

Media Release

Regional Jobs Committee Acknowledges the Leadership and Legacy of Founding Chair Chris Ruyg

The Mount Isa Regional Jobs Committee (RJC) is recognising and celebrating the outstanding contribution of Chris Ruyg, who is departing the North West region to commence a new chapter in New South Wales.

As a founding member and the inaugural Chair of the Mount Isa Regional Jobs Committee, Chris played a pivotal role in establishing the Committee following its formation in 2024. Through his leadership, strategic vision and commitment to collaboration, he guided the RJC through its formative phase, helping shape it into a respected, community-led body focused on regional workforce development.

During his tenure as Chair, Chris championed a collaborative approach that brought together industry, community organisations, education and training providers, and government stakeholders to address workforce challenges and opportunities across Mount Isa, the Gulf and North West Queensland. His leadership was instrumental in developing strong governance foundations, building stakeholder engagement and establishing a clear regional voice for workforce development.

Chris has been a passionate advocate for strengthening the social services workforce across the region and improving pathways into employment for local and First Nations people. His focus on attracting, retaining and developing skilled workers, while fostering partnerships and reducing duplication across the sector, has contributed significantly to the region's workforce development agenda.

Following his term as Chair, Chris continued to contribute as an active and valued member of the Committee, sharing his knowledge, experience and passion for improving outcomes for communities across the North West.

Mount Isa Regional Jobs Committee Chair, Jess Kelso, said Chris's contribution had been instrumental in shaping the Committee's success.

"As our inaugural Chair, Chris helped lay the foundations for what the Regional Jobs Committee is today. His leadership brought together stakeholders from across the region and created a strong platform for collaboration, innovation and workforce development." "Chris has always understood that strong communities need strong workforces. His commitment to creating opportunities for local people, supporting regional services and championing partnerships has left a lasting impact on our region."

"On behalf of the Committee, I would like to sincerely thank Chris for his dedication, leadership and service. While we are sad to see him leave the North West, we wish him and his family every success and happiness as they begin this new chapter in New South Wales."

Mount Isa Regional Jobs Committee Project Manager Natasha Storey said Chris's contribution would continue to influence the Committee's work for years to come.

Media Release

"Chris's leadership was instrumental in establishing the Mount Isa Regional Jobs Committee and creating a strong foundation for its future success." "He brought people together around a shared vision for workforce development and was a passionate advocate for strengthening opportunities across our region. His commitment, leadership and collaborative approach have helped position the RJC as a trusted and influential voice for regional workforce development."

"From establishing governance and strategic direction through to fostering strong stakeholder relationships, Chris has played an important role in ensuring the Committee is well placed to deliver meaningful workforce outcomes for our communities."

"On behalf of the Committee, our stakeholders and partners, we sincerely thank Chris for his significant contribution and wish him every success and happiness as he embarks on this exciting new chapter in New South Wales."

While Chris's departure marks the end of an important chapter, the foundations he helped establish will continue to support the Committee's future work and its commitment to strengthening workforce outcomes across the region.

The new Committee will guide implementation of the Mount Isa RJC Annual Action Plan, supporting place-based workforce solutions, sector collaboration and initiatives aligned with regional economic priorities.

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

To learn more about the Mount Isa RJC, visit: rjc.mountisa.qld.gov.au

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