



LAWMAC

Local Authority Waste Management Action Committee

NO TIME TO WASTE

NEWSLETTER

Issue: NOVEMBER 2022

TOWNSVILLE REGIONAL COUNCIL

FOGO to GO ahead



Townsville City Council has resolved to extend the existing ~1500 FOGO and GO services to at least June 30, 2023. This will allow Council to continue learning how best to deliver an organics service ahead of a potential city wide roll out.

During this time, to help improve the quality of the FOGO compost, making it easier for residents and to reduce contamination, Council is updating the FOGO acceptance criteria to only accept food and garden waste as well as certified compostable liners. Common items inclusive of fibre-based products such as paper, cardboard and napkins, commercially compostable food & drink packaging & pet waste will, therefore, no longer be accepted in organics bins.

In the year since the FOGO service has commenced, 466 tonnes of food and garden organics have been diverted from landfill, the same weight as 35 rubbish trucks. This also represents savings equivalent to 100 cars driving on the road for a year in CO2 emissions.



In addition to the FOGO service, Townsville City Council has also commenced a Commercial Food Organics (COFO) Trial in partnership with Boomerang Alliance's Plastic Free Townsville and the Queensland Government. The COFO trial will take place for 12 weeks across September to December and involves 20 cafés which in the first four weeks have diverted 4 tonnes of food waste from landfill.



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MACKAY REGIONAL COUNCIL

Waste Education Trailer at Moranbah



Bruce Thompson, Resource Recovery Education Officer at Mackay Regional Council drove and set up the Mobile Waste Education Trailer for display on adjoining ground to the LAWMAC Workshop & Meeting Event hosted by Isaac Regional Council at the Moranbah Community Centre Precinct.

Bruce was very happy to meet with delegates and visitors interested in viewing the Waste Education Trailer and take them through the Reduce / Reuse / Recycle / Reinvest Section plus the Worm Farming Display.



That's a wrap – FOGO trial closed

Rockhampton Regional Council has officially marked the end of the Food and Garden Organics (FOGO) trial period, but the service is set to continue for most participating households.

Waste and Recycling Councillor Shane Latcham said all trial participants were given the option to continue to receive the service, and most were keen to keep going with FOGO.

"We have seen a really positive take up of this offer and we currently have around 600 households continuing to receive the FOGO service," Cr Latcham said.

"The communities in the trial areas really did a fantastic job adapting to this new service and we wanted to thank them for their commitment.

"Those who have embraced the change will be a great example to the wider community when we roll out the service across the region in 2024.

"A business case is currently being prepared in support of a community wide roll-out, but while this work is being done, Council wanted to invest in the community who have demonstrated their willingness to adapt their waste behaviours.

"For most, it was a smooth transition to using the new service, and through our regular bin audits, we were able to identify where households may need a little extra support.

"We will continue to work with our community of FOGO champions to assist them along the way, as we gain valuable insight into any challenges they may still be facing in the year ahead.

"This will help identify where we may need to focus our efforts when it comes to assisting the wider community to adapt their waste behaviours when FOGO finally arrives."

Southside resident and FOGO Champion Ronan Foolkes said he was grateful to be a part of the trial and can't wait for the service to be rolled out region-wide.

"This is something that my wife and I have been supportive of from the beginning," Mr Foolkes said.

"It has been a very easy transition for us and the sooner the service is offered to the whole community the better."

Councillor Latcham said diverting FOGO from landfill is a critical step toward our strategic goal of reaching Zero Waste and building a circular economy.

"Putting organic waste in landfill is one of Council's biggest generators of greenhouse gases, so it makes sense to divert it away from landfill and turn it into compost to improve soil on local farms.

"I want to thank all the FOGO trial households once again - in the last 12 months you have made a tremendous impact on our local environment!"

FOGO Trial Facts:

1. 282 tonnes of organic waste have been diverted from landfill – that's the carbon equivalent of the annual total carbon emissions from 19 households
2. Households with the GO service diverted 41% of their total household waste from landfill
3. Households with the FOGO service diverted 67% of their total household



waste from landfill

To find out more about FOGO visit: <https://www.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au/CouncilServices/Rockhampton-Regional-Waste-and-Recycling/FOGO-and-the-move-to-Zero-Waste-by-2050>



Treasure to be found



One person's trash became another person's treasure at Cairns Regional Council's Buy Back Shop with the return of Council's premier waste reuse event the "Trash to Treasure Fair" on October 22nd.

Visited by over 1500 residents from across Cairns, the Trash to Treasure Fair provided young and old the chance to learn about reusing, repurposing, and upcycling materials from local repair experts, artists, Council staff & volunteers.

The event's purpose, to start meaningful and creative conversations with the community about reusing and repurposing items that would otherwise go to landfill and provide visitors a bit of fun at the same time, with prizes, games, music and face painting creating a fair like atmosphere.



Stall holder workshops at the event provided hands on advice with repairing bikes and furniture, repurposing fabrics, making snow globes out of small plastic items, weaving soft plastics and palm fronds into bags and jewellery, and even creating mosaic masterpieces out of old tiles.

Cairns Mayor Bob Manning said the free community event was aimed at raising awareness of the importance of material reuse.

"We want to encourage residents to play their part in embracing waste avoidance, reduction and waste reuse," Cr Manning said. "Council sets out to treat waste as a valuable resource and reduce waste by reusing and recycling as much as possible."

Executive manager of Resource Recovery, Steve Cosatto was encouraged to see the return of locals to the reuse fair, after former covid restrictions deferred the return of the event (originally started in 2019). "It's so great to see people returning to a reuse specific community event, this has been a great day for young and old" Steve said.

The CRC Buy Back Shop plays an important part in diverting waste from landfill in the Cairns community by giving discarded items new life and promoting reuse. Which is why it was selected as the home of the annual Waste Reuse focused event.



"The Buy Back Shop performs an important role in the Cairns region, with its function within the higher order of the Waste Hierarchy, above Recovery & Recycling efforts.

Thanks to the great work of our operations team members and that of the Cairns community, more than 1,400 tonnes of former waste items are diverted from landfill each year" Steve said.



Landfill biogas powers water reclamation treatment plant - a first of its kind

The electrical power consumed by a modern wastewater treatment plant is generally one of the biggest point-source electricity costs for Councils. Toowoomba Regional Council is at the leading edge in both solid and liquid waste management and has managed to convert the biogas emissions from its major landfill into renewable energy to provide 70 percent of the electrical power required to run the adjacent Wetalla Water Reclamation Facility. **The beauty of this innovative project is that both the water reclamation plant and the biogas fuelled electricity generator run 24/7 and therefore are running in parallel.**

Back in 2020, LGI commenced flaring the biogas from the landfill at Hermitage Road, Cranley and to-date 69,000 tonnes of carbon have been abated at that Toowoomba site.

In exploring all good engineering options, LGI then proposed to use the 700 cubic metres of biogas produced every hour from the landfill as a fuel source for an electricity generator to then feed into the adjacent Wetalla Water

Reclamation Facility. Toowoomba Regional Council recognised the merits of this proposal and the rest is history with LGI set in November to commission its 1,000 kilowatt biogas-to-power station that will supply the majority of the power required to run Toowoomba's major water reclamation plant.

As Matthew Tap, Project Manager at LGI has said “...even if we were to stop landfilling today, there is still waste in the ground that will produce biogas and emissions for decades...Toowoomba Regional Council pushed the envelope and created something that sets a standard for the rest of the industry.”

LGI's seven gas-to-power sites already generate enough annual energy for about 15,000 homes and Toowoomba will be their eighth. Who knew the secret to a greener future could be found within the problem itself.



Industry Gets a Heavy Vehicle Driver Apprenticeship

WRIQ has welcomed September's announcement from Queensland's Department of Employment, Small Business and Training that it has approved our industry-led proposal requesting the establishment of a Heavy Vehicle Driver Apprenticeship in Queensland. This is a significant step towards our sector securing a sustainable future workforce.

While WRIQ was unsuccessful in securing Priority 1 provisions for the apprenticeship, the apprenticeship will still attract funding subsidies under the state [User Choice Program](#) (as Priority 2) to assist with training costs (noting that a co-contribution cost towards the training will be required).

The relevant qualification is TLI31221 Certificate III in Driving Operations (Heavy Vehicle Driver) and under the User Choice Program, the current subsidies are available.

Industry Training Group	Qualification Description	Group	Max. Payable Competencies	Priority	Price for Priority Population Group	Price for all other students including SAT's
Transport and Distribution - Road	Cert III in Driving Operations (Heavy Vehicle Driver)	Apprenticeship	15 (5 core, 9 elective plus one driver awareness elective)	PRI2	\$5,930	\$5,189
Transport and Distribution - Road	Cert III in Driving Operations	Traineeship	15	PRI2	\$5,930	\$5,189

The nominal term for the apprenticeship is 24 months and apprentices will need to be over 20 years old and hold a current open driving licence.

Further information regarding the qualification can be found at training.gov.au - TLI31221 - Certificate III in Driving Operations and a list of training providers can be found at [Course Search Results: Queensland Skills Gateway \(training.qld.gov.au\)](https://Course Search Results: Queensland Skills Gateway (training.qld.gov.au)).

[Data](#) shows that there is a shortage of 'Truck Driver (General)' in every state. WRIQ strongly supported the creation of an apprenticeship, recognising the critical role of professional drivers in our industry. If waste was listed as its own industry in the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), it would rank as the fourth largest employing industry for truck drivers behind Transport, Postal and Warehousing, Construction and Mining, (making us a critical trucking stakeholder with 5.5 percent of the occupation employed in Queensland). WRIQ extends our gratitude to

the Queensland Trucking Association for coordinating the apprenticeship proposal.

Please note that there are also several employer incentives for having an apprentice which may be appropriate to your organisation:

[Subsidised training and incentives | Department of Employment, Small Business and Training \(desbt.qld.gov.au\)](#)

[Employer Incentives | Australian Apprenticeships](#)

[Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program Summary - Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, Australian Government \(dewr.gov.au\)](#)



WASTE AWARD WINNERS

Waste Innovation & Recycling Awards winners of 2022



WASTE
INNOVATION
& RECYCLING
AWARDS

Congratulations to:

- ReGroup's Southern Materials Recovery Facility for Outstanding Facility Award
- Katherine Dodd, MRA Consulting Group for Young Professional of the Year

- MRA Consulting Group for Workplace of the Year

and special mention to finalists:

- Patrick Lally, Veolia & Selena Ferguson, ResourceHub as finalists for Young Professional of the Year
- Melanie Sosnowski, Veolia as finalist for Woman of Waste
- LGI Limited as finalist for Workplace of the Year
- Lacey Webb, ResourceHub & Chris Gusenzow, Remondis Aust as finalists for Leader of the Year

<https://www.wasteawards.com.au/winners/>

JOB VACANCIES

WE'RE HIRING...

JOIN OUR TEAM

**RESOURCE RECOVERY ATTENDANTS -
TRANSFER STATION EMERALD**

**SENIOR ENVIRONMENT, WASTE &
RESOURCE RECOVERY OFFICER**

Central Highlands Regional Council has a diverse range of employees and a large breadth of opportunities to help deliver our vision for the Central Highlands.

Our people are genuinely passionate about serving the community. When you join us your training and development opportunities are just as diverse as your career choices!

For current CHRC vacancies, please visit www.chrc.qld.gov.au

APPLY ONLINE TODAY ➔

**OR CALL A MEMBER OF THE RECRUITMENT
TEAM ON 1300 242 686**





1300 242 686
chrc.qld.gov.au

LAUGH OF THE DAY



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 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.

- **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



Rossko Award and the inaugural Mary Field Award

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.

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

Submissions are closed and The Rossko Award & Mary Field Award recipients for 2022 will be announced at the LAWMAC Awards Ceremony Dinner Event on Thursday 17th November 2022 at the LAWMAC event hosted by Cassowary Coast Regional Council.



[@LAWMACinc](https://www.facebook.com/LAWMACinc)

August 2022 Workshop and General Meeting in Isaac



Delegates at the August 2022 LAWMAC Event in Moranbah

LAWMAC's August 2022 two-day Workshop and Meeting hosted by Isaac Regional Council at the Moranbah Community Centre was a very successful event attracting members and representatives from around regional Queensland with 60+ delegates in attendance.

Representatives of the Traditional Owners the Barada Barna People performed a "Welcome to Country" Ceremony.

Isaac Mayor Anne Baker 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 proceedings thanking Traditional Owners the Barada Barna people, host Isaac Regional Council, Corporate Sponsors and welcoming Guest Speaker Karen Hussey (Dep Dir-Gen DES), Workshop Presenters and Invited Guests.

- AJK Contracting Presentation on Organics and Biosolids Processing by Scott Verral
- Novum Energy Presentation on their Thermo Vacuum Recovery (TVR) Plant in Biloela and plans for the Isaac Region by Rowan Kendall
- Mandalay Technologies Presentation on Resident Access Control (RACs) by Andrew McDougall
- Keynote Speaker – Ms Karen Hussey, Deputy Director-General, DES advised on the four main grant funding opportunities available over the next four years:-
 1. Regional Plans – behaviour change type program with plans for rolling out in March 2023
 2. Industry Development (jointly with DSDILGP) for Councils and Industry
 3. Broader Programs targeting a circular economy with a particular emphasis on tyres, solar panels & product stewardships (RRTAP is under consideration)
 4. Compliance & Regulatory Requirements and Changes
- Garage Sale Trail Presentation by Pip Helene recapping on its twelve years with a new focus on circular living and
- ResourceHub Presentation on Training Programs & Opportunities for Regional Councils Areas of Qld by Lacey Webb
- LGI Presentation on Carbon Abatement from Biogas Extraction on Small Landfills by Mick Fullelove

aligning with Waste Strategic Plans with textiles, furniture, plants &

- machinery as the main category of goods
- Dr Paul Harvey gave an online presentation on his latest book “The Plasticology Project”
- DES Presentation on Clean Earth & Waste Levy Exemptions by Dylan

Walker raised issues regarding the question of

LAWMAC’s next Workshop, Meeting and Awards Dinner are scheduled for 17 & 18 November 2022 at the Mission Beach Resort hosted by Cassowary Coast Regional Council.



Presenters at the August 2022 LAWMAC Workshop in Moranbah



Opening & Welcome to LAWMAC by Isaac Regional Council Mayor Anne Baker

LAWMAC polo shirts

The long awaited LAWMAC polo shirts have arrived and will be available for collection from

the next meeting at Mission Beach, for those who have pre-ordered and paid.



There are a limited number of shirts still available at \$20 each – Please contact Mary on email lawmacsec@bigpond.com if you are still wanting to get your shirt.