

Chile, Barbados and Dominica followed suit. Indeed, 34 states in the US now tax soft

the same store, all participants received a discount off their shopping bills. A quarter of households, a control group, just got a flat

healthy foods and taxes on unhealthy should choose the latter. For sugar tax work, they've got to be big. - Jess Irvine is a Fairfax Media columnist

# EDITORIAL



Mayoral candidate Joyce McCulloch says her team is not politically affiliated.

I ATTENDED Wednesday's ballot draw for the forthcoming Mount Isa City Council elections.

The ballot went smoothly apart from a minor awkward moment when outgoing Mayor Tony McGrady drew a blank piece of paper out of the hat in the council chamber, prompting one wag present to shout "redraw".

It wasn't serious and nor was I when I joked afterwards that it was easier to handle cats than it was to corral the candidates present into a photo that graced the front page of Thursday's edition of the North West Star.

It was good to see the camaraderie between the candidates who were there and what looked like healthy respect for each other, which is a good sign for local democracy.

Several candidates asked me how I wanted them to line up for the photograph but I replied - only half-jokingly - that the order of the line-up was a political matter and I did not want to interfere.

In the end they lined themselves up as they saw fit and I thank them for their co-operation.

I also apologise to Emma Cillekens of the ABC who was trying to conduct a radio interview with one of the candidates while I was shouting out loudly my request for a photo.

However in all seriousness, we at the North West Star will remain impartial with our election coverage and shall not be actively endorsing any candidates for mayor or council.

We are confident that given the calibre of candidates on offer, the next Mount Isa City Council will be in good hands, whoever is elected.

I congratulate them for having the guts to stand for public office and wish them all well.

That does not mean we will not ask questions.

There will be a candidate forum coming up before the election day which Commerce North West are putting together (details of which will be announced in the coming weeks).

If you have a question you would like to put to the candidates either individually or collectively, email me at derek.barry@fairfaxmedia.com.au

## RDA offers funding clarification

I refer to the story 'Barkly Highway a priority in the Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan' printed in The North West Star February 11.

Although the majority of the information reported was correct, I am concerned the way in which the article was written may have implied that road funding has already been allocated and road work upgrades have been given approval, but this is not the case.

The IQ-RAP was released on February 1, 2016.

After reviewing 16,000 km of road network, the IQ-RAP identifies and prioritises 3000 km of inland Queensland roads and 300 bridges across 33 local governments that are in need of upgrades.

The IQ-RAP will now be used to inform both the Australian and Queensland Governments of these priorities and to seek collaboration on future funding.

Glenys Schuntner  
CEO, RDA  
Townsville and North West Qld

Mount Isa is the birthplace of many great innovations from the minsup clip to the Isasmelt.

It is also known as a leading hub in rural and remote health and has fantastic educational facilities from primary school through to postgraduate which have nurtured many talented people in academia, sports, and the arts.

We also have many great tourist attractions.

These areas continue to grow and provide security to many residents, even during downturns in the commodity cycle.

We need to continue to grow and support all areas of employment in Mount Isa to ensure the city has a long and prosperous future.

Our policies can be viewed on our Facebook page "Team McCulloch 2016" and any of our team members would be happy to discuss them with Mr Smith or any member of the public.

Joyce McCulloch  
Mayoral Candidate

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Preference is given to letters that are less than 300 words. Letters must include the author's name (for publication), address and daytime contact number. Letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity.

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