

## Mount Isa Regional Jobs Committee Confirms Chair Transition and Welcomes Committee for 2025–2027

The Mount Isa Regional Jobs Committee (RJC) has confirmed the appointment of its Committee for the 2025–2027 term, following approval of the incoming Chair by the Queensland Department of Trade, Employment and Training.

The Committee brings together a strong mix of sector expertise, local knowledge and lived experience, providing the governance and leadership needed to guide delivery of place-based workforce solutions for Mount Isa and Camooweal.

### Strong Leadership and Governance

The new Committee reflects a broad cross-section of industries and community leadership aligned to regional workforce and economic priorities, with representation across:

- Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations – Faisal Khan
- Community Representatives and Groups – Amy Duke & June Ballard
- Health Sector – Bronwyn Hetherington
- Social Assistance Sector – Chris Ruyg & Jess Kelso
- Workforce and Employment Services Providers – Sarah Murphy
- Tourism and Business – Kim Hiddink
- Education Sector – Chris Pocock
- Training Sector – Luella Kay
- Regional Economic Development Agencies – Gillian Mailman
- Resources and Energy Supply Chains – Reece Willcox
- Local, State and Federal Government Authorities – Cr Dan Ballard, Kerry Parker, Steph Nicolaou, Iain Faithful
- Queensland Government – North Queensland Regional Director, Department of Trade, Employment and Training

Together, the Committee provides strong governance oversight and sector-wide capability to support implementation of the Mount Isa RJC Annual Action Plan.

The Mount Isa Regional Jobs Committee is proudly supported and funded by the Queensland Government.

### Leadership Transition

Outgoing Chair Chris Ruyg, who has led the RJC since its establishment in 2024, was acknowledged for his significant leadership and contribution in guiding the Committee through its formative phase.

“Chris has played a critical role in establishing the Mount Isa Regional Jobs Committee as a trusted, locally led platform,” said RJC Project Manager Natasha Storey. “His leadership, strategic insight and commitment to collaboration have helped build strong relationships across community, industry and government and laid solid foundations for delivery.”

Mr Ruyg said it had been a privilege to Chair the Committee through its establishment and early delivery phase.

“The strength of the RJC has always come from collaboration and local leadership,” Mr Ruyg said. “The Committee is well positioned to move confidently into implementation, and I’m proud of the groundwork that has been put in place to support workforce outcomes for our region.”

Jess Kelso has been confirmed as the incoming Chair and will lead the Committee into its next stage of delivery.

Ms Kelso said she was honoured to step into the role and committed to continuing the strong, place-based approach already established.

“The Regional Jobs Committee provides an important platform to turn local insight into practical action,” Ms Kelso said. “I am passionate about ensuring workforce and training solutions reflect the realities of regional and remote communities and support real, sustainable employment outcomes for people in Mount Isa and Camooweal.” “I would like to sincerely thank Chris for his leadership, advocacy and dedication to this work. I look forward to building on those foundations as we move into the next phase of implementation.”

## **Delivering Local Solutions**

Mount Isa Mayor Peta MacRae said the Regional Jobs Committee plays a vital role in aligning workforce planning with current and future economic opportunities.

“The RJC brings together industry, training providers, government and community to focus on practical workforce solutions,” Mayor MacRae said. “Council is proud to support a strong, locally led Committee that helps ensure our region is workforce-ready now and into the future.”

The Committee will now focus on delivery of the Mount Isa RJC Annual Action Plan, supporting sector collaboration, workforce planning and initiatives aligned with regional economic priorities.

## **Staying Involved**

The RJC emphasised that leadership extends beyond Committee membership, with ongoing opportunities for community, industry and organisations to contribute through working groups, projects, events and sector engagement.

“To learn more about the Mount Isa Regional Jobs Committee or how to get involved, visit [rjc.mountisa.qld.gov.au](http://rjc.mountisa.qld.gov.au)

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