

Mount Isa City Council News



It has been a very busy past few weeks across Mount Isa and at Council, with a raft of exciting community events.

As well as the Queensland Representative School Sport 11s/12s Rugby League State Championships, we've had the Mount Isa Cup Race Day, EsportsAble Academy High School Tournament, the Mount Isa Campdraft, the Mount Isa Show, and a free screening of "Swan Lake".

These events had excellent turnouts, which bodes well for the upcoming Isa Street Festival, the Mailman Express Race Day, and the Mount Isa Mines Rodeo.



In late June, Council's CEO Tim Rose and I attended the 31st Australian Local Government Association's (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA) in Canberra, joining more than 1300 Local Government leaders from across

Australia. We started the week with our Cross-Border delegates from the Northern Territory, visiting Defence HQ to see Major General Jason Walk to discuss the strategic benefits of the Tennant Creek to Mount Isa railway line.

The Governor-General of Australia, Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC, formally opened the Assembly.

There was broad acknowledgement from Federal ministers that councils play a critical role in supporting their communities, and that the role has expanded significantly, as has the

financial pressures that councils face.

Almost 190 motions were debated across a range of policy areas, including financial sustainability, roads, disaster resilience, health, housing, and climate.

Motions passed by the NGA will be referred to relevant ministers for respons and also used by the ALGA board to inform national policy positions.

I would like to congratulate the first graduates of the CUC Mount Isa – the first graduation ceremony was held in late June. The CUC is a great example of how Council can initiate community benefit within our city.

Two More Years of Funding for RJC

Mount Isa has received a strong vote of confidence from the Queensland Government, with a two-year extension of the Regional Jobs Committee (RJC) program confirmed as part of the 2025-26 State Budget.

The Honourable Ros Bates MP, Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training, reaffirmed the State's commitment to strengthening regional economies through place-based, community-driven workforce initiatives.

Mount Isa's RJC, hosted by Mount Isa City Council, plays a vital role in bringing together community, industry, and government to tackle local workforce challenges and unlock new opportunities for economic participation.

"This funding decision is a vote of confidence in our region's capacity to lead local solutions for local jobs," said Natasha Storey, Mount Isa RJC Project Manager.

The Mount Isa RJC is steered by a cross-sector Committee representing eight key industries and sectors – bringing together leadership, lived experience and a strong collective voice.

Under their guidance, and with the energy of local working groups, the RJC has delivered a growing portfolio of initiatives aligned to the region's Jobs Plan. These working groups are the engines behind the design and delivery of local solutions across First Nations employment, health and social assistance, construction, manufacturing, and more.

"The RJC has become a trusted regional platform where local ideas translate into local impact," said Chris Ruyg, Chair of the Mount Isa RJC.

"With this renewed support, we can build on



our momentum and continue driving outcomes that reflect the strengths and aspirations of our community."

Mount Isa City Council Mayor Peta MacRae welcomed the announcement: "Mount Isa City Council is proud to host the RJC and see firsthand the impact it's having on our local workforce. This renewed investment enables us to continue building local capability, supporting industry growth and backing the aspirations of our people.

"The work of the RJC shows what's possible when we collaborate across sectors to create lasting change. We look forward to applying for the re-tender when the process opens to continue this impactful work," Cr MacRae said.

Over the past 14 months, the Mount Isa RJC has

co-designed and progressed a range of initiatives – from regional Jobs Expos and industry forums to First Nations transition programs and data-informed strategies. These projects are not only responsive to workforce needs, but have strengthened collaboration, improved access to opportunities, and built greater visibility of local solutions.

As it enters the transition period, during which the Queensland Government will determine ongoing arrangements through an open tender process, the RJC Committee looks forward to refining priorities, progressing the next phase of implementation and unlocking further investment to advance local workforce development across the LGA.

Learn more about the Mount Isa RJC at <https://rjc.mountisa.qld.gov.au>.

Fourth Ave Footpath Upgrade to Continue

Works to upgrade the Fourth Avenue footpath will soon continue, with Stage 2 to extend the existing upgraded section all the way up to the crossing south of Kruttschnitt Oval.

Stage 1 works – which involved the replacement and widening of about 230 metres of footpath on the eastern side of Fourth Avenue, between Twenty-Third and Nineteenth avenues – began in March and were completed in May.

At Council's June Ordinary Meeting on Thursday, July 3, it resolved to award the contract for the Stage 2 footpath-upgrade construction works to Blackform Contracting Pty Ltd.

Stage 2 will continue north from the Nineteenth Avenue intersection, joining up with Fourth Avenue's existing western-side footpath south of the major culverts undercrossing on Fourth Avenue – a distance of about 1.1km. It also includes works to address the "gap" between the Stage 1 new footpath and the Captain Cook Oval retaining wall. Council has received \$810,329 in funding from the Federal Government's Active Transport Fund for the project, representing 50% of the project cost. The Fourth Avenue Principal Cycle Network Separable Portion 2 contract is worth \$1.63 million.



Councillors Congratulate League Players

Mount Isa hosted the Queensland Representative School Sport (QRSS) 11s/12s Rugby League Championships for the first time in June, and Deputy Mayor Kim Coghlan was proud to help officially open the event on June 26.

The six-day-long championships were held at Alec Inch Oval, with 12 teams – more than 200 players – from right across Queensland taking part. Host team North West were joined by teams from Capricornia, Peninsula, Metropolitan East, Metropolitan North, Metropolitan West, the South Coast, Wide Bay, South West, Northern, Sunshine Coast, and the Darling Downs.

Councillors also held a barbecue at Alec Inch Oval that afternoon for attendees, players, and their families.

At the event's official opening, Cr Coghlan thanked the players and their families for coming to Mount Isa.

"We've got a proud history of having championships here – the last time there was a State championships here for sport was about 19 years ago, at Kruttschnitt Oval for touch football," Cr Coghlan said.

"It was the open boys' touch championships. One player that stood out amongst the lot was Kalyn Ponga. There was also Ben Woolf, who

ended up playing down in Brisbane."

Cr Coghlan said she had received phone calls and messages from the likes of Coen Hess from the North Queensland Cowboys, Scott Prince, Dolphins CEO Terry Reader, and coaches Kristian Woolf, Ben Woolf, and Nathan Fien, who wanted to wish all of the championships' competitors the best of luck.

"To the parents who have made the effort to come up to Mount Isa, from a Council point of view, we really appreciate it – we know full well how much it costs and how long it is to get up here. Don't think you being here hasn't been noticed," she said.

At the opening, QRSS 10-18 Years Rugby League Executive spokesman Daniel Harrison said the event is an opportunity for young and up-and-coming players to showcase their football skills, sportsmanship, and teamwork.

Congratulations to the North West team's Connor Richardson, who was named the North West's Players' Player.

The Western Cup was presented to Will Gollan and Lachlan Hindle.

Following the championships, a Queensland team was selected to compete in the national championships to be held in Brisbane this month.

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News In Brief

- **For Welcoming Week this year, Council is looking to put together an e-book of local residents' favourite multicultural recipes. Have you got a recipe from your culture that you'd like included in the e-book? It could be a snack, soup, starter, main meal, or a dessert. You can send us details of the recipe at www.surveymonkey.com/r/CKWTK5K.**

- The Queensland Government is offering Play On! sport vouchers to Queensland families to help keep kids active. From Monday 4 August, 2025, Queensland families can claim one \$200 Play On! voucher per child aged between five and 17. The vouchers will be provided over two rounds, for summer or winter sports. There is a dedicated allocation for kids in regional and country Queensland. There will be more accessible sports to give children of all abilities the chance to play sport. Find out more at www.sport.qld.gov.au/sport/funding-programs/play-on.
- **The western-facing wall of the Splashez Aquatic Centre is up for a vibrant facelift with the addition of a mural. We love our Family Fun Precinct and Splashez Aquatic Centre and we know you do too, so we want your help to design the art that goes there. We are looking for appropriate ideas and images that complement the Family Fun Precinct and also invite the community into the Aquatic Centre. The mural will be thanks to funding from Regional Arts Development Fund Council Initiated Projects. The survey will be open until Monday, July 28, and can be accessed at www.surveymonkey.com/r/DNDLK9Z.**