

MEDIA RELEASE

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Future Workforces Summit transformation starts today.

Greater Whitsunday Alliance (GW3) will be tackling issues such as automation, robotics and other digital technologies and the role they will play in shaping the future of the region's workforce in the Future Workforces Summit, the first of its kind in regional Australia.

The Future Workforces Summit will be held on August 9 at The Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre (The MECC) and will feature more than 18 presenters including international futurist Anders Sorman-Nilsson and Rag Udd, Vice President Global Transformation for BHP who will discuss Mining: The Transformation of an Industry.

GW3 Development and Innovation manager Kylie Porter said the Summit is designed to talk in a very practical way about how the region's industries are changing and what is needed to ensure businesses remain relevant into the future.

"The research is very compelling. According to Regional Australia Institute, more than one in five jobs in our region is at medium to high vulnerability to automation. So, from a total regional workforce of more than 85,000 the potential impact is huge".

Ms Porter said the Summit was not all doom and gloom and will feature breakout streams for Mining, Engineering and Technical Services (METS), Construction, Agriculture and SME sectors which will focus on the potential regional opportunity.

"New jobs, and new services can replace or enhance traditional jobs. The Summit is about understanding what those jobs or services might look like and how you can prepare for them.

"It's really important to realise that this Summit is not just about the mining industry and driverless trucks.

"New digital technology impacts every industry and the Summit will be focussing what you can do to future-proof your business and what we have to do right now to keep jobs, contracts and work right here in the Mackay Isaac Whitsunday region," she said.

Futures Workforces Summit will be launched officially tomorrow at the Mackay Region Chamber of Commerce's #buylocal Coffee and Chat at Moss on Wood from 8am.

The launch will also open ticket sales for the Summit and residents in the Isaac and Whitsunday region will be able to take advantage of discounted ticket prices.

For tickets and more information visit www.greaterwhitsundayalliance.com.au/summit

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