



LEADING

1

Provide quality leadership to deliver the identified initiatives identified in the Economic Development Strategy between 2017-2020

- Facilitating major new business initiatives including the commissioning of the Northern Gas Pipeline and attracting additional public sector investment in key external infrastructure which supports the Mount Isa economy including expansion of the Port of Townsville and upgrades to the Mount Isa Rail Line.
- Council continues to provide local leadership to the Northern Australia agenda. This is evidenced through:
 - Mayor and CEO attended the annual Northern Australia Development Conference in Karratha, WA, in 2019 and an assessment is currently underway to consider hosting the 2021 Northern Australia Development Conference in Mount Isa.
 - Mayor McCulloch was a taskforce member representing local governments on the Australian Government's Resources 2030 Taskforce.
 - Northern Australia Ministerial Forum held in Mount Isa in November 2018.
 - Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility visit to Mount Isa in August 2018.
 - NWMP Energy Roundtable convened in Mount Isa in August 2018.
 - Continued advocacy for business case assessment of the proposed Mount Isa - Tennant Creek Rail Link.
- Council provided leadership to promote the economic corridor between Tennant Creek to Townsville, putting Mount Isa in the centre of this growth corridor:
 - Continuing to support agenda and activities of MITEZ between Mount Isa and Townsville, and inputs provided to the latest MITEZ regional economic update report.
 - Continuing to progress the Tennant Creek – Mount Isa Cross Border Commission – tourism, roads, rail, services, pipelines, exploration, logistics, with presence in Canberra, including advocating for Mount Isa's involvement with the Federal Government's Barkly Regional Deal.

PARTNERING

2

Partner diligently and collaboratively with existing and new partners to deliver initiatives that drive the economy and meet the various initiatives of the Economic Development Strategy.

- The Queensland Government held its North West Minerals Province Strategic Blueprint stakeholder consultation meeting in Mount Isa in July 2019. Council has worked hard with the Queensland Government to progress this Strategic Blueprint, and now it's finalised, along with the Economic Diversification Strategy and related Implementation Plan, we will continue to work together to ensure the best outcome for our region.
- Council continued investigations with technical partners and the Queensland Government of various policy options to lower the cost of water to residents and businesses in Mount Isa. This analysis continues and Council were successful in securing funding for the implementation of the smart water system to assist in real-time data which complement the work completed to date.
- Council has continued to provide support for geoscience data availability to the mining industry through extensive engagement with Geoscience Australia to support the Exploring the North initiative; making the north west minerals province the world's most geologically mapped region.
- Extensive engagement with the Department of the Environment to progress the assessment of the Isa Super Basin.
- Strong and constructive collaboration with Glencore to drive the local economy with a terms of reference agreed with Glencore to establish the Mount Isa City Council – Mount Isa Mines Cross Collaboration Committee
- Council have continued strong engagement with NWQROC to ensure a collective approach to Federal Government policy-making and regional economic development, including consideration of a Regional Deal.



City of Opportunity
MOUNT ISA

**ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGY
2017-2020**

3

DIVERSIFYING

Increased diversification of the economy, both within and outside of mining, is the way to building greater social and economic resilience. The Economic Development Strategy shows that there is considerable opportunity for investment in non-mining sectors.

- Progression of planning for the proposed Mount Isa Transport and Logistics Centre continues. Having completed multiple preparatory phases – feasibility study, 3D modelling, site planning, industry engagement – the business case is underway.
- Secured Queensland Government funding to work with registered training offices such as JCU and TAFE to assess the use of Hard Times Mines facility to provide training services for mine industry workers.
- Secured \$300,00 in Queensland Government funding to undertake additional investments to support the tourism sector was confirmed in November 2019.
- Council has also committed heavily to improving liveability and social health to promote opportunities to potential residents, investors and business owners, and have supported and hosted annually more than 26 events throughout the community.
- Continual advancement in tourism opportunities with the development of the caravan overflow at George McCoy Park, support of the Mount Isa Rodeo, exponential growth of the Isa Street Festival to build out Rodeo Week, Tourism Strategy development, and the Riversleigh Revitalisation project due for completion 2020.

4

EXPANDING

As a companion strategic pathway to diversifying the Council has put expanding its existing industries at the centre of the Economic Development Strategy. Seeing new investment in Mount Isa Mines, the development of major new resource and gas projects, as well as expanding the services sector.

- New funding has been secured to assist the Council's economic development agenda. This includes funding for a new weighbridge, business cases, tourism investments and for the Hard Times Mine.
- Council continued to work with proponents to consider the implications and the local and regional economic benefits of connecting Mount Isa to the national electricity grid via a Mount Isa to Townsville transmission line (Copper String 2.0), and the increased possibilities for local renewable energy projects which may emerge.
- Northern Gas Pipeline was commissioned in Mount Isa and Tennant Creek in December 2018. Council contributed through regular facilitation and engagement to ensure the on-time delivery of the Northern Gas Pipeline. This resulted in gas now flowing to Mount Isa businesses from January 2019; substantially lowering their cost of doing business and ensuring the competitiveness of their operations and value to the Mount Isa economy.
- Support was also provided for the Northern Gas Pipeline extension from Galilee Basin to Wallumbilla/Gladstone and eventual back fill to Mount Isa.

5

POSITION FOR THE FUTURE

Identifying additional opportunities to create benefits to community over the longer term. Council will be proactive in taking preliminary actions now to ensure these opportunities are progressed as quickly and productively as possible.

- Strategic approach in communications to ensure support from distant policy-makers for key future opportunities such as better exploration data on mineralisation and gas reserves of the North West Minerals Province.
- Various submissions to the Queensland and Australian Government have been prepared relating to regional aviation, the Northern Australia agenda, the North West Minerals Province, the Queensland Government's NWMP economic diversification strategy, and Copper String 2.0. This has contributed to policy shifts including recently, for example, better regional resident airfares being offered by Qantas.
- The Discover Mount Isa website was launched alongside a nationwide liveability campaign "City of Opportunity" to promote liveability and employment opportunities in Mount Isa. The campaign included investment attraction and Investment Prospectus components.
- Work on the new Tourism Strategy commenced in 2019 with the launch expected to occur in February 2020. This will enable a greater tourism collaboration for Mount Isa tourism bodies and operators, boost funding capabilities and identify future opportunities.



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