



12 September 2024

Queensland Law Reform Commission
PO Box 13312 George Street Post Shop
Brisbane Qld 4003

To Whom it may concern,

**RE: Mount Isa City Council's submission to the Queensland Law Reform Commission's
Mining Lease Objections Review**

Mount Isa City Council would like to make a submission on the Queensland Law Reform Commission Review, as mining is an integral part of our city's economy. Mount Isa, in many ways, essentially only exists because of the critical minerals that it mines.

Mount Isa City Council, as part of this submission, would like to suggest that the decision-making processes around mining leases should incorporate a location-based environmental criteria. The current Environmental Impact Statement requirements are applicable statewide and, whilst these protective environmental processes provide necessary safeguards in other regions, it is proposed that the characteristics and environmental sensitivity of our region be considered.

Moreover, it is proposed that the Mount Isa region, a significant mining province, be subjected to a separate criterion for environmental considerations. This place based, de-risked criteria would introduce more fit for purpose requirements for mining lease approvals, expediting the assessment and decision-making process.

The current EIS requirements and the complexity of the decision process extend the duration of applications exponentially, not to mention the additional capital investment required. In the Mount Isa region, this process acts only to hinder applications and deter potential investment.

This comes at a time when the future of Mount Isa's economy faces uncertainty following Glencore's announcement to close its underground copper mining operations in June 2025. Council's response instigated the creation of an economic diversification strategy for Mount Isa.

This strategy focuses on the diversification of the resources sector to retain and promote Mount Isa as the forefront in critical minerals mining in Queensland. To consider continued operation of the copper smelter, third party or junior mining enterprises is essential. Therefore, it is imperative that mining lease processing is expedited through a region-based environmental assessment criteria. Current delays erode the confidence of future investors to the region, integral to the Mount Isa economy and critical minerals industry.

Correspondence
Chief Executive Officer
PO Box 815 MOUNT ISA QLD 4825
Visit 23 West Street Mount Isa

ABN 48 701 425 059
Phone (07) 4747 3200
Fax (07) 4747 3209

Web www.mountisa.qld.gov.au
Email city@mountisa.qld.gov.au

 [MountIsaCityCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/MountIsaCityCouncil)





The projects and initiatives identified in the economic diversification strategy position Mount Isa as a renewable energy hub, supporting national decarbonisation in the Queensland region with unmatched critical mineral and Rare Earth Elements deposits. This resonates strongly with statement 44 from the Summary of problems, Reimagining decision-making processes for Queensland Mining Consultation paper:

“The current processes are not responsive to the key drivers for future mining in Queensland. The Government anticipates increasing diversity in the mining industry and growth in the number of mining lease applications driven by decarbonisation and the demand for critical minerals. To accommodate industry developments and meet the Government’s commitment to efficiency and to expedite critical minerals developments, the current processes must be insights-driven and risk-based.”

Mount Isa City Council appreciates the opportunity to provide a response to the Queensland Law Reform Commission on this important issue. Should the Commission require any clarification or further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [REDACTED] or on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Chief Executive Officer

