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For immediate release

Spotlight on CopperString 2.0 as lights go out in north-west Queensland.

A widespread electricity outage in Queensland's north-west today caused by a power station failure confirms just how critical CopperString 2.0 is to the region's energy security.

With almost 10,000 customers affected by the outage and industry ground to a halt in Mount Isa, Cloncurry, Dajarra, Julia Creek and Kjabbi, CopperString Managing Director Joseph O'Brien said this afternoon that the North West Minerals Province is too important to not have access to the national grid.

"This is why we need to build CopperString 2.0, we can't have a world leading minerals powerhouse that's without power," Mr O'Brien said.

"These types of outages and high energy prices are why we are working with the Australian and Queensland Governments to progress our project because it will provide a secure power supply for northern Queensland and help unlock new mining and clean energy investment and jobs in our great State."

Mr O'Brien said the company was also working closely with all stakeholders to maximise the value of CopperString 2.0, the proposed high voltage network connecting the North West Minerals Province to the National Electricity Grid near Townsville.

"We are well advanced in the Environmental Impact Statement process and in our discussions with established and prospective industry partners who could use the more affordable and reliable electricity from the project and the National Electricity Market to generate new jobs, new investment and new exports for Queensland," he said.

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CopperString 2.0 Background

CopperString 2.0 is a high-voltage transmission line that will connect the people and communities of Mount Isa and the North West Minerals Province to the National Electricity Grid near Townsville. It will supply electricity to existing customers in north-west Queensland and deliver opportunities for new industrial facilities and large agricultural and renewable energy projects.

CopperString 2.0 is supported by a wide range of community, political and business stakeholders from Townsville to Mount Isa, all of whom will be an integral part of the approvals, development and construction process.

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The project has an estimated total capital cost of \$1.7 billion. It will create around 750 new full time jobs during construction and approximately 30 operational and maintenance jobs ongoing. Significant indirect employment opportunities will occur as a result of the construction and commissioning of the project, with flow-on economic benefits for local communities between Townsville and Mount Isa.