

# Mount Isa City Council News



Mount Isa City Council recently adopted its budget for the 2025-26 financial year. We are all keenly aware that this will be a challenging year for our community. Councillors, members of the Executive Management Team, and Council staff spent many hours producing a budget that aims to minimise the impact on household finances.

Receiving 41% of our capital works financing from State and Federal grants is a positive outcome. As a Council, we will continue to prioritise securing external funding sources for essential infrastructure and livability projects to minimise the financial



Councillor Dan Ballard

burden on our ratepayers. One of the key projects funded in the budget is the reconfiguration of our water mains network. This upgrade is particularly important, because it will help lower maintenance costs and reduce the wear

and tear on our ageing infrastructure.

Our Council also continues to lobby the State Government for a larger share of the Mount Isa Water Board dividend and for exemption from the waste levy.

A significant focus of this year's budget is on balancing the improvement of service delivery standards while minimising costs to our ratepayers. We are implementing measures to streamline our operations and increase efficiency across all departments. This includes adopting new technologies and refining our processes to ensure that the business of Council is carried out in the most

cost-effective manner. Moreover, we are striving to improve our financial-management practices to ensure that every dollar is spent wisely. By conducting regular reviews and audits, we aim to identify areas where we can reduce waste and enhance productivity.

I believe that this year's budget represents a big step in the right direction. With the recent addition of Kelvin Tytherleigh, Director of Corporate Services, and Andrew Hobbs, Director of Infrastructure Services, I'm confident we'll continue to see improvements in Council's financial performance and service standards.

## Tourism Products Launched at Event

"Tourism is everyone's business." That was the main message of the Tourism Networking and Launch event at the Civic Centre on Wednesday, June 4.

About 80 people – comprising local tourism operators, industry partners, and community members – attended to celebrate the launch of the latest Mount Isa Visitor Guide, the Cloncurry-Mount Isa-Camooweal Experience, the Mount Isa to Cloncurry eco-trail concept, and the new Mount Isa Grant Guru portal.

"Council has long advocated for, and supported, Mount Isa's tourism sector, and we will always do so," Mayor Peta MacRae said at the event.

"Our Tourism Strategy highlighted the importance of 'seeing the other side of Queensland' and 'meet Mount Isa'. Everyone here in person, and living and working in Mount Isa, is a tourism ambassador.

"Our Future Ready Economy Roadmap identified tourism as a key pillar for the future of Mount Isa. Mount Isa is home to many iconic characteristics ... these have underpinned successful tourism campaigns in Mount Isa and Outback Queensland that will be leveraged to strengthen Mount Isa's profile with a wide range of potential domestic and international visitors.

"Last year, Outback Queensland saw about 1.13 million visitors, who in total spent \$791 million in the region, and each stayed for 4.2 nights on average."

Council's Tourism Recovery and Resilience Officer Michelle Cyster said tourism is everyone's business.



"Whether you're a miner, a motel owner, or just someone who gives great directions at the servo – you are an ambassador for our region," Mrs Cyster said.

"Tourism doesn't just happen at a Visitor Information Centre.

"It starts with conversations, local pride, and a

community that's willing to share its story."

Pictured are, from left, speakers Mount Isa Rodeo Chairman Mark "Tommo" Thompson, Cr MacRae, Outback Queensland Tourism Association Operations Manager Kelly Hensley, Mrs Cyster, and Councillor Travis Crowther.

## Cr Coghlan Finishes 700km Fundraiser

Local residents and friends turned out in droves at Kruttschnitt Oval on Friday, June 13, to welcome Councillor James Coghlan as he completed his mammoth "7 in 700" fundraising walk/run.

For the final leg, Cr Coghlan was joined by students from St Joseph's Catholic School, as well as friends, supporters, and family members.

The challenge took him to seven mines in the area over nine days and saw Cr Coghlan walk and run about 12 hours each day, for a total of 700km.

He visited mines at Dugald River, Ernest Henry, Eloise Copper, Cannington, Osborn, Phosphate Hill, and Duchess.

It was all to raise funds for the Mount Isa Hospital Cancer Care Unit.

Fellow Councillors, as well as Council staff, congratulate Cr Coghlan on his amazing effort and are immensely proud of what he's achieved.



## Local Residents Become New Citizens

Congratulations to the 26 Mount Isa residents who recently became new Australian citizens.

A citizenship ceremony was held on Thursday, June 19, at the Civic Centre.

The conferees' countries of origin include India, South Africa, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, Indonesia, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, and Tonga.

The ceremony was presided over by Mayor Peta MacRae, with assistance from Deputy Mayor Kim Coghlan and Councillor Travis Crowther.

Kalkadon representative Barbara Sam provided the Welcome to Country.



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### News In Brief

- Mayor Peta MacRae, Councillors James Coghlan, Travis Crowther and John Tully, and Council CEO Tim Rose recently took part in a Cuppa With the Councillors session in the Council Chambers, prior to the June Ordinary Meeting (which was rescheduled to Thursday, July 3). Local residents brought up several topics with the Councillors, including a lack of seating and public toilets in the Mount Isa CBD, crime, the state of footpaths in the CBD, and housing. Cuppa With the Councillors sessions are held prior to each month's Ordinary Meeting and are a great way to ask questions, have a catch-up, and bring up any local topics of interest or concern with your Councillors. The next one will be held on Wednesday, July 23 at 8.30am.

- The RSL Mount Isa Sub-branch is one of the latest recipients of Council's ongoing monthly Casual for a Cause fundraising initiative. The sub-branch's vice-president Rick Leeman and treasurer Darrell Saddington attended Council's May Ordinary Meeting on May 28, to accept the \$213.15 donation, which represents the proceeds of money donated by Council staff during April. At the presentation, Mayor Peta MacRae thanked the RSL Mount Isa Sub-branch for all the great work they do in the community, which includes planning and helping to run annual events including Anzac Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies. Casual for a Cause is an initiative of Council staff, who dress in casual clothes each Friday and donate money towards a charity or not-for-profit organisation, with a different recipient selected each month.