Figures in tables in this report have been rounded to the nearest 10; see Notes at end of report for details.

Source: QGSO estimates

**Employees** are workers engaged directly by resource companies to carry out on-site production, maintenance, and operations.

**Contractors** are workers engaged by companies providing services at resource operations or projects under contractual arrangements. Contracted services range from specific project construction and maintenance events to full provision of mining operations services, and contract workforces may be temporary or ongoing.

**Table 2 Resource industry workforce by employment status<sup>(a)</sup>, North West region, June 2023**

	persons	%
Employees	6,150	71
Contractors	2,510	29
<b>TOTAL WORKFORCE</b>	<b>8,660</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) Refer to Notes at end of report for explanation of 'employment status'.

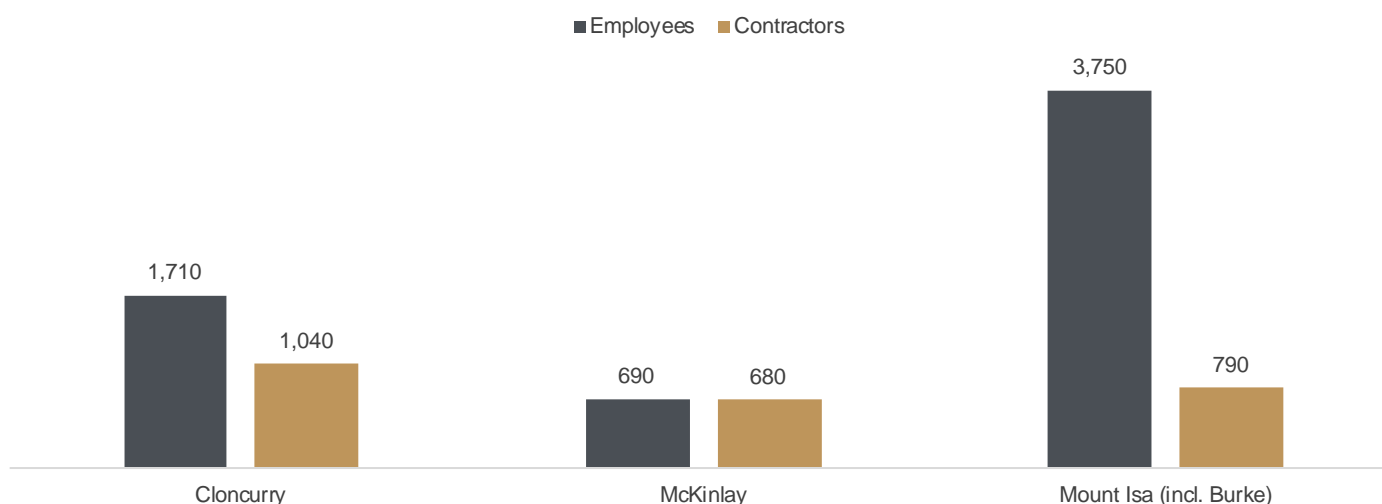
Source: QGSO estimates

According to their employment status, around 7 in 10 resource industry workers in the North West region in June 2023 were employees (6,150 persons or 71%) (Table 2). The remainder were contractors (2,510 persons or 29%).

In June 2023, employees accounted for around 8 in 10 resource industry workers in Mount Isa (including Burke) LGA (3,750 persons or 83%) (Figure 3). The majority of workers in Cloncurry LGA were also employees (1,170 persons or 62%), while workers in McKinlay LGA were evenly split between employees and contractors (50% each).

As noted above, Mount Isa (including Burke) LGA has the largest resource industry workforce in the region. Employees in Mount Isa (including Burke) comprise the single largest group of resource industry workers in the region (3,750 persons or 43% of the regional total). Many employees in Mount Isa LGA live in the urban centre of Mount Isa, which is the largest population centre in the North West region and the location of large scale mining, mineral processing and industrial operations.

**Figure 3 Resource industry workforce by employment status<sup>(a)</sup>, North West region LGAs, June 2023**



(a) Refer to Notes at end of report for explanation of 'employment status'.

Source: QGSO estimates

The North West region's resource industry workforce includes local residents and non-resident workers. Non-resident or FIFO/DIDO workers stay in the local area while rostered on, then return to their place of residence elsewhere when rostered off. While in the region, non-resident workers typically stay in worker accommodation villages, commercial accommodation—such as hotels, motels and caravan parks—or in rented housing.

Mining companies operating in more remote parts of the region usually house their workers in on-site worker accommodation villages while they are rostered on for work. Some companies fly their personnel directly to mine sites from source regions such as Townsville, Cairns and South East Queensland.

In June 2023, around 3,100 persons (or 36% of the region's resource industry workforce) were local residents who lived and worked in the same North West region LGA. A further 4,060 persons (or 47%) were non-residents who lived outside of the LGA where they worked (Table 3). Of these non-residents, around 140 workers lived in the North West region but resided in a different LGA from where they worked (Table 4).

For the remaining 1,500 persons (or 17%), place of residence was reported as unknown by survey respondents. While resource industry companies were able to report the place of residence for almost all of their employees, they were less likely to know their contractors' place of residence.

Figure 4 illustrates these differences in reporting the residential status of employees and contractors in the North West region in June 2023.

For employees, around 2,860 persons (or 46%) were reported to be local residents, while 3,270 persons (or 53%) were non-residents. Just 20 employees were recorded as having an unknown place of residence. In contrast, place of residence was unknown for 1,490 persons or 59% of contractors. The under-reporting of place of residence of contractors means that the residential status of this group cannot be determined with the same degree of certainty as for employees.

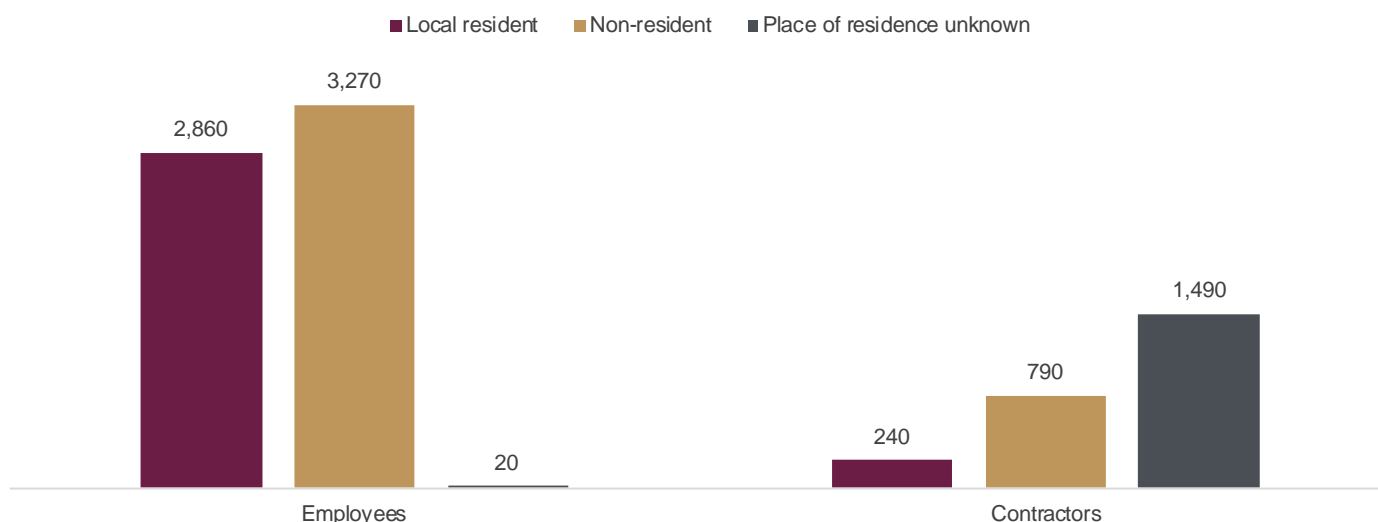
**Table 3 Resource industry workforce by residential status<sup>(a)</sup>, North West region, June 2023**

	persons	%
Local resident	3,100	36
Non-resident	4,060	47
Place of residence unknown	1,500	17
<b>TOTAL WORKFORCE</b>	<b>8,660</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) Refer to Notes at end of report for explanation of 'residential status'.

Source: QGSO estimates

**Figure 4 Resource industry workforce by employment status<sup>(a)</sup> and residential status<sup>(b)</sup>, North West region, June 2023**



(a) Refer to Notes at end of report for explanation of 'employment status'.

(b) Refer to Notes at end of report for explanation of 'residential status'.

Source: QGSO estimates

## Place of residence

Place of residence data in this section provides further information on where the North West region's resource industry workers live when not at work.

As noted above, the resource industry workforce in the North West region includes a sizeable number of non-resident workers (Table 3), who live outside the LGA where they work. Given the remote location of the region, the majority of non-resident workers fly-in/fly-out from major population centres elsewhere in the state rather than driving to work from neighbouring LGAs.

In June 2023, place of residence was unknown for 1,500 persons (or 17%) of North West region resource industry workers, almost all of whom were contractors.

Of the 7,160 workers for whom place of residence was known, around 3,100 lived and worked in the same North West region LGA (Table 4, Figure 6). This equates to 43% of those with a known place of residence.

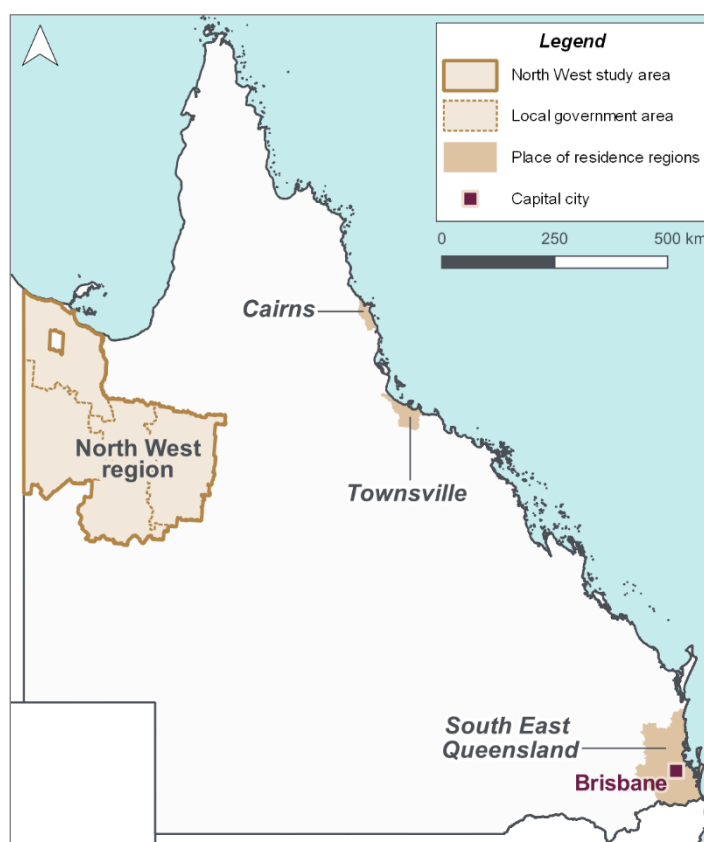
Only 140 persons (or 2% of those with a known place of residence) came from another LGA in the North West region. This reflects the remote location of many resource operations in the region, combined with the small resident populations of most towns.

Most non-resident workers in the North West region with a known place of residence came from coastal areas of North Queensland. This includes 1,550 persons (or 22%) from the Townsville region, and 660 persons (or 9%) from the Cairns region (Figure 5).

A further 1,290 persons (or 18% of those with a known place of residence) came from South East Queensland, which includes the major population centres of Brisbane, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast.

The balance of those with a known place of residence (430 persons or 6%) came from 'Elsewhere'. 'Elsewhere' refers to all other locations in Queensland, interstate or overseas. Because of the long distances required to travel to and from work in the North West region, it is unlikely that these workers lived in nearby areas that were not identified separately in QGSO's 2023 Resource Employment Survey.

Figure 5 North West region and place of residence regions<sup>(a)</sup>



(a) Refer to Notes at end of report for further information on 'geographies'.

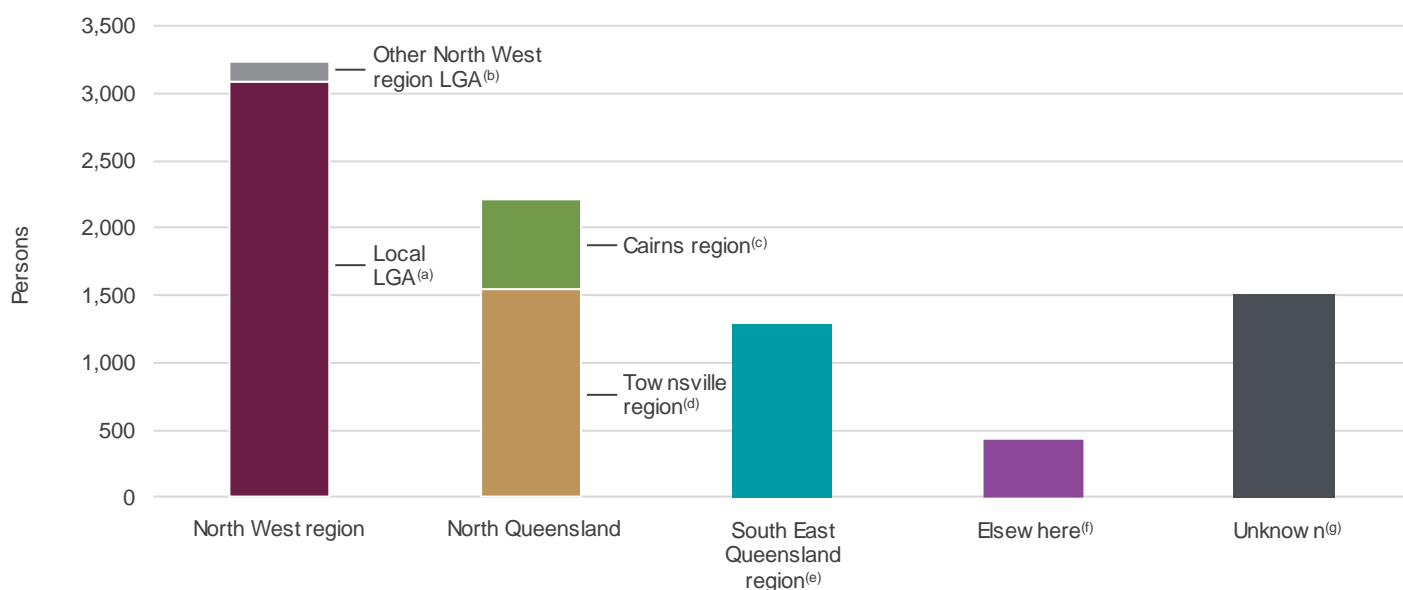
Source: QGSO, 2023

Table 4 Resource industry workforce by place of residence, North West region, June 2023

Place of residence	Place of work – North West region
	persons
Local LGA <sup>(a)</sup>	3,100
Other North West region LGA <sup>(b)</sup>	140
<b>Total North West region</b>	<b>3,230</b>
Cairns region <sup>(c)</sup>	660
Townsville region <sup>(d)</sup>	1,550
<b>Total North Queensland</b>	<b>2,210</b>
South East Queensland region <sup>(e)</sup>	1,290
Elsewhere <sup>(f)</sup>	430
<b>Total with place of residence known</b>	<b>7,160</b>
Unknown <sup>(g)</sup>	1,500
<b>TOTAL WORKFORCE</b>	<b>8,660</b>

Refer to footnotes below Figure 6 for explanation of 'place of residence'.

**Figure 6 Resource industry workforce by place of residence, North West region, June 2023**



- (a) 'Local LGA' refers to the LGA within the North West region in which the resource operation or project is located.
- (b) 'Other North West region LGA' refers to the three North West region LGAs other than the LGA in which the resource operation or project is located. The four LGAs in the North West region are Burke, Cloncurry, McKinlay and Mount Isa.
- (c) 'Cairns region' includes the urban centre of Cairns and hinterland areas.
- (d) 'Townsville region' includes the urban centre of Townsville and hinterland areas.
- (e) 'South East Queensland region' includes the major population centres of Brisbane, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast.
- (f) 'Elsewhere' refers to all other locations not separately identified in Queensland, interstate or overseas.
- (g) 'Unknown' refers to employees and contractors whose place of residence was reported as unknown in QGSO's 2023 Resource Employment Survey.

Source: QGSO estimates

## Cloncurry LGA

In June 2023, there were seven metalliferous mining and processing operations and two phosphate rock mining and processing operations in Cloncurry LGA, with one additional mine in care and maintenance (Figure 2, Table 8). Three resource projects are planned for the LGA.

Cloncurry LGA had a resource industry workforce of 2,750 persons in June 2023 (Table 5). Place of residence was known for 2,050 of Cloncurry's resource industry workers, equivalent to 75% of the total.

Of those with a known place of residence, 250 persons or 12% lived locally in towns such as Cloncurry or in rural areas of the LGA. A further 100 persons (5%) came from other LGAs in the North West region.

The top source region for non-resident workers in Cloncurry in June 2023 was the Townsville region (760 persons or 37% of those with a known place of residence) (Figure 7). Townsville is situated almost 800km to the east and is the place of origin of commercial flights to the town of Cloncurry and charter flights to airstrips at remote mines in the LGA. Workers from the major population centres of South East Queensland (460 persons or 23%) and Cairns (310 persons or 15%) also travel to the region by air.

### Cloncurry LGA at a glance

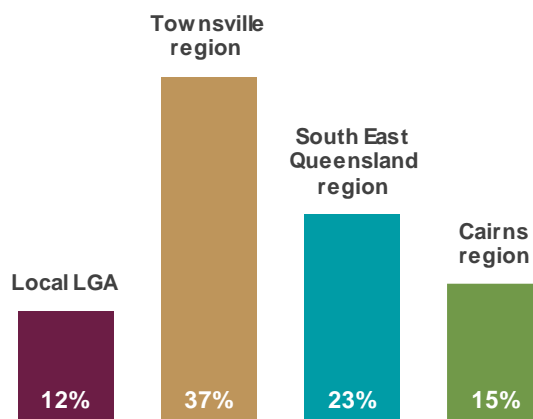
- Cloncurry accounted for 32% of the North West region's resource industry workforce.
- Most (79%) workers in the resource industry were in metalliferous mining.
- Around 6 in 10 (62%) were employees; around 4 in 10 (38%) were contractors.
- Place of residence was known for 75% of the workforce. Of these:
  - 12% lived in the local LGA
  - 52% lived in North Queensland
  - 23% lived in South East Queensland.
- Place of residence was unknown for 25% of the workforce.

**Table 5 Resource industry workforce by place of residence, Cloncurry, June 2023**

Place of residence	Place of work – Cloncurry LGA persons
Local LGA <sup>(a)</sup>	250
Other North West region LGA <sup>(b)</sup>	100
<b>Total North West region</b>	<b>350</b>
Cairns region <sup>(c)</sup>	310
Townsville region <sup>(d)</sup>	760
<b>Total North Queensland</b>	<b>1,070</b>
South East Queensland region <sup>(e)</sup>	460
Elsewhere <sup>(f)</sup>	170
<b>Total with place of residence known</b>	<b>2,050</b>
Unknown <sup>(g)</sup>	700
<b>TOTAL WORKFORCE</b>	<b>2,750</b>

**Figure 7 Resource industry workforce by place of residence<sup>(a)</sup>, Cloncurry, June 2023**

Local LGA & top 3 source regions – Cloncurry LGA



(a) Percentages are based on those with a known place of residence.

(a) 'Local LGA' refers to the LGA within the North West region in which the resource operation or project is located.

(b) 'Other North West region LGA' refers to the three North West region LGAs other than the LGA in which the resource operation or project is located. The four LGAs in the North West region are Burke, Cloncurry, McKinlay and Mount Isa.

(c) 'Cairns region' includes the urban centre of Cairns and hinterland areas.

(d) 'Townsville region' includes the urban centre of Townsville and hinterland areas.

(e) 'South East Queensland' region includes the major population centres of Brisbane, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast.

(f) 'Elsewhere' refers to all other locations not separately identified in Queensland, interstate or overseas.

(g) 'Unknown' refers to employees and contractors whose place of residence was reported as unknown in QGSO's 2023 Resource Employment Survey.

Source: QGSO estimates



## McKinlay LGA

There were two metalliferous mining operations in McKinlay in June 2023 and four resource projects planned for the LGA (Figure 2, Table 8).

McKinlay LGA had a resource industry workforce of 1,370 persons in June 2023 (Table 6). Place of residence was known for 810 of McKinlay's resource industry workers, or 59% of the total.

Fewer than 10 of these workers lived in McKinlay LGA, while 20 workers (2% of those with a known place of residence) came from other LGAs in the North West region. The town of Julia Creek is the administrative centre of the LGA and is situated about 650km west of Townsville and 260km east of the regional hub of Mount Isa. Due to the long distances between these centres and mining operations in the LGA, almost all resource industry workers with a known place of residence fly-in/fly-out for work.

The top source region for non-resident workers in McKinlay in June 2023 was the Townsville region (360 persons or 44% of those with a known place of residence) (Figure 8). South East Queensland (260 persons or 32%) and Cairns (120 persons or 14%) were the second and third-largest source regions respectively for resource industry workers in the LGA.

### McKinlay LGA at a glance

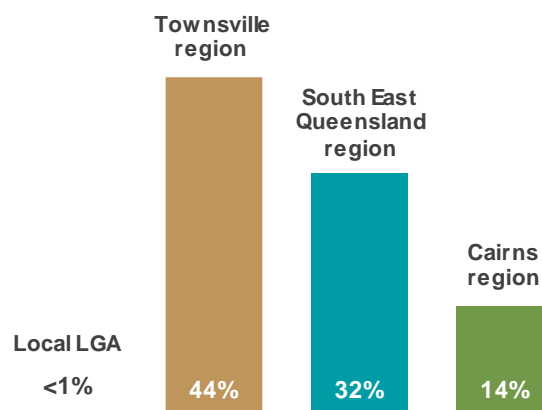
- McKinlay accounted for 16% of the North West region's resource industry workforce.
- All workers in the resource industry were in metalliferous mining.
- Half of the total (50%) were employees and half were contractors.
- Place of residence was known for 59% of the workforce. Of these:
  - Fewer than 10 workers lived in the local LGA
  - 59% lived in North Queensland
  - 32% lived in South East Queensland.
- Place of residence was unknown for 41% of the workforce.

**Table 6 Resource industry workforce by place of residence, McKinlay, June 2023**

Place of residence	Place of work – McKinlay LGA persons
Local LGA <sup>(a)</sup>	<10
Other North West region LGA <sup>(b)</sup>	20
<b>Total North West region</b>	<b>20</b>
Cairns region <sup>(c)</sup>	120
Townsville region <sup>(d)</sup>	360
<b>Total North Queensland</b>	<b>480</b>
South East Queensland region <sup>(e)</sup>	260
Elsewhere <sup>(f)</sup>	60
<b>Total with place of residence known</b>	<b>810</b>
Unknown <sup>(g)</sup>	560
<b>TOTAL WORKFORCE</b>	<b>1,370</b>

**Figure 8 Resource industry workforce by place of residence<sup>(a)</sup>, McKinlay, June 2023**

Local LGA & top 3 source regions – McKinlay LGA



(a) Percentages are based on those with a known place of residence.

- (a) 'Local LGA' refers to the LGA within North West region in which the resource operation or project is located.
- (b) 'Other North West region LGA' refers to the three North West region LGAs other than the LGA in which the resource operation or project is located. The four LGAs in the North West region are Burke, Cloncurry, McKinlay and Mount Isa.
- (c) 'Cairns region' includes the urban centre of Cairns and hinterland areas.
- (d) 'Townsville region' includes the urban centre of Townsville and hinterland areas.
- (e) 'South East Queensland region' includes the major population centres of Brisbane, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast.
- (f) 'Elsewhere' refers to all other locations not separately identified in Queensland, interstate or overseas.
- (g) 'Unknown' refers to employees and contractors whose place of residence was reported as unknown in QGSO's 2023 Resource Employment Survey.

Figures in tables in this report have been rounded to the nearest 10; see Notes at end of report for details.

Source: QGSO estimates

## Mount Isa (including Burke) LGA

In June 2023, there were four metalliferous mining and processing operations and three related infrastructure operations in Mount Isa LGA, with one mine in care and maintenance (Figure 2, Table 8). Another mining operation, located in Burke LGA, is included with data for Mount Isa LGA for confidentiality reasons. There are two resource projects proposed in Mount Isa LGA and one in Burke LGA.

In Mount Isa (including Burke) LGA, 4,540 persons worked in the resource industry in June 2023 (Table 7). Place of residence was known for 4,290 workers, representing 94% of the total resource industry workforce in Mount Isa (including Burke) LGA.

Of those workers with a known place of residence, two-thirds lived locally (2,840 persons or 66%). Most were based in the urban centre of Mount Isa and worked at nearby resource operations. As Figure 2 shows, the largest is Mount Isa Mines Surface/Underground Operations, which includes copper and zinc mines and metal processing operations. Other local operations include Diamantina Power Station, Mount Isa Acid Plant and Orica Mount Isa Operations.

The top source region for non-resident workers in the LGA of Mount Isa (including Burke) in June 2023 was South East Queensland (570 persons or 13% of those with a known place of residence) (Figure 9). These workers travel to work in the region from airports in Brisbane, Gold Coast or Sunshine Coast, around 1,800km away. Townsville and Cairns were the second and third-largest source regions of resource industry workers in Mount Isa (including Burke) LGA, accounting for 430 workers (10%) and 230 workers (5%) respectively.

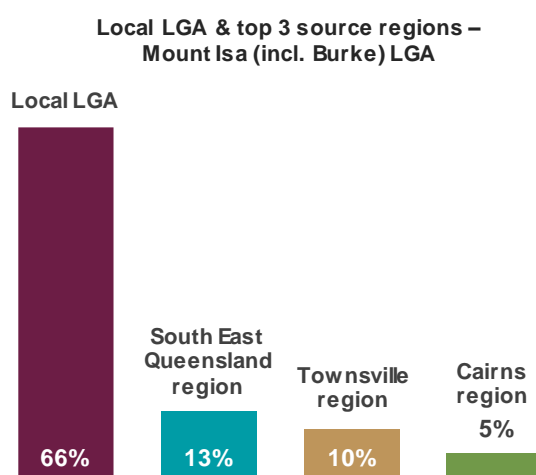
### Mount Isa (including Burke) LGA at a glance

- Mount Isa (including Burke) accounted for 52% of the North West region's resource industry workforce.
- Almost all (94%) workers in the resource industry were in metalliferous mining.
- Around 8 in 10 (83%) were employees; around 2 in 10 (17%) were contractors.
- Place of residence was known for 94% of the workforce. Of these:
  - 66% lived in the local LGA
  - 15% lived in North Queensland
  - 13% lived in South East Queensland.
- Place of residence was unknown for 6% of the workforce.

**Table 7 Resource industry workforce by place of residence, Mount Isa (including Burke), June 2023**

Place of residence	Place of work – Mount Isa (incl. Burke) LGA persons
Local LGA <sup>(a)</sup>	2,840
Other North West region LGA <sup>(b)</sup>	20
<b>Total North West region</b>	<b>2,860</b>
Cairns region <sup>(c)</sup>	230
Townsville region <sup>(d)</sup>	430
<b>Total North Queensland</b>	<b>660</b>
South East Queensland region <sup>(e)</sup>	570
Elsewhere <sup>(f)</sup>	200
<b>Total with place of residence known</b>	<b>4,290</b>
Unknown <sup>(g)</sup>	250
<b>TOTAL WORKFORCE</b>	<b>4,540</b>

**Figure 9 Resource industry workforce by place of residence<sup>(a)</sup>, Mount Isa (including Burke), June 2023**



(a) Percentages are based on those with a known place of residence.

- (a) 'Local LGA' refers to the LGA within North West region in which the resource operation or project is located.
- (b) 'Other North West region LGA' refers to the three North West region LGAs other than the LGA in which the resource operation or project is located. The four LGAs in the North West region are Burke, Cloncurry, McKinlay and Mount Isa.
- (c) 'Cairns region' includes the urban centre of Cairns and hinterland areas.
- (d) 'Townsville region' includes the urban centre of Townsville and hinterland areas.
- (e) 'South East Queensland region' includes the major population centres of Brisbane, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast.
- (f) 'Elsewhere' refers to all other locations not separately identified in Queensland, interstate or overseas.
- (g) 'Unknown' refers to employees and contractors whose place of residence was reported as unknown in QGSO's 2023 Resource Employment Survey.

Source: QGSO estimates

**Table 8 Existing resource operations and selected projects<sup>(a)</sup>, North West region, June 2023**

Category	Operation / project name	Company name	LGA
<b>Operations</b>			
PR	Ardmore Phosphate Operations	Centrex / Agriflex	Cloncurry
MM	Cannington Mine	South32	McKinlay
MM	Capricorn Copper Mine	29Metals	Mount Isa
MM	Century Mine	Sibayne-Stillwater	Burke
MM	Cloncurry Project	True North Copper	Cloncurry
RI	Diamantina Power Station	APA	Mount Isa
MM	Dugald River Mine	MMG	Cloncurry
MM	Eloise Copper Mine	AIC Mines	McKinlay
MM	Ernest Henry Surface/Underground Operations	Evolution Mining	Cloncurry
MM	Lady Annie–Anthill Operations	Austral Resources	Mount Isa
MM	Lady Loretta Mine	Glencore Queensland Metals	Mount Isa
MM	Mount Colin Mine	Aeris Resources	Cloncurry
RI	Mount Isa Acid Plant	Incitec Pivot	Mount Isa
MM	Mount Isa Mines Surface/Underground Operations <sup>(b)</sup>	Glencore Queensland Metals	Mount Isa
RI	Orica Mount Isa Operations	Orica	Mount Isa
MM	Osborne Operations	Chinova Resources	Cloncurry
PR	Phosphate Hill Mine and Manufacturing Plant	Incitec Pivot	Cloncurry
MM	Rocklands Mine	Copper Resources Australia	Cloncurry
MM	Starra Line Mines	Chinova Resources	Cloncurry
<b>Projects</b>			
RI	CopperString 2032	Powerlink	Cloncurry, McKinlay, Mount Isa
MM	Eva Copper Mine Project	Harmony Eva Copper	Cloncurry
MM	Julia Creek Vanadium/Oil Shale Project	QEM	McKinlay
PR	Korella Phosphate Project	Chatham Rock Phosphate	Cloncurry
PR	Paradise South	North West Phosphate	Mount Isa
MM	Saint Elmo Project	Multicom Resources	McKinlay
MM	Vecco Vanadium + HPA Project	Vecco Group	McKinlay
MM	Walford Creek Project	Aeon Metals	Burke

MM = metalliferous mine PR = phosphate rock RI = related infrastructure

(a) Existing operations include metalliferous mines, phosphate rock mines and resource industry-related infrastructure as at June 2023. Selected projects are those included in QGSO's 2023 Resource Employment Survey. Operations that were in care and maintenance, including Barbara Copper Mine in Mount Isa and Mt Cuthbert in Cloncurry, are not included in this list.

(b) Mount Isa Mines Surface/Underground Operations comprises copper and zinc operations, mineral processing and smelting operations, power generation, and support and administrative services (Glencore, 2023b).

Source: QGSO 2023

## Notes

LGA – local government area

### Geographies

In this publication, the North West region comprises the LGAs of Burke, Cloncurry, McKinlay and Mount Isa. Most of the resource operations in North West Queensland are located in these LGAs.

Other regions cited in this report reflect places of residence as reported by survey respondents and are not based on defined statistical geographies.

### Data coverage

Data in this report are derived from QGSO's 2023 Resource Employment Survey. The survey collected workforce information from all resource industry companies with existing operations and selected projects in the North West region as at June 2023. Mining companies, related infrastructure operations and project proponents reported the characteristics and place of residence of their workforce. Reported data include all production and maintenance workers at resource operations, as well as workers engaged in the initial stages of resource projects. A full list of operations and selected projects is available in Table 8 of this report.



### *Workforce estimates*

Workforce estimates are based on the total number of workers reported at the time of the survey. Worker numbers may vary in response to a range of factors, including changing production demands, seasonal influences, adverse weather events and industrial action.

In contrast, the non-resident population measure presented in QGSO's Bowen and Surat Basin population reports reflects the number of workers staying in the LGA of their workplace at a given point in time. Workers who are absent from work due to their shift arrangements are not included in the non-resident population even though they are part of the region's resource industry workforce.

### *Employment status*

The workforce of the resource industry in Queensland comprises employees, contractors and associated sub-contractors who work together at resource operations and projects and are engaged by different employers, either the owner/manager of the resource operation or a specialist contracting company. Employees are workers engaged directly by resource companies to carry out on-site production, maintenance and operations. Contractors are workers engaged by companies providing services at resource operations or projects under contractual arrangements. Contracted services range from specific project construction and scheduled maintenance events to full provision of mining operations services, and contract workforces may be temporary or ongoing.

### *Residential status*

In this report, 'local residents' are defined as workers who live in the same LGA as their place of work. 'Non-residents' are workers who live outside the LGA where they work. 'Place of residence known' refers to workers whose place of residence was reported by survey respondents. 'Place of residence unknown' refers to workers whose place of residence was reported as unknown by survey respondents.

In QGSO's Resource Employment Survey, most respondents are able to report the place of residence of their employees. Fewer can report this information for their contractors, as resource industry companies who engage contractors may not have oversight of their place of residence. In the 2023 survey, place of residence was reported as unknown for less than 1% of employees and 59% of contractors. Users should consider the limitations of the data in interpreting these results.

### *Data confidentiality and rounding*

Survey information reported by resource industry companies is confidential and not available for distribution. Data in this report have been aggregated to ensure that confidentiality of individual responses is preserved.

Data for Burke LGA are aggregated with data for Mount Isa LGA to preserve confidentiality of the single resource operation in Burke LGA.

Figures in tables have been rounded to the nearest 10. As a result of rounding, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals. Percentages and other calculations are made prior to rounding of figures and therefore discrepancies may exist between these calculations and those derived from the rounded figures.

## **References**

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