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## Resources industry outlays \$4b

**Liam Walsh**

THE resources industry spent about \$4.2 billion on goods and services from Queensland with infrastructure costs almost cracking the \$1 billion mark.

New, preliminary research shows that resource companies incurred infrastructure charges of \$995 million last financial year with the overwhelming majority made up from using rail lines.

Debate about infrastructure has attracted a range of comment in recent months with politicians and businesses trading blows on who is responsible for hold-ups at

facilities or an alleged lack of forward planning.

The survey out this week was from the Queensland Resources Council, which includes miners, explorers and energy developers.

But the figures are not audited, some did not add up and the survey may not capture the total industry costs.

Not all the infrastructure figure goes to groups like Queensland Rail or Dalrymple Bay operator Prime Infrastructure as the survey included self-generated costs.

Ensham Resources acting chief executive officer Peter Westerhuis said infrastructure was a signifi-

cant business cost, with rail one of the biggest contractor expenses.

Ensham's coal is transported by rail to Gladstone where it is placed on ships.

The survey also reinforces a perception that the industry employing 18,475 people is still dominated by white males.

Indigenous employees accounted for 1.7 per cent of the workforce – below 2001 census figures of 3.1 per cent of the population.

Women accounted for 7.9 per cent of the workforce – while the census recorded a 50.5 per cent figure.