

Wealth of statistical information to help Highlands grow

DID you know almost one-third of the 16,700 jobs in Central Highlands are in mining?

It's just a small sample of the wealth of local statistical information now available to the public thanks to a new resource that has been engaged by the Central Highlands Development Corporation. In partnership with

Central Highlands Regional Council, CHDC now has an online Economic Profile tool that provides region-specific information on key economic indicators, population, workforce characteristics, growth industries, and housing and accommodation.

CHDC general manager Sandra Hobbs said having access to detailed data and

modelling would have major ramifications for the region.

"For example, this information will assist with attracting private investment and government funding to the Central Highlands, and help in identifying value-adding opportunities for local industries," Ms Hobbs said.

"Industry, business and not-for-profits can all

conveniently access this information and make use of it in many ways."

Other applications include analysing impacts of potential developments, business case building for feasibility studies and identifying opportunities for import replacement and value-adding.

The Economic Profile tool also provides benchmark

comparisons with other regions and generates economic profiles for sub-regions such as town centres and commercial hubs.

The tool shows the population is on track to increase by more than 10,000 in the next 20 years, and while coalmining is still a significant sector with future investment, many

diversification opportunities exist, such as building on existing manufacturing supply chains and value-adding high-quality agricultural produce.

Visit chdc.com.au to access the REMPLAN Economic Profile tool and to download the 2016 Central Highlands Economic Profile.