Mount Isa City Council News

MOUNT ISA CITY COUNCIL

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Plane to be Relocated and Restored

The De Havilland plane in George McCoy Park is staying in Mount Isa.

The aircraft will soon be relocated to the new RFDS and LifeFlight base at the Mount Isa Airport.

At its May Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday May 28, Council resolved to dispose of the De Havilland Australia DHA-3 Drover aircraft as-is and donate it to the RFDS Queensland Section, with the RFDS to cover the costs of the plane's relocation and restoration.

Late last year, Council had discussions with RFDS's Queensland CEO Meredith Staib about the aircraft, which is in a state of disrepair and requires considerable investment to bring it back to its original condition.

Following discussions, Ms Staib formally requested that Council consider permitting the RFDS to remove the aircraft from its location in George McCoy Park and transfer it to the new RFDS base, where it can be restored and returned to its former glory.

The RFDS is looking to place the plane in a prominent position and have it form part of their visitor centre at the base.

Speaking at the Ordinary Meeting, Mayor Peta MacRae said she's glad the De Havilland Drover is getting a home.

"I think everyone in the community is going to be really pleased that it's going to be done up," Cr MacRae said.

"It's going to make the outlook coming from the airport into town look great, being able to drive past that, and everybody will be able to see it a lot more easily than in the park where it currently is.

"I think it's a good solution that everybody in the community will be happy with. Great work, RFDS."

The Drover is a composite made of two separate aircraft – one that was wrecked at Austral Downs Station, south of Camooweal, in 1957, with the other wrecked on Mooraberree Station, south-east of Bedourie, in 1952.

The aircraft came about thanks to the efforts of an RFDS pilot, who organised for the two wrecks to be salvaged and brought to Mount Isa in 1979, where they were restored, used to create a single aircraft, and hoisted up onto poles at George McCoy Park, thanks to the efforts of members of local Lions, Rotary, and Apex clubs, as well as Mount Isa Mines.

The aircraft – the fuselage of which is empty – was officially gifted to Council and the Mount Isa community in 1981. While the RFDS's Drover aircraft were never based in Mount Isa, they were used in Cloncurry and Charleville.

Earlier this month I visited Tennant Creek for a meeting with Barkly Regional Council Mayor Sid Vashist where we formally reaffirmed our commitment to revitalising the Tennant Creek-Mount Isa Cross-Border Commission.

This will unlock new opportunities across Northern Australia's vital inland corridor, including exploring a Tennant Creek–Mount Isa rail link, supporting energy transition infrastructure and regional logistics hubs, and enhancing coordination on workforce, housing, digital inclusion, and youth services.

We were joined by representatives from the State and Federal governments, including Member for Lingiari Marion Scrymgour; Member for Traeger Robbie Katter; Member for Barkly Steve Edgington; and Queensland Cross-Border Commissioner Ian Leavers.

I was pleased to attend the recent announcement by North West Phosphate at Paradise South that the proposed PhosOne project has been declared a "prescribed project".

The announcement was also attended by Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie, and Assistant Minister Sean Dillon.

It means the approvals process for PhosOne will be streamlined, creating long-term jobs, diversifying the North West's economy, and building regional industries that support food security and sovereign capability. It recognises the importance of phosphate and the key role the project will play not just in mining, but in strengthening Australia's agricultural supply chain.

I recently met with Premier David Crisafulli, and he mentioned that he's working very closely with the Prime Minister and our local member and lobbying for a joint State and Federal government rescue package for the resource supply chain in the North West. It's pleasing that all levels of government are working so closely together across different political spectrums to come up with the best outcome for our city.

News In Brief

- **Community and visiting food and market stalls are invited to register for a site at the Isa Street Festival, which will be held on Wednesday August 6. <u>Please note</u>: Your site allocation will be provided based on key factors, including: power requirements; site size requirements; and stall content. Register online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/ISF2025. Registrations close on Sunday, July 6.**
- Thanks to Council support, Channel 9's popular breakfast TV program "Today" is set to come to Mount Isa to cover this year's Mount Isa Mines Rodeo. The Mount Isa Rodeo Committee requested financial support from Council to enable a crew from "Today" – including hosts Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo, weather presenter Tim Davies, and a full 12-member production team – to broadcast live from the rodeo at Buchanan Park in August. The program is set to feature numerous live segments throughout the Friday morning of the Rodeo, showcasing the event, the city, and the broader community to a national audience. At its May Ordinary Meeting on May 28, Council agreed to cover 50% of the Nine Network's all-inclusive $50,000 production fee to bring the show to the city for the event, with the Mount Isa Mines Rodeo to cover the remaining 50%. Mayor Peta MacRae said having the city and the rodeo featured on "Today" and reaching a national audience would be invaluable in getting the city's messages out and showcasing what Mount Isa has to offer. Councillor Travis Crowther said having "Today" in Mount Isa would be a great way for the city to be promoted to the nation.

Hundreds Turn Out for Go Green Isa Day

Council's Go Green Isa Day is going from strength to strength, with hundreds of Mount Isa residents turning out for this year's event on Saturday, May 31.

It was held in and around the Buchanan Park Mount Isa Mines Entertainment Centre.

Council wishes to thank the Leichhardt River Nursery for providing the thousands of plants – including wattles, callistemons, banksias, eucalyptus, grevilleas, and citrus trees – and herb and veggie seedlings for Go Green Isa Day. Thanks also go to the stallholders who took part on the day.

Council was represented by staff members from the Waste Management Facility, Environmental Services, Library, and Works and Operations.

The event featured kids' activities; information stalls; entertainment; interactive workshops; giveaways; and food and drink stalls.

The giveaways included composters, benchtop caddies, and compost buckets featuring Indigenous artwork.

Qld Music Festival is Coming to Mount Isa

Council has approved a sponsorship request from the Queensland Music Festival (QMF) to hold a "Mount Isa Blast" event in May 2026, as part of QMF's popular Outback Music Trails experience.

The proposed event is slated to be held at Buchanan Park, in partnership with Council.

A one-of-a-kind, self-drive musical journey, Outback Music Trails aims to attract trail-goers, caravanners, and music lovers from across Queensland and beyond to Mount Isa to enjoy some of Australia's biggest national music acts, performing alongside a line-up of local and emerging talent.

As well as Mount Isa, stops in the nine-day-long 2026 event are set to include Charleville, Blackall, Barcaldine, Winton, Hughenden, Julia Creek, and Cloncurry.

It is proposed that Buchanan Park will be transformed into a cultural hub, with local food and market stalls, with QMF to work closely with tourism distribution partners to ensure the event is packaged to include accommodation, flights, and experiences.

At Council's May Ordinary Meeting on May 28, Council agreed to provide $100,000 in cash sponsorship for the event, as well as combined in-kind sponsorship of up to $63,000 for the hire of Buchanan Park and associated operational and ancillary venue costs.

At the meeting, Mayor Peta MacRae said Outback Queensland Music Trails brings bigger-name artists to participating communities, with local acts from the communities also taking part.

Deputy Mayor Kim Coghlan said QMF does a lot of work with community groups in the lead-up to their events.

Councillor Travis Crowther said the event will go a long way towards putting Mount Isa on the map from a tourism perspective.

"I think it would be invaluable and bring a lot more economic strength to the region," Cr Crowther said.