

# Mining jewel in Qld's crown

## Silver set to join projects

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MACKAY may become an even bigger jewel in Queensland's crown as silver mining takes off in our region.

Mines and Energy Minister Geoff Wilson said silver would be mined along with molybdenum, a mineral used in building aircraft parts.

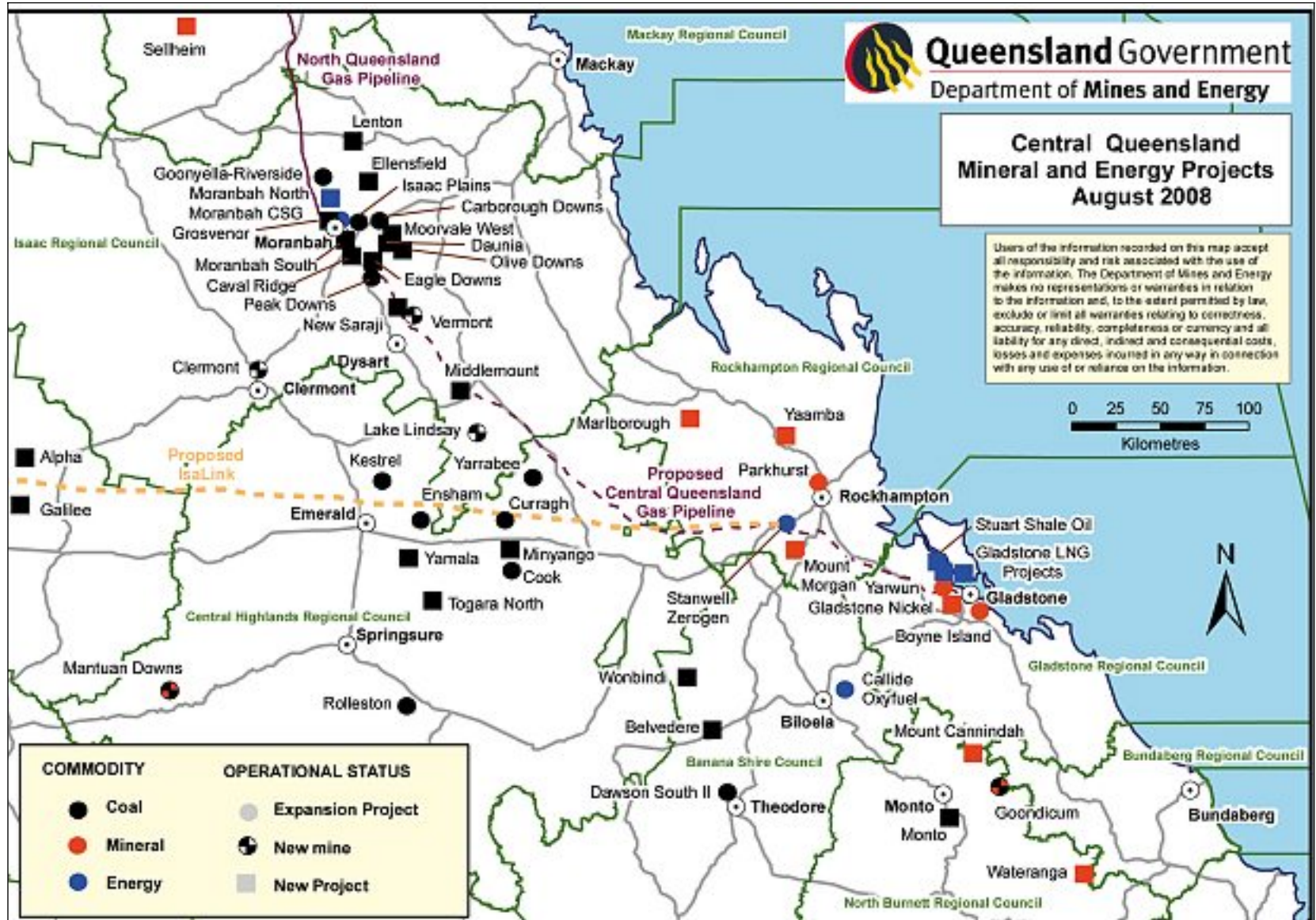
Mr Wilson also reiterated the jump in the amount of coal mines in the region that would come online before 2020.

"There are currently 31 advanced energy projects in the region: 20 for new mines and 11 for expansions of existing mines," Mr Wilson said.

"The potential new mines proposed for the Mackay area in the next five years could lead to around 4000 new jobs."

Sydney's Enterprise Energy has announced more potential coal projects in the Bowen Basin, south of Moorvale.

The Tally Ho silver project will be located only 45km south-west of Mackay and Macmin Silver expects to mine about 733,000 tonnes with 49 grams per tonne of silver, 0.06 grams per tonne of gold and 0.83 grams per tonne of zinc.



This map of the Bowen Basin, from the Department of Mines and Energy, shows just how many mining projects are on the drawing board for our region – a doubling of coal production in just over a decade.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

The molybdenum deposit, which is located near Clermont, will be mined by Zamia Gold Mines.

Queensland Resources Council chief executive

Michael Roche said this diversification in mining did not come as a surprise to industry observers.

"It demonstrates that the hidden secret is just how

broad and rich (the Bowen Basin) really is," Mr Roche said.

"Coal dominates the media coverage but we do have a diverse mineral

sector."

Mr Roche also stressed just what that many mines would mean, compared to our current rate of production.

"In coal alone, it's potentially doubling by 2020.

"We need a government focus on support infrastructure so this growth can be fully realised."