

Mount Isa City Council News



The North West has been a hive of activity over the last few months and Mount Isa City Council is no exception.

Elected members of Council and Cloncurry Shire Council, along with State Member for Traeger Robbie Katter, recently met with Linda Dobe, the Director-General of the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water, as part of our joint lobbying efforts to bring the North West's water assets back under the control of the region's councils.

It's well noted that Mount Isa has amongst the State's most expensive water, and the establishment of North West Water would be an opportunity to



Councillor Dan Ballard

reduce those costs and stop the profits generated from the sale of our water being spent in South-East Queensland.

When Leanne Linard, Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation, was in Mount Isa earlier this

month, elected members of Council and senior Council staff took the opportunity to highlight some of the unintended consequences of the State Government's Waste Levy had had on our operations and the costs borne by our ratepayers as a result.

Mount Isa is the only Local Government Area west of Charters Towers that is subject to the levy and we will continue to advocate for exemption from these charges.

Tom Dockray from Powerlink Queensland gave an update on CopperString 2032, with work having begun on the workers' camp in Hughenden in July.

CopperString's significance to realising the full potential of the North West Minerals Province has been highlighted throughout Council's work around economic diversification.

Mount Isa and surrounding areas have a pivotal role to play in providing the critical minerals and renewable energy needed for the Queensland Government's Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, and the delivery of CopperString will represent the first major milestone in unlocking those opportunities. Connecting Mount Isa to the National Electricity Market will provide energy certainty to the region's mining sector.

Shaping Future of Local Workforce

The Mount Isa Regional Jobs Committee (RJC) successfully hosted its first Local Workforce Forum at the Civic Centre in mid-August, bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders to shape the future of our region's workforce.

There were 51 representatives from across 8 sectors – including community, education partners (RTOs, TAFE, and university institutes), government authorities (local, state, and federal), regional economic development agencies, resources and energy-supply chains, tourism and small business, and workforce and employment service providers.

Discussions revolved around the roles and responsibilities of



government; developing sustainable and collaborative workforce initiatives for families and stakeholders; and future strategies and collaboration.

The RJC heard from all three levels of government about their key initiatives, which clearly identified how these efforts will support local, place-based strategies and government collaboration in the Mount Isa LGA.

The RJC appreciates the insights and dedication shown by participants in creating community-driven, place-based solutions for local skilling and workforce needs, and there was an excellent level of engagement and many innovative ideas were shared.

The contributions from this forum will be used to finalise the Annual Action Plan (AAP) for the Mount Isa LGA.

Council was represented by Mayor Peta MacRae, Deputy Mayor Kim Coghlan, and Councillors Travis Crowther and John Doyle.

In her speech opening the forum, Cr MacRae said Mount Isa will continue to be Australia's premier mining city, with a strong supply chain of heavy-industrial and mineral-processing expertise, but its future lies in a range of jobs – including the digital economy, arts, and STEM – as well as mining.

"We need to plan today for future jobs, as well as advocating for investment in jobs today," Cr MacRae said.

The Mount Isa RJC is proudly supported and funded by the Queensland Government.



Councillors Attend Local Service for Veterans' Day

On Saturday, August 17, a Veterans' Day service was held at the Cenotaph in front of the Civic Centre.

Representing Council were Councillor Travis Crowther – who gave the opening speech – along with Deputy Mayor Kim Coghlan and Councillor James Coghlan.

The Councillors also laid a

wreath at the Cenotaph on behalf of Council.

The service was emceed by RSL Mount Isa Sub-branch member Jason Corradi, and Pastor George Otumuli from the Mount Isa Uniting Church conducted the service's prayer.

Bugler Keith Cox sounded The Last Post and the Reveille.

Getting to the Heart of Health

Heart of Australia has recently started delivering cardiology services in Mount Isa, in partnership with Gidgee Healing.

Mayor Peta MacRae recently met with founder and director Dr Rolf Gomes – who's the visiting cardiologist – to find out more about the work Heart of Australia does, as well as get a tour of their mobile clinic.

Heart of Australia delivers specialist healthcare and diagnostic testing to rural, remote, and First Nations communities across Queensland, and has a fleet of five custom-designed mobile clinics.



These purpose-built and self-sufficient trailers offer quality medical facilities to meet the needs of patients across a range of specialist fields, including cardiology, endocrinology, neurology, gynaecology, and radiology.

Park to Get New Shade Structure

Earlier this month, Council removed a tree in Selwyn Park, Happy Valley, after the Parks and Gardens team recently assessed the tree and determined that, due to its age and health, it posed a safety risk.

As part of Council's \$800,000 Parks Improvement Program, a new shade

structure will be constructed in the park, and a replacement tree will be planted which will add to the amenity of the facility.

As part of the city-wide Parks Improvement Program, Council will also be replacing play equipment and installing new fencing at Selwyn Park.

Mayor Meets with Peter Dutton About Upcoming Mine Closure

Mayor Peta MacRae met with Federal Leader of the Opposition Peter Dutton earlier this month to outline the issues facing Mount Isa in relation to the upcoming closure of the underground copper mine and copper-processing facilities, and to brief him on Council's Transitioning the Economy plan.

"Mr Dutton was very receptive and impressed with the work that has been undertaken thus far," Cr MacRae said.

Council has written to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to request a meeting in the near future to do the same presentation, and is hoping for a positive response.

Cr MacRae and Council CEO Tim Rose attended the Townsville leg of the 2024 National Bush Summit on August 23, which Mr Albanese also attended.



The summit, now in its sixth year, is a week-long event that's held in every state and brings together influential decision-makers and community leaders to discuss the biggest issues facing regional Australia.

This year it was held in Bendigo (Victoria), Launceston (Tasmania), McLaren Vale (South Australia), Orange (NSW), and Port Hedland (Western Australia).

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News In Brief

• **Nominations are now open for the 2024 North Queensland Sportstar Awards. Nominate a local Mount Isa sporting legend today at <https://nqsports.com.au/nq-sportstar-awards>. Local nominations close on Thursday 19 September. Categories are: NQ Sportstar of the Year; NQ Rural & Remote Sportstar of the Year; NQ Junior Sportstar of the Year; NQ Athlete with Disability Sportstar of the Year; NQ Sportstar Sports Team of the Year; NQ Masters Sportstar of the Year; NQ Service to Sport Sportstar of the Year; and the Sporting Excellence Award. The awards night will be held at the Mount Isa Civic Centre on Saturday 26 October. This year's event is being held in Mount Isa for the very first time. It is proudly hosted by Mount Isa City Council and presented by the North Queensland Sports Foundation.**

• The Mount Isa Great Northern Clean Up is back for 2024, thanks to Southern Gulf NRM. It will be held on Saturday, August 31, from 7.30am to 11.30am. The meeting point will be Moondarra Drive, immediately past the first cattle grid, near the illegal-dumping sign. A barbecue for volunteers will be held at 9.45am. If you can spare a few hours to remove rubbish at Moondarra Drive, please register by emailing Southern Gulf NRM at communications@southerngulf.com.au, calling them on 4743 1888, or meeting the team on the day. Clean-up equipment – including litter grabbers, collection bags, safety gloves, and safety vests – will be supplied. Please wear suitable shoes, sun-safe clothing and a hat. Volunteers aged 15 and under must attend with a supervising adult.