

Mount Isa City Council News



Council handed down its 2024-25 Budget at a Special Meeting held on Wednesday, June 26.

I would like Mount Isa ratepayers to know that our Council acknowledges that we're all experiencing the high cost-of-living pressures, and it's not lost on us that there are a lot of households in our community that are doing it tough.

As a Council, we're loath to pass on the increased cost of delivering services to our community, and we're actively looking to develop cost-saving initiatives to minimise the financial burden placed on our ratepayers.

It's worth noting that Mount Isa has some of the cheapest general rates in



Queensland, but our water is amongst the state's most expensive.

One of our primary areas of focus for this Council is the establishment of North West Water, to bring the responsibility and operation of our water reservoirs – including Lake Moondarra and Lake Julius – and

associated infrastructure under the control of a local entity.

Recently, Council received advice from Queensland Treasury that the payment of our water dividend from the Mount Isa Water Board was disappointingly about \$1 million less than had been budgeted, which highlights the absurdity and dysfunction of the current structure.

That's going to have a negative impact on Council's cash position as a result, and it's grossly unfair that our ratepayers have to chip in the difference.

I'm very proud of the work that this Council has done so far in amending our Procurement Policy, to provide

more favourable weighting to local businesses, and I hope would-be vendors take the opportunity to engage with Council as we continue to keep as much money local as possible.

It's pleasing to see that Council's efforts to recover long-outstanding rates has led to the payment of nearly \$400,000 in amounts owing.

While it's been largely through the Notices of Intention to Sell properties, I'd like to take the opportunity to encourage anyone who's having difficulty with paying their rates to reach out to Council and try to get on a payment plan.

The last thing we want to do is letting things get to that point.

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Did You Know?

- Workforce Australia Local Jobs Townsville (including Mount Isa) will be hosting the 2024 Explore Your Future in the Isa Jobs Expo on Wednesday, August 14, at the Mount Isa Civic Centre. If you are interested in participating in this event, please complete the EOI at <https://forms.office.com/r/A7AiGt6Mq>. The Jobs Expo will be a fantastic way for you to showcase your organisation and increase your connections, as well as meet potential candidates for your vacancies. Schools and the general public alike are invited to attend this event and link with local employers and services to support their employment journey. The expo will run from 11am-4pm, and will be open to the public from 1pm. Schools will be attending from 11am-1pm. A jobs board will be on display throughout the event. Lucky door prizes will also be on offer.

- The Queensland Government has launched combined Rounds 1 and 2 of the 2024-2025 Community-based Crime Action Grants. With up to \$1.25 million available per round, a total of \$2.5 million in funding is on offer to support communities across Queensland. Grants of up to \$75,000 are on offer for short-term, culturally responsive projects focused on prevention and early intervention solutions to address local youth crime issues. Local communities, small to medium organisations, community groups and local businesses are encouraged to identify, design and implement pro-social responses that engage young people and create safer communities. Visit www.desbt.qld.gov.au/yjgrantscommunity to find out more information.

New Passenger Lift for Civic Centre



The Mount Isa Civic Centre will soon be receiving a new passenger lift, to replace the existing ageing and faulty machine.

At its Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday, June 26, Council agreed to award Lifts NQ Pty Ltd a contract worth \$294,550 (excl. GST) for the supply and installation of a custom-built lift for the Civic Centre.

Following ongoing attempts to repair the 26-year-old passenger lift over the past 18 months, it has been determined the machine is at end-of-life and not economically

repairable since its failure in November 2022, following severe storm activity.

Council's contracted service agents, Otis Australia, were commissioned to fault-find the lift, however mechanics could not determine the root cause of the failure.

At the Ordinary Meeting, Mayor Peta MacRae said it'll be great to be able to welcome the community's seniors back to the Civic Centre once the new lift is installed, and to once more hold events for them – such as Seniors' Christmas – at the venue.

Authors' Visit, Mines Photo Display Thanks to RADF Funding

Local school students are set to enjoy creative-writing workshops, and the 2024 Multicultural Festival will feature a photo display celebrating 100 years of Mount Isa Mines, thanks to the latest round of Council's Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF).

At its Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday, June 26, Council agreed to endorse the Mount Isa RADF Committee's recommendation to approve 2023-2024 Round 2 RADF funding to the Children's Book Council of Australia (\$5376), and to North Queensland History Collections Inc (\$3014).

The Children's Book Council of Australia will use

their funding to assist with the cost of bringing six authors to Mount Isa to spend one week engaging students and teaching staff in the area in creative writing and literacy, as part of the Children's Book Council of Australia Queensland's 70th Birthday Celebration.

The authors will visit various Mount Isa schools as well as conduct sessions at the Mount Isa City Library.

North Queensland History Collections Inc. will use their RADF funding to construct wooden photo frames to display a photo collection celebrating 100 years of mining in Mount Isa; the photos will be displayed at

this year's Multicultural Festival.

Round two of the RADF community funding closed on March 14, with two applications received.

The committee held their meeting on May 27 to assess the applications. RADF applications go through a comprehensive process and must meet RADF criteria, as well as the priorities of Council.

The Regional Arts Development Fund is a partnership between the Queensland Government and Mount Isa City Council to support local arts and culture in Regional Queensland. Council offers three rounds of RADF funding per year.

Free Plants for Local Schools

Mayor Peta MacRae and Council staff delivered free plants and shrubs to three local Mount Isa schools – Townview State School, Happy Valley State School, and the Mount Isa Special School – on June 20.

And the day before, Council staff delivered plants to St Joseph's Catholic School, St Kieran's Catholic School, the Mount Isa Flexible Learning Centre, Healy State School,

Barkly Highway State School, and Spinifex State College Junior Campus.

Each school received two sapling trees (a eucalypt and a jacaranda) and eight small native shrubs. The plants were left over from the Go Green Isa/Free Plants Day event held in June. We hope the schools all enjoy the new additions to their gardens and grounds.



West St Sections to be Upgraded

A stretch of West Street – from the Grace Street intersection to the Alma Street intersection – will undergo \$1.35 million worth of rehabilitation works, due to commence later this year.

At its Ordinary Meeting on June 26, Council agreed to award a \$1.35 million contract to Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd to undertake the project, most of the funding of which is set to come from the Federal Government's Roads to Recovery (RTR) Program.

The first stage of works to be undertaken will involve the section of West Street between May Street and Alma Street, thanks to \$380,000 in RTR funding Council has previously been awarded.

Family-Friendly Shows Coming Up

There are two excellent family-friendly shows coming up this month at the Mount Isa Civic Centre.

"You Are a Doughnut" will have two shows on Saturday, July 6: from 10am-11am, and from 1pm-2pm. Book your tickets at www.eventbrite.com.au/e/you-are-a-doughnut-tickets-913039885877.

Join biology teachers Oesoph A. Gus and Dewey Dean as they embark upon an utterly brilliant all-singing, all-dancing exploration of every twisting tube and remarkable organ – with sketches, songs, and sensational science.

Be Sure to Get Your Engine Immobiliser

Have you got a voucher for a free engine immobiliser to be installed in your vehicle? You only have until 30 September to redeem the voucher. In Mount Isa, engine immobiliser suppliers/installers include Quantum Auto Electrics, Autobarn, Cava Hydraulics, and MJ Coleman. Please note that all voucher allocations for the Queensland Government's Vehicle Immobiliser Subsidy Trial have been exhausted. Visit www.police.qld.gov.au/initiatives/vehicle-immobiliser-subsidy-trial.

At the Ordinary Meeting, Mayor Peta MacRae said she was happy to see that West Street's road surface will soon be improved.

Council will apply for the remaining \$1 million in an upcoming RTR funding round, before works on the remaining section – between May Street and Grace Street – are undertaken.

The water services in West Street, from Grace Street to Alma Street, were replaced in 2022 in anticipation of the rehabilitation works.

RTR is a funding program that supports the construction and maintenance of local road infrastructure assets.

And on Saturday, July 20, enjoy the richly visual theatrical experience of "Whalebone". The show is on from 11.30am.

Book at www.eventbrite.com.au/e/whalebone-can-we-save-our-stories-when-the-robots-arrive-tickets-913022463767.

Before the show, there'll be a clown and circus workshop, where kids will be encouraged to be fearlessly hilarious and outrageous, as well as train with different circus objects. Book at www.eventbrite.com.au/e/clown-and-circus-workshop-tickets-917601860867.