

Mount Isa City Council News



Earlier this month I had the pleasure of attending the official launch of the construction of the CopperString 2032 project, with a sod-turning in Hughenden to mark the start of work on the workers' accommodation.

CopperString 2032 is a \$5 billion project to construct a 1100km-long high-voltage electricity transmission line from Townsville to Mount Isa, enabling North West Queensland communities – including Cloncurry, Julia Creek, Hughenden and Richmond – to get connected to the national electricity grid.

Once complete, CopperString 2032 will provide energy certainty to



Mayor Peta MacRae

the region's mining sector, delivering reliable and affordable power to the North West Minerals Province.

The sod-turning was attended by several North West mayors, Queensland Premier Steven Miles, State Government ministers, Federal Member

for Kennedy Bob Katter, and State Member for Traeger Robbie Katter.

Council, in conjunction with Cloncurry Shire Council and Robbie Katter, is continuing to advocate for the creation of a local entity, to be called North West Water.

It's envisaged the entity will bring the responsibility and operation of water reservoirs in the Mount Isa and Cloncurry areas – Lake Moondarra, Lake Julius, and Chinaman Creek Dam – and associated infrastructure under its control. This will provide certainty around water pricing for Mount Isa residents, and will also help to develop the North West Minerals Province.

Council is concerned about the significant ongoing costs of paying for rights to pump water from Lake Julius.

Mount Isa has not had to pump water from Lake Julius since 2012, yet still pays about \$1 million per year to SunWater – which is owned by the State Government – for pumping rights.

Over the past 12 years, this totals more than \$10 million, which could have been better spent on replacing Mount Isa's aging sewer network infrastructure, or reducing the cost of water for residents. We have invited State Minister for Water Glenn Butcher to host a roundtable here in Mount Isa, and we look forward to his response.

Brainstorming for Local Workforce

Natasha Storey, Council's Regional Jobs Committee (RJC) Project Manager, and Darren Bond, Council's People, Culture and Safety Acting Manager, recently attended the RJC Workforce Strategy Workshop in Brisbane.

The workshop is held annually to unite the 12 RJC regions – including Bundaberg, Cairns, Toowoomba, the Gold Coast, Townsville North Queensland, and the Sunshine Coast – focusing on the implementation updates and key highlights across five areas: workforce participation, local solutions, school-to-work transitions, workforce attraction and retention, and skilling Queenslanders for the future, as outlined in the "Good People. Good Jobs: Queensland Workforce Strategy".

At the event, Natasha and Darren connected with representatives from the 12 RJC regions from across



Queensland, shared their local insights, and learned from each other's successes, challenges, influences, and implementation strategies.

Natasha and Darren are looking forward to applying these insights to our regional initiatives and continuing to strengthen the workforce in the Mount Isa Local Government Area.

There was an emphasis on a whole-of-government approach to



strengthening Queensland's workforce.

It was noted that the Bundaberg RJC shares similar characteristics with Mount Isa with regard to demographics, complex issues, and industry sectors, highlighting the need for continued dialogue. Natasha and Darren identified the importance of regional collaboration across the Mount Isa-Townsville corridor, suggesting a regional workforce plan

and cooperation between the Mount Isa and Townsville RJC's.

The workshop aims to align with the Queensland Workforce Strategy, guiding a whole-of-government approach to strengthening Queensland's workforce and advocating to the Federal Government on critical workforce issues.

Regional Jobs Committees bring together local business, government, community leaders, training providers, industry representatives, and high schools to ensure training and employment solutions are better aligned with local skills needs and economic activity, to support regional jobs growth.

For more information about RJC's, visit <https://desbt.qld.gov.au/training/employers/regional-jobs-committees>.

Update on Motor Sports Park

Councillor Travis Crowther provided an update on the Motor Sports Park Advisory Committee, of which he is the chair, at Council's June Ordinary Meeting.

The committee recently held its first meeting for this Council term, with Cr Crowther saying he received positive feedback from its members.

"They felt that we're actually working towards a goal with them now, which is good," Cr Crowther said.

"They're setting some tasks with the people in the team on the committee, and they've already started bringing some information back which we'll then collate and work through to a better strategy for that committee."

He said the focus of the proposed facility – the feasibility study for which has been completed – is on driver training, as well as driver and off-road safety, rather than just sports.

"From that first meeting, I'm



assuming a lot of them will be engaging as many people as they can to be volunteers, to try and keep those costs down," Cr Crowther said.

Council is reviewing a staged approach for the facility. Once the next steps are determined, sponsorship and future funding will be considered, and local businesses and organisations will be approached to give them an opportunity to become involved.

The committee will meet again in the coming weeks.

Pop-Up Shop for Indigenous Arts

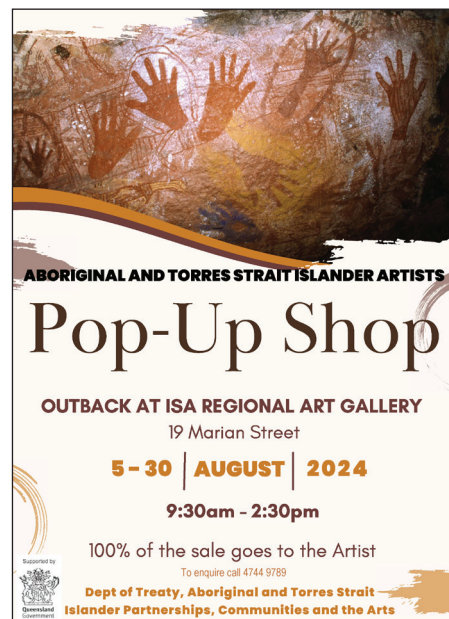
The Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts is holding an annual Pop-Up Shop at Outback At Isa's Regional Art Gallery from August 5 to 30, 2024.

It will be open from 9.30am-2.30pm, Monday to Friday, during this period.

Any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists within Mount Isa who would like to be a part of the Pop-Up Shop to sell their art pieces and creations are asked to contact the department on 4744 9789 or email kerry.parker@dstdsatsip.qld.gov.au.

The Pop-Up Shop provides local artists with an opportunity to showcase their work as well as sell their products.

All proceeds go to the individual artists.



Facility Wins Awards

Council is proud to have won two 2024 Queensland Landscape Architecture Awards for Centennial Place.

Council won a Regional Achievement Award, as well as a Landscape Architecture Award for Civic Landscape.

One of the award citations reads: "This project successfully unlocked the potential of an abandoned space within the city, enabling it to be reclaimed for public use. The site, repurposed as a community meeting and events space, accommodates a variety of programmed activities, including regular markets. The design pays homage to the city's industrial heritage and allows built elements to be constructed using robust materials and finishes."

The other award citation reads: "Centennial Place is a commendable example of community engagement and partnering resulting in an innovative contribution to the townscape that demonstrates leadership and pride in place. This project's simple and restrained materiality is sensitive to context and scale, and manages to achieve a transformative impact to the wider



community, and opportunity for activation and equity of use. This is an important first stage in a long-term, city-wide revitalisation."

Centennial Place was officially opened in December 2023, and was designed by landscape architects Tract Consultants.