

# Mount Isa City Council News



Another Mount Isa Mines Rodeo is under our belts for another year, and what a fantastic event the new Rodeo Committee delivered for the community.

We shouldn't forget that the committee was only formed in February this year, so they had a mammoth task bringing the city's single-biggest event to fruition in six months – and they succeeded.

I would like to sincerely thank the committee, as well as all of the event's coordinators, organisers, volunteers, livestock handlers, protection athletes, and rodeo judges, who kept the rodeo



running smoothly. Well done.

I was grateful to welcome the State Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Dale Last, to Mount Isa earlier this month.

He helped to instil confidence in

our community by reaffirming the State Government's commitment to Mount Isa.

It's great to see the State and the Federal governments working well together to come up with long-term solutions to what is a very complex situation that will take time to resolve.

A short-term stop-gap measure isn't what our city is seeking or deserves – the copper smelter needs to remain in operation, and the only way this can happen is through long-term strategic plans.

A Metals and Minerals Processing Summit was held in Sydney earlier this

month and attended by Minister Last and his Federal counterpart, Senator Tim Ayres, and I'm confident everyone has the will to get the job done.

On a sadder note, it is disappointing to see this is the last physical edition of North West Weekly, with the paper to go website-only from next week.

I would like to thank the newspaper's editor, Matt Nicholls, for all of the hard work he's done in providing a physical weekly newspaper to North West Queensland over the past year, and wish him all the best for the future.

## Answers Needed on Smelter Rescue

We need to save our smelter and keep our copper. Mount Isa Mayor Peta MacRae echoed the urgency on behalf of her community.

"This isn't just about striking a deal – it's about our future," Cr MacRae said.

"The Mount Isa Smelter and Townsville Refinery have powered Queensland's economy for over 60 years.

"Our people are proud and hardworking – and they rarely ask for help. But today, we are.

"We are standing on the edge of uncertainty. We need leadership. We need a decision. And we need it now."

There will be no Future Made in Australia without smelting capability. It is a sovereign risk.

We do not want our supply chains controlled by superpowers that have priorities and values different to our own.

Council was pleased to see the smelting round table happening earlier this month in Sydney, as it is essential to develop a long-term national smelting strategy.

There needs to be a short-term commitment to keep the smelter open to give certainty to our community that their livelihoods are secure as the uncertainty is affecting the mental health of our people.

"Mount Isa has seen other mining towns and smelters receive government assistance. What about us?" Cr MacRae said.

China and the US understand that future domination will be the result of controlling energy and essential metals such as copper.



Mount Isa has a bright future with \$680 billion worth of critical minerals still in the ground.

We need to maintain our skilled workforce to mine, process and manufacture these. Our Critical Minerals Research Facility will create 50 highly skilled jobs.

To save North West Queensland, copper, phosphate, and the communities that are part of the North West corridor, it is essential there is Government support for securing a future made in Australia.

While we are focusing on a larger solution for metals manufacturing across Australia, Mount Isa needs an answer now.

## Minister Reaffirms Commitment to Isa

"We will do whatever it takes to ensure the survival of this community." Minister for Natural Resources and Mines Dale Last earlier this month reaffirmed the State Government's commitment to Mount Isa.

At a press conference held outside of the Council Administration building, Mount Isa Mayor Peta MacRae said while the situation is complex and will take time to resolve, she is confident the State and Federal governments are working well together to get the job done.

"My understanding is, if they came up with a solution after one day, it wasn't going to be much of a solution," Cr MacRae said.

"They've got the information yesterday, they're going to need to go away and come up with a long-term strategic plan, because we want this complex situation fixed for the long-term.

"We want a solution to do with gas, power – all of those things that Glencore is finding so expensive, but so is every other industry in our area."

Minister Last attended a Metals and Minerals Processing Summit in Sydney on August 7, with Federal Industry Minister Senator Tim Ayres.

"We have tabled an offer to Glencore ... and the Federal Government are putting together a package at the moment that they will present to Glencore in due course," Minister Last said.

## City Gets Into the Party Spirit at Isa Street Festival

Thousands of people took to the Mount Isa CBD on Wednesday, August 6, for the city's biggest annual community celebration – the 2025 Isa Street Festival.

This year's event was themed "The Last Blast Party" in honour of the city's mining history, and to recognise the final ever underground copper mine blast that took place in the last week of July.

The Isa Street Festival included the Street Parade, which saw about 30 entries, ranging from local schools to community groups, organisations, and businesses.

There was also live music, about 40 local and visiting food and market stalls, and a Sideshow Alley with rides and show bags.

To get the party started, local live music with Chris Bax was performed in the Isa Hotel's beer garden on Rodeo Drive from 4pm.

The Street Parade began on the Isa Street Bridge and travelled east along Isa Street, before turning north onto Miles Street and finishing on Miles Street north within the CBD.

Council wishes to acknowledge and thank local business and in-kind sponsor Mikkelsen Electrical Contractors for providing electrical testing services for stallholders at the Isa Street Festival.

### Isa Street Parade Winners

- **Best School Entry:** 1st – St Kieran's Catholic School; 2nd – Barkly Highway State School; 3rd – Healy State School.
- **Best Business/Group Entry:** 1st – Sunset Tourist Park; 2nd – Leichhardt River Nursery; 3rd – PCYC Mount Isa.
- **Best Themed Entry:** 1st – St Joseph's Catholic School; 2nd – Leichhardt River Nursery; 3rd – St Kieran's Catholic School.
- **Best Costume:** 1st – St Kieran's Cat Trucks; 2nd – Mount Isa Filipino-Australian Association; 3rd – Sunset Tourist Park Band.

The prizemoney for each category is \$1000 for 1st place, \$500 for 2nd place, and \$250 for 3rd place. For the Best Costume category, the prizemoney is \$500 for 1st place, \$250 for 2nd place, and \$100 for 3rd place. As well as this, each entry received \$100 for participating (except for category prize winners).



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### News In Brief

- A new road to connect Healy Heights and Duchess Road will be constructed, thanks to a \$5.1 million grant Mount Isa City Council has received from the State Government's Residential Activation Fund. The road will connect the end of Wright Road to Duchess Road, opening up new land for development by helping relieve pressure on existing road, water and sewer infrastructure services in Healy Heights and the future Gliderport Development. "I thank the State Government for awarding Mount Isa City Council this \$5.1 million grant. By easing the pressure on existing infrastructure, this opens up new areas like the Gliderport and the final stages of Healy Heights to be further developed, which would allow for more than 100 new home sites," Mount Isa Mayor Peta MacRae said. Council is looking to start construction on the new road in 2026.

- The 2025-2026 annual rate notice for all properties, for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026, was issued on Friday 1 August. Council will issue one rate notice for the 2025-2026 financial period. The notice will display 4 quarterly instalments, with the period that each quarter covers; the issue date of the quarter instalment; the due date for the quarter instalment; and the amount owing for that quarterly instalment. Rates notices have been posted to the last known postal address registered with Council. It is the owner's responsibility to notify Council in writing of any change of address. For further details visit [www.mountisa.qld.gov.au/City-Council/Rates-Charges/Pay-Rates](http://www.mountisa.qld.gov.au/City-Council/Rates-Charges/Pay-Rates) or contact Council on (07) 4747 3200.