

# Mount Isa City Council News



Thank you to everyone who attended and took part in North West MPX earlier this month.

It was great to see so many industry and business representatives journey all the way to our city to attend this annual event and hear from a range of industry experts and get updates about their projects and initiatives. It was wonderful to have the State Minister for Natural Resources and Mines Dale Last here for that event.

Congratulations to the organisers of the inaugural Regional Jobs Committee (RJC) Jobs Expo, which was held upstairs at the Civic Centre on the



Mayor Peta MacRae

second day of North West MPX. It was a great opportunity for people of all ages, but particularly local youth, to find out what career opportunities are available in Mount Isa and connect with local employers and training providers.

Thank you to the event's special guest, Queensland Assistant Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training Amanda Stoker MP.

That week was a very busy one, as the North West Regional Organisation of Councils (NWQROC), of which Mount Isa City Council is a member, held its board meeting in our city.

Of particular interest were updates about the North West Water Alliance and the Local Government Red Tape Reduction Taskforce.

It's always pleasing to see so many visitors in town experiencing what our city has to offer. I would like to

acknowledge the NWQROC's outgoing Executive Officer, Greg Hoffman, who stood down from the role earlier this month. I wish him all the very best and thank him for all he's done for the organisation.

Later this month, I'll be speaking at the Townsville and North Queensland Critical Minerals Forum, which will be a wonderful opportunity to showcase what Mount Isa has to offer.

Council's next major event is Go Green Isa Day (formerly Free Plants Day), on Saturday, May 31, at the Mount Isa Mines Entertainment Centre at Buchanan Park.

## Announcements Good News for City

Mayor Peta MacRae has welcomed the State Government's announcement that Queensland Rail will be introducing an incentive package to reduce access charges from the Mount Isa Railway Line.

The announcement was made during State Minister for Natural Resources and Mines Dale Last's visit to Mount Isa earlier this month.

"This will take a lot of pressure off new and existing rock phosphate rail users while they develop their operations, and could result in significant savings of up to \$2 million per year for emerging rock phosphate producers," Cr MacRae said.

"These operations tie in with Council's vision of diversifying Mount Isa's economy through new mining-adjacent activities, as outlined in our Future Ready Economy Roadmap.

"I also welcome Glencore's commitment to bringing forth the feasibility studies for its Black Star open-cut copper project.

"This one project alone has the potential to bring with it between 300 and 400 direct jobs to the Mount Isa community.

"Mount Isa's past, present, and future has always been in mining, and these announcements are further testament to that fact."

The State Government also announced this week that Glencore has given a commitment to allow third-party access to copper tailings at its Mount Isa Mines site.

The tailings will be able to be mined and smelted on-site, extending the life of the asset.



### 'Mount Isa Has the Smart Answers to Critical Question'

The two-day North West MPX combined conference and expo was held in the Mount Isa Civic Centre and from May 7-8.

The first day's presenters included Mount Isa Mayor Peta MacRae, State Minister for Natural Resources and Mines Dale Last, North West Phosphate's John Cotter, Ausenco's Dr Grant Ballantyne, the Queensland Resources Council's Nicole Duguid, and MITEZ's Maria James.

Cr MacRae's presentation touched on strategies, proposals, and government programs relating to critical minerals, such as the Future Made in Australia Bill 2024, the Critical Minerals Production Incentive Tax, the Junior Miners' Exploration Centre, and The Australian Critical Minerals Industrial Precinct.

"Mount Isa cannot go it alone. Nothing great built in this region came without collaboration," Cr MacRae said.

"Council seeks greater commitment from the Queensland and Australian governments, largely through funding grants, and significant and dedicated investment to accelerate industry growth and help junior miners move from exploration to production.

"We truly live in a complex and amazing place. Give us oxygen and let us breathe. We have never let Queensland down."

Mr Last said the State Government was taking action to secure Mount Isa's future for the century ahead, including by tracking new investment to create more jobs in the North West.



## Free Assistance to Move Away From Single-Use Plastic Items

Businesses in Mount Isa are taking up the challenge to ditch single-use plastic with the help of the Plastic Free Places program and Mount Isa City Council.

The program provides free assistance to food retailers, helping to make the transition away from single-use plastics as simple as possible.

"We know that there are many business owners who want to make changes, but they simply don't have the time to research the best options available to them. That's why we're thrilled to be supporting this program," Mount Isa Mayor Peta MacRae said.

The program, run by peak not-for-profit organisation The Boomerang Alliance, has worked with thousands of businesses to eliminate over 30 million single-use plastic items, including coffee cups, takeaway containers, and other food ware items.

"Many hospitality businesses are using far more plastic than they think. We can fix that! Even for businesses who are already plastic free, we can take them to the next level, helping them to reduce waste and packaging costs. We make it simple and easy to achieve," program coordinator Jo Stoyel said.

"Our local cafes are such an important part of our community. Their small changes make a real difference."

Cr MacRae said: "Plastic Free Places is a fantastic program full of information to help local food businesses, and with announcements of further plastic items to be banned in Queensland, I urge those business owners to reach out and make the most of the program."

To find out more or to join, visit [www.plasticfreeplaces.org/cq-join](http://www.plasticfreeplaces.org/cq-join).

Eighteen community groups, schools, and sports clubs will share in more than \$100,500 for various improvement projects and to hold local events, thanks to Round 2 of Council's 2024-25 Community Grants and Events Sponsorship Program.

The Community Grants recipients and their projects are:

- **Happy Valley Community Kindergarten** – to purchase and install a cubby house: \$5000
- **Mount Isa Go Kart Club** – to upgrade safety signs: \$2136
- **Townview State School P&C** – to purchase an outdoor screen, projector, and barbecue: \$4945
- **Sikaran Martial Arts** – to purchase and install new air-conditioning ducting and flashing: \$5000
- **Copper City Tennis Club** (on behalf of Pickleball Mount Isa) – to purchase Pickleball start-up kits: \$3300
- **Estelle Cardiff Community Kindergarten** – to purchase and install new signage: \$3815
- **Mount Isa Pistol Club** – to replace amenities flooring: \$4750
- **Injilinj Community Kindergarten** – to purchase and install a new shade structure: \$5000
- **Isa Ski and Power Boat Club Inc.** – to install a mural on the side of a 40ft container: \$5000.

The Events Sponsorship recipients

and their 2025 events are:

- **Mount Isa Campdraft Association Inc.** – Mount Isa Campdraft: \$10,000
- **Camooweal Campdraft Association Inc.** – Camooweal Campdraft and Rodeo: \$5000
- **Mount Isa Eisteddfod Association Inc.** – Mount Isa Eisteddfod: \$11,524
- **Commerce North West** – Northern Outback Business Awards: \$8000
- **Good Shepherd Parish** – Multicultural Festival: \$6852
- **Mount Isa Filipino-Australian Association Inc.** – Philippines Independence Day Fiesta: \$3410
- **Zonta Club of Mount Isa** – Rodeo Ball & District 22 Conference: \$5813
- **Apex Club of Mount Isa** – Rock Pop Mime Show: \$8000
- **Mount Isa Special School** (on behalf of Julie Hannaford – Rodeo Queen Quest entrant) – Great North West Family Fun Day: \$3000.

Speaking at April's Ordinary Meeting, where Council resolved to approve the above organisations to receive 2024-25 Round 2 Community Grants and Events Sponsorship, Councillor John Doyle said it was pleasing to see such a wide range of activities and events being sponsored and funded.

Speaking in favour of the resolution, Councillor Dan Ballard said he was proud to be part of a Council that supports local community and sporting groups.

### News In Brief

- Council endorsed the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Committee's recommendation to award Round 3 RADF funding to North West Gymnastics for their recent Flipside Circus Residency Workshops project. The residency, which was held from May 10-11, brought circus trainers to the city to run a series of circus and aerials workshop for various age groups, including kindy, primary school, teens, and adults. The workshops were open to the wider community. The RADF funding is \$2500. Council's decision was made at its April Ordinary Meeting held on April 30. RADF is a partnership between the Queensland Government and Mount Isa City Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland. Council runs three RADF funding rounds annually, along with administering Council-initiated projects. Round 3 of the 2024-25 RADF program closed on 2 April. For more information about the program, visit [www.mountisa.qld.gov.au/Community/Grants-Funding-Donations/Regional-Arts-Development-Fund](http://www.mountisa.qld.gov.au/Community/Grants-Funding-Donations/Regional-Arts-Development-Fund).
- As part of International Compost Awareness Week 2025, Council is excited to support our local community to start self-composting at home by offering a FREE kitchen caddy to residents who complete our Circular Economy Survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/Q5Jwwf1dFx>. Collect your caddy and enter the draw to win one of five composters at Go Green Isa Day, on Saturday, May 31, at the Mount Isa Mines Entertainment Centre, Buchanan Park. Did you know that over 50% of what we put in our general waste bins is food and green waste?