



LAWMAC

Local Authority Waste Management Action Committee

NO TIME TO WASTE

NEWSLETTER

Issue: AUGUST 2023

Fashionistas of the Waste Industry!

Rockhampton Regional Councillor Shane Latcham came up with this brilliant idea for LAWMAC ladies to celebrate wearing Handmade LAWMAC Logo Earrings!



LAWMAC Earrings are Handmade by Kai Rose Co and can be ordered via the [QR Code](#).



Mick Fullelove (LGI Limited); LAWMAC Secretary Mary Field; Cr Shane Latcham (RRC) & Anni Colbran (ProTerra Group) at the Cooktown Bowls Club 30-Year Celebratory Dinner.

SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship Opportunities

Our upcoming event in Hinchinbrook is proudly sponsored by ReGroup, ResourceHub, InfraBuild, SMEC, Terra Sana Consultants & the MAMS Group.



Please reach out to the Secretary if your company would like to sponsor the next event in November in Rockhampton or other future events.

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UPCOMING LAWMAC EVENTS

- Aug 17 & 18 2023 - Host Hinchinbrook S/C
- Nov 16 & 17 2023 - Host Rockhampton R/C + 2023 Formal Awards Dinner Event
- Feb 15 & 16 2024 - Host Townsville C/C
- May 16 & 17 2024 - Host Mareeba S/C (TBC)
- Aug 15 & 16 2024 - Host Rockhampton R/C
- Nov 14 & 15 2024 - Host Mackay R/C + 2024 Formal Awards Dinner Event

Copies of minutes and presentations from previous events are available in the Members Area of the LAWMAC website at www.lawmac.org.au/members

Stop. See. Stay. Whilst Rockhampton Regional Council prepare a workshop program and secure sponsors and venues, please feel free to check out other things you can do whilst in Rocky in November.



LAUGH OF THE DAY



Dump Daze coming to an end!

Dump Daze comics are coming to an end...well a pause at least. Sadly, Dump Daze creator, Mitch Crane, from Rockhampton Regional Council has accepted a position away from the waste industry and will soon will be departing. We have a small stash of comics to continue for another few editions.

In the meantime, feel free to submit comical memes, cartoons, or other entertaining waste related pics, to potentially fill this gap and make your colleagues chuckle.

LIVINGSTONE SHIRE COUNCIL

Finalist in Sustainable Initiatives

Livingstone Shire Council is a finalist in the category of Economic Development – Sustainable Initiatives, Council’s Community Resource Recovery Centre has provided a significant solution to the Shire’s long-term landfill challenges, transforming the way Livingstone Shire residents reduce, reuse and recycle.

“In 2021, Council released its Strategy for the Management of Resource Recovery and Waste to 2030. The vision for this strategy was for Council to support the community to transition to a circular economy for better health, environmental and sustainability outcomes,” Mayor Ireland said.

“The waste strategy highlighted the importance of Resource Recovery as one of

the key actions, and from this, the concept plan for a new Community Resource Recovery Centre (CRRC) at Yeppoon Landfill was created.

“Council successfully applied for funding from the Queensland Government’s Resource Recovery Industry Development Program, and work commenced on the project, officially opening in November 2022.”



DEPT STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING

Queensland Modernisation Fund Recycling project announcements

On 18 July 2023, in Cairns the Queensland Government announced a big boost to regional Queensland’s recycling capacity. The announcement of 13 recycling projects funded through the Queensland Recycling Modernisation Fund and the Remote and Regional Recycling Fund highlights the value of collaborating with the Australian Government, with more than \$13.3 million being provided for these projects.

The 13 projects will divert over 68,000 tonnes of waste from Queensland landfill every year, support 147 construction jobs, create 83 ongoing positions and generate \$39.7 million

of private sector investment in Queensland. The new infrastructure will sort, process, and recycle glass, plastics, paper, tyres and cardboard into new products for use in agriculture, building and manufacturing throughout Queensland. Grants to eight councils recognise the pivotal role local government plays in the industry.

These projects are in addition to four projects previously announced with further announcements to follow in the coming months.

For more information, visit

<https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/98246>



30-year Celebratory Event in Cooktown

The LAWMAC Workshop, AGM and General Meeting hosted by Cook Shire Council to celebrate 30 years back where it all began in May 1993 in Cooktown.

Ms Erica Deeral performed the “Welcome to Country” representing the **Guugu Yimithirr People** as Traditional Custodians of the Cook region.

Cooktown Mayor Peter Scott extended a very warm welcome to LAWMAC delegates and wished everyone a pleasant visit to the region encouraging everyone to participate and gain positively from both days.

LAWMAC President Cr Neil Fisher opened the Thursday Workshop proceedings with 90+ delegates in attendance, thanked Corporate Sponsors for their support and welcomed the Workshop Presenters, Invited Founding Members and New Corporate Members to LAWMAC’s 30-Year Celebratory Event.

- Container Exchange presentation by Shaun Fraser on the benefits and outcomes of the Scheme plus Community Group involvement and roll-out into First Nation and Remote Communities
- Auswaste Environmental Services presentation by Kenny Reid on its range of services in FNQ including Container Exchange Depots based in Cooktown & Weipa
- DES presentation by Kylie Hughes on DES Policy Updates and Achievements
- Presentation on the 24th March 2023 Launch of the 6-Week Digital Media Pilot on Education and Behaviour Change Campaign by Katie Bain DES



Christine Blanchard journeyed through LAWMAC’s 30 year history



Jason Grandcourt revisited former Chair Dave Egan & the MWEU “KERBY”

Workshop Topics

- LAWMAC 30 Years of History & Storytelling facilitated by Christine Blanchard, Matt McCarthy & Kylie Hughes by President Cr Neil Fisher with an overview on “Where LAWMAC is Today”
- Mandalay Technologies presentation by Simon Kalinowski on 30 years of Landfill and Waste Management plus another 30 years into the future



Sheils Barra congratulated LAWMAC on its 30 years all the way from the Sheychelles Islands



LAWMAC President Cr Neil Fisher, Vice-President Cr Brett Moller with Cook Shire Councillors Peter Burn & Ross Logan



THURSDAY EVENING CELEBRATORY DINNER at the COOKTOWN BOWLS CLUB with a Tropical Shirt Theme to honour LAWMAC's 30 Years.

LAWMAC at the LGAQ Bush Council Convention in Goondiwindi.



Award Nominations closing soon

LAWMAC is now calling for nominations for the **ROSSKO AWARD 2023** and the **MARY FIELD AWARD 2023**

CLOSING DATE FOR NOMINATIONS 31ST AUGUST 2023



Get nomination forms and criteria on our website www.lawmac.org.au/awards .

All nominations to be submitted via email to the LAWMAC secretary at lawmacsec@bigpond.com

Members are welcome to re-submit any worthy nominations previously submitted in 2022 for consideration again in 2023.

Closing date for nominations for both awards is **31ST AUGUST 2023.**

The Rossko & Mary Field Awards will be presented at the LAWMAC Awards Ceremony Dinner Event on Thursday 16th November 2023 at the LAWMAC event hosted by Rockhampton Regional Council.

Thank you

Well done and huge thanks to Honorary Member & Previous Chair Alan Wilson and Executive Member Cr Terri Boyce representing

Spike in Kerbside Collection “Hot Loads”

The improper disposal of household batteries in kerbside waste and recycling bins in the Cairns Region has become a growing concern in recent months, resulting in a spike of fires known as “hot loads” in kerbside collection vehicles. In particular, the incorrect disposal of lithium batteries, and electronic devices which contain them, are believed to be responsible for an increasing number of these fires. As the number of incidents continues to rise, CRC is urging residents to take responsible action when disposing of batteries, emphasizing the critical need for proper disposal & recycling methods.

The use of Lithium batteries are becoming increasingly popular and widespread, and can be found in e-waste components, such as vapes, phones, laptops, electric toothbrushes, power tools and solar power back-up storage devices. Aging lithium batteries have a greater chance of catching fire as they are more sensitive to high temperatures, impact and moisture, more so than traditional household batteries.

Cairns Councillor and LAWMAC Vice President Brett Moller, said batteries should never be put in recycling or waste bins.

“Disposed batteries pose a significant risk and are known to have caused fires during waste collection, transportation, handling and processing,” Cr Moller said.

“In recent years we have seen significant infrastructure destroyed as a result of fires believed to be linked to the incorrect disposal of batteries.

“Late last year, a fire destroyed the Hume Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Canberra, with a subsequent investigation finding multiple batteries of varying types in the remains of the fire.

“There was also a fire at recycling facility in Kwinana, Western Australia, around the same time, which has also been linked to lithium batteries.

Cairns Regional Council is urging residents to think before disposing of batteries and e-waste into their bins and to consider alternatives available.



“Any battery has the potential to produce sparks and ignite a fire if it’s damaged,” he said. “This year we have had multiple fires reported local waste and recycling collection trucks, most of which have been linked to incorrectly disposed batteries or e-waste.

“There is a risk to the drivers and the public and serves as a timely reminder to the community not to put batteries of any kind in the household recycling or waste bin.” Rather than disposing of the batteries in bins, Cr Moller urged residents to store them, then take them to an appropriate disposal point.

Cairns Regional Council offers free drop-off points across the region for domestic quantities of hand-held batteries at Transfer Stations, Customer Service & Library locations. Many local retailers also offer battery drop off options such as, Battery World, Bunnings, Woolworths, IGA and other participating local businesses.

TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL

OSP operator training

In May 2023 TCC engaged Rob McGahey from Optimal Site Performance (OSP) to provide landfill operator training, targeting compaction in the working face, and managing the incoming waste trucks. The training was provided over 3 days and involved some brief classroom time to fit into our busy schedule, so as not to impact operations. There was also one on one coaching of operators doing the

work on site. During the visit it was identified that we need to focus on some areas of the operation such as working face set out, and also how to maximise the face capacity, while reducing the size, this is some of what will be worked on with the next visit in July.

While the density at the Stuart Landfill is on target, we want to maximise the airspace of the new cell that will be in use by August 2023. Rob also assisted the operator team on completing more thorough walk around inspections to identify machine faults and damage. By improving in this area we hope we will see a reduction in machine downtime, and lower operating costs.

While the TCC have been proactive in the implementation of a GPS tracking and monitoring system on the landfill compactors, we felt that we were not fully utilising the system. OSP was able to work through some of our teething issues we had with designs, and assisted in getting them working the way we needed so they were viewable to the management team, this will assist us in optimising airspace consumption. Time was also spent remotely diagnosing some of the issues we were seeing in the performance of the GPS system. OSP was able to work remotely with our operations team to get the system functioning as we required and provided short training sessions via teams.

Rob is currently assisting with drone survey analysis. We utilising OSP's dedicated Propeller portal to view our old historical surveys, and new flights, our current landfill designs have been loaded so we can now track landfill performance.

We have found working with Optimal Site Performance has been a valuable exercise in upskilling both management and operators with the use of technology allowing for accurate and ongoing analysis of our landfill operations while gaining greater efficiencies.

Reusable Rebate Program 22/23

Townsville City Council's Reusable Rebate Program closed to the community on 30 June 2023. Council received a total of 703 applications from the community with 634 applications meeting the criteria of the program. Approved participants spent over \$88k on reusable products with 60% of purchases being reusable period and incontinence products, 30% on reusable nappies and liners and 10% on other items such as wet bags and reusable nursing breast pads. Council issued over \$40k in rebate back to the community with the highest performing suburbs being Kirwan and Burdell. Overall Council received positive feedback from the community and plan to re-launch the program in the new financial year FY23-24.



Join us at our Landfill to Renewable Power Project Open Day



The mighty Toowoomba Hermitage Road landfill which has already achieved a 130,000 tonne emissions reduction (CO2e), is now also producing reliable, renewable energy. We invite you to come and see how it's done.

LGI's partnership with Toowoomba Regional Council has turned the landfill into a renewable energy power station, supporting a 1000-kilowatt generator. This consumes about 700 cubic metres of biogas from the landfill an hour, powers their wastewater treatment plant and is set up to feed surplus energy into the National Electricity Grid.

Come and join us for a tour of the site and learn how carbon abatement and potentially even renewable energy power generation could be achievable for your council.

Save the Date

Date: Thursday, 7 September 2023

Time: 9.00am - 1.00pm

Location: LGI power generation project at the Toowoomba Hermitage Road Landfill

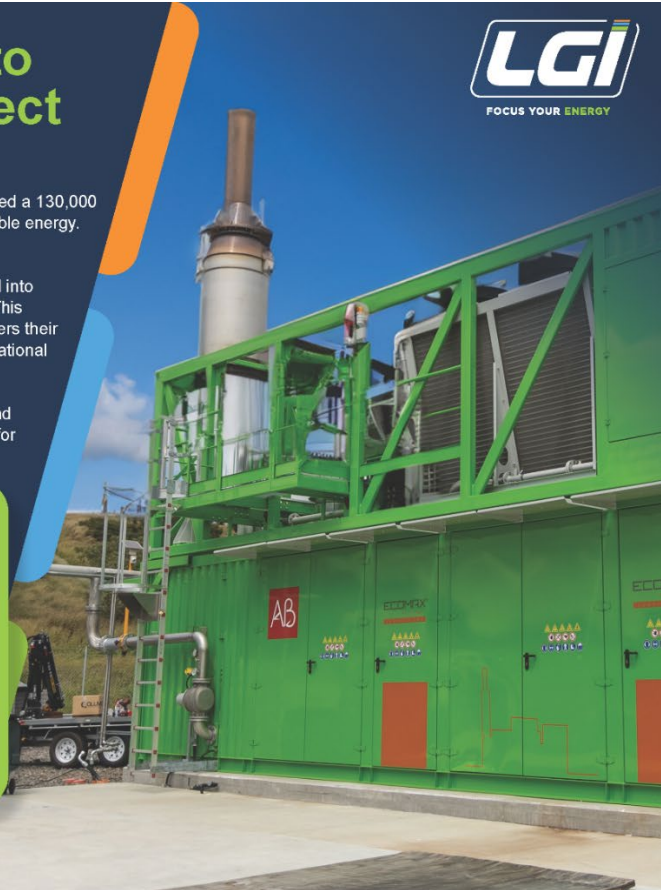
Car Parking & Meeting Point: Upon registration, details will follow for where to meet the tour bus
Refreshments will be provided

RSVP: No later than 24 August to enquiries@lgi.com.au

Limited spaces available

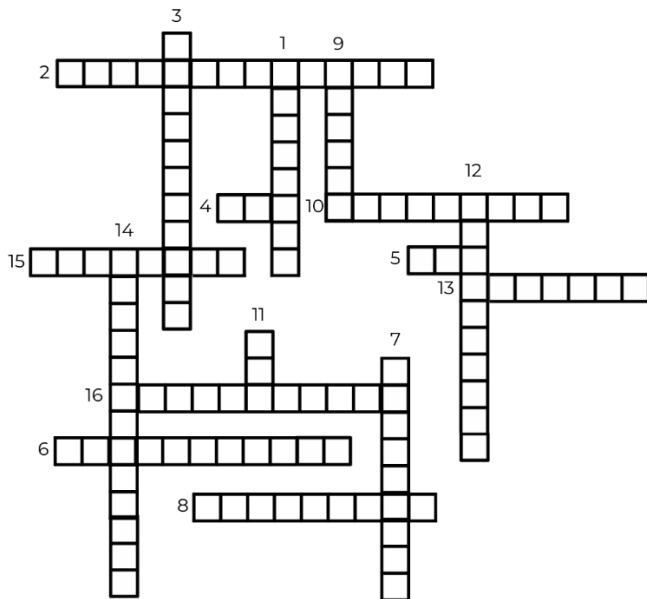
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WASTE WORDS with resourcehub

Find 16 words from the waste industry.



CLUES

1. A physical barrier, often a gate or arm, used to control the entry or exit of vehicles at waste facilities or restricted areas.
2. The practice of managing resources in a way that meets current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
3. The process of adjusting or standardising equipment to ensure accurate and precise measurements in waste management operations.
4. A government agency responsible for regulating and enforcing environmental laws and policies.
5. The total weight of a vehicle when fully loaded with passengers, cargo, and fuel.
6. A waste management consultancy that turns admin into innovation.
7. Subject to specific rules, laws, or guidelines set by regulatory authorities to ensure compliance and proper waste management practices.
8. Relating to or associated with a city or local government, often referring to waste management services provided by the local municipality.
9. A comprehensive program that addresses landfill management and advanced waste treatment practices with a focus on compliance and environmental protection.
10. A machine used to compress waste materials, reducing their volume and optimising transportation and storage efficiency.
11. A government department responsible for environmental protection, conservation, and waste management in some regions.
12. Refers to mixed waste streams where different types of recyclable materials are combined in a single collection container.
13. A potent greenhouse gas generated during the decomposition of organic waste in anaerobic conditions, such as in landfills.
14. The natural process of organic waste breaking down into simpler substances over time.
15. A designated area for the disposal of waste into the ground, engineered to minimise environmental impacts.
16. Organic waste that is capable of decaying and emitting foul odours as it decomposes.

Find the answers at resourcehub.com.au/quiz

Future of FOGO not going to waste



After nearly two years, the Food and Garden Organics (FOGO) trial will come to an end with results set to shape a regional roll out in the future.

Waste and Recycling Councillor Shane Latcham said the FOGO trial, which will conclude soon, has provided incredible insight into organics management.

“Our FOGO champions involved in this trial have done a fantastic job and their active participation and dedication is greatly appreciated,” Cr Latcham said.

“The wealth of data collected during this period has been invaluable and through thorough evaluation we have been able to assess the efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability of a kerbside organics service.”

Councillor Latcham said that careful consideration was given to extending the trial period however several key factors are still

hindering a final recommendation as part of the business planning process.

“The implementation of a widespread regional organics collection service is a complex undertaking and at this point in time, we need to carefully balance the environmental benefits and affordability,” Cr Latcham said.

“Although we had hoped to roll this service out to our Rockhampton region community by 1 July 2024, our primary focus continues to be providing a final recommendation and delivering a robust organics business case that is further supported by the State Government.

“A well-developed business case is an important factor in this rollout and Council will continue advocating for support at both the state and federal level to ensure any financial impacts to residents are kept to a minimum.

“We strongly encourage our FOGO champions and wider community to continue exploring alternative ways to manage your organic waste, as we journey towards a zero waste future together.”

FOGO trial participants will be notified this week of their bin changeover date and final FOGO collection.

The trial will conclude on 31 August 2023.

Read more about the ways you can reduce food waste and compost at home: <https://www.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au/CouncilServices/Rockhampton-Regional-Waste-and-Recycling/Bins-and-Collections/Future-of-FOGO>

RRC endorses Resource Recovery Strategy

This week Rockhampton Regional Council has taken another important step in advancing the region's target of zero waste by 2040, after officially adopting the Resource Recovery Strategy.

The strategy was endorsed following a compulsory three year review of the Rockhampton Regional Council Waste Strategy 2020-2030, which was previously adopted in 2019.

Waste and Recycling Councillor Shane Latcham said that this plan will help guide the strategic direction of waste management in the region and seeks to address some of the key challenges faced now and in the future.



“In March we asked the community to have their say on the strategy and we are thrilled to present this adopted document,” Councillor Latcham said.

“Our vision is very clear - we will become a zero waste community by 2040, and the Resource Recovery Strategy will guide us in achieving this goal.

“This strategy outlines Council’s long-term goals for the management of waste in our region and Council is committed to aligning with both national and state policies that support the move towards zero waste and net zero emissions.

“A significant change in this revised strategy is bringing forward our zero waste target to 2040 rather than 2050, which better aligns with our existing landfill capacity.

“The biggest challenge in delivering this ambitious outcome will be finding a financially viable solution for the residual mixed waste.

“This is no easy challenge, but I’m hopeful we can navigate towards a zero waste future together as a community.

“Our key priorities are empowering the community to embrace the principles of a circular economy, maximising resource recovery opportunities and creating an environment in which a circular economy can thrive.

“As a community we can no longer think in terms of waste, rather we need to think in terms of resources and how those resources can be returned into productive use over and over again.

“Since the first waste strategy was adopted 3 years ago, we have made significant progress toward reaching our zero waste goal, including capturing landfill gas at the Lakes Creek Road site, installing the second ever polystyrene processing facility in Queensland, introducing solar panel diversion and the roll out of the FOGO trial.

“Although we still have a journey ahead of us, I’m confident that with regulatory support and the right funding we will continue to make significant progress and meet our key zero waste targets.

“The community deserves to enjoy this beautiful region, and that’s why I encourage each of you to familiarise yourself with the Resource Recovery Strategy as we embrace the principles of a circular economy.”

Read the Resource Recovery Strategy here: <https://bit.ly/3JwdRe5>

POSITIONS VACANT

Supervisor Waste and Recycling Facilities – Rockhampton Regional Council

Do you have experience within the Waste industry and looking to advance your career?

This is an exciting time for our essential industry with significant government and community interest in what we do and how we do it, don't miss this rare opportunity to be a key part of the Rockhampton Regional Waste and Recycling Facilities team!

This position will proactively work with the team, provide leadership and focus on the long-term and day to day operations at the Lakes Creek Road Waste Management Facility as well as 6 Regional Waste Facilities. You will ensure work is carried out in accordance with management plans, policies and procedures, and be confident in providing recommendations to external parties regarding operational and environmental outcomes and/or customer service enquiries.

Bringing new ideas to improve operational efficiency and waste diversion initiatives to achieve Best Practice standards will be key.

See [RRC website](#) for more details

Applications Close: Monday 14 August 2023 at Midnight (AEST)

Coordinator Waste and Recycling Facilities – Rockhampton Regional Council

Do you have experience in environmental regulation, waste management facility operations and outstanding people management and leadership skills? Council is currently seeking a Coordinator Waste and Recycling Facilities to lead the day-to-day and long-term management of the waste management facility operations in cooperation with the larger Rockhampton Regional Waste and Recycling team.

You will have direct experience with applicable environmental regulation and operation of landfills and waste transfer stations, encompassing all aspect of the operations, including however not limited to; waste acceptance and filling, fleet management, stormwater management, leachate management, landfill gas management and best practice operation methods.

As a hardworking, forward-thinking professional, you will lead the team to achieve objectives with commercial benefit for Council whilst balancing the community service obligations to the local community. With the ability to mentor and motivate a team, you will manage in a safe, compliant, efficient, and cost-effective manner, ensuring your team have a unified approach and work effectively as a team.

See [RRC Website for details](#)

Applications Close: Monday 21 August 2023 at Midnight (AEST)



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