



# Media Release

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WEDNESDAY JUNE 26, 2019

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## **Mount Isa City Council Budget 2019-20**

Mount Isa City Council's 2019/20 Budget is one committed to renewing the city's critical infrastructure and promoting ongoing liveability.

An impressive range of important projects heads a strong \$32 million capital works schedule for the year ahead.

The capital works program features major infrastructure investments such as \$11.7 million on roads and pavements and \$4.5 million on city-wide water and sewer upgrades.

A healthy budget allocation has been directed towards Mount Isa's places and spaces, with \$4.6 million towards a number of parks, footpath rehabilitation and CBD beautification works, and \$4.7 million towards upgrades at community facilities including Civic Centre, Outback at Isa and Buchanan Park.

Mayor Joyce McCulloch said the budget featured something for everyone, but definitely focused on maintaining and upgrading Council's existing vital infrastructure to sustain future growth in the city.

"Council has ensured a strong injection of essential works to meet the needs of our residents, but also thrown in some really exciting projects," Cr McCulloch said.

Cr McCulloch said a significant \$7.5m investment has been allocated the Isa Street Bridge replacement project over two years, and \$3.9m towards water security and efficiency measures including a city-wide smart meter roll out.

"This will be a great 12 months for Mount Isa to move forward in water security, with a number of reservoir related works and the smart meter project. This is one of many actions Council is undertaking to better manage our water infrastructure to ensure long term sustainable outcomes."

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This year Council has endorsed a moderate 2.9% rate increase, which represents an average increase for a residential property of \$95 annually, or \$1.80 per week for Council rates and charges.

Cr McCulloch said the budget was one that provided for efficient operations and good asset management while keeping rates low.

“This year Council have been able to keep the general rate increase to 2.9% for residential properties, which should come as a great relief to our ratepayers,” she said.

“This is a responsible budget and will allow the city to deliver effective operations and provide the high-quality services that our community expects.”

Council will continue to offer generous concessions for eligible groups and individuals including pensioners who may eligible for up to \$280 in concessions on their council rates and utility charges.

Mayor Joyce McCulloch said the 2019/20 Budget demonstrated Councillors’ ability to work cohesively and listen to community expectations.

“This is another responsible budget that ensures we protect and maintain the assets we currently have while continuing to pay down debt to secure the future of our region.

“Collectively, each and every Councillor has worked to ensure the future growth of our region and I am confident this budget allows that to happen.”

**ENDS**



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