



Mount Isa Budget 2022-23

Speech – June 15, 2022

Good morning, everyone,

After two years of extraordinary challenges and difficulties, the Mount Isa community, and indeed the rest of Australia, is slowly getting back onto its feet and is now on the road to recovery.

Mount Isa City Council responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by having a 0% overall rate increase in 2020-21, and a 3.75% increase in 2021-22.

These steps were to assist the community to navigate through one of the most difficult periods it has ever faced, without having a long-term negative effect on Council's future budgets and Council's ability to deliver necessary services, projects and works to the community.

It's important that Council stays financially strong and makes Mount Isa more liveable for all residents, while continuing sustainable development.

As Councillors, it's our responsibility to set the Council's vision, direction and budget. It's the Mayor and Councillors who are responsible for the financial administration of the Council.

As Councillors, we've all had an opportunity to have our say on the budget, as the community has elected us to do.

While there were aspects of the budget I would have liked to have seen changed or restrained, there is no doubt this is a responsible budget with a lot of exciting projects.

I have directed the CEO to maximise his efforts in seeking external funding from the State and Federal Governments to cover key projects, and explore new and innovative ways of reducing costs in service delivery.



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I will continue to ensure that decisions made at Council are responsible, transparent and in the interests of residents.

As Councillors we've had our differences and that's what democracy is all about. Now it's time for Councillors to work together as a team to ensure the community's best interests are catered for.

In the 2022-23 Budget, Council is proposing to put forward a 6% general rates increase.

Council is also proposing a 3% increase in water charges, and 6% increases in both sewer and waste charges.

The rate rise of 6% is one of the most difficult and regrettable decisions this Council has had to make.

For the 2022-23 financial year, Council is expected to have an operating revenue of \$69 million and an operating expenditure of \$70.83 million.

Council has allocated \$34.375 million towards capital works, and \$15 million funded by grants revenue from the State Government or Federal Government, and around \$13 million of CapEx carried over from the 2021-22 Budget.

Of the total capital works budget amount, there is \$6.6 million on roads and drainage; \$6.475 million on buildings and other structures; \$4.6 million on water and sewerage; \$3.5 million on plant and equipment and carry over projects; \$8.9 million on the Materials Recovery Facility; \$2.3 million on the Family Fun Precinct upgrade; and \$2 million on Smart Water Meters.



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And in Camooweal, Council will be spending \$200,000 on roads, drainage and parks; \$200,000 on sewerage and water; and \$250,000 for internal renovations of the Camooweal Town Hall.

It's important to point out that Mount Isa City Council is recognised as one of the more financially stable Councils in Queensland, as indicated in a recent report from the Queensland Government Audit Office.

I would like to thank the Council staff who have worked hard to put together this budget over the past few months.

While I won't be voting for a 6% rate increase, it's important to note, that once adopted, as Mayor of Mount Isa and leader of this city, I will stand by the decision of the majority of Mount Isa's elected Councillors, as this is how democracy works.

It's now time for Councillors to come together and work hard for the residents of Mount Isa.

Would any Councillors like to move the motion to formally move the 2022/23 Mount Isa City Council Budget for adoption?