



# Mount Isa Budget 2018–19

## Media statement

### Council adopts 2018–19 Budget

Growing jobs and building stronger communities will be the focus of the Mount Isa City Council's 2018–19 budget handed down today.

Mayor Joyce McCulloch said the Budget includes a \$35 million capital works program and rate relief for a large proportion of Mount Isa residents.

“Like all Council budgets, it’s a challenge to balance the need to invest in the city’s future and pay our bills while keeping rates and charges affordable,” said Cr McCulloch.

“Through the hard work of my fellow councillors and our executives and managers, we’ve contained the budgeted increase in overall rates and charges to 3 percent.

“We have further committed not to undertake any additional borrowings from 2019 to 2027 to minimise the burden on future ratepayers.”

Cr McCulloch said a key reform in this year’s budget is a change to the way residents will pay for their water.

“In keeping with current Queensland legislation and community feedback, this budget introduces a simplified water charging system ,” she said.

“Council will be levying an access charge as well as a tiered consumption charge based on water usage.

“For low to average water users, the reform will mean a saving on your annual rates bill while ensuring you only pay for the water you actually consume.”

Most Mount Isa residents will be charged 87 cents for every thousand litres of water used.

“Despite the fact that bulk water supply costs have increased significantly, we’ve worked hard to ensure the charges levied on residents and industry are cost recovery,” said Cr McCulloch.



---

“Council will not be profiting from what is a basic community service.

“Furthermore, we’ll be offering generous concessions for not-for-profit groups, including schools and sports clubs.”

Major capital works projects include:

- \$650,000 to update facilities at Buchanan Park
- \$440,000 to refurbish the Animal Management Centre
- \$531,000 to upgrade Outback at Isa
- \$359,000 to upgrade street lights to an energy efficient LED system
- \$336,000 to refurbish the Splashez Aquatic Centre
- \$200,000 for repairs and upgrades to the Civic Centre.

The Council is also investing heavily in key infrastructure, including \$18.6 million on roads and bridges, and \$6.4 million maintaining the city’s water and sewerage networks.

Council will continue its community grants scheme and is working to expand the scale and range of events and entertainment on offer in the region.

“We’re certainly keen to work even more closely with a range of groups, including our traditional owners, to showcase our unique culture and heritage and identify some unexplored opportunities,” Cr McCulloch said.

“It’s all about liveability and creating a community that’s inclusive while also providing attractions for visitors and tourists.”

The budget includes \$250,000 to continue implementation of the Mount Isa Economic Development Strategy.

Cr McCulloch said the strategy, launched last year, seeks to build and strengthen local industry and create new jobs.

“Making Mount Isa’s voice heard within government and industry boardrooms is an essential part of our strategic approach and we are making real inroads,” she said.

---

“In November, the Council will host a major two-day industry forum in Brisbane, promoting our region and its huge wealth-generating potential to stakeholders, investors and decision-makers from around Australia.

“I am proud and excited about this event, as I am about this budget, my third as Mayor.

“We are building capacity, creating jobs and making sure Mount Isa continues to be a great place to live, work, play, visit and invest.”