



#### ROCKHAMPTON REGIONAL COUNCIL

### Mobile Thermal Imaging Camera

Rockhampton Regional Waste and Recycling (RRWR) recently purchased a trailered thermal imaging camera to monitor the active landfill face at the Lakes Creek Road Waste Management Facility. Due to the often-unknown nature of incoming general waste disposed to landfill, various items have the potential to ignite. On average waste fires occur once a month at this facility and the source of combustible material varies greatly - including but not limited to tyres, oils, green waste, wood waste, chemicals, batteries and mixed general waste.

Waste fires have the potential to cause significant harm to people and the environment through the release of hazardous chemicals to the atmosphere and ground water supplies if the landfill cell liner is damaged. The direct economic costs incurred can include machine and property damage, fire-fighting personnel time, fire-fighting consumables and equipment, waste facility downtime, clean-up costs and potential long-term health effects. Indirect costs include traffic delays onsite and disruption with daily work schedules. Depending on the fuel of the fire some can burn for extended periods of time

utilising significant resources to monitor and extinguish.

RRWR previously depended on neighbouring properties and surrounding community to alert authorities of fires at the Rockhampton waste facility that occurred after hours,

however as the active landfill face moves away from the main road and behind the previous cell, it is becoming less visible by the public. To monitor fires RRWR has installed a trailered thermal imaging camera next to the active cell. The camera scans the face to detect fires particularly at night when no staff are on site - sending cellular notifications and still images to our on-call team leaders and management, who can access live images remotely and proceed with emergency procedures as required.



The trailer is a self-powered solar and battery configuration, with an additional back-up generator plug in available, in the case of potential overcast or wet weather. The thermal camera is mounted to a pan-tilt motor allowing the camera to be moved. The PT motor is set to automatically patrol across the entire face, until a thermal event is detected. When a thermal event is detected, a bookmark is created in system and an email with images from both the optical and thermal cameras are sent to on-

call recipients. The light/siren will strobe red and white colours when a thermal event is detected to aid in alerting of an event. Thermal event alert threshold requirements and parameters are set to alert on temperatures above 200c which are present for more than 20 seconds. This duration helps to minimise false positives and avoids detecting exhaust fumes from heavy plant operating the landfill face.

reducing the likelihood of large-scale, uncontrollable fires.

The installation of the of trailered thermal imaging camera allows RRWR to detect and react to small fires as soon as they arise,



## Stop. See. Stay.

Whilst Rockhampton Regional Council prepare a workshop program, please feel free to check out other things you can do whilst in Rocky in November.



<https://www.explorerochampton.com.au/>

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## Showcasing cutting edge research on phytocap design and ecological rehabilitation

Dr. Ruby Michael spoke at the QLD parliamentarian's breakfast on the imperative of "Re-building soil and plant ecosystems" and showcased a wide range of green asset types including landfill caps.



In her talk, she highlighted the different shades of green, from least ecological value (plastic grass and turf) to most ecological value (unmowed native grasslands and forests) that can be installed on landfills and provide home for animals, including birds and pollinators.

Every two years, it's time for the International Waste Symposium in Sardinia, attended by more than 700 international delegates. This year GIRLS PhD candidate Vishal will be presenting his work: "GIS to identify the value of ecological rehabilitation of landfills". His study identified opportunities and barriers for phytocapping in Queensland and created a multi-criteria identification and prioritization tool to help landfill owners in the selection of ecological rehabilitation options for their site. Dr. Ruby Michael will be presenting on the importance of "Phytocap Plant Selection" showcasing the use of novel substrates such as quarry scalplings and coal overburden, co-authored with Tony Kim.



It's not only phytocaps that can reinstate ecological value. Barrier caps have the potential to establish floristically diverse wildflower meadows that can provide habitat for grassland nesting finches, butterflies and pollinators. Dr. Ruby Michael is currently working with the University of Melbourne and

20 Councils on a large ARC-Linkage grant "Repurposing urban construction waste to create diverse wildflower meadows". This project essentially phytocaps urban parks so that wildflower meadows can be re-established. We are also looking for research partners in Queensland, who might be interested to get creative with the type of capping outcomes that can be achieved.

Tony Kim has submitted his Ph.D. thesis on "Phytocap soil and vegetation design: laboratory and field trials in Southeast Queensland" and is looking forward to working with regional landfills to build more phytocaps. The thesis explores an optimal soil design and vegetation strategy aimed at establishing a robust hydraulic containment system for waste using the principles of phytocapping. For his large-scale research trial in Ipswich (Queensland), Tony and the team from Cleanaway planted 21 species of native trees and 5 species of grasses across 2 hectares. After two years of monitoring, the site resembles a forest and has attracted many animal and human visitors alike. Recent visitors including undergraduate and Masters Site Remediation and Rehabilitation students who were able to learn about phytocapping as one of many nature-based engineering solutions around campus alongside green roofs and walls, bioretention systems, re-wilded creeks and more!

If you would like to participate in the latest research or need support towards a high-quality ecological phytocap design outcome for your landfill site, please feel free to contact Mr. Tony Kim at: [tony.kim@griffithuni.edu.au](mailto:tony.kim@griffithuni.edu.au) or Dr. Ruby Michael at: [ruby.michael@griffith.edu.au](mailto:ruby.michael@griffith.edu.au).



## EPS Recycling

The recently purchased Polystyrene Machine for the Hervey Range Transfer Station has greatly assisted in the reduction of polystyrene ending up in landfill.

Our target customers have been predominantly for domestic users that often bring comingled waste loads to the facility and can be disposed of for free.

The Polystyrene must be free of contaminants such as tape, staples, and other fixings to be processed

The polystyrene is melted down to form a briquette, pallet stacked and wrapped for ease of transportation. To date we have diverted 8 processed/compressed pallet loads ready for sale and transport.

The melted product is currently being bought back by the machine supplier (IS Recycling) and turned into new products such as outdoor furniture, decking, picture frames and skirting boards.

The savings demonstrated of recycling EPS include -

- 1. Additional space** in kerbside bins and contamination diversion from yellow top bins reducing contamination.
- 2. Savings** in bin movement costs from the facility.
- 3. Saving of resources** whereby recycled polystyrene can be manufactured into a wide range of products, reducing the demand for



virgin products and allowing for energy efficient product manufacturing

#### 4. Landfill Air Space savings.

#### 5. Environmental benefits

and reduction of litter issues that arise at landfill when trying to effectively manage/dispose of EPS that has not been diverted.

#### **“Don’t bin in - B-cycle it.”**

Townsville City Council, much like the rest of Queensland, has experienced a significant increase in battery-ignited fires across our trucks and facilities. The potential for these critical assets to be damaged from fire is a serious threat to the North Queensland region’s waste management capabilities.

Recognising this, Townsville City Council has introduced battery drop-off points across our libraries, waste transfer stations, and our operations centre to ensure we’re capturing as many batteries as possible from a wide breadth of the community, ultimately reducing the risk to our waste facilities.

But how to get residents to use these collection points? Whilst those subscribed to

this newsletter are well versed in the risk lithium-ion batteries present in our kerbside bins, the general-public are much less so. A communications campaign that highlighted the risk to our waste facilities, with a simple call to action had to be developed and promoted in a way which did not stoke fear to households and drop off sites. As much as we do not want fires at our waste facilities, we *really* do not



want battery-ignited fires occurring at our libraries.

Previously, Townsville City Council's advice to the public was simply to not dispose of batteries in kerbside bins, but this left residents with no real alternative, and of course with a perceived threat such as a battery ignited fire in their own home, many residents continued placing batteries in their kerbside bins.

Previous market research into recycling behaviours across Townsville had found that residents strongly relate to messages concerning local jobs, safety at work and helping the environment.

Working with our internal Communications and Marketing team, we adopted the tagline "Don't Bin It, B-Cycle It" with the hopes that through radio advertising and an extended digital, print and social media campaign it will become enough of an earworm that residents recall the b-cycle message and will feel empowered to seek out a drop off point next time they have flat batteries lying around.

Whilst there are ample environmental benefits gained through the recovery of batteries, we decided to focus our first round of messaging from this campaign on the safety of our local staff across collections through to the MRF and landfill operators. This messaging will hopefully encourage residents to first and foremost look out for local people and local jobs. As the campaign progresses, the second wave of messaging will bring in themes of environmental conservation and building a circular economy, congratulating the community for their efforts and encouraging them to continue the ideal change in behaviour.

## Tender for upgrades to conveyors and compactors at Hervey Range Waste Facility Released

Townsville City Council have released the tender for the design and supply of a new compactor and conveyor system for our Hervey Range Waste Facility. This upgrade will assist staff in processing domestic waste brought in by residents of Townsville.

The original system was installed approximately six years ago. Whilst the system achieved its purpose, it had limited capacity due to the conveyors being too narrow to convey waste to the hoppers. Further the hoppers were too small to handle high volume or large bulky waste. As a result waste types had to be restricted.

From the lessons learnt it is expected the new system will be able to receive and compact larger volumes quicker. The original purpose of the compaction system was introduced to reduce transport costs by compaction into bins. The original concept was successful for this purpose.

The new system is intended to improve processing efficiencies at the site.







## WE ARE NOW IN QUEENSLAND

Talis Consultants is home to a dedicated team of over 100 specialists offering a wide range of bespoke services:

- Assets
- Engineering
- Environment
- Noise
- Spatial
- Waste

**Kartik Venkatraman** – Principal Consultant & Waste Team Lead (QLD), will be driving our Waste Strategy and Infrastructure service offering and providing support to our other sections for QLD projects.

### GET IN TOUCH

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## LAUGH OF THE DAY



### Retyred

In honour of Mary's retirement, we can only speculate if these waste facility visitors pictured here are retired or retyred!

**FAREWELL MARY! Thank you and best wishes for a wonderful and well-earned retirement.**



Feel free to submit comical memes, cartoons, or other entertaining waste related pics, to potentially fill this gap and share a chuckle with your colleagues.

## What We Do

The Incredible Tip Shop is a not-for-profit social enterprise who employs people with disabilities and disadvantaged jobseekers.

These jobs are provided by operating commercially viable businesses. The Incredible Tip Shop operates the recyclables recovery facility at the Waste Transfer Station in Paget and employs over twenty staff plus a further 6 volunteers. Any surplus funds from operations are put back into the business/es, and no surplus funds are distributed to owners or directors.

Here at the Incredible Tip Shop we see and hear amazing stories all the time which we do not get to showcase as much as we would like.

Our latest favourite story we would love to share is of a council member buying some stock for his frog hotel workshop which ended with this heart touching story.

Bruce came into the tip shop to buy what he needed for the workshop had a pile he had collected and off he went little did we know that this one terracotta pot had so much history and love behind it.

Bruce then held the workshop on a Saturday while there is when he had met Saskia who made Bruce aware of the terracotta pot that was engraved Robbie Maguire that was stolen from Walkerston Cemetery and somehow made its way to Incredible Tip Shop where he bought it for the frog hotel workshop held on Saturday.

Buying everything in bulk, he did not notice the Robbie Maguire engraved name when he purchased it as he stockpiled all the objects for purchase then stored them in the Waste Services shed.

Bruce works with Therese who knows many people at Walkerston so when she handed the pot back on Saturday, understandably not being able to re-use it for the workshop, I gave Therese the pot hoping she might be able to return it to Robbie's grave.

In a strange twist of fate, Therese knew Robbie Maguire and his mother who is still alive. Therese returned the pot to Robbie's mother that day.

His mother understandably was overcome with emotion when she learned about the pot. The pot had been missing for possibly 20 years as it was stolen not too long after it was placed on Robbie's grave.

Robbie was only 17yo when he passed away in a car accident when in the army. It was his father who engraved the words on his pot, and he too died 6 years ago in a horrific road accident.

So, the pot was a touchstone to both Mrs Maguire's son and husband.

We have been part of a reunion that the laws of probability would never have predicted could happen and have helped

deliver a message that perhaps was undeliverable by any other means

The story has touched many people so it is something everyone should read.

Saskia and Therese deserve special recognition for what they have done. Bruce's role in all this was to simply select the pot and the incredible tip shop for saving from landfill.

None of this would have had a special ending if it were not for everyone involved.



## Galaxolide: A common contaminant of concern

The recent NSW Biosolids Regulatory review has proposed new guidelines limits in biosolids for the compound HHCB, which is more commonly known as galaxolide ... but what is it?

Galaxolide was first synthesized in 1960s and is widely used in detergents and fabric softeners where it provides a pleasant clean smell. It is also used as a fragrance in personal care products and household cleaners and has a broad range of uses from inks, pesticides to adhesives. Global production is somewhere between 1,000 - 10,000 tonnes per year. The type of products where it is used means that it makes its way into domestic wastewater, and from there to wastewater treatment. Modern wastewater treatment plants are very effective at reducing the concentration in the treated water.

Based on its chemical properties galaxolide will attach to solids in preference to water, so it will be concentrated in biosolids. Biosolids is what remains of microorganisms after the digestion of organic matter during wastewater treatment. Biosolids is a valuable fertiliser and soil improver for agriculture.

Galaxolide has been identified to be toxic to aquatic life with long-lasting effects . There is evidence that the chemical may interfere also with the body's hormone system (endocrine disruptor). Galaxolide breaks down naturally over a period of months, but the long timeframe gives it a classification of



“persistent”. It is also classified as “toxic” although the compound does not seem to be strongly “bioaccumulative”.

There is only a small amount of data for Australia on the concentrations of galaxolide in treated wastewater, biosolids and the environment. The lack of data means that we don't know if the concentrations in the environment are greater than the level that will be toxic to ecosystems. Combined with the “PT” nature of galaxolide, this leads to a conservative approach from regulators for the chemical.

More Australian data will answer this question, but the real question is: how can we protect the environment from a chemical that is so common?

The only answer is source control: regulating the use of toxic chemicals in all products and better labelling of ingredients. Through informative labelling we can

give the power back to the community to make informed decisions about the products that they choose to buy.

It is noted that Queensland's End of Waste Code Biosolids is due for review next year and it is likely that the NSW work will inform amendments.

More information:

[AICIS Evaluation Statement 2021. Galaxolide and related polycyclic musk.](#)

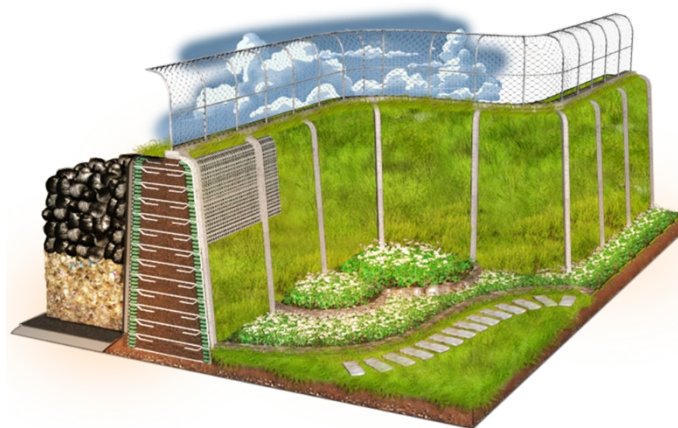
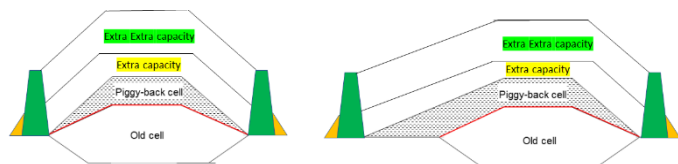
[chemicalconcoctions.org](#)



## Live Landfill Expansion: Erskine Park Landfill, NSW - The Great Wall of Sydney

Landfill expansion can be either piggy-backing or live expansion. Piggy backing is actually building a new landfill above an existing one after it is capped. Live expansion is increasing the landfill capacity while under operation. It will allow the existing landfill to operate while the extension is happening. Live expansion increases the landfill capacity and operation life without the need of going into the closure process first.

The most economic way of such expansions is using geogrid reinforced mechanically stabilised earth wall/berm (MSE wall/berm). This system and technology can be used for landfill expansions as well as construction of new landfills to increase the capacity and airspace without using more land.



Erskin Park landfill is the first live landfill expansion in Australia. Global Synthetics technical team were involved in this project from the design stage through completion of construction.

Detailed designed by WSP, the MSE wall at Erskine Park Landfill is the largest landfill application of mechanically stabilised earth technology in Australia. At 900m long and over 16.5m high, it has raised the bar for landfill engineering.



Cleanaway's Erskine Park Landfill recently won the Outstanding Innovation, Project or Facility award at the 2023 Australian Landfill and Transfer Station Awards for its Mechanically Stabilised Earth (MSE) wall project.

More information about the project: <https://www.cleanaway.com.au/sustainable-future/mse-wall-award/>

The full presentation by Global Synthetics, WSP and Cleanaway on the above project is available if required.

Please feel free to contact Global Synthetics National Technical Manager, Amir Shahkolahi ([amir@globalsynthetics.com.au](mailto:amir@globalsynthetics.com.au)) for more information about landfill live expansion, MSE walls for landfill applications, feasibility of MSE wall option for your existing and/or new landfills, and any other technical support or request for your projects.



## A Waste Reuse Success



The Cairns Regional Council’s annual Trash to Treasure event held on Saturday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, was considered a great success, showcasing the community’s dedication and support of waste reduction, reuse, and better recycling practises. The event, attracting 1,500 community members, exceeded expectations in its popularity setting new records for its impact and engagement.

Now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year, CRC’s annual ‘Waste Re-use’ festival better known as the Trash to Treasure Fair kicked off a day of fun, games, prizes and most importantly a great opportunity for learning new skills for all ages around reducing waste to landfill by making the most of materials at home, work and school.

This year’s event also featured a substantial expansion of upcycling demonstration workshops and local market stalls, offering 2023 attendees double the opportunities to learn about creative ways to repurpose items such as furniture revamping, plastic bag

weaving, bike & small engine repair, bottle top and clothing upcycling.



Executive Manager of Resource Recovery Steve Cosatto



was thrilled with this year’s event “Witnessing such a great turn out and commitment by the Cairns community in supporting a Waste Reuse event like this is fantastic to see. Having our community support waste reduction initiatives like this is very encouraging”.

The Trash to Treasure event was again held in the Council ‘Buy Back Shop’ carpark, bringing large numbers of first timers to Council’s Resource Recovery Precinct and the ‘reuse’ store itself.



Council Volunteers Team

“The Council Buy Back Shop witnessed a 58% increase in sales during this event, showcasing the event’s influence on encouraging sustainable purchasing habits. This increase in sales highlights the growing enthusiasm for repurposing and reusing items in our community, aligning with the Council’s Resource Recovery targets. It was also great to see more than 200 participants taking part in our Resource Recovery 2040 Strategy Surveys” Steve said.





Another standout was fundraising efforts during the event. With the Cairns community raising much needed funds for Youthlink FNQ, the partnering charity chosen by the Mayor's Office. This reflects the generosity and unity of the community in supporting a noble cause.

Parents attending the event with their children commended its child-friendliness, safety, and educational



value as well. The event not only brought the community together but also served as an excellent

learning experience for the younger generation, emphasizing the importance of reducing waste and reusing materials.

Steve went on to say "The Trash to Treasure Fair has definitely established itself in the Cairns Community Calendar, we look forward to continuing community support for higher waste order activities like these".



## Waste Expo Australia 2023 - Melbourne attendance

Deputy Chair of LAWMAC Cr Brett Moller from the Cairns Regional Council attended the Waste Expo Australia conference in Melbourne in October.

Cr Moller advised it was one of the largest conferences he had attended in terms of attendees and exhibitors showcasing the many moving components involved in resource recovery.

"When you consider all the moving parts that go into resource recovery you appreciate the expertise and investment involved and required, and then you look at the policy and legislative field you operate in by all levels of government, and you understand the complexity of it all" commented Cr Moller.

The conference was themed across Local Government, Circular Economy and Policy, Commercial and Industrial/ Construction and Demolition, and Waste to Energy/Energy from Waste.

With National and International presenters, it was good to get an overview of where we as a nation and our individual States are tracking in terms of best practice when compared to the advancements in the United Kingdom, Europe and elsewhere overseas.

Clearly though, in comparison, Australia is a young nation in terms of industrialisation, low in population that is centralised along the eastern seaboard, and in capital cities, which brings a host of challenges in looking at our resource recovery planning, and transitioning to circular economy principles.

Cr Moller looks forward to sharing his insights at the next LAWMAC meeting in Rockhampton.





## Hinchinbrook August 2023 recap



*L-R – Cr Andrew Lancini (Hinchinbrook SC), Cr Kate Milton (Hinchinbrook SC), Hinchinbrook Mayor Ramon Jayo, LAWMAC President Cr Neil Fisher (Rockhampton RC); LAWMAC Treasurer Cr Belinda Hassan (Mackay RC), LAWMAC Vice-President Cr Brett Moller (Cairns RC)*

LAWMAC’s August 2023 two-day Workshop and Meeting hosted by Hinchinbrook Shire Council at the Tyto Wetlands Conference



Centre in Ingham was a hugely successful event attracting approx 80 delegates from across regional Queensland.

On the day preceding this event Hinchinbrook Shire Council hosted an afternoon Field Trip to the beautiful Wallaman Falls area with a quick stopover at the rural town of Trebonne – Gateway to Hinchinbrook’s Wilderness Experiences.

“Welcome to Country” Ceremony was performed representing the 5 Traditional Owner Groups of the Bandjin, Warrgamay,

Nywaigi, Wulgurukaba & Gugu Badhun People in the Hinchinbrook Region.

**Hinchinbrook Mayor Ramon Jayo** 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, thanking Corporate Sponsors and welcoming the Workshop Presenters and Invited Guests.

### LAWMAC Workshop Topics

- **WRIQ Lithium Batteries Advocacy Update & Fire Insurance Report** by Alison Price, WRIQ CEO followed by Discussion Session on Lithium Battery Safety at Landfill Sites, Waste Transfer Stations and in Waste Collection Vehicles
- **Panel Discussion on Public Waste Recycling – Does it Work?**

Facilitated by Hayley Page, Townsville City Council with Panel Members, **Veronica Aster**, Hinchinbrook Shire Council, **Tamara Hinchey**, Container Exchange & **Linda Nordin**, SMEC

- **Social Licence to Operate Framework as developed by CSIRO** by Mark Smith, MRA Consultants
- **Hinchinbrook Shire Council’s Bin Tagging Education Program** by Craig Hutchings, Hinchinbrook Council



- **Residue Waste Levy Exemption for MRFs** by Kylie Hughes, Director of Policy & Legislation, Office of Circular Economy, DES
- **Smart Precinct Recycling Innovation** by Jason Lange, Atlas Soils
- **Qld Waste Levy Compliance Audits** by Lacey Webb, Resource Hub
- **Big Bag Recovery Product Stewardship Scheme** by Rob Henderson, National Logistics Manager
- **The Recycle Mate Program** by Lara Barclay Adaptation Environmental Support
- **Using Organic Waste Streams-Learnings from the Sugarcane Industry** by Lawrence Di Bella, Herbert Cane Productivity Services
- **Presentation on Disposal Ban Consultation** by Kylie Hughes, Director of Policy & Legislation, Office of Circular Economy, DES
- **Brief Introduction & Update by LAWMAC Corporate Member & Sponsor InfraBuild Recycling**
- **One-Hour Session for presentation of Waste Reports**



## UPCOMING LAWMAC EVENTS

- **Nov 16 & 17 2023 - Rockhampton General Meeting + 2023 Awards Dinner Event**
- **Feb 15 & 16 2024 - CANCELLED** due to caretaker mode & LG elections
- **May 16 & 17 2024 - Townsville AGM**
- **July 19 & 19 2024 - Cairns General Meeting**
- **Sept 19 & 20 2024 - Rockhampton General Meeting**
- **Nov 14 & 15 2024 - Mackay General Meeting + 2024 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](http://www.lawmac.org.au/members)



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Photos from George Meacham (RRC) in UK

## ENVIROCOM

### Shirt Selfie

Alix Baltais introducing her new little lady, Charlie, honorary 'Wastie'.



## POSITIONS VACANT

### Lockyer Valley Regional Council

#### Manager Waste Services

Lockyer Valley Regional Council is seeking applications from dynamic, innovative and experienced individuals for the position of Manager Waste Services to join our Waste Services branch.

The purpose of this position is to provide high-level management and leadership to a diverse team of professional, technical, administrative, and operational staff on all aspects of waste operations, waste transfer stations, waste, recycling and landfill contracts, cleansing operations and general waste management services, including environmental aspects.

This is a full time, 5-year contract position, with applications closing 6 November 2023.

For further information please refer to Council's [website](#).