



Mount Isa Mail

January 12 – January 26, 2024 | FREE

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2024. It's great to be back from the Christmas and New Year period. I hope you all had a safe, relaxing and happy holiday break.

Here at Council, we're back and raring to go.

The year may have just started, but we're already looking towards two big upcoming events – Australia Day on Friday, January 26, and the annual Sign On Expo, on Saturday, February 3.

Australia Day is always a wonderful time, where we hold the Mount Isa Australia Day Awards at the Civic Centre auditorium.



Mayor Danielle Slade

It will be held from 9am-11am, and will include a citizenship ceremony – usually the largest of the year – which holds special significance for all conferees, given the date on which it's held.

I invite you all to come along and celebrate what's great about being Australians and living in Australia, and welcome

our newest citizens as they take their oaths and become true-blue Australians. There will also be free entry to Splashez Aquatic Centre all day, which is a great opportunity to stay cool and enjoy the public holiday with family or friends.

Don't forget that Splashez is getting a new multi-slide facility installed later this year, which will enhance this popular facility even further.

The Sign On Expo is where dozens of local sports, community and arts groups gather to let residents know about what they do and how locals can get involved. It's free to enter, and people who

go along can put their name down to join a sports club or community group of their choice.

It will be held on February 3 from 9am to 12 noon at the Mount Isa Mines Entertainment Centre at Buchanan Park.

Be sure to come along and find out more about the many groups and clubs that Mount Isa has!

A reminder that Queensland Local Government elections will be held on Saturday, March 16. All councils, including Mount Isa, will be entering into caretaker period from January 29 until the new councils are sworn in.

What's Happening in The Isa?



Murri Art Sessions

Date: Tuesday 16 January 2024

Time: 3pm-5pm

Where: Good Shepherd Parish, 17 Stanley Street

Date: Wednesday 24 January 2024

Time: From 9am

Where: Council Chambers, 23 West Street

Date: Friday 26 January 2024

Time: 9am-11am

Where: Mount Isa Civic Centre, 23 West Street

Date: Saturday 3 February 2024

Time: 9am-12 noon

Where: Entertainment Centre, Buchanan Park



Mount Isa City Council Ordinary Meeting



Australia Day Awards



Sign On Expo

Ensure You're Prepared

When it comes to extreme weather events in Queensland, it's not a matter of "if" but "when". Queensland is the most natural-disaster-impacted state in Australia.

You can't control the weather or when the next disaster will hit, but you can be aware and prepared.

Natural disasters impact thousands of Queenslanders every year. Each disaster has lasting effects on people, their property and their possessions. Disasters can happen fast and without much warning. This means that it is hard to react to a disaster if you have not planned for one. Visit www.getready.qld.gov.au/3-steps-get-ready to find out more. You can also visit the Mount Isa Disaster Dashboard at <https://dashboard.mountisa.qld.gov.au> to get up-to-date local information about road conditions, weather alerts, or power outages.

People who get ready before a disaster will know what to do and have the things they need to act quickly and stay safe.

The best way to protect you and your family is to have a good plan.

Being prepared can save lives, save money and can speed up recovery.

Did You Know?

- Is your community group or business planning an event in 2024? Make sure you let everyone know about it by including it in the What's On calendar at Discover Mount Isa – www.discovermountisa.com.au. If you have a specific event you'd like to promote, be sure to follow the instructions provided and submit the details through the "Contact us to add your own event" option on the What's On tab.

It's a great way to let the community know about your upcoming event and contribute to the local events calendar.

- Transport and Main Roads advises that the posted speed limit on Duchess Road, at the Lagoon Creek Bridge, will permanently change in mid-March from 80km/h to 60km/h. The speed zone review change was identified as a possible improvement due to increased pedestrian movements.**



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Latest Council News

Response Plan to Closures

As part of Council's "Transitioning Mount Isa's Economy: Response to Glencore Copper Mining Closure" strategy, Council will contract the services of consultants in six specialised strategic areas in order to develop an overall response plan.

The plan will outline a path forward to safeguard the city's economic future, following Glencore's announcement in October 2023 that it would cease its Mount Isa copper-mining operations and copper concentrator by late 2025. The refinery and smelters will remain in operation.

The strategic areas covered in Council's document are tourism, energy, resources, critical infrastructure, agriculture, and small and medium business, representing the various "pillars" of Mount Isa's economy.

For each area, each consultant will first carry out economic and environmental scans and ideas generation, to strategise the overall transition of Mount Isa's economy, in partnership with the Mount Isa Copper Mine Closure Taskforce.

The consultants are Mott MacDonald Pty Ltd (energy); DeltaPearl Partners Pty Ltd (resources); KPMG (critical infrastructure); Scyne Advisory Pty Ltd (agriculture); and Bonwick Consulting Pty Ltd (small and medium business).

The tourism contract, for TRC Tourism Pty Ltd, will be awarded subject to Council being awarded State Government funding. Council will also apply for funding to help cover the costs of the consultation contracts.

If funding is not successful, Council has budgeted for the contracts' costs.

Some of the early actionable projects identified in the strategy include accelerating the CopperString high-voltage powerline project; the proposed Transport and Logistics Centre (to establish a base for transport operations in the region); a common-user facility for critical minerals (adapting Glencore's large concentration facility to one that can also process vanadium, cobalt, and low-volume copper); and a renewable-energy industrial estate.

Council is now part of a working group that includes Glencore and Local and State government representatives and aims to ensure the closures' impact on the city is kept to a minimum, including ensuring local miners are given priority for jobs in Mount Isa following the 2025 closures.

Mayor Danielle Slade said the Mount Isa and Region Futures Advisory Committee (MIRFAC) working group has commenced its activities, holding two meetings in December 2023.

"It is of utmost importance that Mount Isa actively participates in shaping its future. Recognising the need for specialised expertise, Council is determined to gather the most proficient minds to contribute to the strategic planning process. This collaboration will greatly benefit the goals and objectives of MIRFAC," Cr Slade said.

"It is essential to acknowledge the significant role education and training will play in advancing our community.

"Although we will endeavour to secure State and Federal funding, it is imperative that we engage consultants experienced in assisting communities who have faced similar circumstances, such as those affected by the closure of the car industry.

"Mount Isa possesses tremendous potential, but it is crucial, at this point, to prioritise securing employment opportunities for all copper mine workers and their families who choose to stay in Mount Isa."

Deputy Mayor and Economic Development portfolio holder Phil Barwick said Council has moved quickly in response to the impending closure of the Mount Isa Mines copper mining operations.

"Mount Isa's sustainability is obviously important in the short term, and it is also timely to be very proactive in not only addressing the potential loss of significant numbers of jobs, but to plan meticulously how the city will manage the implications of the 2030 Net Zero emissions targets that will affect us all in the way business and industry is conducted in the North West," Cr Barwick said.

"What it will mean for Council is that there is a lot of hard work ahead to come out of this, however I am very optimistic that our structured planning now will also encourage growth for the city and the broader region in the medium term."

Council held a Special Meeting on December 22, 2023, where it agreed to award the six consultation contracts.

Out and About and Council Updates

FACILITY OPENED: In early December, Mount Isa turned out to celebrate the grand opening of Centennial Place.

Mayor Danielle Slade expressed gratitude to local emergency services and community members for their extraordinary efforts during the recent bushfires.

Cr Slade and Councillor Peta MacRae officially opened the space by cutting the red ribbon.

Kids cooled off with snow cones and a play in the water features and families enjoyed the multiple seating zones.

The Zonta Club of Mount Isa served snow cones and ice-cold coffee from the onsite café container, while the Mount Isa Apex Club offered hotdogs from one of the fully fitted out onsite kitchen containers.



Centennial Place is on the corner of Grace and Miles streets in the Mount Isa CBD (former Harvey Norman site). It includes a water play area, shaded seating, a decorative walkway featuring historical and cultural heritage information about the city and its past 100 years, mural-adorned shipping containers that can be used as pop-up kitchens, a plaza space, sloped grassed area, and public toilets. The murals throughout the facility were completed by local artist Sheree Blackley of the Malkarri Cultural Centre, and visiting artists The Zookeeper and DRAPL.

AUSTRALIA DAY: People will be able to enjoy free entry to Splashez Aquatic Centre and free short tours at Outback at Isa this Australia Day, Friday January 26. They are also warmly invited to attend the 2024 Mount Isa Australia Day Awards presentation and citizenship ceremony, which will be held in the Civic Centre from 9am-11am. The event will include a free morning tea. The awards categories are Citizen of the Year, Senior Citizen of the Year, Junior Citizen of the Year, Southern Gulf NRM Sarus Crane Award, Junior Sports Award, Senior Sports Award, Community Event of the Year, and Arts and Culture Award. Splashez Aquatic Centre will be open from 10.30am-5.30pm, with free entry all day. From 12 noon there'll be free icy poles and barbecued sausages on offer, and fun kids' activities will be held throughout the day. The Rapid River feature will also be available. Outback At Isa will have a locals' open day, with free short tours, and bush tucker walks. The Outback at Isa Cafe will also have an Aussie-themed menu. This year marks the 75th anniversary of Australian citizenship; on 26 January 1949, the Nationality and Citizenship Act 1948 came into effect, creating the new status of Australian citizen. The first Australian citizenship ceremony was held on 3 February 1949 at Albert Hall in Canberra.