



GW3 are the futurefocused superconnectors that drive sustainable economic growth for the Greater Whitsunday region.

Core Roles

Greater Whitsunday Alliance (GW3) creates opportunities for the Greater Whitsunday region to realise their full potential.

The organisation is a strategic and coordinated point of contact for local, national and international networks and advocates for projects and opportunities from both government and the private sector. GW3 also delivers a range of economic development focused projects and leads economic research to help support and promote prosperity across the broader region.

GW3 is also the parent company of C-Res. C-Res is a cost neutral entity, operating as a social enterprise in some of Australia's most remote mining communities.





A message from our Chairperson

As we look ahead to a future filled with both opportunities and challenges, GW3 is committed to working to ensure our region is not only robust, but positioned to thrive in an evolving global economy. The Greater Whitsunday region is now in a unique position where we have the foundations in place to expand existing industries and explore emerging ones.

Over the past year we have laid significant groundwork to capitalise on opportunities coming from decarbonisation and digitalisation, as well as developing a blueprint in the rapidly emerging biomanufacturing opportunity that will be well placed in the region.

And integral to how we capitalise on these opportunities is the skills and expertise of the workforce living here in the region. It is well recognised that the beating pulse and differentiation of the Greater Whitsunday region is its people and as our region continues to diversify, and our economy embraces new and emerging industries, people will be at the heart of unlocking these opportunities and transforming this region.

Since our last report, GW3 has continued to work to deliver the projects that will continue to see our existing industries thrive, but also the projects that are setting the groundwork for the emerging opportunities that will position and ready the region for new opportunities. These headline projects included:

Pioneering Decarbonisation in the Regions

The Decarbonisation Accelerated Summit, held in May 2024, was a landmark event for our region, bringing together over 200 attendees to explore the economic and environmental opportunities decarbonisation presents. At this summit, we challenged ourselves to "think revolution, not evolution", reflecting the urgency and scale of the change that lies ahead.

The summit underscored that solutions for a low-carbon future will emerge not from cities but from regional areas like ours, where resources, innovation, and the will-to-adapt converge. Michael McQueen's keynote, urging us to watch the tides of change rather than react to every wave, was a powerful reminder that we must position ourselves strategically for long-term transformation. Our region's future is tied to the decarbonisation movement, and the event's interactive discussions ensure that we are ready to take the next steps with confidence.

Shaping the Future with Biomanufacturing

The release of the Greater Whitsunday Biomanufacturing Blueprint 1.0 is another milestone in positioning our region as the Australian hub for biomanufacturing. This regionspecific blueprint, tapping into an emerging global industry projected by CSIRO to be worth \$400 billion by 2040, marks a significant step in our journey. Over the past six years, GW3 has led efforts to build alliances and a body of evidence that demonstrate the viability of biomanufacturing in our region.

With the recent announcement of the Mackay State Development Area, we now have a dedicated policy framework to advance this sector. Our region's access to feedstocks, sophisticated logistics networks, and a highly skilled workforce will continue to underpin our strategy, as we work to transform the Greater Whitsunday into a cornerstone of Australia's biomanufacturing economy.

Advocacy and Collaboration at Queensland Parliament

In October 2023, GW3 led a regional delegation to Queensland Parliament to showcase our region's burgeoning potential across multiple billion-dollar industries. This event was more than just an opportunity to highlight our projects and investments—it was a chance to engage with political leaders and showcase that our region is ready to unlock greater possibilities.

The participation of leaders from government, industry, and the private sector reinforced the message that the Greater Whitsunday region is ready to adapt, evolve, and diversify. With major projects underway and a shared vision for the future, we will continue to advocate for the policies, funding, and partnerships that are necessary to drive our region forward.

Strengthening Our Economic Foundations

The Greater Whitsunday Regional Projects Development Register for 2024 has highlighted the incredible growth trajectory of our region, listing almost \$45 billion worth of projects across sectors such as mining, construction, and infrastructure. This robust pipeline of development demonstrates not only the diversity of our economy but also the solid foundation we've built for future growth.

The register is a testament to the collective efforts of businesses, investors, and community leaders in ensuring that the Greater Whitsunday region remains a powerhouse of economic activity.

With \$21.4 billion earmarked for utilities projects and \$11.3 billion for infrastructure, we are well-positioned to meet the demands of a rapidly changing world.

Embracing Emerging Industries

Our region's success in embracing emerging industries is reflected in the innovative stories of our regional businesses. GW3 tells the stories of these innovative change champions and uses social media networks and other channels to amplify the message far and wide. These stories of innovation, combined with our region's focus on future industries like biomanufacturing and decarbonisation, show that Greater Whitsunday is not just keeping pace with change but leading the way in shaping the future.

Looking Ahead

GW3 continues to maintain a strong and collaborative relationship with our three founding members—Mackay, Isaac, and Whitsunday Regional Councils. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Mayor Greg Williamson, outgoing Mayor of Isaac Regional Council Anne Baker, and outgoing Mayor of Whitsunday Regional Council Julie Hall, for their unwavering support.

Following the Queensland Local Government elections in March 2024, we welcome newly elected Isaac Mayor Kelly Vea Vea and Whitsunday Mayor Ry Collins as GW3 members. We also extend our gratitude to the management teams of all three councils, who provide an endless source of

collaboration and cooperation to the successful operation of the organisation.

I would like to take this moment to acknowledge the leadership of our CEO, Kylie Porter, and her highly professional team. Since 2019, under Kylie's guidance, our organisation has grown to a team of 14, all deeply committed to helping the Greater Whitsunday region realise its full potential. We thank them for their outstanding contributions to our region's success.

Moving forward, the board and management remain focused on ensuring the sustained success of our traditional sectors while diligently working to unlock the potential of our emerging industries.

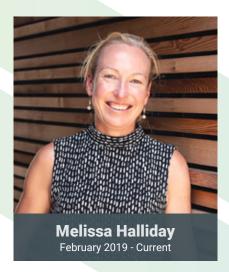
As we move into the next financial year, our focus remains clear: advocacy, investment attraction, collaboration, and informationsharing. These pillars will continue to guide our efforts to create the platform for sustainable growth, innovation, and liveability. GW3's role as a leader in economic development is not just about responding to immediate challenges but about preparing for a future where our region remains competitive on the global stage.

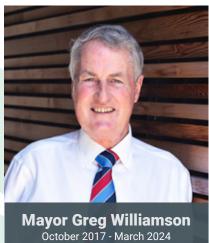
The Greater Whitsunday region has the talent, resources, and determination to succeed, and with GW3 at the helm, we are ready to capitalise on the opportunities of tomorrow.

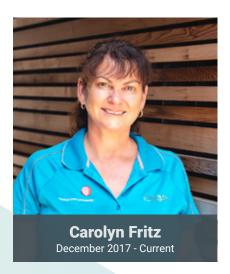
Tony Caruso

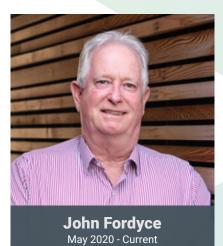
Chairperson Greater Whitsunday Alliance (GW3)

2023 - 2024 **Board of Directors**

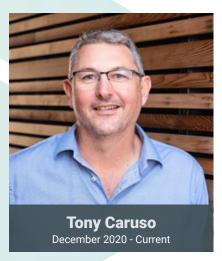










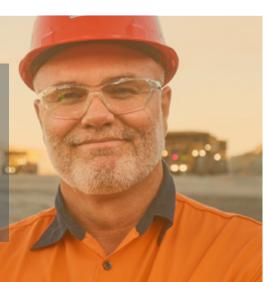








GW3 engaged with stakeholders and the community to identify opportunities to achieve continued prosperity for the region. This year, GW3 connected with all levels of government, attended national conferences and led delegations.





















- 1 // Greater Whitsunday AgTech Hub: The Greater Whitsunday AgTech Hub team at the 2024 Nordzucker Mackay Sugar Mackay Ag Trade Expo.
- 2 // Evoke Ag: From the Agrifutures EvokeAg conference in Perth, the GW3 delegation left with inspiring concepts, innovations and ideas for collaborations to continue building our already strong agtech industry. Joining GW3 at the regional delegation included Mackay Regional Council CEO Scott Owen and Sugar Services Proserpine Manager Stacey Corrie. GW3 Director Ry Collins was also in attendance as part of the Advance Queensland delegation.

A key takeaway from the conference was to remember to back ourselves, as Australia are leaders in innovation.

- 3 // Big Ideas Challenge: GW3 Manager for Future Strategy Sherry Smith attended Future Anything's Big Ideas Challenge in March, with a line-up of Mackay's primary school students. The students enjoyed a hands-on day of learning and pitching their own innovative solutions for a local issue.
- 4 // Isaac Business Chamber Launch: After three years of planning, the Isaac Business Chamber officially launched in May 2024

Isaac Business Chamber President Trudi Liekefett said the Chamber had been meticulously planned and developed with the unwavering commitment of various entities, including GW3, the Local Buying Foundation, and Isaac Regional Council. The launch represented a significant step forward for the Isaac region and its small business community.

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GW3 Highlights

In the past financial year, GW3 has continued to be the lead organisation in driving sustainable growth and promoting liveability for the Greater Whitsunday region.

Decarbonisation Accelerated Launch



The Greater Whitsunday region is forging a new path with the launch of the Decarbonisation Accelerated project.

The Decarbonisation Accelerated project is taking a regional economic approach to encourage businesses and industries to start their decarbonisation journey.

Launched in October 2023, the Decarbonisation Accelerated project is one of the first of its kind in Australia, where a whole-of-region approach to decarbonisation is being taken.

The purpose of Decarbonisation Accelerated is to secure the future viability of our traditional sectors, by supporting businesses on the pathway to decarbonisation, while at the same time, creating opportunities in emerging sectors which have decarbonised principles.

Our vision is by 2025, the Greater Whitsunday region, through reducing carbon output, will have continued to diversify its economic base to ensure long-term economic prosperity.

The Decarbonisation Accelerated project is a partnership between

GW3 and the Resources Centre of Excellence, along with major funding partner the Local Buying Foundation.

Greater Whitsunday Biomanufacturing Blueprint 1.0



Tapping into a share of an emerging global industry, estimated by the CSIRO to be worth some \$400 billion by 2040, was the driver behind the release of the Greater Whitsunday Biomanufacturing Blueprint 1.0, in March 2024.

Biomanufacturing refers to the development and manufacturing of products from plant based, organic or waste resources rather than fossil fuels.

The Greater Whitsunday region has been leading an intensive campaign to establish this emerging industry in the region since 2018.

Mackay has long been recognised as an ideal location to lead a domestic biomanufacturing sector due to our abundance of feedstocks, sophisticated logistics, our network of roads, ports and rail, as well as a highly skilled and technical workforce.

When the Queensland Government released the Queensland Biofutures 10-year Roadmap and Action Plan in 2016, GW3's focus became laser-sharp on establishing a biofutures sector in the region and we have had a regional working group committed to achieving that goal since 2018.

Over the past six years, the group has led a range of research and evidence building activities to pave out the opportunity.

The March 2024 announcement of a State Development Area here in Mackay, covering two sites including Racecourse Mill and Rosella, is another positive step forward in seeing this vision come to life.

Queensland Parliament Showcase



In October 2023, GW3 hosted a Queensland Parliament Showcase event as part of our regional delegation at Queensland Parliament.

The event was an opportunity to show how the Greater Whitsunday region is unlocking greater possibilities.

Greater Whitsunday is poised to adapt, evolve and diversify and is one of the few economic regions in the world to boast the vital inputs to support multiple billion-dollar industries.



GW3 CEO Kylie Porter, Mackay Regional Council CEO Scott Owen, Isaac Regional Council, Mayor Anne Baker and Whitsunday Regional Council Mayor Julie Hall shared their vision of how the Greater Whitsunday region is poised to adapt, evolve, and diversify.



Also attending were Premier
Annastacia Palaszczuk MP, Deputy
Premier Steven Miles MP, Leader of
the Opposition David Crisafulli MP,
Deputy Leader of the Opposition
Jarrod Bleijie MP and their
parliamentary colleagues including
Member for Mackay Julieanne Gilbert
MP and Member for Whitsunday
Amanda Camm MP.

Also joining GW3 on the regional delegation were GW3 directors Melissa Halliday, Ry Collins, Jannik Olejas and Asher Telford.

Resources Centre of Excellence CEO Steven Boxall, Harrup Park General Manager Adrian Young, Canegrowers Chairman Kevin Borg and Australian Prawn Farms' Matt West also attended. This year's showcase was a fantastic follow on from last year's event. All attendees were excited to hear the latest from our region and what key projects and investments will unlock our future.

Greater Whitsunday Regional Projects Development Register



Almost \$45 billion worth of projects were listed on the Greater Whitsunday Regional Projects Development Register 2024.

The register lists 472 projects which are valued at more than \$1 million, planned for the Mackay Issac Whitsunday region.

The Greater Whitsunday Regional Projects Development Register clearly demonstrates the strong pipeline of development ahead for the region.

This register showcases how strong our regional economy is across many different sectors, whether it's mining, construction or energy infrastructure. Whilst the register lists more than 470 new projects, it doesn't capture the many billions of dollars invested in our regional economy through regional businesses' cap-ex budgets.

Some of the key features of the register include:

- \$4.1 billion in construction projects
- \$6.1 billion in mining projects
- \$11.3 billion infrastructure projects
- \$21.4 billion in utilities projects

The Greater Whitsunday Regional Projects Development Register data was sourced through CoreLogic, Australia's largest provider of property related information and analytics, and is a collaboration with GW3 and Regional Development Australia Greater Whitsundays.

The Regional Projects Development Register uses the following category definitions:

Infrastructure: permanent pieces of public infrastructure such as roads, rails and ports.

Mining: mining projects, including construction and supply of associated services.

Construction: construction of commercial and residential projects.

Utilities: water, waste and energy projects.



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A year at a glance



Decarbonisation Accelerated Summit

"Think revolution, not evolution"

The Greater Whitsunday region is ready for future opportunities that decarbonisation will bring.

In May 2024, GW3 and Resources Centre of Excellence hosted the first of its kind Decarbonisation Accelerated Summit, featuring keynotes from Michael McQueen, Olympia Yarger and Cle-Anne Gabriel, alongside engaging panel and breakout sessions.

One of the major takeaways from this event was that the solutions for a low carbon future won't be found in the cities, they will be found right here in regions, like the Greater Whitsunday region.

Trend forecaster Michael McQueen opened the summit to reveal that we don't have to jump on every wave that crashes into us, rather it is how we identify where the tide is and that tide for our region is decarbonisation.

McQueen's tide analogy was a powerful statement, reminding us that while waves move fast and tides are easier to miss as they move slower, tides are responsible for reshaping coastlines.

Revolution shifts and changes tides and if we don't get ready for what is next there will be missed opportunity. More than 200 attendees, left the MECC fuelled to make positive changes to their business and with knowledge of how to prepare for what comes next.

Another highlight from the event was GOTERRA CEO Olympia Yarger, the founder of an autonomous waste management system that uses insects (more specifically maggots) to consume food waste.

Olympia's authentic and transparent address leaned into maggot emergencies and that people are everything to the work we do. She also noted that when it comes to decarbonisation and agricultural sustainability, we must back ourselves.

The closing keynote from Cle-Anne Gabriel was an interactive presentation where attendees were asked to predict what the future of our region would look like through a decarbonised lens.

It was an aspirational approach to show attendees how we have already taken the first steps to be leaders in this space.

From Mt Blackwood Holly seedlings gifted to attendees and a Green Technology Showcase with regional innovators; to a green brick road and a magical wand; the Decarbonisation Accelerated Summit planted the idea that the energy for change is right here in our backyard.

Deliverables

Agriculture and Aquaculture

Support the growth of agriculture and aquaculture in the Greater Whitsunday region through collaboration between sectors; identification of new opportunities; focus on technology adoption and skills development.

- ➢ GW3 will continue its support for Agriculture and Aquaculture by addressing ambition components through various projects and activities within GW3's strategic Accelerators.
- ➤ The Agribusiness Futures Alliance steering committee will continue to act as a collaborative group and provide direction regarding ambition components.
- ➢ GW3 hosted two planning sessions with the ag-focused group to identify two impactful projects to support the growth of the regional agribusiness sector. The identified projects include:
- Regional Ag Profile Building Project aims to provide regionally focused tools to support advocacy efforts and investment attraction activities across the agricultural sector in the Greater Whitsunday region.
- Regional Market Maximisation Project

 aims to support agriculture sector to decarbonise supply chain through strategic market collaborations.
- ➢ Activities delivered through the AgTech Hub for FY24 include ongoing promotion and management of the GW Agtech Portal; product showcases at field days; demonstration pilots of new technology; partnering with industry groups to include agtech product profiles.
- ➤ The GW AgTech Hub also submitted a grant application to the Advance Queensland Innovation Enablers grant programs. If successful, this grant will further progress the work of the AgTech Hub and create tech-specific 'communities of practice' across the region to progress uptake of technology.
- ➤ The GW AgTech Hub has been engaged in ongoing conversations with Sugar Research Australia in developing a shared project model regarding agribusiness water efficiency (particularly for sugar cane growers). The water technology adoption joint initiative with Sugar Research Australia will commence in Q3 2024.
- ➤ Continued collaboration with TAFE QLD, CQUniversity, RDA GW and other stakeholders on the Agriculture and Aquaculture Tech Skills Hub, to identify priority skills development required for the agriculture and aquaculture sector.

Decarbonisation and Diversification

Activate and lead decarbonisation and

diversification activities for the region, via the delivery of the Decarbonisation Accelerated project and the activation of the Biomanufacturing Blueprint.

- Decarbonisation Accelerated project, in partnership with Resources Centre of Excellence, with funding support from the Local Buying Foundation and Department of State Development and Infrastructure. This is a two-year action focused project to deliver a coordinated regional approach to decarbonisation and diversification.
- Establishment of the Decarbonisation Accelerated Leaders Group to provide strategic guidance for project objectives, leveraging their extensive networks and resources for maximum impact.
- ➢ Implementation of a series of impactful activities to support businesses to decarbonise including the Decarbonisation Accelerated Summit, a Decarbonisation Accelerated Launch, Decarbonisation Accelerated VR Experience, along with site visits to target businesses and engaging over 370 participants, including 100 individual businesses.
- ➤ Commenced development of a regional emission reduction validation business case
- ➢ Initiated the development of the METS Sector Revenue Diversification Strategy, including the engagement of 57 participants representing 45 organisations, including 18 METS businesses.
- ➢ Commenced the dissemination of information on diversification opportunities available to the region via key events.
- Delivered activities including ZeroIN, the XR Hub Pitch event and a Greater Whitsunday METS Decarbonisation Technology register to deliver a regional focus on technology-driven decarbonisation efforts, to both foster technology development among regional businesses, as well as encourage the adoption of technologies that will support decarbonisation efforts.
- ▶ Launch and socialisation of the Greater Whitsunday Biomanufacturing Blueprint.
- Successfully advocated for the establishment of a State Development Area in Mackay, with a focus on supporting the development of the biomanufacturing sector.
- Regional investment attraction representation at the Asia-Pacific Agri-Food Innovation Summit and SynBio 2024.
- Extensive stakeholder engagement across key portfolio activities, resulting in engagements with over 100 stakeholder groups and the establishment of more than 23 partnerships.

Mining and METS

- ≫ Worked closely with Resources Centre of Excellence on future stages, including the Future Industries Hub and Isaac satellite facility.
- ➢ Continue to support the Mackay Isaac Whitsunday SME METS Export Hub and enhance Greater Whitsunday development of METS export opportunities.
- ➢ Invest in research to understand MIW METS supply chain international and companion market opportunities based on strengths and capabilities.
- ➤ Continue to grow the region's METS supply chain expertise and technical skills as a highly valuable commodity with strong cross-industry potential.

Workforce Development

- Drive workforce development initiatives for a responsive, future-ready workforce:
- Secured third-phase Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT) Regional Jobs Committee funding for workforce projects through June 2025.
- Launched Greater Foundations 24 for career-focused development for Greater Whitsunday educators.
- Developed Greater Whitsunday Geospatial Hub project to boost workforce productivity.
- Advanced regionally tailored career modules for Years 7-10 students.
- Supported Activate program, delivering new economy skills to 472 students across eight schools.
- Created three workforce attraction campaign videos.
- Hosted the Big Ideas Challenge, empowering students to pitch innovative solutions for local issues.

Tourism

 ○ Continue advocacy for opportunities for investment in the region's tourism infrastructure and support trade developments.

Digital

➤ Completed and launched the \$3.5
 million Isaac Digital Connectivity Project in
 partnership with BHP Vital Resources Fund
 and Telstra to improve digital speeds in
 Dysart and Moranbah.

Infrastructure Energy and Water

- Release of the Costing Queensland Dearly: The economic impact of road closures to the Greater Whitsunday region.

Greater Whitsunday Alliance + C-Res

Greater Whitsunday Alliance is the parent company of C-Res – a cost neutral entity which delivers the Local Buying Program through a strategic partnership with BHP.

The Local Buying Program is now proudly delivered across all BHP Minerals Australia assets in Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia. A Local Buying Foundation operates in Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia and is a critical element of the Local Buying Program in these states.

\$1,381M

TOTAL ACTUAL SPEND SINCE 2012 (2012-30/06/2024)

37,034

PAYMENTS TO LOCAL BUSINESSES 2023-2024 \$280M

TOTAL ACTUAL SPEND 2023-2024

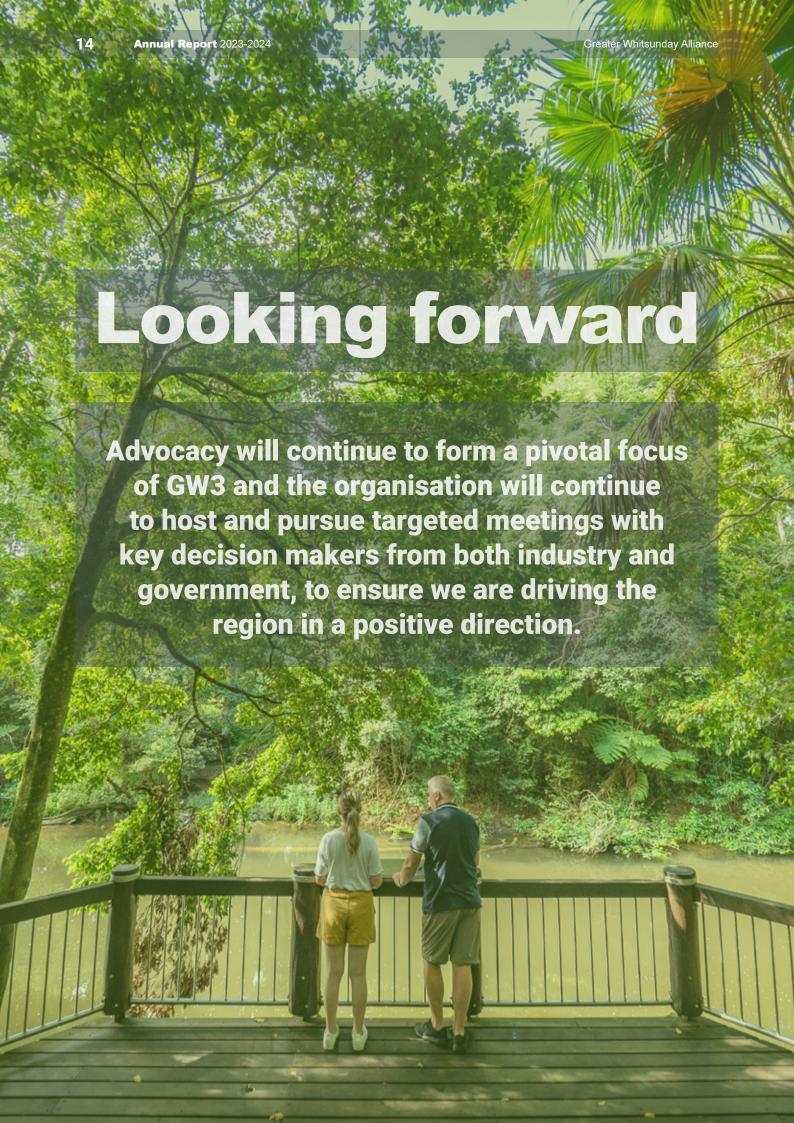
7 days

AVERAGE PAYMENT DAYS 2023-2024

Audited Financial Statement

Greater Whitsunday Alliance invests in its resources to facilitate activities that support the growth and development of industry, business and community in the Mackay Isaac Whitsunday region.

GW3's core activity is to drive advocacy efforts and investment in areas that diversify the regional economy; infrastructure development; liveability and supply chain enhancement. GW3 maintained a surplus in the 2023-2024 financial year and received an unqualified audit from independent auditors.



As the future-focused, super-connector organisation to drive sustainable economic growth for the Greater Whitsunday region, GW3 will drive economic development in the region through advocating, attracting, collaborating, and informing through our ambitions across key sectors.

AMBITIONS

Decarbonisation and Diversification

- ➤ Activate and lead decarbonisation and diversification activities for the region.
- Release and activate the Greater Whitsunday METS Sector – a revenue diversification strategy.
- Secure funding to support projects that will deliver actions within the Greater Whitsunday Biomanufacturing Blueprint.

 Progress the development of a business case for a regional emissions reduction validation scheme.

Digital

➢ Activate Greater Whitsunday Digital Roadmap recommendations to improve connectivity, accelerate technology adoption and innovation, and enhance digital skills.

Infrastructure, Energy and Water

Dongoing focus on infrastructure, energy and water opportunities that close gaps

and meet our purpose and ambitions.

Workforce Development

Deliver multiple strategic workforce development initiatives to ensure a dynamic, responsive and capable workforce that meets the needs of industries now and in the future.









KEY SECTORS

Agriculture and Aquaculture

Support the growth of agriculture and aquaculture in the Greater Whitsunday region through collaboration between sectors; identification of new opportunities and a focus on technology adoption and skills development.

Mining and METS

 Attract new investment from other METS related sectors in Greater Whitsunday region based on the skills and capabilities of the regional METS supply chain and endof-life mine diversification opportunities.

- Deliver and activate a roadmap for METS sector revenue diversification:
- Explore non-coal opportunities including horizon sectors such as biomanufacturing, critical minerals, renewable energy and more.
- Export trade and import replacement.
- · Skilling and training

development in the mining and METS sector.

- Identify end of life mine site diversification to support economic prosperity.
- Continue to deliver data-driven information that underpins GW3's strategic purpose and role.

Tourism

▷ Invest in research to support collaboration and advocacy efforts for specific Greater Whitsunday tourism challenges and opportunities.

