

Mount Isa City Council News



October has been an extremely busy month – and probably more so with me trying to get my kilometres in for Isa Moving for RFDS.

Council and Mount Isa are entering an exciting new era of recycling, and it's all kicking off very soon.

In early December, Council will be rolling out a new 240L yellow-top recycling bin to all residential addresses. When you receive your yellow-top bin, you will find a starter kit inside, including a calendar, flyer, and information to help get you started.

With this new system will come a change in residential bin collections, with the existing red-top (general



Mayor Peta MacRae

waste) bins to be collected once a week. The yellow-top bins will be collected once a fortnight.

Council appreciates that this will be a major change for many residents.

You can find a lot of information on our website at www.mountisa.qld.gov.au.

www.mountisa.qld.gov.au/waste-rubbish-recycling, including new kerbside bin collection maps and schedules, and what you can and can't put in your yellow-top bin.

The implementation of recycling in Mount Isa coincides with the start of operations of our new Materials Recovery Facility. Recycling offers significant advantages, including helping to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and therefore costs associated with the State Government's Waste Levy. It will also extend the lifespan of the local landfill, reducing the environmental impact and need for costly expansions.

For the past few months, Council

has been working with advisors from The Next Economy for the development of the Future Ready Economy Roadmap. The Roadmap is set for release in February 2025 and will outline simple and practical steps to diversify and decarbonise the local economy, build resilience, and improve social wellbeing.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of the local Year 12 students who are sitting their final exams the best of luck. The official completion of 13 years of formal education is a major milestone, and I congratulate each and every one of them on their achievements.

MoU Signed With Green Gravity

Council is pleased to announce it's signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Australian company Green Gravity to cooperate in the development of gravitational energy storage in the Mount Isa area.

As part of the collaboration outlined in the MoU, Green Gravity and Council will work cooperatively to advance the development of gravitational energy storage, including assessing the potential of converting disused deep mine shafts in the Mount Isa region into more than 2 gigawatt hours of renewable energy.

This will include conducting a comprehensive study to assess the potential supply chain and manufacturing options for the weights used in the technology; evaluating current capabilities and skills in the region; and exploring opportunities to retrain and upskill trades, particularly those affected by the upcoming closure of the Mount Isa Copper Operations.

Mayor Peta MacRae said Council is thrilled to partner with Green Gravity on this innovative project, which promises to bring significant economic and environmental benefits to the community.

"The development of a gravitational energy storage system aligns perfectly with our vision for a sustainable and prosperous future," Cr MacRae said.

"This collaboration not only supports our energy transition goals but also creates new opportunities for local employment and skills development. We look forward to working closely with Green Gravity to make this project a reality and to position Mount Isa as a leader in clean energy innovation."



Mount Isa Mayor Peta MacRae and Councillors, as well as Council CEO Tim Rose, with Green Gravity CEO Mark Swinnerton at the MoU signing.

In parallel, Green Gravity has commenced concept engineering study work supported by Glencore at Mount Isa Mines.

The study includes assessing the potential to sustainably repurpose multiple mine shafts within the Mount Isa Copper Operations as they cease to be required for mining operations.

The MoU between Green Gravity and Council outlines a shared commitment to investigating the role of gravitational energy storage in enhancing Mount Isa's energy infrastructure and economic resilience.

This initiative aligns with Council's Economic Development Strategy 2023-2028, which focuses on building a vibrant local community with a diverse industrial base and a skilled workforce.

Gravitational energy storage represents a significant economic option for Mount Isa's future, with the potential to attract more than \$1 billion in

private capital over the next decade.

The development of renewable-energy generation and long-duration energy-storage assets could create more than 350 full-time equivalent jobs during its development phase.

By repurposing existing mining infrastructure, deploying gravitational energy storage to the region will provide low-cost, firm green energy, supporting new industrial developments and ultimately contributing to the National Energy Market via the proposed CopperString project.

Council and Green Gravity will share insights from existing energy market analyses for the North West; develop a model of the region's energy dynamics; and identify funding requirements for subsequent studies into power quality and load profiles.

They will also support initiatives that foster synergies between research and development, education and training, and business activities.

A community engagement strategy will be developed to build awareness and support for gravitational energy storage (LDES), engaging with local stakeholders, including First Nations communities. They will collaborate on engagements with State and Federal governments to build support and secure funding for LDES, championing Mount Isa's growth and investment priorities to key agencies and prospective investors.

These work items are designed to ensure the successful ultimate development of gravitational energy storage, providing significant economic, social, and environmental benefits to the Mount Isa region.

First Step in Establishing Flying Whales Base in Isa

In an Australian first, French-Canadian aeronautic company Flying Whales has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mount Isa City Council to establish a base for large-capacity airships.

The MoU includes a commitment from Flying Whales and Council to collaborate on developing, by 2028, the very first operational base in Australia and Asia Pacific, with both parties to begin working together on a technical feasibility study and business case immediately.

The 200m-long, helium-fuelled airships – commonly known as blimps – would be used to transport heavy or bulky freight, such as mining vehicles or wind turbine parts.

Flying Whales president Sebastien Bougon (pictured with Mayor Peta MacRae) said the MoU shows a desire for Flying Whales and Council to have a base in Mount Isa.

"We look forward to building on a productive relationship with Council to deliver our cutting-edge solution to the region, given the significant needs of Queensland and the Northern Territory for sustainable transportation for industrial logistics and heavy or bulky loads," Mr Bougon said.

Mount Isa Mayor Peta MacRae said Council is excited by the project.

"It's really captured the imagination of our Council. We are eager to host the base, which will facilitate the delivery of the Queensland



Energy and Jobs Plan and the nation's net-zero goals," Cr MacRae said.

"Mount Isa is the regional centre of North West Queensland, strategically located between south-east Asia and Australia's eastern seaboard. Mount Isa is also the regional hub for Outback Queensland, supporting remote townships and communities, so we believe we are perfectly situated to support this."

The development of the base would not be possible without the support of Glencore, which has agreed in principle to release a parcel of land to Council for the development of the Australian Critical Minerals Industrial Precinct.

Flying Whales is looking to establish six similar bases across Australia.

Groups, Associations Receive Council Grants

Five local community groups and sports associations will share in \$34,199, thanks to Round 1 of Council's 2024-25 Community Grants and Events Sponsorship Program.

The recipients are:

- **Mount Isa Lapidary Club** – \$5000 to install solar panels.
- **Mount Isa Campdraft Association Inc.** – \$5000 to install security measures.
- **Mount Isa Badminton Club Inc.** – \$4199 for supplies for the 2024/25 badminton season.
- **Mount Isa & District Athletics Association Inc.**

– \$5000 for a high-jump replacement pad, and a defibrillator.

• **Commerce North West** – \$15,000 for the 2025 North West MPX.

Round 1 2024-25 of the Community Grants and Events Sponsorship program opened on 1 August 2024 and closed on 31 August 2024.

The program is provided by Council to support eligible community and not-for-profit organisations to purchase items for their organisations, or to run community events, and is run over two rounds each financial year.

Expressions of Interest Sought

Are you a Mount Isa community group, social enterprise, or not-for-profit seeking commercial space?

You may qualify for the Regional Place Activation Program. The program is also open to start-up creative businesses to trial their ideas in a high-profile retail setting with minimal financial outlay.

Renew Australia is calling for interested locals to send through their Expressions of Interest. To register your interest and to see if you qualify, complete the short questionnaire at <https://shorturl.at/IDHBy>. Mount Isa is one of the first four Queensland councils that have been chosen to take part in the Regional Place Activation Program, thanks to Renew Australia and the Queensland Small Business Commissioner.

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(24 hours)

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mountisa.qld.gov.au

News In Brief

• **Bubble Laboratory** are bringing their **Bubble Show in Space to the Mount Isa Civic Centre, and tickets are selling fast. There will be two shows on Thursday, November 28: 10am and 1pm. Get your tickets at www.eventbrite.com.au/event/bubble-show-in-space-tickets-999913778027. Come along on a soap-tastic adventure through bubbles in space. See a bubble like a rocket that launches 10 metres into the air, clear bubbles filled with smoke, bubbles that join into each other and separate, shadow bubbles, fire bubbles, a bubble tornado, bubbles that spin like a carousel, giant bubble tubes that arch through the sky, and bubbles so big that several people could fit inside! This show combines an outer space adventure with the best bubble tricks, fantastic costumes, amazing puppetry, and laugh-out-loud slapstick. Special price for school groups of over 10 students. Entry is free for supervising teachers.**

• The Australian Rural Leadership Foundation is holding a two-day Changemaker Workshop in Mount Isa on November 18 and 19, at Southern Gulf NRM, 112 Camooweal St. Register your attendance at <https://events.humanitix.com/changemaker-workshop-10-2-mount-isa-region-10-qld-september>. It's a two-day leadership development workshop for adults who would like to see things change in their communities and to play more active roles by becoming changemakers, influencers, or community advocates. It aims to foster self-awareness, community engagement, resilience, leadership skills, and the ability to create positive change while considering diverse perspectives.