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## Treasurer's Assurance CopperString Project Will be Coming to Mount Isa

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Queensland Treasurer David Janetzki visited Mount Isa on July 24 and made an announcement assuring the community that the CopperString high-voltage powerline project will extend from Townsville to Mount Isa.

"This is wonderful news, and I know our community – and others along the Mount Isa to Townsville corridor – will be very relieved to hear that CopperString is definitely coming all the way out to Mount Isa," Cr MacRae said.

"CopperString will be the economic spine of the North West. There are so many mining and industrial projects in the region that are waiting to be activated – however, they are being held back, in large part because of the high cost of electricity.

"We see CopperString as an economic enabler, and it cannot get here soon enough. I thank the State Government for committing \$2.4 billion towards the CopperString project in their 2025-26 Budget."

Mr Janetzki visited Mount Isa as part of a tour of communities along the CopperString powerline route.

While in Mount Isa, he spoke about the Mount Isa copper smelter operations – following Glencore's announcement in mid-July the smelter may be put into care-and-maintenance mode – and reiterated the importance of the State and Federal governments and Glencore coming to the table and coming up with an agreement focusing on short-term support for the



smelter, ahead of the development of a long-term strategy.

"Time is running out for our community. Keeping this smelter is vital to the livelihoods of around 17,000 people across our corridor," Cr MacRae said.

"We don't think the State nor the Federal Government have the appetite for crashing the North Queensland economy, so we hope that everyone will get together and find a solution. This isn't the sole responsibility of either the State or the Federal Government – everybody needs to work together.

"I've met with the Queensland Treasurer and the Queensland Premier previously. Everyone reassures me that there will be a solution, and I trust that that will happen."

Council has been proactively lobbying for Mount Isa's future, in line with the economic-diversification goals set out in the Future Ready Economy Roadmap.