

Rockhampton Regional Council  
**Reef Guardian Council Action Plan**  
2017–2018



A Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Initiative



## Reef Guardian Council program

The Reef Guardian Program is a stewardship program that encourages and supports councils, schools and industries to become actively involved in protecting the Great Barrier Reef.

The Reef Guardian Council program recognises the good environmental work councils are achieving throughout the 42 million hectare Reef catchment.

Whether Reef Guardian Councils and their communities are large or small, they are making continuous improvements to help the Reef.

## Action Plans

This Action Plan records the diversity of council actions and projects that contribute to Reef health. It aligns with Queensland and Australian Government objectives to improve the long-term outlook for the Reef.

## Milestone Reports

The Action Plan is reviewed and updated annually, and an annual Highlights Report is produced to show the continuous improvements occurring across a range of council activities.

## Endorsement

The Council recognises the importance of the Reef Guardian partnership and values the contributions made by staff and the community 'working together today for a healthier Reef tomorrow'.



**Endorsed:** Evan Pardon, Chief Executive Officer

13 December 2017



## Reef 2050 Objective

Communities adapt and respond to a changing climate by taking action to avoid impacts on the Great Barrier Reef and coastal ecosystems.

# Climate Change



## What councils can do

### Help communities to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate:

- Assess council and community risk and vulnerability due to a changing climate
- Prepare for and respond to climate change through planning and policies
- Introduce sustainability principles to council procurement
- Encourage efficient use of energy by council and community

Project Name	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible department/position	Project Status	Reef 2050 actions
Queensland Climate Resilient Councils Program	Better understand the climate projections for our region and how changes may impact on Council's priorities (via a climate change briefing and detailed governance assessment).	LGAQ program / Council in-kind staff resources	Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ)	Corporate Services (Natural Resource Management)	Planned	EHA28
Planning Scheme amendments	Review updated advice, science and state planning policy on climate change adaptation and renewable energy provision as part of a major amendment to the Rockhampton Region Planning Scheme.	Council in-kind staff resources		Strategic Planning	In progress	CBA9
Renewable energy initiatives	Investigate the feasibility of developing a solar farm to support operation of the Glenmore Water Treatment Plant.	Feasibility study + Council in-kind resources		Fitzroy River Water	In progress	EHA28
Renewable energy component for contestable electricity	Incorporate a specific renewable energy component of at least 10% within the next review of the contestable electricity contract.	Council in-kind resources		Fitzroy River Water	In progress	EHA28
Energy efficiency projects	Investigate energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives for key public infrastructure.	Scoping and feasibility studies + Council in-kind resources		Community Services	Planned	EHA28

# Climate Change

## Ongoing Activities

Project Name	Description	Financial / Resource Commitment	Reef 2050 actions
Fleet management	Continue Council's commitment to reduce CO <sub>2</sub> emissions through the use of diesel and hybrid powered vehicles.	Corporate Services (Fleet) – capital budget	EHA28
Energy efficient water pumping and treatment	Continue to explore opportunities to increase energy efficiency as part of planned renewal and upgrade projects.	Fitzroy River Water – capital budget + Council in-kind resources	EHA28

## Future Projects Wish List

Project Name	Description	Financial / Resource Requirements	Reef 2050 actions
Carbon audit	To help understand and identify Council's best opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, undertake a carbon audit and prepare a cost benefit analysis for priority initiatives.	Pending scope	EHA28
Energy efficiency policy/procedure	Develop new procedures for Council that ensure energy efficiency, ESD principles and whole-of-life costing are considered a priority in all new projects.	Council staff-in-kind resources	EHA28

## Reef 2050 Objective

Education and on-ground actions target the source of marine debris and reduce the volume of debris entering the Great Barrier Reef.

# Land Management



## What councils can do

### Help to restore catchments - For example:

- Incorporate environmental mapping and priorities in planning schemes and development decisions
- Help to restore landscape and waterway connections and functions
- Use best practices in council and industry developments
- Manage weeds and pests and restore disturbed council land



Project Name	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible department/position	Project Status	Reef 2050 actions
Planning Scheme amendments	Review state mapping changes to protect and enhance places of value as part of the major amendment to the Rockhampton Region Planning Scheme.	Council in-kind staff resources		Strategic Planning	In progress	EHA28
Biosecurity Plan	Develop a new Biosecurity Plan to manage weeds and pests and reduce pressures on our agricultural land, natural areas and riparian zones.	Council in-kind staff resources	Regional stakeholders	Community Services (Environment and Health)	In progress	EHA28
Streetscape Design Manual and Planting Palette	Highlight the importance of green assets across the region and identify opportunities to improve landscape design and delivery within our parks and streetscapes.	Council in-kind staff resources		Strategic Planning, Community Services (Parks), Regional Services (Infrastructure)	In progress	EHA28

# Land Management

## Ongoing Activities

Project Name	Description	Financial / Resource Commitment	Reef 2050 actions
Kershaw Gardens redevelopment	Kershaw Gardens is recognized as one of Rockhampton's premier destination parks. After sustaining significant damage in Tropical Cyclone Marcia in 2015, Council is investing significant effort to stabilize the historic landfill and completely redevelop the area. The works are helping to minimize the risk of contamination, restore landscape and waterway function and return this iconic area to the community.	>\$13m	WQA12 WQA13
Mount Archer activation project	Mount Archer has long been regarded as a significant regional icon, however this project has highlighted the need to maintain, preserve and care for the area. As a collaborative project, significant works are underway to strengthen Traditional Owner involvement in conservation and cultural use of the site, restore the landscape and associated waterways, manage weeds and pests and reconnect the community with this important natural area.	>\$2m	BA3 HA2 WQA13
Management of the Fitzroy River floodplain	Continuing weed and pest management activities.	Operational budget	WQA8

## Future Projects Wish List

Project Name	Description	Financial / Resource Requirements	Reef 2050 actions
Biodiversity management Plan	Develop and implement a plan for the long-term management of the region's biodiversity including core bushland areas, critical corridors and habitat stepping stones.	Pending scope	BA16

## Reef 2050 Objective

The quality of water from all sources including industrial, urban waste and stormwater sources has no detrimental impact on the health and resilience of the Great Barrier Reef.

# Water Management

## What councils can do

Continuously improve the quality of water entering the reef from wastewater and stormwater sources through urban water cycle initiatives:

- Promote water sensitive urban design in new developments
- Adopt best practice stormwater management
- Monitor and if necessary upgrade sewerage treatment plants
- Provide collection facilities for chemicals, waste oil and other pollutants
- Protect and rehabilitate waterways



Project Name	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible department/position	Project Status	Reef 2050 actions
Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) project	Undertake a major review of WSUD improvement opportunities.	Council in-kind staff resources		Regional Services (Infrastructure)	In progress	WQA12
Passive irrigation modeling and guidance for the Great Barrier Reef	Model and explore the benefits of passive watering of street trees and sports fields using stormwater.	Collaborative project, contributing \$4,000	Various Queensland Councils	Regional Services (Infrastructure)	In progress	WQA12
Floodplain study	Identify opportunities to better understand and manage flood risk within our catchment.	Operational budget + Council in-kind staff resources		Regional Services (Infrastructure)	Planned	WQA8
Riparian vegetation study	Identify critical areas for waterway stability and revegetation works.	Operational budget + Council in-kind staff resources	CQUniversity	Regional Services (Infrastructure)	Planned	WQA13

# Water Management

## Ongoing Activities

Project Name	Description	Financial / Resource Commitment	Reef 2050 actions
Fitzroy Partnership for River Health	As a founding partner, Fitzroy River Water (on behalf of Council) continues to work towards collaborative initiatives as part of the Fitzroy Partnership for River Health. FRW also provide water quality data for the annual report card.	Fitzroy River Water – Operating budget + Council in-kind staff resources	WQA8 WQA12 WQA13
Sewage treatment plant improvements	Contribute to improved water quality in the Fitzroy Estuary by continuing to comply with approved discharge release levels for STPs in Rockhampton and further reduce nutrient and sediment loads where practical to do so.	Fitzroy River Water – capital improvement program	WQA8 WQA13
Regional water quality improvement initiatives	Continue to investigate and implement management practices to minimize nutrient and sediment discharges through stormwater runoff.	Regional Services (Infrastructure)	WQA8 WQA12 WQA13
Water efficiency rebates	Continue to provide water rebates for residential water efficient products.	Fitzroy River Water	WQA12
Aquatic weed control	Continue to undertake targeted aquatic weed control activities within the Fitzroy River and broader catchment.	Community Services (Health and Environment)	WQA8
Depot management	Continue to implement Environmental Management Plans at depots to address stormwater, waste, sediment and pollution controls.	Community Services (Parks) and Regional Services (Infrastructure)	WQA13

## Future Projects Wish List

Project Name	Description	Financial / Resource Requirements	Reef 2050 actions
Urban waterways management plan	Develop and implement a plan for the long-term management of the region's urban waterways including pest and weed management, stabilisation and revegetation, erosion and sediment control and protection from contamination.	Pending scope	WQA12 WQA13

## Reef 2050 Objective

Education and on-ground actions target the source of marine debris and reduce the volume of debris entering the Great Barrier Reef.

# Waste Management



## What councils can do

### Minimise waste entering the Reef from land-based sources:

- Control litter coming from landfills and public bins
- Introduce waste minimisation programs for Council and community
- Introduce littering and illegal dumping penalties
- Encourage community clean-ups before the wet season
- Install pollution traps on urban waterways

Project Name	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible department/position	Project Status	Reef 2050 actions
Gross pollutant trap	Investigate opportunities to increase awareness of waste and contamination in our waterways by establishing a gross pollutant trap demonstration site.	\$70,000		Regional Services (Infrastructure)	Planned	EHA27 WQA12 WQA13

### Ongoing Activities

Project Name	Description	Financial / Resource Commitment	Reef 2050 actions
Waste reduction program	Continue to develop and deliver education promoting kerbside recycling and general resource conservation, in support of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan.	Council operating budget	EHA27 WQA13
Rural waste infrastructure	Review and consolidate rural waste infrastructure services and locations.	Council operating budget	WQA13

### Future Projects Wish List

Project Name	Description	Financial / Resource Requirements	Reef 2050 actions
Drain stenciling program	Stormwater can be problematic when it contains materials such as sediments, metals, nutrients, pathogens, organic matter and litter. This project would raise awareness of the importance of protecting waterways by engaging school students in a participatory program whereby they can stencil a simple waterway protection message on stormwater drains.	Small grants program	WQA13 CBA12 EHA28

Local, regional and Reef-wide community benefits are understood and the community is actively engaged in managing Reef activities.

## Community



### What councils can do

#### Celebrate community connections to the Reef and encourage stewardship:

- Introduce education campaigns to reduce impacts on the Reef
- Build community capacity to tackle threats to the Reef
- Form partnerships to achieve ongoing improvements to Reef health



Project Name	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible department/position	Project Status	Reef 2050 actions
Environmental Sustainability Strategy	Develop a Strategy which defines Council's guiding principles, key focus areas and priority actions.	Council staff in-kind resources	Internal and external stakeholders	Corporate Services (NRM)	In progress	EHA28 CBA11
Tilapia Terminator / Wetland Care	Raise community awareness of the value of our local waterways and threats to their health.	Council staff in-kind resources	Fitzroy Partnership for River Health	Corporate Services (NRM)	In progress	WQA8 EBA16

#### Ongoing Activities

Project Name	Description	Financial / Resource Commitment	Reef 2050 actions
Rockhampton Recreational Fishing Development Strategy	Continue to implement the Strategy including development of dedicated marine infrastructure, communication of the voluntary code of practice and development of improved practices to protect and manage fishery and catchment health.	Advance Rockhampton / Council staff in-kind	EHA22 EHA28 EBA15
Local Marine Advisory Committee (LMAC)	Continue to support and raise awareness of the LMAC in conjunction with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and its Partners.	Council staff in-kind resources	CBA12
River Festival	Continue to celebrate and re-connect the community with the Fitzroy River.	Advance Rockhampton	EHA28

#### Future Projects Wish List

Project Name	Description	Financial / Resource Requirements	Reef 2050 actions
Bringing Nature Back	Nature-based community engagement program, designed to bring nature back into the community's hearts, minds and everyday lives through a variety of local events and activities.	Council and Program Partners – with combined in-kind support valued at around \$195,000	CBA12 EHA28