



Mackay Regional Council

Crushed glass used in bitumen works

Crushed glass has been used in the construction of a new pad area located behind the Material Recovery Facility (MRF). Local civil works company Rock and Road used the recycled crushed glass in the hot mix.

RDT National Operations Manager Zaine Hollister said a good portion of the sand replacement in the mix was recycled glass from the Mackay MRF.



New pad area at the Material Recovery Facility

“Around 2.5 per cent of the mix content is the recycled imploded glass product produced at the MRF,” said Mr Hollister. Waste Services Manager Jason Grandcourt said that it was great to see the product being used by local companies in local construction projects.

“It is very exciting to see a product that was once a waste material being reused as quality product.

“The glass crushing plant now diverts more than 2000 tonnes of glass from landfill each year – a great environmental outcome.”

Whitsunday Regional Council

Weighbridge up and running at Bowen Landfill

Whitsunday Regional Council has welcomed the installation of a new, state-of-art weighbridge at the Bowen Landfill.

Councillor for Division 6 Mike Bunker said that the new weighbridge will replace the previous manual estimation system with a computerised and more precise data system.

“The new weighbridge will considerably improve service delivery for commercial users and assist Council to accurately measure waste & recyclables,” Cr Bruncker said.

“Commercial users of the site will now know exactly how much waste they are depositing and they will pay only for that weight, providing consistent charging methods at both of our landfill sites at Bowen and Kelsey Creek,” he said.



Weighbridge at Bowen Landfill

“Although Council doesn’t charge for most domestic waste, all users entering the site will be



required to cross the weighbridge to enable Council to accurately record the types and amounts of waste being deposited,” he said.

“This information will allow Council to better plan for future waste management services and infrastructure, reduce off-site impacts and meet the needs of our growing community.”

The installation of the weighbridge is a requirement of the Waste Reduction & Recycling Act 2011.

Charters Towers Regional Council

Waste Management in Charters Towers and the surrounding region is progressing in leaps and bounds. In 2014, Council combined with Townsville City, Burdekin and Hinchinbrook Shires to develop a regional waste strategy.

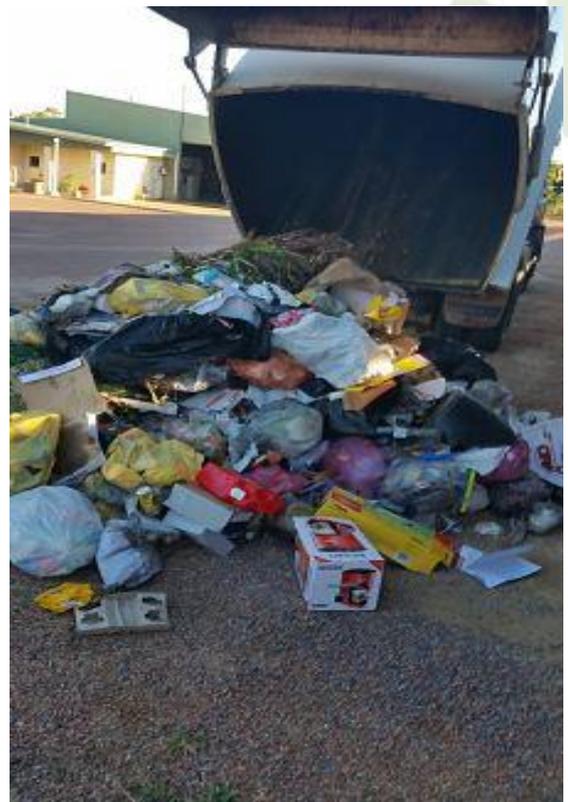
This was only the beginning. The first thing to acknowledge with any plan is that it requires a significant time investment and that the success of same is only as good as the effort invested. As a group we believe we have the right people and the regional co-operation to achieve something quite special.

A plan delivers focus, and for waste management in smaller regional centres it offers an opportunity to lift the profile of waste and the challenges that lie ahead.

Waste Audit

During the early stages of community consultation, Council took a position that we couldn't move

forward unless we understood where we were starting from. So in 2014-15 Council approved a budget for a waste audit, which was considered an impossible dream only a few years prior. The waste audit was only one cog in the wheel to establishing bench mark parameters



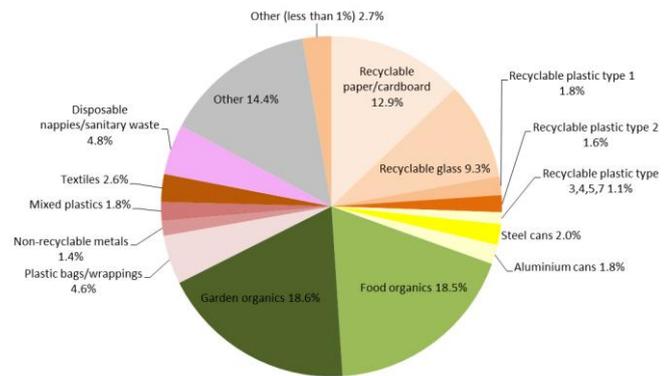
In 2015/16, Council delivered a **waste audit** as promised. This particular waste audit may be of interest because we are one of few Councils operating with a one (1) bin system. The key findings of the **waste audit** are outlined below.

- Households targeted for the audit were evenly split across three (3) suburbs; namely Richmond Hill, Queenton and Charters Towers City.



- The presentation rate of wheelie bins for collection was a remarkable 100%.
- The average waste generated per household was **9.8 kg** of waste per week. This equates to approximately **2,824 tonnes** of waste per year, delivered by Council's garbage trucks. This compares favourably with weighbridge and vehicle data for 2014/15 measured at 2,910 tonnes.
- The top four (4) waste items by weight were garden organics (19%), food waste (18.5%), recyclable paper & cardboard (13%) and glass (9%).
- In the audit, 101 hazardous items were identified, including ten (10) sharps.
- **31%** of general waste could be diverted with a co-mingled recycling bin.
- **37%** of general waste could be diverted with a food/garden organic bin.
- With a three (3) bin system, it is estimated that **49%** of general waste could be diverted. This represents a maximum **total landfill diversion of 1,384 tonnes or 9.2% of the total waste disposed** to landfills in our region, based on the 15,083 tonnes received at council's landfills in the 2014/15 financial year.
- The average bin fullness was 75% and the median 90%. 27% of bins were overflowing.

The following figure identifies the percentage by weight for each category of waste.



Other matters of Interest:

- Golder Associates has recently developed and provided Council with a Leachate Management Plan, a Landfill Gas Risk Assessment Report and a Groundwater Quality Monitoring Data Review for the Stubble Street Landfill.
- Council purchased a new 963D – Caterpillar Tracked Loader for the Stubble Street landfill operations due to commence work 14 July 2016.
- Charters Towers Produce won the recent tender to provide supervision, weighbridge operation and salvage responsibilities for the next four (4) years.



Townsville City Council

Biosolids transport for recycling

Townsville Waste Services has begun transporting biosolid waste off Magnetic Island for beneficial reuse on the mainland. This is a new service provided by TWS and is required now that the Picnic Bay Landfill is no longer active. The material is generated at two wastewater treatment plants on the island and was previously disposed of at the landfill. Transporting the material back to the mainland will allow it to be combined with biosolid waste from councils other treatment plants which is all beneficially reused.

Two images below display the 'Purpose built RORO containers'



Council manufactured its own purpose built RORO containers to hold the waste which are fully sealed and are now in service. The movement of the biosolid containers will be scheduled to coincide with movements of waste or recycling in a truck and dog trailer combination to ensure efficiency of operations.

New-look fleet push recycling message

More than 20 of council's Waste and Recycling trucks now feature colourful new graphics to educate residents about the benefits of waste reduction and recycling.

Townsville Water and Waste Committee Chair Cr Paul Jacob said there were many myths around recycling and it was hoped these new stickers would offer clarity.

"We would like residents to rethink their waste and the impact that small changes to their waste habits can have on our landfills and on the environment," Cr Jacob said.

"We thought the trucks were a great way to get that message out because they service every



street in every suburb so they get lots of great exposure.

“The stickers also have information about composting, how much we recycle in Townsville, and handy tips and information about what can and can't be recycled.”

Council's commercial front lift trucks and rear loaders will have slightly different messaging to target businesses.

Council also offers school, business and community education programs that cover a range of sustainability messages, including waste and recycling.

These programs are tailored to the needs of the group and can include tours and truck demonstrations.



New Recycling Plant Planned for Townsville

A new recycling plant will be built in Townsville in an effort to increase the city's recycling rates. Townsville City Council has awarded RDT

Operations Pty Ltd an eight year contract, with two one year extension options. The company will have the initial capability to sort around 15,000 tonnes of material collected annually from the region's kerbside recycling services.

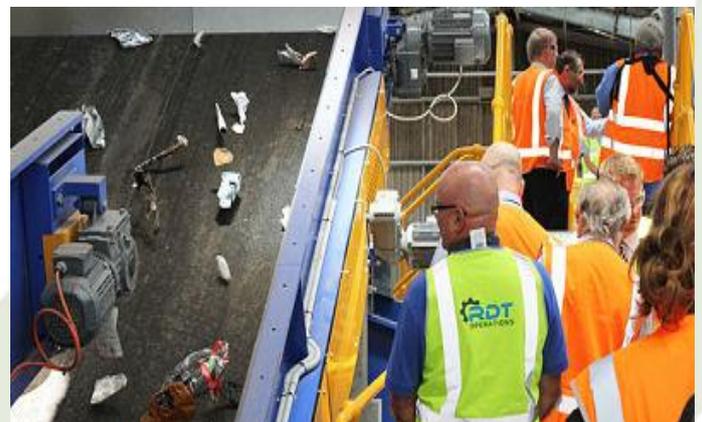
As part of the contract, RDT Operations Pty Ltd, which also operates in Mackay and Canberra, will build a new facility in the Bohle industrial estate and will commence operations on 1 July next year.

Mayor Jenny Hill said the new facility would be an important step towards increasing recycling rates. “Having a high-tech MRF in the city will increase the city's capacity to process at a higher standard. The more the community recycles, the more we can divert away from our landfills.”

Cr Hill said the construction of the facility would create work for around 12 subcontractors. Its construction is predicted to inject around \$1.2M into the economy.

“The plant will employ between seven to ten locals when fully operational and will be available for educational tours.”

LAWMAC members visiting RDT Plant in Mackay'





drumMUSTER

The **drumMUSTER** recycling program has kicked more goals in North Queensland this year following on from the past 5 years good results. Drum return numbers for the 2015-16 financial year show that the program has had an increase 14% in drum returns and participants accessing the program.

Over 126,000 drums have been returned in the area from Mackay to Mossman. This is a great result and proves the value of this national recycling program. Environmental awareness from rural participants is obviously contributing to the program's results as growers continue to manage their farm waste in an environmentally sustainable way.

drumMUSTER Regional Consultant, Colin Hoey is very pleased with the result, not only from the growers, but also council staff that deliver the program. "I thank the staff who have embraced our online data system and have entered the data into the system within a couple of weeks of the year closing", said Colin. "This is a great result which allows the reimbursement process to be finalised within the timeframe required by **drumMUSTER**".

Councils leading the way this year with over 20% increases in drums returned were Douglas, Cook, Cassowary Coast and Cairns.

Going forward the goal remains to try and recycle 'every drum from every farm'. The program relies on support from a wide range of people and

industry to maintain good environmental outcomes which will place the rural sector at the forefront into the future.

"I look forward to this year with the expectation that the program will again be used to its potential and another year of increased participation awaits", said Colin.

Sister program ChemClear is planning for another collection in Queensland in mid-2017. This will give another opportunity for chemical users to dispose of unwanted and out of date ag and vet chemicals. Promotion will commence in earnest early in 2017.

Further information may be found on the **drumMUSTER** /ChemClear website. <http://drummuster.com.au/?s=chemclear>

Hinchinbrook Regional Council

Halifax Transfer Station

At its last General Meeting, Councillors resolved to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with NQ Employment for the management of the Halifax Transfer Station. This decision will help NQ Employment to assist disadvantaged members of the community to learn new skills and play a constructive role in the community. NQ Employment has been delivering quality employment services for people with a disability for more than 26 years. The review of the future management of the Halifax Transfer Station was triggered by Council's desire to reduce its operating cost.



Following popular demand evidenced in a survey conducted by Council last year, the Agreement will include a requirement that NQ Employment operate a recycle shop for furniture, bric-a-brac and general household and shed items. While the Agreement requires the facility to remain open for a minimum of 30 hours per week, hours of operation will be determined by NQ Employment and may be subject to change.

Mayor Ramon Jayo said “with NQ Employment taking over the management of the Halifax Transfer Station, this is very much a win, win for the community. With no extra costs to the ratepayer, the community will be able to take advantage of the recycling facility”.

Portfolio Councillor Andrew Lancini added that “NQ Employment currently successfully run the Hervey’s Range Recycle Shop for Townsville City Council and Council anticipates a successful outcome for the Hinchinbrook community and looks forward to embarking upon its partnership with NQ Employment”.

