



**Economic
Development
Strategy**
Summary

www.mountisa.qld.gov.au
city@mountisa.qld.gov.au
07 4747 3200

2017 TO 2020

Mayor Joyce McCulloch

Mount Isa is a city of opportunity. It's the reason I ran for Mayor and why I, along with all my fellow Councillors, am resolutely committed and focused on making sure Mount Isa continues to be a great place to live and invest.

The Mount Isa Council Economic Development Strategy aims to lead our city forward, to create a more diverse, sustainable, vibrant economy with a greater variety of businesses and job opportunities.

A healthy economy means more jobs and a better quality of life for everyone.

Living in a remote region with an economy vulnerable to the ups and downs of world commodity markets has its challenges.

Over the next three years, we'll be rolling up our sleeves and opening our doors to expand existing industries and create opportunities for new enterprises.

Mining will always be a cornerstone, but to truly prosper we need to diversify and I am certain new opportunities exist.

The range of ideas presented so far in this document are impressive and a testament to the calibre of expertise and talent that exist in our city. Some ideas are easy, many are hard, but all are possible.

This summary report outlines our plans to lead, collaborate, partner, innovate and plan for the future. Mount Isa has big ambitions. Let's work together to make them a reality.



J McCulloch

Hon Cr Joyce McCulloch
mayorjoyce@mountisa.qld.gov.au

To access the full report please visit the Mount Isa Council website:
www.mountisa.qld.gov.au

Who we are

Mount Isa is where the outback lifestyle is most alive. It's a living, evolving, thriving place that embraces innovation, adds immense economic value and looks to the future.

Located in the Gulf Country region of North West Queensland, Australia, it's the traditional land of the Kalkadoon and Indjilandji aboriginal tribes — living cultures we continue to recognise and celebrate.

The 'Isa' came into existence nearly 100 years ago with the discovery of vast mineral deposits. Today our city is one of the most productive minerals provinces in the world, mining and processing lead, silver, copper and zinc and other minerals worth billions of dollars to the Australian economy for customers around the world.

At 43,314 square kilometres, the Council covers an area larger than Switzerland and two-thirds the size of Tasmania.

We're a major northern Australia hub for health services including the Flying Doctor, education services such as School of the Air, James Cook University and TAFE, government and administrative services, transport and agriculture.

We host the biggest rodeo in the southern

Hemisphere, have the world's longest main street (190 kilometres!), unique natural landscapes, as well as some of the best steaks in Australia and of course the friendliest locals.

All these attributes combined provide the Isa with a solid base from which to face our challenges and embrace our opportunities.

Our challenge

The uncertainty around future levels of investment in mining operations is a critical issue for Mount Isa and the reason for this strategy.

Mines have closed and many other projects are on hold or abandoned for reasons, including falling commodity prices and risks associated with operating in a remote and expensive environment.

As a result, Mount Isa's unemployment is currently at 8 per cent, well above the Queensland average rate of 6.1 per cent.

Similar challenges are being faced in the neighbouring regions of Cloncurry, McKinlay and Townsville.

This strategy seeks to address this economic insecurity through a range of development initiatives.

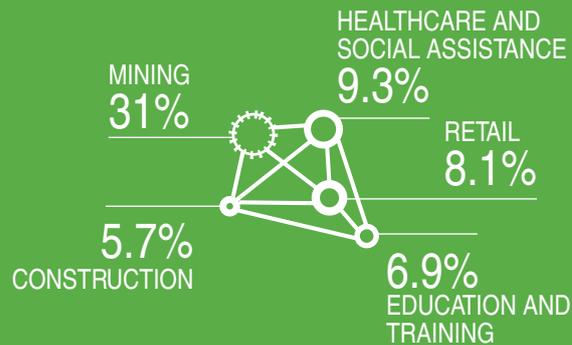
MOUNT ISA LOCATION



TO TOWNSVILLE 883KM
TO DARWIN 1600KM
TO BRISBANE 1829KM
TO SINGAPORE 4590KM

MOUNT ISA COUNCIL
LGA 43,314 KM²

TOP 5 EMPLOYERS (INDUSTRY SECTORS)



VALUE ADDED PER EMPLOYEE

\$123k
QUEENSLAND

\$204k
MOUNT ISA

MOUNT ISA POPULATION



21,998*



MALE
12,101

FEMALE
10,416

AGE

31.1

MOUNT ISA
MEDIAN AGE

37.4

NATIONAL
MEDIAN AGE

HIGHEST VALUE ADDED



\$784M
COPPER ORE



\$759M
SERVICES



\$343M
SILVER-LEAD-ZINC

EMPLOYMENT



10,950
EMPLOYED
(Dec 2016)



8%
UNEMPLOYED
(March 2017)



\$1.34B
DIRECT ANNUAL
MINING VALUE

FAMILY ANNUAL INCOME



\$123,864
MOUNT ISA
MEDIAN



\$107,276
NATIONAL
MEDIAN

INDIVIDUAL ANNUAL INCOME



\$63,551
MOUNT ISA
MEDIAN



\$44,940
NATIONAL
MEDIAN

ESTIMATED TAXES & ROYALTIES ANNUALLY

\$213M
QUEENSLAND

\$808M
COMMONWEALTH

*Population at time of report preparation

Mount Isa AT A GLANCE

Our opportunity

Despite economic uncertainty, we have good reason to be optimistic. There is strong demand from around the world for the products we produce, and there's still plenty of minerals in the ground.

With mining as a cornerstone, we have an opportunity to diversify and develop opportunities in the non-mining sectors including health, education, energy, agriculture, and tourism.

This will create more choice for jobs and investment.

Significant projects under construction or evaluation right now include:

- \$589 million for the transformation of the Ernest Henry Mining open pit mine to an underground mine
- Acquisition of two copper projects from Exco Resources
- \$300 million to deliver the Mount Margaret Mining operation, south and east of Ernest Henry Mining
- Sun Metals Townsville expanding its zinc refinery capacity
- Australia's first solar powered water supply
- Mount Isa to Tennant Creek Rail Line — proposed under the Northern Australia White Paper
- Plans for a major transport hub in Mount Isa incorporating road, rail and air freight infrastructure
- \$800 million Tennant Creek to Mount Isa Northern Gas Pipeline and possible extension to the east coast gas market

Pathways and initiatives

The Mount Isa Economic Development Strategy is a living document. It identifies 30 initiatives the Council is committed to actioning over the next three years, with many more projects expected to be added as the Strategy progresses.

These initiatives sit within five strategic pathways — **Leading, Partnering, Diversifying, Expanding, Future Positioning.**

Leading for success

The Council has a strong and united leadership team ready to implement the Economic Development Strategy over the next three years.

Initiatives to progress include:

- Council to support implementation of the Queensland Government's North West Minerals Province strategic blueprint
- Establishment of a Mount Isa inter-Governmental coordination committee to reduce red-tape and progress development.
- Encourage publicly funded temporary co-investment support for Mount Isa Mines
- Appointment of a Infrastructure Coordinator to work more closely with mining companies
- Council to work with other governments to establish and lead the Tennant Creek to Townsville Economic Development Corridor initiative
- Mount Isa to Wallumbilla gas pipeline– Attracting private investment to bring northern Australia gas to the east coast.
- Council to lead the 2019 Developing Northern Australia Forum in Mount Isa

Partnering for progress

This strategy aims to strengthen partnerships with the mining sector, investors and all levels of government to overcome barriers to new and expanded mining and processing operations.

Initiatives to progress include:

- MIM-Council Joint Mount Isa Development Committee– Council to seek cooperative relationship with Glencore

- Planning for a Mount Isa International Mining Museum
- Partner with James Cook University and TAFE institutions on Mount Isa METS (Mining School) expertise development program
- Establish of a Tennant Creek to Mount Isa cross-border commission
- Attract Japanese agricultural and energy investment
- Establish a resource data base of mines and minerals in the North West Minerals Province
- Council to create an Overlander Way central transit point and tourism support program

Diversifying our economy

Just as our community thrives on our mix of cultures and people, so must our economy be more diverse to weather changes in markets and commodity prices.

Initiatives to progress include:

- Mount Isa transport and logistics centre
- North Queensland Flying School Mount Isa campus
- Aquaculture feasibility study
- Free Northern Australia caravan and campervan safety checks
- Analyse value of a new Mount Isa gas hub

Expanding our horizons

Expanding existing industries is at the centre of the Mount Isa economic development strategy. This includes new investment in Mount Isa Mines, the development of major new resource and gas projects, and expanding the services sector.

Initiatives to progress include:

- Examine prospective pyrite production project– alternative source of sulphuric acid for mineral processing
- Expansion of irrigated agriculture for cattle fodder and other crops
- Shale gas research and exploration
- Connect to the national electricity grid to support solar generation projects
- Creation of an investor prospectus and marketing campaign

Positioning for the future

Many opportunities exist that are likely to be longer term. Taking preliminary actions now will ensure these future opportunities progress as quickly as possible.

Initiatives to progress include:

- Increase control and value for money in Government service delivery
- Examine the competitiveness of Mount Isa airfares
- Advocate for main roads funding to upgrade freight routes for cattle and other products
- Review bulk water pricing
- Environmental program to enhance and promote the region's natural attractions

To access the full report please visit the Mount Isa Council website:
www.mountisa.qld.gov.au

