



Mount Isa Budget 2025-26

Speech – June 18, 2025

Good morning, everyone. It is my honour to present Mount Isa City Council's Budget for the 2025-26 financial year.

This year, we have put together a budget that is keenly aware of, and takes into consideration, the economic uncertainty that Mount Isa faces as a result of the upcoming underground copper mine closure and potential future smelter issues.

While we are confident these will be resolved, we recognise this lingering uncertainty does place great stress on households and businesses moving forward.

It is always Council's intention to keep rates as low as possible, particularly for principal places of residence. Our strategy as a Council is to encourage people to work and invest where they live.

We also recognise the importance of the city's sporting groups, as well as the volunteers who help run them, and the often unseen and unappreciated work they do that's such a vital aspect of community cohesion.

We were pleased to earlier in the year launch our Future Ready Economy Roadmap.



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We will continue to access the \$6.8 million from the State Government's Mount Isa Transition Fund to use to progress the projects outlined in the roadmap, to help diversify and strengthen Mount Isa's economy going forward.

\$1 million from the Mount Isa Transition Fund went towards the Mount Isa Rodeo, and we as a Council have been pleased that we were in a position to support that. The Rodeo is a great community event that puts us on the map and brings great economic development for the town.

Council is taking on nil new borrowings for the 2025-26 financial year.

The total budget for the upcoming financial year is \$125.9 million, with a capital works program of \$26.9 million, \$11.1 million of which will be funded by grants from the State and Federal governments, representing 41% of the program.

The capital works program includes:

- \$5 million for water mains network reconfiguration works;

- \$2.74 million for the construction of Stage 1 of the John Campbell Miles Lookout;
- \$1.8 million for Stage 2 of the PCNP shared footpath on Fourth Avenue;
- \$1.3 million for local road resurfacing and rejuvenation works; and
- \$1.1 million for culvert, stormwater, and drainage repairs.

There is \$2.4 million in carryover capital works projects from 2024-25, including \$400,000 for the Miles Street carpark and EV charging station, \$110,00 for the Ryan Road sewerage extension, and \$200,000 for road culvert rehabilitation works.

We also have significant investment in disaster management, with a \$400,000 upgrade of the evacuation centre kitchen at Buchanan Park, as well as \$400,000 for digital illuminated flood warning signs. Both of these projects are fully funded through government grants. We are committed to continuing to get projects like these off the ground, by looking and applying for funding as it becomes available.

This year we were pleased to begin holding Rural Ratepayers' Meetings. We have made a strong commitment to Mount Isa's rural residents in terms of biosecurity, feral animal management, and



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truck washdown facilities. In this budget, we have committed a total of \$300,000 – or \$150,000 each – in capital works expenditure for the upgrade of both the Mount Isa and the Camooweal stockyard facilities.

Council is committed to actively pursuing Queensland and Federal Government funding opportunities for its capital works program.

Another key project that we're looking for funding for is the Mount Isa Mine Workers' Memorial. Although we've expended the money so far in previous budgets, and there is no funding allocated in this budget, going forward, we will be seeking support to progress this project, both to commemorate the people that have given their lives in service of our town, and for city beautification, liveability, and somewhere of interest for tourists to visit.

Services and operating costs this year are \$97.6 million, and there will be an operational deficit of \$2.3 million.

The general rates for a typical residential property that's the primary place of residence will increase overall by 3.2%, or the equivalent of \$2.60 a week. Water charges overall will reduce by 0.9%, while sewer charges will increase by 3.9%, and waste charges by 7.3%.



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Mount Isa City Council is responsible for maintaining, upgrading, and repairing \$1 billion worth of infrastructure in Mount Isa, which is why we're committed to continually seeking funding for these vital works.

I'm also pleased to see that, as an organisation, Council is putting a strong focus on improving staff retention and stability, as that's how we create value – through people being engaged and striving to do the best for our community, and living the Mount Isa City Council values of Integrity, Service, and Accountability.

I would like to thank the Council team – comprising Councillors, the Executive Management Team and Council staff – for all of the hard work they've put in to making this year's Budget.

I move the motion to formally adopt the 2025-26 Mount Isa City Council Budget.