



News release

Mount Isa, 1 October 2014

Lifeline offered for city's key parks

Three of Mount Isa's parks will soon be returned to their lush, green glory while helping save the city's valuable water supply by switching to bore water thanks to a grant provided by Glencore and funding from the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program and the Mount Isa City Council.

Glencore has provided \$75,000 in Glencore Community Program North Queensland (GCPNQ) funding to sink bores at Sunset Oval, Captain James Cook Park and Parkside Playway Park, securing a reliable water supply to keep the grass growing at the key community parks following two failed wet seasons in Mount Isa.

Since December 2013 less than 240 millimetres of rain fell in the district's catchment areas, falling well short of what was required to fill our catchment dams.

Chief Operating Officer for Glencore's north Queensland Copper Assets Mike Westerman said the bore project was targeted by Glencore as a result of community feedback from the company's 2014 Community Attitudes and Stakeholder Survey.

"In the current drought it's more important than ever that we respect our water resources, conserving water and maintaining tight water restrictions," Mr Westerman said.

"Often when communities are hit with a drought, the first things to suffer are our parks and community precincts that are home to many sporting and recreational users.

"It is important that we take care of our community facilities by continuing to water our city's parks and playing fields used for cricket, athletics and general exercise by the Mount Isa community.

Mr Westerman said results from Glencore's Community Attitudes Survey showed that water and impacts associated with the current drought conditions were key concerns for the Mount Isa community, as was access to community and recreational infrastructure.

"We conduct the survey to ensure we're focussing our community investment activities in the areas of most need across north Queensland and investing our community development funds where they're going to deliver the greatest benefits for local people, so for us, supporting this initiative is something we're excited to be part of."

Mount Isa Mayor Tony McGrady said he was delighted to see the project finally come to fruition.

"This has been a priority for Council for some time now and the benefits this will bring to the social and physical health of our residents and sporting groups will be immeasurable," Mayor McGrady said.

"With the lake levels on the decline, and no rain in sight, this project will allow for the greening and continued maintenance of some of the city's best used parks and sporting grounds."

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“This project will not only benefit the sporting groups and individuals who train and engage in physical activity on these grounds, but help to reduce the amount of fresh water being used on parks now and in the future, and add to the overall beautification of the city.”

“This is a project that the Mount Isa City Council is extremely proud to have initiated, and we are excited to see the future improvements of the city’s green spaces.”

The news has been welcomed by groups who use the parks such as the Mount Isa Cricket Association and Mount Isa Athletics.

Dave Scott from Mount Isa Athletics said the bore would make a huge difference from the current dry and dusty parks.

“We’ve struggled with water for the last few years, so it’s going to make a huge difference and keep a lot of athletes and families happy,” Mr Scott said.

While Mount Isa Cricket Association Secretary Terry Williams said the bores and green grass would be an added benefit for the start of the new cricket season in a few weeks

“The sinking of bores at Sunset Oval and Captain James Cook Park will be a Godsend to Cricket this season as our numbers have grown during the off season and we will now be using these facilities on Saturdays and Sundays. Thanks to Glencore and the Mount Isa City Council for the grant and funding provided to upgrade the facilities,” Mr Williams said.

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Media contacts

Jemma Schweikert		Michelle Connolly	
Telephone	+61 7 4744 3140	Telephone	+61 7 4744 3144
Mobile	+61 412 126 510	Mobile	+61 478 325 738
Email	jemma.schweikert@glencore.com.au	Email	michelle.connolly@glencore.com.au

Notes to editors

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The Group's industrial and marketing activities are supported by a global network of more than 90 offices located in over 50 countries. Our diversified operations comprise over 150 mining and metallurgical sites, offshore oil production assets, farms and agricultural facilities. We employ approximately 190,000 people, including contractors. For more information visit www.glencore.com.

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The site includes two copper underground mines, one zinc underground mine and two zinc open cut mines; the copper concentrator and smelter, as well as the zinc-lead concentrator, lead smelter and zinc filter plant. Together, these represent Australia's largest industrial complex.

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