



# Services supply - minerals processing, mining and agriculture

## SECTOR OVERVIEW

Townsville acts as a critical service centre for mining projects in the North West Minerals Province (NWMP), a highly productive region producing significant copper, zinc, lead, gold, and magnetite. Townsville also has strong links to the northern Bowen Basin coal sector.

Townsville currently hosts three major mineral processing facilities:

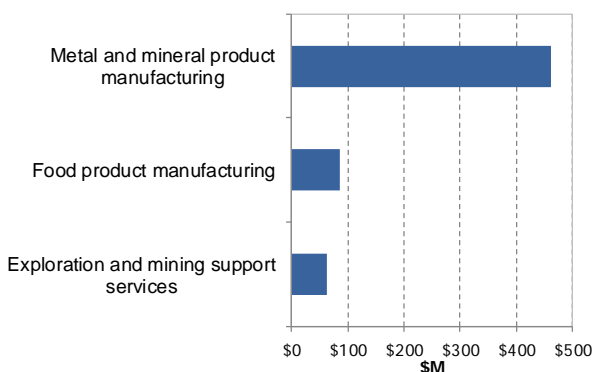
- Sun Metals zinc refinery
- Yabulu nickel refinery
- Xstrata copper refinery.

Combined, Townsville’s metal and mineral manufacturing sectors contribute over \$450 million (nearly 5%) to Gross Regional Product (GRP) each year, and provide around 2,500 local jobs.

In addition to being a significant minerals processor and port hub, Townsville provides a range of engineering, scientific, and specialised professional services to the surrounding mining centres.

Townsville is also the service centre for North Queensland’s extensive agricultural and horticultural industries. Key products include sugar, beef, and high value fruit and vegetables.

Figure 1: Contribution to GRP (2012/13)



Source: AEC

A key sector is Townsville’s food product manufacturing industry, which contributes around \$90 million to GRP each year.

Significant establishments include the JBS Swift Australia Meat Works, which employs around 600 people, and has a processing capacity of over 900 beef cattle per day.

## STRATEGIC LOCATION

Townsville’s strategic location makes it ideally placed as a minerals processing, mining and support services hub (see Figure 2).

The Port of Townsville is a pivotal link in exporting the region’s mineral and agricultural outputs.

The port is undergoing significant expansion in order to cater for future growth. Recently completed works include increased live cattle export capabilities.

In addition to live export, there are currently plans to establish a second major meat processing facility in Townsville, servicing growing Asian demand for quality food products.

## FUTURE GROWTH

A falling Australian dollar, improving productivity, and advances in processing technology are providing significant opportunities for Townsville to expand its resources and agricultural support sectors.

Large scale resource opportunities exist within the Galilee Basin to the south-west of the city. Major future projects include Adani Mining’s \$16 billion Carmichael Mine project.

A range of potential new commodities have been identified within the NWMP, including natural gas, iron ore, uranium, and oil shale.




**Townsville**  
Real Diversity. Real Opportunities.

Opportunities exist to support an expanded agricultural sector, including greenfield sugarcane industry development at Pentland and irrigated agriculture in the Gilbert and Flinders catchments of North West Queensland.

There is also potential to strengthen refining operations and to expand engineering and support services for regional mining, including structural and prefabricated steel, metal coating and finishing, and non-ferrous metal containers.

The Townsville State Development Area is currently expanding in order to attract industry and facilitate Townsville's growth as a value-adding centre for North Queensland agriculture and base metal resources from the NWMP.

## MORE INFORMATION

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**Figure 2: Townsville's strategic location**



Source: Queensland Government 2001