

# Council Update: May 2024



A lot has been happening in the community, and there's so much more on the horizon to look forward to.

I am proud to have been appointed – along with Mayor Peta MacRae – to Council's Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Committee.

I would like to thank the RADF Committee for the excellent work they have done in the community over the years in making decisions that have helped foster and grow the local arts sector, particularly with regard to public art.

Some of the more recent examples include the murals on the former Ergon



Councillor Travis Crowther

substation building on Railway Avenue, and the murals on the southern wall and the pop-up containers at Centennial Place, both of which pay homage to the history and culture of the city and surrounding area.

There is another mural that will soon be going up on the western-facing wall near the Splashez Aquatic Centre's main entrance, which will be sure to add a welcome splash of colour to that space.

A reminder that Round 3 of Council's 2023-24 RADF opened in mid-May, with funding applications to be accepted until Wednesday June 12.

The Civic Centre has recently hosted a variety of significant community events, including the Anzac Day services, the Zonta Club of Mount Isa's International Women's Day cocktail evening, and the North West MPX mining exhibition and conference event.

I would like to give you an update on works at the Civic Centre.

Council has approved the budget for the replacement of the facility's lift, and procurement processes are currently underway.

We are well aware of the difficulties people have been experiencing due to the Civic Centre not having an operational lift, and are prioritising its replacement. Council has also approved the replacement of the auditorium's existing worn-out flooring with a new, durable surface. Budgetary allocation for the work has been granted, and the procurement process is underway.

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## Did You Know?

• Council's annual vehicle/heavy equipment auction will begin at 9am on Monday 3 June, and will run until Wednesday 5 June, online via Pickles Auctions. Eighteen items will be on offer, including a 2017 Canycom Underbelly ride-on mower; Caterpillar skid steer loader; 2018 Caterpillar backhoe; 2006 Caterpillar integrated toolcarrier; 2018 Isuzu D-MAX ute; 2017 Isuzu D-MAX ute; 2014 Mitsubishi Canter crew-cab table top; and a 2017 Toyota Landcruiser Prado. More information about the items is available at [www.pickles.com.au](http://www.pickles.com.au) – enter "Mount Isa" in the search bar on the website.

## Refurbishment Program for Parks

Council has agreed to award a contract to implement Stages 1 and 2 of its Parks Refurbishment Program, with Playway Park on Railway Avenue, Ron McCullough Park in Healy Heights, and Quota Park in Erap Street earmarked as priorities for works.

The program's focus is on refurbishing park assets, improving safety and compliance, and addressing the collective needs of park patrons across Mount Isa and Camooweal.

While works will vary between each park, they will include earthworks; the demolition and relocation of facilities; the installation of new signage; hard landscaping; and the supply and installation of hard shade structures, furnishings, play equipment, and softfall.

Stage 1 works – Playway Park, Ron McCullough Park, and Quota

Park – are due to be completed later this year.

Stage 2 works – Selwyn Park, Minnie Davis Park, Townview Apex Park, Campbell Miles Park, Norm Smith Park, Tom O'Hara Park, Bill McDonald Park, and Ellen Finlay Park in Camooweal – are set to be completed before the end of the 2024/25 financial year. The decision was made at Council's May Ordinary Meeting on May 22.

Deputy Mayor Kim Coghlan said the Parks Refurbishment Program will contribute to improving liveability, with long-term benefits towards promoting health, community inclusiveness, family-friendly activities, safety, and the general beautification of the town.

The contract for Stages 1 and 2 – awarded to Mevway Pty Ltd – is \$1.64 million, with a total program budget of \$1.97 million over two financial years.

## Council Commits to Community Newspaper

Council has agreed to invest in The North West Weekly, allocating \$100,000 per year for three years to secure community advertising in the newspaper each week.

Council believes having a free local newspaper has multiple positive social outcomes, thanks to increased access to local news, activities, and opportunities to all demographics.

Speaking at Council's May 22 Ordinary Meeting, Deputy Mayor Kim Coghlan said the newspaper is a great step forward for the people of North West Queensland.

Councillor John Tully said a significant benefit of having a local printed newspaper is it will help with bringing local issues to the attention of politicians in Brisbane and Canberra.

Councillor Dan Ballard agreed: "I'm excited about the return of the printed paper to Mount Isa," Cr Ballard said.

"I'm looking forward to the value that it'll bring, both as a tool for lobbying, and also as a means of sharing information and showcasing our events in the community."

