



Queensland Waste Strategy

Queensland's waste strategy *Waste—Everyone's Responsibility* was released on 22 December 2014. The strategy is available on the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection website. The strategy provides high level direction for waste management and resource recovery in Queensland over the next 10 years. The strategy will be implemented through the development of voluntary action plans.

Review of environmentally relevant activities

In addition to the development of a new long-term waste strategy, EHP has also been working with industry to review the framework for waste related environmentally relevant activities (ERAs).

This review is in response to industry's claims that the current framework no longer suits a modern waste industry. This is a back to basics review, seeking to understand what ERAs are being used for and to ensure the original intent of the regulations remain relevant. This will take into consideration emerging technologies and changing community expectations.

The next stage is to map out a revised framework for waste-related ERAs. EHP will undertake targeted consultation prior to any changes to regulation that may arise from this process, which would not be expected to be made until late 2015.

A risk-based approach to defining regulated wastes

EHP has been collaborating with industry to develop a risk-based approach to regulated waste. This approach will ensure that the most hazardous wastes are always regulated, and will provide a

robust framework for determining whether other less hazardous wastes need to be regulated.

With industry support, EHP has engaged consultants to identify 'wastes of concern' and to populate the proposed framework. The final consultation report is scheduled for March 2015. EHP will undertake further industry consultation prior to any changes to regulation that may arise from this process.

Far North Queensland Regional Waste Management Group (RWMG)

The Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC) is a local government representative body which facilitates partnerships, programs and efficiencies across 10 local government areas (covering 250,000 square kilometres) in Australia's far north east.

The FNQROC Board of Mayors continual review of potential regional collaboration opportunities identified regional waste reduction and recycling as one of their strategic priorities. While acknowledging the lead role that the Local Authority Waste Management Advisory Committee (LAWMAC) has in this area the FNQROC Board recommended that a regional technical committee be convened to further investigate the possibility and options of regional waste solutions.

The FNQ Regional Waste Management Group (RWMG) was re-established in July 2013 with quarterly meetings planned in between LAWMAC meetings. The objectives of the technical committee are to identify opportunities for:

- Reducing regional waste streams
- Increasing regional recycling and reuse



- Sharing resources, information and experience;
- waste contractor development within the region;
- Regional funding;
- Revenue generating and cost reduction;
- Collaboration to address similar issues faced by group's members e.g. legislative,

For a number of years the region had experienced significant issues regarding the management of the scrap metal stockpiles such as the fluctuating global market price, service quality and of course the cyclone season (pre and post event). It was decided that this would be the group's initial project. Benchmarking locally, regionally and interstate was conducted, contractors were interviewed regarding issues and risks they encountered when dealing with councils. The end result was a collective invitation to the market in October 2014, we anticipate councils awarding contracts in March 2015.

To assist in future decision making and recommendations to their respective councils, the group has decided to develop:

1. A snap shot of Waste resources by developing a regional register populated with asset infrastructure data, procurement and service contracts, external drivers, strategies and policies related to waste;
2. Regional Waste Streams Priority matrix (modified version of the National Waste Policy methodology).

I am pleased to advise that Stage 1 (Snap shot of Resources) is complete and development of the Priority Matrix has begun. It is intended that this

data will be analysed to ascertain which waste product should be identified as a priority for action to improve their recyclability and minimise their impact in the waste stream. At the very least we will have a greater understanding and knowledge of the regions waste priorities and be in a position to take advantage of collaboration opportunities.

As with all new groups, there is a need to build the relationships between the council staff before embarking on any significant projects. I am pleased to say the RWMG has united well even though two councils have de-amalgamated in the processes. A part of this has been the "road trips" which have included a tour of the Cairns Regional Council Material Recycling facility (MRF) and another to the Springmount Waste Management Facility just west of Mareeba.



Figure 1 Tour of Cairns Regional Council MRF



Figure 2 Toolbox talk at Springmount Waste Management Facility



Figure 3 Onsite at Springmount Waste Management Facility

ChemClear and *drumMUSTER* are helping farmers in 2015

A ChemClear collection is planned for May/June 2015 throughout Queensland. Bookings are now being accepted and registrations close on March 27.

As in previous campaigns, any chemicals displaying the *drumMUSTER* eligible container logo are

collected free of charge as long as they are within 2 years of deregistration or expiry.

This year's Queensland campaign is supported by the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. Their funding means that any primary producers who register their out of date, deregistered and unknown agvet chemicals will have any costs partly subsidised.

Agvet chemical users are encouraged to register their chemicals through the website www.chemclear.com.au, as soon as possible. Either use the online service or download an inventory form, complete and fax to the booking office.

The *drumMUSTER* Program is also enjoying a great response from chemical users in North Queensland.

The annual promotional campaign which coincides with the end of the crushing season has again reaped rewards as growers have returned their empty drums for recycling.

In all areas growers realise the need for responsible waste management and currently there has been a big response.

The processing of the returned drums will also be a feature of the next couple of months when drum compounds are emptied by the *drumMUSTER* Processors to transport drums for recycling.

Councils have embraced the online database reporting system that was introduced in 2014 and the ease and ability to look at data has been a boost for council administration teams.

Compound audits are being conducted throughout the 2014-15 year. It is imperative that compounds



are kept tidy. In most situations the compound and signage is the face of the program.

Collection of the 25 millionth drum is just around the corner and this will be a significant milestone for the program. The amount of landfill space saved by the **drumMUSTER** Program is a benefit to the country and has saved councils a huge amount of dollars since the program commenced.

Further help for both programs is also available from Queensland Regional Consultant Colin Hoey. Mob: 0428 964 576.

Mackay Regional Council

Mackay residents will wake to new look waste and recycling collection trucks on their streets next month with JJ Richards & Sons Pty Ltd starting their eight-year contract on March 1.

Eleven new waste trucks and four recycling trucks will be hitting Mackay streets featuring council's Mackay Pride campaign. Photos of Mackay's natural assets, which will hopefully encourage residents to take pride in their region and to do the right thing – dispose of rubbish correctly and reduce, reuse and recycle where possible.

Mayor Deirdre Comerford said the new contract would also include the introduction of a bulk bin recycling service for high rise apartment complexes.

"There will be a number of new initiatives as part of the contract which will benefit residents and improve the kerbside collection," she said.

Waste Services portfolio councilor Laurence Bonaventura said improved efficiencies formed a pivotal part of the new contract.

"The trucks will be fitted with on-board cameras and a GPS to allow us to monitor the real time performance of the collection service,"

"This will reduce instances of missed services, allow us to review the types of waste being disposed and help improve the way we respond to any operational issues."

A new fleet of vehicles will be introduced for both recycling and general waste.

Mackay Regional Council is encouraging residents to take pride in their pride in their region and dispose of their rubbish correctly



Figure 4 New look waste and recycling trucks heading to Mackay

Cr Bonaventura said council was pleased to partner with JJ Richards to enhance the region's waste collection service.

"JJ Richards have dedicated staff that have forged a strong partnership with council for almost two decades," he said.

Cr Bonaventura said the new eight year contract includes all existing weekly and fortnightly recycling services as well as plans to look at other initiatives to continually improve waste collection across the region.



Work Commences – Island Transfer Station

The future of waste management for Magnetic Island has forged ahead today with the official start of construction on the waste transfer station.



Figure 5 Director Keith Parsons, Cr Ray Gartrell, Mayor Jenny Hill, Cr Vern Veitch, and Matthew McCarthy at the Magnetic Island construction site

Works commenced today on the \$8 million project which will provide a facility for the transportation of waste to the mainland.

Mayor Jenny Hill said it was great to see construction of the facility get underway earlier than originally planned.

“This project is constructing the future of waste management for the community of Magnetic Island and it is an essential council project to continue to deliver waste services to this part of our city,” Cr Hill said.

“I walked this site 10 years ago when we were determining the best location for the facility and after extensive community engagement it was chosen for its close proximity to the existing

sewerage treatment facility on the neighbouring site and for its distance from built up areas.

“Mendi Constructions Pty Ltd won the bid as the principal contractor for the construction and as Townsville owned company the work provides a boost for local jobs.”

Waste Committee chair Cr Ray Gartrell said the development was critical for the ongoing management of waste on the island.

“The current landfill site at Picnic Bay will soon reach its capacity and there has been a long understanding that this facility would be the next step in the management of waste on the Island,” Cr Gartrell said.

“Initially the transfer station will operate in conjunction with the landfill until it reaches capacity at which point we will move full transportation of waste off the island.

“The council is investing heavily in the island’s waste management and a system that will have significant benefits for the local community and the environment.”

Deputy Mayor and Local Councillor Cr Vern Veitch said he had fought hard to bring the project online ahead of the planned 2016 construction start schedule.

“Today marks an important milestone for the future of Magnetic Island and there will be a number of local residents pleased to see this work commence,” he said.



“This new facility delivers a long-term waste management strategy that is sustainable and effectively meets the balance between protecting and conserving the environment and the community’s infrastructure needs for one of our city’s premiere natural assets.

“It also makes good use of land that includes an area which has been used as an illegal dumping ground for old cars and green waste over the years.”

Road works commenced last year to prepare for the operation of the facility and are continuing. These include the widening of a section of West Point Road and improvements to the Hurst and Yule Street intersection to allow for waste truck access to the site.

The project will include the construction of a gatehouse, a 450sq metre building that houses the drop off facility, resource recovery area, a green waste collection area, security fencing, car parking and vehicle access points.

The waste transfer station will be completed in late 2015 and will commence operations shortly after. The waste transferred to the mainland will be processed at the Stuart Landfill.

13 Million Dollar Major Works for Hervey Range and Stuart Landfills

Townsville City Council will award \$13million worth of works in February to undertake the following upgrades of the Hervey Range and Stuart Landfills:

Hervey Range:

- Construction of new 1Ha cell and associated sedimentation pond;
- Construction of final capping over approximately 7.5ha including a leachate interception trench;
- Construction of a new greenwaste / scrap metal pad and associated first flush ponds.

Stuart:

- Construction of a new leachate pond;
- Enhancements to existing capping including further erosion protection and leachate interception trench.

The upgrades will commence on site in April and will be completed by Christmas 2015.

Townsville Waste Services are in the concept planning phase for the development of Front End Resource Recovery Facilities at the Stuart and Hervey Range Landfills, and a transfer station at the Stuart Landfill. Planning for these facilities will continue in 15/16 with detailed design, with construction budgeted for the 16/17 year at this stage. All facilities will help maximise the diversion of waste from landfill, while the Stuart Transfer Station will significantly increase the safety and amenity of domestic patrons.

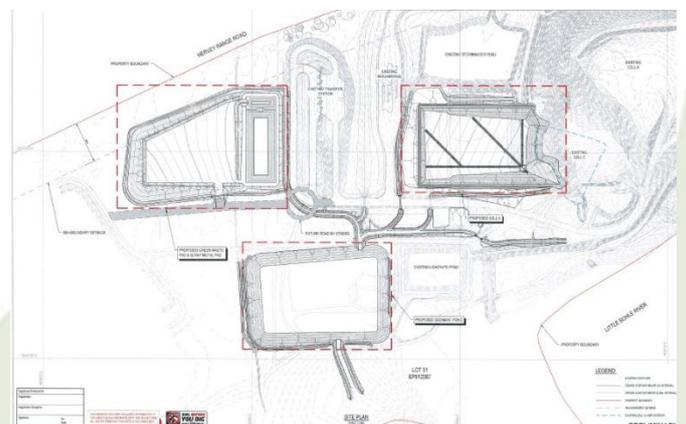


Figure 6 Hervey Range Landfill Site Plan



Figure 7 Stuart Landfill Site Plan

North Queensland Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan

Townsville City Council is working in partnership with Burdekin, Charters Towers and Hinchinbrook Councils to bring innovative waste diversion methods to the region. Locally, Townsville City Council will be conducting a residential waste and recycling stream audit to assist in further developing waste reduction and diversion strategies. This audit will be occurring in March/April 2015. Data from the waste and

recycle stream audits will assist Townsville City Council to progress feasibility studies for the introduction of green organics bins and the potential to reduce waste bins to the 140L size. The educational campaign, through the Rub Out Rubbish brand, will continue to develop based on the findings of these studies.

A public place recycling and litter project will be rolled out at iconic tourist hot spots The Strand and Riverway in the coming weeks. Bins will be retro fitted to increase recycling participation and reduce potential contamination through the inclusion of colour coded apertures and

informative signage with the simple message of 'Recycle here just like the yellow bin at home'. Results from this study will be published in June 2015.

Mandalay Technologies

The naus solution continues to grow and we are excited to tell you about the latest release milestone – naus v1.2 now available.

Naus is a cloud-based waste intelligence platform that changes the way waste strategy planning is done. Naus v1.2 provides you with more power – the power to:

- Support multi-organisation models – i.e. Regions
- Improved facility modeling
- Various KPI improvements – recycling rates, carbon, mass flow and more ...Fixes to recycling rates
- Fixes to infographics and charts in the baseline reports
- Various usability improvements have been achieved, improving experience and performance.

To find out more about the world-changing powers now possible with naus please [click on the link here](#).

There is a lot more planned for naus over the coming months. For more information please contact Paul Theodorou on 0412447950 or ptheodorou@mandalaytech.com.