

Highlights

The Reef Guardian Council stewardship program recognises the good environmental work councils and communities are doing 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.

Recreational Fishing Strategy

Council adopted the Rockhampton Recreation Fishing Development Strategy after the declaration of a Net Free Zone (NFZ) over the lower Fitzroy. The strategy addresses improvements to marine infrastructure, marketing activities, business development, better fisheries management practices and improvements to the freshwater and saltwater ecology / environment so as to increase recreational fishing across the Rockhampton Region.

Importantly, the Recreational Fishing and Development Strategy includes a Fisheries Management Plan to manage and protect the fishery and catchment health as well as monitor and forecast seasonal stocks.



The Recreational Fishing and Development Strategy includes a Fisheries Management Plan.

Marine Debris Artwork

Council was successful in obtaining funding from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to commission a local artist to embark on a novel marine debris public art project. Single use plastic bottles were identified in a recent Marine Debris Workshop as one of the main items of litter found in litter clean up activities. The artwork is installed at our Region's largest Waste Management Facility to further promote that 'our waste is not just a load of rubbish' and that the use of single use packaging can be avoided. The sculpture was created using plastic bottles collected from a local café and provided by the Material Recovery Facility.



Local artist Amber Countryman creating a plastic bottle globe sculpture to highlight the impact of single use plastic bottles.

FRW initiatives achieving energy efficiencies

Fitzroy River Water completed projects to improve and maximise energy efficiency in their operational performance. Installation of new energy efficient pumps and motors at Glenmore High Lift Water Pump Station and Authur St Sewerage Pump Station achieved approximately 27% and 16% improvements respectively. The installation of new energy efficient positive displacement blowers at South Rockhampton Sewerage Treatment Plant reduced power requirements by at least 30%. The projects have led to an annual reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of approximately 90,000 tonnes of CO2 equivalents.



Upgrades to a number of FRW facilities have achieved marked improvements in energy efficiency.

Implementing best practice WSUD

Water Sensitive Urban Design is the holistic approach to planning and design of integrated stormwater, water supply and sewerage management to minimise impacts on the natural water cycle and ecosystems. To implement best practice WSUD at RRC, a coordinated interdepartmental approach has been implemented and a working group has commenced roll out of new policy development, preparation of detailed Stormwater LGIP, development of a suite of waterway restoration and creek rehabilitation projects, and the development of an implementation guideline for guidance on Stormwater Quantity and Quality Management.



An example of WSUD in practice; a bio-swale located in Norman Gardens, Rockhampton.

Barrage Open Day

Proudly hosted by Fitzroy River Water, the Barrage Open Day was held on 29th July 2017. The event is held every three years to provide an opportunity for our community to take a tour of the Barrage and promote the importance of the Fitzroy River as both our community's water resource and for its significant environmental value. A variety of water treatment displays about Fitzroy River Water and stalls from Fitzroy Basin Association, Capricornia Catchments, Koorana Crocodile Farm and Council's Pest Management and Environmental Health units. FRW's mascot, Fitz the bum breathing Fitzroy River turtle made a popular appearance and approximately 1,200 people took part in experiencing the Barrage walk.



Fitzroy River Water's Fitz the bum breathing Fitzroy River turtle posing with attendees of the Barrage Open Day.

Working together today for a healthier Reef tomorrow