

Mount Isa City Council News



Isa Rodeo Week is upon us again for another year, and it's wonderful to see the event enter a new era as it's organised and run by a committee of dedicated local residents.

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Mount Isa Rodeo Committee for the many weeks of work they've all put in making this year's Mount Isa Mines Rodeo happen.

On behalf of the Mount Isa community, we are all very, very grateful for everything you've done, and very much look forward to what this weekend's event will bring.

I would also like to give a big thank



you to all of the organisers, sponsors, and entrants of this year's Zonta Rodeo Queen Quest who have worked tirelessly over the past 10 months or so.

It's really encouraging to see the Rodeo Queen Quest return.

I know that all of the entrants have been carrying out a lot of fundraising activities and events over the past 10 months, and showing up to fundraise at a number of community events as well during that time.

I wish all of the entrants the very best.

The CNW Mailman Express is on today (August 7), and I wish the committee that organises it a very successful event.

They're a very small committee that relies on volunteers, and every year they always put on a fabulous event to remember.

I've had a lot of people reach out to me recently about the itinerant people who are camping in the Leichhardt riverbed.

Mount Isa City Council continues to work closely with the Mount Isa Police to address this ongoing issue.

A reminder that, if you see something happening in our community, please call Policelink on 131 444 and submit a report.

This is really important, because your reports help provide the police with accurate figures that ultimately help bring more police resources to our city.

Mayor Calls for Smelter Resolution

With the future of North West Queensland's copper industry hanging by a thread, Mount Isa Mayor Peta MacRae has issued a direct plea to the State and Federal Governments: secure a deal to save the Mount Isa Copper Smelter and Townsville Refinery – and the 17,000 jobs that depend on them.

After months of advocacy and warnings, Glencore has confirmed preparations are underway to place both assets into care and maintenance until they become viable. Despite this, the Government response continues to deflect to Glencore, insisting the company “needs to be good to Queensland”.

Cr MacRae says that line misses the mark, calling on the Queensland and Australian governments to back Mount Isa's future.

“This region has been good – no, great – to Queensland for generations. Mount Isa has quietly powered the State and national economy,” Cr MacRae said.

“The Queensland Resources Council Economic Reports state that the Mount Isa resources sector has contributed almost \$15B in economic value over the last decade. In return this region has asked for very little.

“For over 60 years, the Mount Isa Copper Smelter and Townsville



Copper Refinery have underpinned Queensland's manufacturing capability and built the infrastructure, services, and communities that many now take for granted.

“Queensland has funded hospitals, stadiums, and public services from the wealth of this region. Now it's time for Queensland – and Australia – to return the favour. This is our moment of need.

“Mount Isa has been good to Queensland. Now it's time for Queensland and Australia to be good to Mount Isa.

“Mount Isa is my home – and has been for decades. This community are humble and hardworking people

who rarely ask for help. But right now, we are staring into a void of fear and uncertainty. This is our moment to ask. We need leadership. We need a deal. And we need it now.”

Cr MacRae said the copper supply chain is being undermined not by mismanagement, but by global market manipulation.

“Glencore is not a charity. They're competing in a distorted global market manipulated by foreign countries intent on cornering the copper supply chain. The smelter and refinery are no longer viable without urgent government action – and yet they are critical to Australia's sovereign capability and

decarbonisation ambitions,” she said.

“This is not just a Mount Isa issue – it's a national issue. Copper is essential for our clean energy future. If Australia walks away from refining and processing it here, we are handing over control to others who do not share our values or strategic interests.”

Cr MacRae said the industry support package being considered represents just a fraction of what the region has already given.

“This is about more than a deal – this is a desperate plea from our community, it's about the future of our people, our economy, and our place in the national story,” she said.

Treasurer's Assurance CopperString Project Will be Coming to Mount Isa

Queensland Treasurer David Janetzki visited Mount Isa on July 24 and made an announcement assuring the community that the CopperString high-voltage powerline project will extend from Townsville to Mount Isa.

“This is wonderful news, and I know our community – and others along the Mount Isa to Townsville corridor – will be very relieved to hear that CopperString is definitely coming all the way out to Mount Isa,” Cr MacRae said.

“CopperString will be the economic spine of the North West. There are so many mining and industrial projects in the region that are waiting to be activated – however, they are being held back, in large part because of the high cost of electricity.

“We see CopperString as an economic enabler, and it cannot get here soon enough. I thank the State Government for committing \$2.4 billion towards the CopperString project in their 2025-26 Budget.”

Mr Janetzki visited Mount Isa as part of a tour of communities along the CopperString powerline route.

While in Mount Isa, he spoke about the Mount Isa copper smelter operations – following Glencore's announcement in mid-July the smelter may be put into care-and-maintenance mode – and reiterated the importance of the State and Federal governments and Glencore coming to the table and coming up with an agreement focusing on short-term support for the



smelter, ahead of the development of a long-term strategy.

“Time is running out for our community. Keeping this smelter is vital to the livelihoods of around 17,000 people across our corridor,” Cr MacRae said.

“We don't think the State nor the Federal Government have the appetite for crashing the North Queensland economy, so we hope that everyone will get together and find a solution. This isn't the sole responsibility of either the State or the Federal Government – everybody needs to work together.

“I've met with the Queensland Treasurer and the Queensland Premier previously. Everyone reassures me that there will be a solution, and I trust that that will happen.”

Council has been proactively lobbying for Mount Isa's future, in line with the economic-diversification goals set out in the Future Ready Economy Roadmap.

Council Motion Calls For Container Refund Boost

Mount Isa City Council will put forward a motion at this year's Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) Annual Conference recommending that the Queensland Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) be increased from 10c to 20c per eligible container.

Council will assert that since the Containers For Change scheme was introduced in late 2018, it has fallen short of the State Government's legislated target of 80% of eligible drinks containers – including aluminium cans and glass bottles – being recycled.

At the July Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday, July 23, Council resolved to be represented at the LGAQ Annual Conference by Mayor Peta MacRae and Deputy Mayor Kim Coghlan as voting delegates, with Councillor Travis Crowther to attend as an observer.

Speaking in support of the motion at the Ordinary Meeting, Cr MacRae said the Containers For Change scheme had helped improve the level of cleanliness in Mount Isa.

“People are not dropping things that potentially can get

them 10 cents, and people are going around picking up [containers] to get that 10 cents,” Cr MacRae said.

“With inflation, everything else is going up, and I think it'd be great and make our MRF [Material Recovery Facility] more viable as well, if that was increased to 20 cents to move with the time.”

Council's motion to the LGAQ Annual Conference says increasing the CDS to 20c would provide a significant means to increasing container recovery and support the scheme in achieving its legislative targets.

The Annual Conference – which also includes the LGAQ's Annual General Meeting – provides an important opportunity for councils to not only network and learn, but to also debate issues of importance to their communities.

The theme of this year's conference is “Pathways to Liveability”, with the program to explore how councils are shaping more connected, sustainable, and inclusive communities across Queensland. It will be held from October 20 to 22 on the Gold Coast.

Ph: (07) 4747 3200

(24 hours)

Email: city@

mountisa.qld.gov.au

Facebook:

MountIsaCityCouncil

Web: www.

mountisa.qld.gov.au

News In Brief

- **Mount Isa City Council CEO Tim Rose joined The Next Economy CEO Lizzie Webb and Jason Kidd, the Deputy Director-General for Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development with the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development, in conducting a presentation about the Mount Isa Future Ready Economy Roadmap at the Developing Northern Australia Conference. This year's conference was held in Cairns from July 22-24. They said Mount Isa, like many industrial regions globally, is at the crossroads of major economic transformation, but that the imminent closure of Glencore's copper operations in Mount Isa requires action.**

- A citizenship ceremony was held upstairs at the Civic Centre on Tuesday, July 8, with seven people taking the oath and becoming new Australian citizens. The conferees originated from New Zealand, the Philippines, South Korea, India, and Sri Lanka. The ceremony was presided over by Mayor Peta MacRae, with Member for Traeger Robbie Katter MP presenting the conferees with their citizenship certificates. Kalkadoon representative Barbara Sam provided the Welcome to Country. At the ceremony, Mr Katter spoke about how welcoming the Mount Isa community is. “Some of you have been here for quite a while already, but I hope you come to love this place and appreciate that acceptance that we have, and the welcoming that I've come to love about this place. I hope you have the same experience,” Mr Katter said.