

Highlights

The Reef Guardian Council stewardship program recognises the good environmental work councils and communities are achieving to help the Great Barrier Reef. Each year the council reviews its activities and produces this report to highlight the positive outcomes and its commitment to a better future for the Great Barrier Reef.

Fish Passage improves Fitzroy River habitat connectivity

A new fish ladder was officially launched in time for World Fish Migration day in May, completing the \$500,000 project under the Federal Government Reef Programme. The new fish ladder has significantly increased fish passage upstream; now up to 400 fish per minute. Built alongside the existing fishway, the new structure features innovative design techniques that reduce the velocity of water flowing from the upper level of the river to the below barrage level. This allows juvenile fish as small as 9mm to navigate their way safely upstream through the Barrage, improving habitat connectivity.



The new Fish Ladder at the Fitzroy River Barrage – a joint Fitzroy Basin Association and Fitzroy River Water project under the Federal Government's Reef Programme.

Weedbusters Week

Busting weeds and revegetating Council land with native plants is a daily activity for our vegetation management team through Council's vegetation management program.

In Weedbusters Week, the team encourage our community to get involved and learn about how we can all help stop the spread of weeds. A range of information stalls, awareness activities and a children's colouring in competition educated the community about the devastating impact weeds can have on our natural environment. When busting weeds remember - a year of weeds, a decade of seeds - if in doubt take it out!



Winners of the Weedbusters Week Colouring Competition holding their wonderful artworks.

Rethinking waste in the Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan

Our waste; it's not just a load of rubbish! Council adopted our Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan (2016-2024). This Plan challenges current waste management performance and strives to achieve clear targets for waste reduction and diversion for our Region. Our vision is to manage waste production in a manner that is sustainable for the environment and the community, through innovative developments, and driving community values and cultural change.

Over the lifetime of this Plan, Council will achieve an overall reduction in waste to landfill of 15%.



Diverting waste to landfill by encouraging our community to REUSE their items by participating in the 2015 Garage Sale Trail.

Developing a greener future through planning provisions

The Rockhampton Region Planning Scheme was adopted in 2015 and includes a range of additional or enhanced environmental overlays to manage development through planning provisions.

Overlays indicate areas of value identified through detailed background studies. For example biodiversity overlays protect, rehabilitate and manage areas of environmental significance and water resource catchments overlay code is to ensure that development of land within water resource catchments is managed to protect the water quality of the catchment.



Rockhampton Regional Council features picturesque water catchments such as this lagoon in Pink Lily.

Reducing fleet impact

Council is committed to the reduction of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions from its vehicle fleet to lessen the impact of climate change and global warming. The Fleet Vehicle GHG Emissions Reduction Policy introduced environmental standards to ensure that GHG emissions are considered in vehicle procurement decisions.

The implementation of this policy means that our fleet vehicles will meet a minimum GHG emissions rating of 6.0 for passenger vehicles and 5.0 for light commercial vehicles. It also means that fleet vehicles that do not meet this standard are phased out at asset renewal.



Council and Ergon Energy are working together to trial the use of an electric car in our fleet.

Working together today for a healthier Reef tomorrow