



CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL

Expansion of Portsmith Transfer Station

Cairns Regional Council’s largest self-hauled resource recovery facility, Portsmith Transfer Station is soon to have an expanded hazardous waste & recyclables extension completed as part of a \$1.2 Million upgrade.

Portsmith Transfer station facilitates the processing of over 20,000 tonnes of waste and recycling each year.

Last year more than 337 tonnes of hazardous household waste (items such as oil, paint, batteries, gas bottles and chemicals) were recovered by the team at Portsmith.

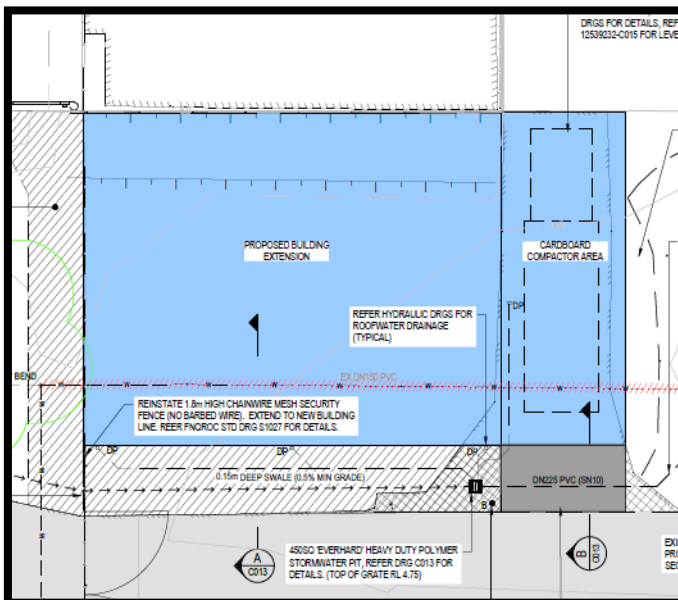


Portsmith Transfer Station

the facility providing for expanded vehicle access for residents.

Executive manager of Resource Recovery at Cairns Regional, Steve Cosatto said “the expanded facility will deliver multiple improvements, expanded storage for materials, increased safety for residents as well as allowing for more materials to stay out of the weather.

Steve went on to say, “It’s a very welcome addition which will allow expanded resource recovery capacity and allow our team to serve the community more effectively”.



The expansion of the facility includes an additional two drop off lanes, increases storage areas for hazardous waste and recyclables including a cardboard compactor and consolidates other drop off areas across



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OSP - OPTIMAL SITE PERFORMANCE

Achieving landfill compaction



We all know that waste compaction is an important part of landfill operations but

achieving it requires more than just a compactor. Rob McGahey from [Optimal Site Performance \(OSP\)](#) breaks down how he worked with Cleanaway's site operations staff to achieve a 16% improvement in waste compaction at the City of Ballarat's Landfill.

The Ballarat landfill receives approximately 65,000t of mixed waste annually. Historically the site has averaged densities in the low 700kg/m³. To extend the life of the current cell and maximize the life of the landfill, the City of Ballarat set density targets in their new contract with Cleanaway.

Rob began work in the first week of May 2022. During initial site visits, operational practices were assessed to identify changes that would maximize density while limiting interruptions to site operations. The changes identified were small and helped the site get back to basics. Thinner layers of waste, multiple passes on each layer, recovering previously applied day cover, and raising the lift height to 3 meters.

Clear expectations to implement these changes were set and pre-start discussion topics were established to help the site supervisor drive the process of change.

As the changes were implemented the operators reported that they could see the difference they made. The working face did not advance as fast as before, allowing constructed roads to stay longer in place. Fewer engineering works were required so they could spend more time at the face.

By the end of May 2022, they achieved a density of 823kg/m³, a 13% improvement, and the highest to date.

Rob made a special visit to speak to the operators about these results. He identified what they had been doing differently, and how it made a difference. This energized them and they pushed harder because they understood their important role in achieving success.

In June 2022 density numbers were 850kg/m³ with a lot of smiling faces from operational staff to management. It just goes to show - site performance is a team sport.

COVID19 helping students get gloved up to sort through their waste



With the recent increase of risk with COVID19 Omicron transmission in the community, a decision was made to temporarily postpone tours of the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). This presented Mackay Regional Council (MRC) with an opportunity to use different approaches to reach out to the community. A recent new initiative has been by making incursions to schools to conduct waste audits with the students.

MRC's Resource Recovery Education Officer, Bruce Thompson, has conducted waste audits at Catholic schools under the 'Waste Watch' program being run out of the Diocese of Rockhampton Catholic Education Office and funded by the Queensland Government's Chief Scientist's Office. Rockhampton Regional Council (RRC) is also participating in 'Waste Watch'.

In Mackay, waste audits were conducted at Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School and Saint Joseph's Catholic Primary School with audits occurring every other week with the students. Included in the program was a tour of the MRF by Saint Joseph's during the MRF's brief

window of tours permitted during 2022 so the students could put a face to Re.Group's team of 'real life recycling superheroes' - its pre-sorting and post-sorting staff.

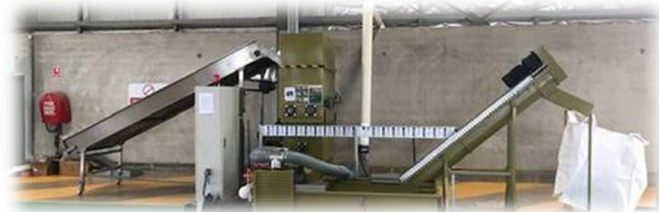
When the MRF tours were suspended again in July, waste audits recommenced. It is now a standard educational tool to conduct both a waste audit at the school and then - when available - a tour of the MRF to show the students how the same mistakes they make with their recycling at school, the general community makes also.

School waste audits are providing useful data confirming that lost resources in general waste bins occur because of the following factors: lack of education; laziness; societal and emotional disconnect from the entire recycling chain; lack of understanding that there is a market value for recyclable materials; lack of awareness of circular economy stewardship in the community; and a lack of recycling culture.

In short, the waste audits are helping inform strategic planning and advertising communications.



Polystyrene Recycling Facility



Under the Rockhampton Regional Council's Waste Strategy 2020-2030, RRC are committed to transitioning our community towards a circular economy with the long term goal of being a zero waste community by 2050, diverting 90% of waste from landfill. Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) has been a problematic waste for landfill operators for many years. The material is lightweight compared to its volume and does not compact well. EPS takes up significant airspace and when charged as a per tonne rate, landfills are consuming airspace without achieving waste density targets or recouping the cost of the airspace.



In 2021 RRC with the financial support of the Department of Environment & Science purchased an Expanded Polystyrene & Polyethylene Recycling Facility. Since the commencement of the Facility operations in October 2021, the Facility has produced 12.84 tonnes of processed EPS. This calculates to approximately 3400m³ of raw EPS and the equivalent in saved airspace. Valuation of the Lakes Creek Road landfill design and

construction, costs airspace at approximately \$61.06/m³. This equates to a savings of \$207,604 in airspace in the last 9 months. Additionally, the processed EPS product is sold for approximately \$600/t to be further processed and used in the manufacture of products such as photo frames and playground equipment.

No Expanded Polyethylene (EPE) has been processed to date. This material can be processed through the Facility however due to insufficient incoming EPE materials, none has been processed.

The EPS Recycling Facility is a relatively new development within the Australian waste industry and over the past 9 months there have been many valuable learnings. Achieving efficient operation of the Facility has taken time, modifications and resources beyond what was anticipated at the outset of this journey. Rockhampton Regional Council maintain confidence in the purchase of this Facility as it brings us one step closer to achieving our goal of being a zero waste community by 2050 and will have long term benefits for the longevity of the landfill site by saving valuable airspace from being consumed by EPS material.



Pushing for New Apprenticeship



Essential for community Essential for environment

There is a critical shortage of skilled heavy vehicle drivers across Queensland and indeed Australia, as highlighted through the impacts of the COVID pandemic and recent supply chain issues. Professional heavy vehicle drivers support a wide variety of businesses and activities including the waste management and materials recovery sector which is essential for maintaining positive human health and environmental outcomes, as well as a sustainable future.

WRIQ is seeking a strong response from Government to support our industry in addressing this workforce demand and believes that the creation of an apprenticeship using the Certificate III in Driving Operations qualification, will provide a valuable entry point to industry and offer a viable career pathway and valid employment outcomes.

The Certificate III in Driving Operations qualification is on the priority skills list (Certificate III Guarantee, subsidised) noting

that the current qualification is currently in Teachout and will not be funded past 20 November 2022. The qualification is also currently classified a Traineeship under User Choice. There must be a supervisor with this qualification (to have a trainee undertaking the qualification) and there is an opportunity for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) of supervisors to obtain this prior to engaging a trainee.

WRIQ has made formal representation that an apprenticeship for professional drivers should be set as a Priority 1. WRIQ recognises that Priority 1 (100 percent subsidy) is appropriate, reflecting that this qualification directly leads to an occupation that is deemed to be a critical priority for our sector (and others) across Queensland. This also reflects the risk associated with the high average age of the existing workforce as well as the limited number of supervisors.

Professional drivers play a critical role in the waste and recycling industry. Collection technologies are rapidly evolving and drivers in the waste recycling industry are exposed to a range of risks and must have the necessary competencies. As such, there is an imperative to declare the Certificate III in Driving Operations as an apprenticeship.

LAUGH OF THE DAY



QLD landfills help keep the lights on!



FOCUS YOUR ENERGY

During the recent energy crisis, the Australian Energy Market Operator and the CEO of Powerlink in Qld issued a plea for help, asking Queenslanders to “conserve their electricity usage” as the State Electricity Grid was dangerously close to not being able to supply the required power.

LGI, dedicated to innovation in renewable energy, responded quickly to the supply shortage to ensure that their seven grid connected biogas to power stations on landfills from Queensland, NSW and the ACT were operating 24/7, including their Benaraby power station in the Gladstone Regional Council area.

In a volatile energy market, LGI has been delivering a viable, stable alternative, mostly to regional councils, for more than a decade. LGI’s solution leverages an often untapped resource - landfills - to produce quickly dispatchable renewable electricity via biogas extraction and flaring, creating carbon credits for Councils while dramatically reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.

How quickly? As Jarryd explains, “LGI’s modular design enables us to build a power station within 3 months from when construction commences on site.” This agile construction process has allowed the rapid construction of sites all over Queensland,

including Gladstone, where LGI designed, built and commissioned the Benaraby power station in 2016.

According to Jarryd Doran, Chief Operations Officer at LGI, the seven power generation facilities operating across Queensland, NSW and the ACT currently are already producing 87,500MWh of electricity annually, enough to power about 15,000 local homes.

As landfills without biogas extraction typically account for 60 - 80% of a council’s carbon footprint, the environmental impact of LGI’s technology is significant. As is the impact on local communities, who benefit from a more stable and reliable power grid, which as recent energy market conditions have demonstrated, is no small feat.



Engine maintenance at Dakabin performed by Jaco Groenewald and Danielle Kastuba



Benaraby, Gladstone Biogas to Power Project - Since 2016

CONTAINER EXCHANGE

CSIRO study links Containers for Change to 30 per cent drop in coastal litter

Over 1 billion plastic bottles have been refunded through Containers for Change.
Lucinda Kent



A new study from Australia's national science agency, the CSIRO, has linked Australia's container refund schemes, including Queensland's Containers for Change container refund scheme with almost a third of the reduction of plastic pollution across the country's coastal areas.

The study surveyed more than 183 coastal sites across Australia and found a direct link between areas with container refund schemes and up to 30 per cent reduction in plastic litter found in coastal areas.

Containers for Change is Queensland's container refund scheme, providing a 10 cent refund for the return of every eligible drink container at the more than 365 refund points across Queensland.

"Where there are beverage container schemes or outreach programs, lower volumes of coastal plastic pollution were observed in the surrounding areas," the study wrote.

Coastal areas of Queensland surveyed in the study spanned down the state's coastline, including Cairns, Burdekin, Gladstone, the Fraser Coast, Moreton Bay, and the Gold Coast.

Since launch in November 2018, the scheme has refunded more than one billion plastic bottles, saving them from both landfill and ending up litter in waterways and on Queensland beaches.

According to the study, plastic makes up the majority of coastal litter and economic strategies such as container refund schemes have the biggest effect on reducing coastal litter, with a drop of 29 per cent less plastic pollution since 2013.

Co-author of the study Dr Denise Hardesty has researched the impact of container refund schemes in reducing both coastal and ocean plastic pollution.

"This paper we've just published points to the value of incentives in reducing coastal litter. We also published previous work where we directly looked at CDL (container deposit legislation) both in Australia and in the US."

"In that work, we found an up to 40 per cent reduction of those items that attract the incentive than the jurisdictions that didn't have the cash for containers program in place."

"When we put a price on items, they don't get lost to the environment at the same rate as when we don't," Dr Hardesty said.

The CSIRO says the plastic pollution reduction research supports the science agency's Ending Plastic Waste Mission, which has a goal of 80 per cent reduction in plastic waste entering the Australian environment by 2030.



<https://www.containersforchange.com.au/qld>

KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL CHALLENGE

Contain Your Waste August 15-21



<https://kab.org.au/campaigns/kabweek2022-contain-your-waste>

KAB Week has arrived for 2022! This year the focus is on WASTE REDUCTION and asking us all to #ContainYourWaste.

Whilst it's certainly important to recycle and reuse, reducing waste right at the source is the most effective and efficient way to make a genuine impact in Australia, to decrease the amount of litter we find in our streets and public areas.

So, for 1 week, from August 15th to 21st they're challenging you to choose an existing container from around the house - a jar, a tub, or a bucket - and contain the amount of waste you produce in that week to the capacity of your container.



George Meacham from Rockhampton has registered for the challenge with KAB and can't contain his excitement to take up any LAWMAC members on this challenge.

JOB VACANCIES

Environment & Waste Vacancies

Central Highlands Regional Council has numerous vacancies within the Environment & Waste teams. Roles include Senior EHO, EHO, Environment & Resource Recovery Officer & Resource Recovery Attendants. Further information can be found on the CHRC Website or contact the recruitment team on 1300 242 686.

APPLY ONLINE TODAY



or apply online www.chrc.qld.gov.au/about-council/careers/current-vacancies/

BARCALDINE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Kerbside Collection

Barcaldine Regional Council has awarded a new region-wide residential kerbside waste collection contract starting July 2022 to JJ Richards & Sons Pty Ltd. Following a competitive tendering process, the 10-year contract includes a new garbage truck which will be housed at the Barcaldine Depot.



As part of the changeover, Council has decided to offer a 50% rebate on replacement rubbish bins for this financial year to modernise the collection receptacles and facilitate a smooth transition.

Barcaldine Regional Council worked closely with JJ Richards & Sons to ensure a seamless transition for residents and business houses.

LAWMAC in Livingstone - Workshop & Meeting 18 & 19 June 2022

L-R Jason Grandcourt (Mcky); LAWMAC President Cr Neil Fisher (Rkptn); Cr Andrea Friend (Liv); LAWMAC Treasurer Cr Belinda Hassan (Mcky); LAWMAC Vice-President Cr Brett Moller (Crns); LAWMAC Secretary Mary Field; Cr Russ Cook (Tsv); Matt McCarthy (Tsv)

LAWMAC’s June 2022 two-day Workshop and Meeting hosted by Livingstone Shire Council and based at the Rosslyn Bay Resort Yeppoon was a very successful event attracting members and representatives from around regional Queensland with 54 delegates registered for the Site Tour, 92 delegates registered for the Workshop and 74 for the Meeting.

Prior to the Workshop delegates attended a Site Tour to the Yeppoon Landfill, Solar Panels at the Yeppoon Sewerage Treatment Plant before returning via Wreck Point at Lammermoor whilst the LAWMAC Management Committee held a Media Conference followed by a Tree Planting Event establishing the “LAWMAC Inc Lane” site with a plaque and fifteen trees.

Darumbal Elder Nhaya Nicky Hatfield and Uncle Michael performed a “Welcome to Country” Ceremony. Darumbal Cultural Ceremonies ensure that vital components of

the Darumbal Lores, Customs and Dreaming stay intact. They provide a time and place where all people in the Darumbal Nation language group and all people in the community work together to maintain and ensure the ongoing survival of spiritual and cultural beliefs of the Darumbal People.

Welcome to Country by Darumbal Elder Nhaya Nicky Hatfield (R) and Uncle Michael on didgeridoo



Livingstone Mayor Andy Ireland 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 Chair Cr Neil Fisher (Rockhampton RC) thanked the Darumbal People and Livingstone Shire Council for their generous welcoming hospitality and commenced the Workshop Topics:-

- Guest Speaker - Minister for Environment & GBR, Minister for Science & Youth Affairs Meaghan Scanlon via MS Teams
- Keynote Speaker - Ms Karen Hussey, Deputy Director-General, DES - via MS Teams
- Guest Speaker Asst Minister Brittany Lauga, Member for Keppel - Education on Waste & Resource Recovery Regional Opportunities via MS Teams
- Resource Recovery Precinct Planning Update -Mark Tierney (DSDILGP)
- Transitioning from Landfill to Resource Recovery & a Circular Economy - Linda Norden & Nick Thomas-Kinsella (GHD)
- Lithium Battery Safety, Handling, Storage at Landfills & Recycling Options - Rob McGahey & Liz Spooner (OSP)
- Pros & Cons of Establishing in Qld with different regulations - Steve Ramsey & Matthew Whelan (Outlook Environmental)
- IWeigh Solutions Corporate Member Introductory Presentation on weighbridge software services by Simon Sandral
- Panel Discussion - Waste Education & Community Awareness at LG level - Ashlee Stockwell (TCC); Kelly Smith (RRC); Christine Blanchard (LVRC) and Kylie Hughes (DES)



*The LAWMAC
Committee Tree
Planting Team
at LAWMAC Inc
Lane at Rosslyn
Bay*

LAWMAC Representation at events



LAWMAC President, Cr Neil Fisher (Rockhampton Regional Council) and LAWMAC Management Committee Member Cr Belinda Hassan (Mackay Regional Council) attended the **Developing Northern Australia July 2022 Conference** in Mackay to represent LAWMAC, with Cr Fisher speaking on the topic of “Kerbside Organic Waste Collections - Northern Queensland Councils Leading the Way”.

Cr Fisher also attended the **LGAQ Bush Council Convention** on 26 - 28 July 2022 in Barcaldine to “Wave the LAWMAC Flag” presenting on LAWMAC’s Journey since 1993 and its Vision for the Future in Regional Queensland on Waste Management & Resource Recovery working towards Zero Waste by 2050.



ROSSKO AWARD and the INAUGURAL MARY FIELD AWARD Call for Nominations

The Rossko Award (since 2006) is Ross Overton Memorial Award for Excellence in Waste Management in North Queensland.

The Rossko Award allows us to showcase the achievements, success and innovation in fields of waste management, recycling and environmental awareness, while maintaining the legacy and also honouring Ross' memory. Rossko was the founding chair of LAWMAC.

The Mary Field Award (inaugural 2022) recognises workers in the waste industry who demonstrate passion and dedication to achieving outcomes behind the scenes, away from the limelight tirelessly providing a service that is the backbone to the organisation.

This Award will give the opportunity for these workers to be acknowledged and recognised for their commitment and dedication to waste management.

Nominations documents including criteria plus separate Nomination Forms for both awards can be accessed and downloaded from the LAWMAC website at <https://www.lawmac.org.au/awards>

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

Closing date for submissions for both awards is 31st AUGUST 2022.

The Rossko Award & Mary Field Award will be presented at the LAWMAC Awards Ceremony Dinner Event on Thursday 17th November 2022 at the LAWMAC event hosted by Cassowary Coast Regional Council.

2022 Meeting Dates & Host Councils

LAWMAC General Meetings are held quarterly with the Annual General Meeting scheduled shortly after the end of each financial year.

Officers of the Local Government Association of Queensland, Department of Environment & Science Qld, Queensland Health, Waste Industry Groups and Waste Management related representatives are encouraged to attend meetings and provide input and information, but are not entitled to vote. Association membership is available to members of Industry, Commerce, State Agencies and other non-government organisations, but will also be without entitlement to vote at meetings.

- **18 & 19 August 2022**
Isaac Regional Council
- **17 & 18 November 2022**
Cassowary Coast Regional Council
- **16 & 17 February 2023**
Mackay Regional Council
- **18 & 19 May 2023**
Cook Shire Council
- **17 & 18 August 2023**
Hinchinbrook Shire Council
- **16 & 17 November 2023**
Rockhampton Regional Council



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NO TIME TO WASTE