



TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Reusable Rebate Program

Townsville City Council launched its Reusable Rebate Program in March to help Townsville residents with the costs when purchasing reusable products.

The purpose of the program is to reduce the number of disposal nappies and sanitary products to landfill and ease concerns around fortnightly waste bin collection associated with Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) trials and potential city-wide implementation of an organics collection service in future years.

As part of Council's Corporate Plan to achieve zero waste to landfill by 2030 and divert 60% of material from landfill by 2026, the Resource Recovery team was allocated a budget of \$50,000 towards this pilot program.

Prior to launching this program, the team consulted with other Local Governments who had conducted similar campaigns to obtain

encouraging and valuable advice on how best to administer the program.

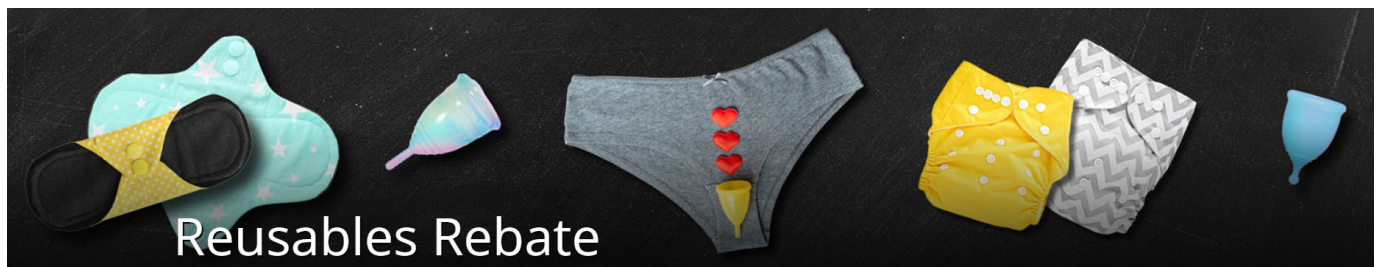
The Resource Recovery team then worked with internal stakeholders such as our Communications and Marketing, Finance and Customer Experience to ensure a successful rollout of the program.

The program was launched softly to the community via social media with a positive uptake and response to date.

The program offers a 50 per cent rebate up to a maximum of \$100 to eligible residents for purchases of reusable nappies, menstrual products, and incontinence products.

Residents can apply for the rebate via a simple online form whereby the residents provide proof of purchase and residency with the rebate being issued via a digital visa card.

The program will be continued up to the 30th June 2023 or until all funds are exhausted.



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CENTRAL HIGHLANDS REGIONAL COUNCIL

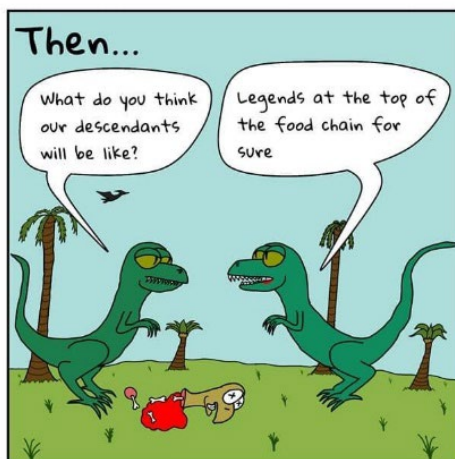
CHRC explores new waste management and resource recovery opportunities

CHRC is inviting expressions of interest (EOI) from the community and market to help explore new waste management and resource recovery opportunities.

The intent of the EOI is to seek responses from interested parties to identify who and in what capacity materials usually disposed at council transfer stations could be reused or recycled by others.

Read more about it [here](#)

LAUGH OF THE DAY



20 Year Anniversary

The CQG Consulting team recently took time out to celebrate 20 years in business.



A regional Qld success story, CQG grew from a sole operator (Patrice Brown) business to what it is today, with 30 plus staff located across the State.

CQG environmental, planning & engineering services to local government since 2003 include :

- Natural disaster waste management coordination & support
- Development applications
- CRS and FOGO Audits
- Compliance & EA advice
- Drone volumetric surveys
- Closed landfill plans
- Contaminated land investigations
- Groundwater, dust, surface water & ecology monitoring
- Stakeholder engagement & training
- Development of regional waste plans

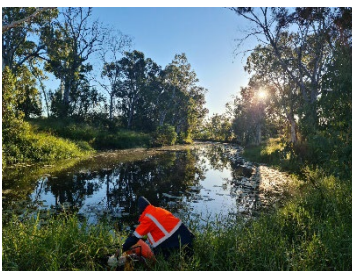


Stand out achievements in the waste sector includes

1. CQG's drive to ensure local businesses / contractors were engaged in post disaster waste collection has seen the team mobilise to assist in Townsville; Mackay, Rockhampton & more recently Brisbane after cyclones and floods
2. Identification of the piggyback (vertical expansion) concept for the Rockhampton landfill that saw its life expectancy increase by > 30 years saving taxpayers millions of dollars.

CQG wishes to thank its loyal clients especially those who are members of LAWMAC for their ongoing business.

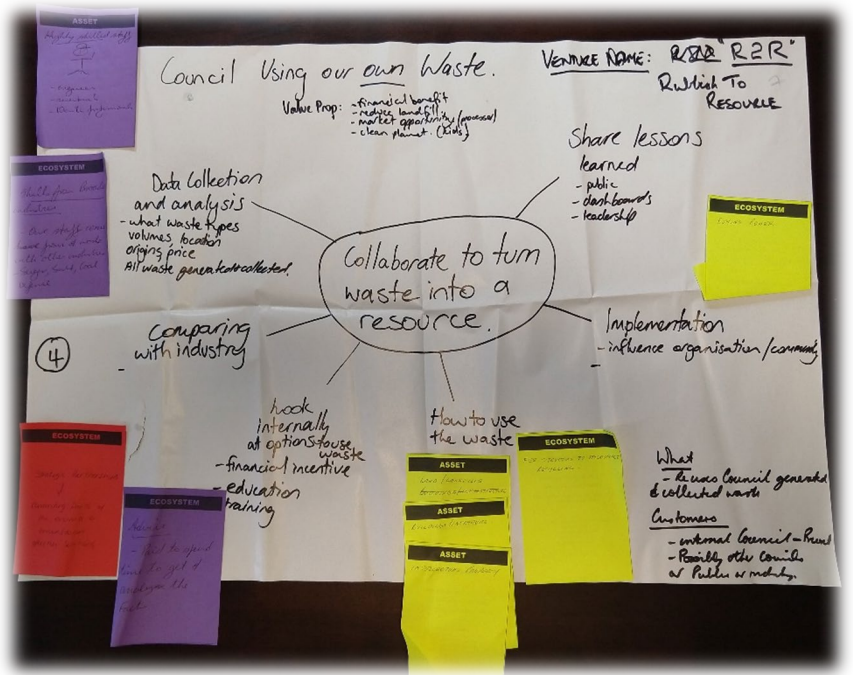
Our staff in North, Central and the Southeast have the experience and deliver value for money, responsive services.



Cracking the Circular Economy Barriers of Queensland Local Governments

Victoria Hammer, Senior Environmental Scientist at CQG, undertook a research project investigating the barriers to a circular economy for local governments with a specific focus on the waste levy zone in Queensland. The research activities were conducted over the first 18 months after the implementation of significant reform by the Queensland Government in waste management on 1 July 2019.

Now that the publishing embargo has been lifted, and the paper is available to view in the Flinders University library via [this link](#), Victoria has shared it with us.

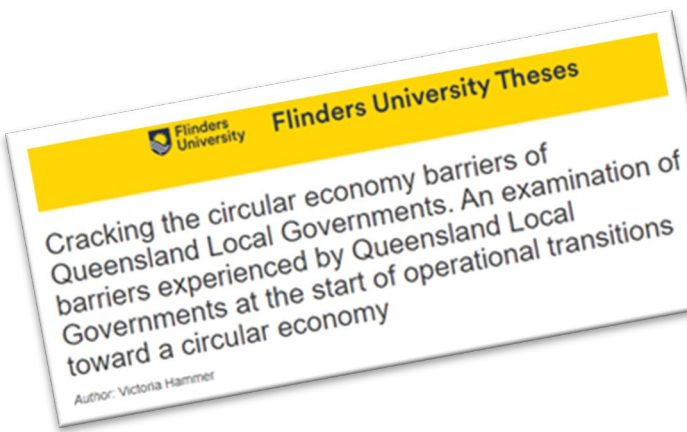


Victoria said, “Thank you to LAWMAC, Townsville City Council, and the Planning Institute of Australia for supporting the research by providing a platform for me to invite members to participate in the research activities and to share the research insights.”

It has been 18 months since the conclusion of the project and progress is being made, though many of the research findings remain relevant for stakeholders.

If you would like to share your thoughts with Victoria, she welcomes contact via email or phone.

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Bin Vision Impairment Project



A new pilot project is underway in the Cairns region to help vision impaired householders better identify kerbside waste and recycling wheelie bins. The

project pilot trialling visual aid label options for waste and recycling bins in the Cairns Regional Council area. The purpose to assist residents with visual impairments to properly dispose of their waste and recycle right.

The project, led by Cairns Regional Council’s Waste Education Officer Scott Paterson, working in collaboration with local disability groups and Vision Australia is designed to improve accessibility and inclusivity for all members of the community.

Over the course of a 2-month trial, three visual aids will be used; braille characters, raised letters and symbols directly applied to the lids of 240 Litre Waste & Recycling bins. The labels will enable residents with visual impairments to independently navigate their waste and recycling needs without having to rely on assistance from others.

According to Steve Cosatto (Executive Manager of Resource Recovery), the pilot project is an important step towards creating a more inclusive and accessible community.



“With the outcomes of the project trial, we want to ensure that all residents, regardless of their abilities, can easily and independently manage their waste and recycling,” said

Steve. “By incorporating visual aids on Council

bins, we’re making it easier for vision impaired residents to participate in better waste management practices and be more independent.”



Waste Educator, Scott Paterson also said “The benefits of the project are not anticipated to be limited to vision impaired residents alone. The community as a whole will benefit from the increased accessibility and inclusivity that the aids provide. We’re thrilled to be working Cairns householders, Vision Australia, Guide Dogs Queensland & Disability Support services in the region to find the most suitable proto-types for our region”.

The pilot project is currently being rolled out in select areas of the Cairns region, with plans to expand the initiative across the entire community if successful. The project has already garnered positive feedback from vision impaired residents, who feel that it has already significantly improved their quality of life and independence.

Overall, the pilot project in the Cairns local government area is a positive step towards creating a more inclusive and accessible community.

Additionally, the project will likely lead to a reduction in waste contamination, as residents will be better equipped to distinguish between waste and recycling bins. This in turn will lead to more effective household waste management and recycling behaviours, creating a cleaner and greener future for the Cairns region.



Getting Planning Right to Enable Critical Infrastructure

In April the Queensland Government released its consultation paper Improving Queensland's Planning Framework – Proposed Amendments. WRIQ welcomed the opportunity to provide a submission on proposed changes to Queensland's planning framework focusing on operational amendments, development control plans, and urban encroachment.

It timely for the State to also review a range of other provisions and how they impact on the waste, resource recovery and recycling industry. In particular, when proposed development is an improvement to an existing facility resulting in enhanced environmental and planning outcomes and the activity is an environmentally relevant activity regulated under the Environmental Protection Act.

WRIQ is seeking to have waste, resource recovery and recycling facilities recognised as critical infrastructure warranting unique use definitions in Schedules 3 and 24 of the Planning Regulation 2017, rather than being considered just another high impact industry.

WRIQ has also requested that the State introduce a level of practicality into the planning regime by enlarging the scope of Schedule 6 (Development local categorising instrument is prohibited from stating is

assessable development) and/or Schedule 7 (Accepted development) of the Planning Regulation.

Waste facilities are critical infrastructure for our communities. The sector is quickly evolving, and site operations need to adapt to accommodate the waste and recycling progression.

It is incumbent on the State to ensure that authorisation for operational works (e.g. internal road layout changes or improvements to stormwater quality) that do not have a material impact on a waste and recycling facility use; and have a positive environmental outcome are streamlined and carried out consistently across Queensland without the need for bureaucratic and costly administration.

A copy of WRIQ's submission to the consultation paper and other planning consultations (such as the

Draft Wide Bay Burnett Regional Plan (2022) can be requested at memberservices@wriq.com.au



HAVE YOU GOT YOURS?

LAWMAC polo shirts

There are a limited number of shirts in a range of sizes still available at \$20 each – Please see Mary at the next event or contact her on email lawmacsec@bigpond.com if you are still wanting to get a shirt.



Our Polo shirts are made from 100% recycled PET! 8 bottles = 1 shirt !!

Rockhampton Airport partner with Containers for Change

The Rockhampton Airport announced, in late February, that they have partnered with Containers for Change QLD.



Suggesting on social media platforms for customers to pop their empty containers in one of the dedicated Containers for Change bins found throughout the terminal.

All eligible 10c containers collected will be donated to charity.

“Let’s get it sorted!”

Rockhampton Regional Council is throwing its support behind a state-wide campaign to encourage the right behaviour when it comes to recycling and understanding exactly what belongs in the yellow lid bin.

Waste and Recycling Councillor Shane Latcham said that contamination of the yellow lid bin is not a problem that is unique to our region, which is why Council is working collaboratively with the state government and other regional Councils to address this issue.

“Council’s revised Draft Resource Recovery Strategy released last week, shows that contamination of the yellow lid recycling bin remains a concern in our region, but we are not facing this challenge alone,” Cr Latcham said.

“Together with other regional Councils across the state we have been advocating for consistency in the way we communicate and

approach behaviour change when it comes to waste.

“This is becoming increasingly necessary as we prepare to transition our communities to diverting 90% of waste from landfill and achieving zero waste!

“We are pleased and excited to be sharing a 6-week pilot digital advertising campaign being issued at the state level which will provide the community with short videos covering six key themes that have been identified as barriers to getting it right at the yellow lid bin.

“The campaign will be seen across 19 Queensland councils from late March to early May 2023.

“Each week we will share a new video to our Facebook page, and I encourage everyone to jump online and like, share, or comment on these videos.

“Tell us what you think - are they effective, will you remember the message, will it make you think twice about what goes in the yellow lid bin?

“This will form part of the analysis and feedback that we will provide the state government to assist in future content development that has the potential to create lasting impact in our community.

“This is also the first step to a broader campaign that Council will be working toward in the coming months to really drive home the message: ‘Let’s get it sorted!’

“As outlined in the Draft Resource Recovery Strategy, collective action is needed if we are to achieve our new revised target of reaching zero waste by 2040!

“This is a great opportunity for everyone to get on board with this message, share any

learnings with family and friends and share your feedback with us!”

To find out more about the ‘Let’s get it sorted!’ campaign visit: www.qld.gov.au/recycling

RRC calls for the community to have their say on draft Resource Recovery Strategy

Rockhampton Regional Council is asking the community to have their say on its Draft Resource Recovery Strategy.

The Rockhampton Regional Council Waste Strategy 2020 -2030, adopted in 2019, was recently rigorously reviewed as part of the state legislative requirement to undergo this process every three years.

Waste and Recycling Councillor Shane Latcham said that this has been an undertaking that has highlighted some of the great progress achieved but also some of the significant challenges faced by Council and the community in the coming decade and beyond.

“One of the most significant changes to this strategy is the need to bring our target of reaching zero waste, or 90% of waste being diverted from landfill, forward ten years from 2050 to 2040,” Councillor Latcham said.

“The position from all levels of government is clear- our communities, our states and our nation must embrace the principles of a circular economy.

“We must adapt our way of thinking to view waste as a valuable resource that can be returned to productive use time and time again - if we are to achieve this new target.

“Over the past 3 years since the first waste strategy was adopted, we have made some

significant progress toward our goal of reaching zero waste.

“Capturing the landfill gas at the Lakes Creek Road site, installing the second ever polystyrene processing facility in Queensland, the introduction of solar panel conversion and the roll out of the FOGO trial are a few of our successes - but we have a long way to go.

“Over the past three years, we have seen an increase in the amount of waste going to landfill and we are yet to see investment in resource recovery infrastructure here in our region.

“The Draft Resource Recovery Strategy seeks to address some of the challenges we face as we refocus our attention toward a target of zero waste by 2040.

“It recognises that a collective effort is required from each and every one of us!

“We need to challenge our ideas around consumption and embrace the concepts of a circular economy.

“It’s’ about cherishing what we already have and creating value out of what we no longer need.

“And, while we face this challenge together, we remain optimistic and that with the right funding and regulatory support we can achieve our zero waste target.

“We are really encouraging everyone to have their say on this strategy with a view to the future of our beautiful region that we are fortunate to enjoy.”

RRC invite the community to have their say on the Draft Resource Recovery Strategy here: <https://engage.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au/> . Consultation closes 11 April 2023.





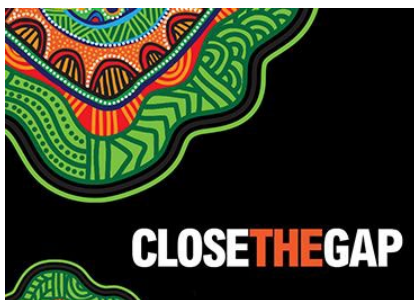
Supporting Indigenous businesses with Supply Nation!

Re.Group is thrilled to announce that we have become a member of Supply Nation, Australia's leading Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander supplier database! We are proud to be a part of such an important initiative that supports and promotes Indigenous businesses.

As a company, we are committed to working towards reconciliation and building meaningful relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities. Becoming a member of this database is just one of the steps we have taken towards achieving that goal and 'closing the gap'.

We believe that supporting Indigenous businesses is an essential way to promote economic empowerment and create employment opportunities within these communities. By actively seeking out and engaging with Indigenous suppliers, we hope to contribute towards creating a more inclusive economy.

Re.Group is excited about the potential opportunities that being a part of this database will bring, and we look forward to working, alongside our Council clients, and with more Indigenous businesses in the future.



Spotlight on our Return-It General Manager, Komal

Our incredible Return-It General Manager of Operations, Komal, was spotlighted by the

ACT CDS team for International Women's Day. *Check out her answers to the interview here.*

Who inspires you the most?

"The woman who inspires me the most is my mum. She was taken out of education at a young age to do housework and married at just 17. When we moved to the UK from India, she was 40 and she learned English within two years by attending evening classes. My mum is the smartest and kindest person I know, and she never had the chance to achieve her potential. She always taught me to be independent, have a career, and never be afraid to go for what I believe in."

What changes have you seen that are breaking down some of the gender inequity barriers?

"In my lifetime I have observed growing awareness of gender inequality, particularly in relation to women in leadership roles and the pay gap. I participated in a Women in Leadership training program—the most incredible thing was sitting in a room with all the other women, hearing everyone's perspective, and cheering each other on to do more."

What advice would you give to your younger self?

"I would advise my younger self to never settle—you can find a job that you love and that creates a broader impact at the same time. I am passionate about sustainability, and I am grateful that my work allows me to make a positive contribution not just to the environment, but to local communities and partners."



Mackay Workshop & Meeting 16 & 17 February 2023

LAWMAC's February 2023 two-day Workshop and Meeting hosted by Mackay Regional Council at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre was a hugely successful event attracting delegates from regional Queensland as well as PNG.

Yuwi People descendant Mr Phillip Kemp representing the Traditional Custodians of the Mackay region performed the **"Welcome to Country"** Ceremony.

Mackay Mayor Greg Williamson 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.



L-R Rudi Pretzler (LGAQ), Jason Grandcourt (Mackay RC), Steve Cosatto (Cairns RC), Cr Rick Hansen & Chris Irving (Gladstone RC) and Jeff Prater (Resource Recovery Aust)

LAWMAC President Cr Neil Fisher opened the Thursday Workshop proceedings with 90+ delegates in attendance, thanking Corporate Sponsors and welcoming new Corporate Members plus special guests Janet Haua, John Navara & Vivianne Morofa from NCDC-PNG to the first LAWMAC Event for 2023.



Yuwi People descendant Phillip Kemp, performing the "Welcome to Country" and to the Mackay Region

The venue was awash with members and delegates proudly wearing their LAWMAC Corporate Polo Shirts sponsored by Cleanaway, ReGroup, CGQ Consulting and Mandalay Technologies.

Workshop Topics

- Recycling Enterprise Precinct Planning Update by Susan Mercer, Director of Resource Recovery Industries, State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government & Planning
- Clean Earth Panel Session facilitated by Cr Neil Fisher with Panel Members:-
 - Kylie Hughes, DES Director Policy & Legislation Office of Circular Economy
 - Colin Kangas Remondis Swanbank - Commercial Landfill perspective
 - Clinton Bond, Compliance Delivery Manager, DES (Mackay & CQ Office)
 - Karl Murdoch, Isaac Council - Smaller Regional Council perspective
 - David DeJager, Whitsunday Council - Smaller Regional Council Perspective
- Mackay Regional Council's Good Edi Edible Coffee Cups Trial presented by MRC Waste Education Officer, Bruce Thompson
- Dr Paul Harvey presented on his book The Plasticology Project
- LMS Energy presentation on Landfill Gas Capture Opportunities and LMS Innovative

Technologies by Zoe Vaughan and Jorjie Higginson

- Urban EP presentation on OTR Tyres in the Bowen Basin (GWCOM area) by Nathan Malin and Nathan Toovey
- DES Update on Waste & Recycling in Qld; Regional & First Nation RWMPs; CRS Extension and End-of-Waste Framework Review by Ms Kylie Hughes

- LGAQ Update on RWMPs; Levy Ready Grant Program R3, DSDILGP Precinct Planning; PFAS NEMP 3.0 and CRS Extension by Mr Rudi Pretzler

Copies of presentations from the Mackay Workshop are available in the Members Area of the LAWMAC website at www.lawmac.org.au



L-R John Navara (NCDC-PNG); Pres. Cr Neil Fisher; Vivianne Morofa & Janet Haula (NCDC-PNG); Dr Paul Harvey and Treas. Cr Belinda Hassan



Delegates in February 2023 LAWMAC in Mackay



Dr Paul Harvey – presenting on his book “The Plasticology Project”

Meeting Dates & Host Council

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

Officers of the LGAQ 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.

<https://www.lawmac.org.au/meetings>

- 18 & 19 May 2023 –Cook Shire
LAWMAC 30TH ANNIVERSARY
- 17 & 18 Aug 2023 – TBC
- 16 & 17 Nov 2023 –Rockhampton Region
+ 2023 AWARDS EVENING

- 15 & 16 Feb 2024 –Mareeba Shire
- 16 & 17 May 2024 –Townsville City
- 15 & 16 Aug 2024 –Rockhampton Region
- 14 & 15 Nov 2024 –Mackay Region
+ 2024 AWARDS EVENING

NO TIME TO WASTE

