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## SKILLS FORMATION STRATEGY

Advance Cairns has recently appointed Colleen Hallmond as the Project Manager for the Skills Formation Strategy.

The Skills Formation Strategy will examine issues effecting the development and retention of a productive workforce in Tropical North Queensland.

Some of these issues include:

- The growth in the mining sector which draws skilled labour away from Tropical North Queensland resulting in local skills shortages
- An ageing workforce
- A decrease in apprenticeships
- The low skills base of Tropical North Queenslanders

As part of the research phase of the project, Colleen will engage with employers from all sectors to discuss their current and future workforce needs.

They will examine:

- What attracts people to certain industries
- Why people stay in jobs and why they leave
- The skill- sets of new and existing workers
- Whether employees have the option to up - skill
- The benefits of local and broader regional strategies
- The effects of new technology on work practices

“The job is all about finding out what workforce challenges exist in TNQ and then working with industry and key stakeholders to address their key priorities” Ms Hallmond explains.

“The Skills Formation Strategy framework has previously been used in over 40 industry specific or regional projects throughout Queensland.”

“Ultimately the solutions to current and future workforce issues will be identified and driven by industry.”

“The objective of this project is to form an ongoing industry-based Workforce Planning Group to take the lead on workforce issues in this region.”

“At this point I am very keen to hear from existing industry groups or individual employers, about any barriers they are experiencing to developing or retaining a productive workforce.”

Colleen Hallmond can be contacted on **07 4080 2900** or [sfs@advancecairns.com](mailto:sfs@advancecairns.com)

‘The Skills Formation Strategy is funded by Skills Queensland.’

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**Colleen Hallmond**