



**Rockhampton**  
Regional Council  
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.



Mount Archer Walk

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## The future is not somewhere we are going, it's something we're creating

Rockhampton Regional Council has developed an Environmental Sustainability Strategy that provides a vision, shared objectives and pathways to advance sustainability across our region. The strategy delivers on our vision for a sustainable future through four interconnected pathways that together guide our approach to protect our natural environment, empower our community to live more sustainably, enhance the liveability of our region, and ensure we use our resources more wisely. The pathways identified in the strategy are supported by a range of strategic actions that the council will lead during the period 2018-22.

[Find out more here.](#)



Councillor Wickerson, spokesperson for Rockhampton Regional Council's Environment and Sustainability Portfolio, shares the council's newly adopted Environmental Sustainability Strategy

## Partnerships to protect our waterways

The council has been developing ways to effectively combat aquatic pest plants such as water hyacinth, salvinia and water lettuce. Thanks to a collaborative partnership between the council and the Fitzroy Basin Association, the council's biocontrol program has been expanded and made available to local landholders. Biocontrol weevils help to control the growth of pest plants that damage native ecosystems, reduce fish habitat, affect water flow and block access to water for stock and wildlife. The expansion gives the council the opportunity to share technique and samples with private landowners facing this issue and to develop targeted approaches for their particular waterways.



Councillor Wickerson, FBA's Shannon Van Nunen and Councillor Smith inspect the water hyacinth biocontrol tanks at the council's depot

## Fitzroy River Water achieves 100 percent reuse of biosolids

Biosolids are a major by-product of the sewage treatment process. By implementing new operational arrangements and obtaining regulatory approvals, Fitzroy River Water is now making biosolids produced at its sewage treatment plants available to end users, which avoids disposal of this beneficial resource to landfill. The approach has achieved 100 percent reuse of biosolids on an annual basis, with most of the material used to amend soil on agricultural land south of Gavial Creek in the Port Curtis part of our region.



Fitzroy River Water's biosolids storage area at the South Rockhampton Sewage Treatment Plant

## A restoration strategy for key urban waterways

The Riparian Corridor Management Study assessed the geomorphology, aquatic ecology and terrestrial vegetation to develop a holistic restoration strategy. The study found that across the Frenchmans Creek and Thozets Creek catchments there have been major changes that can impact on flow regime, sediment supply and riparian vegetation condition. The study recommended a number of interventions, including revegetation, structural works and stormwater management measures to restore the creeks. These recommendations have been prioritised to allow the council to phase the implementation of these works.



A combination of desktop assessments and field investigations were used to inform the Riparian Corridor Management Study and develop a series of management options for Frenchmans and Thozets Creek

## Partnering for river health

The council continues to participate in the Fitzroy Partnership for River Health — a collective of government, agriculture, resources, industry, research and community interests across the Fitzroy Basin in Central Queensland. Through funding, resources and data-sharing arrangements, the partnership works together to provide a more complete picture on river health. As part of the partnership, Council continues to support the popular annual *Tilapia Terminator and Wetland Care Day*, assisting with local community education activities, water quality monitoring, fish assessment and a waterbug blitz.



Worms and corn were at the ready to catch Tilapia, one of the world's worst invasive pest species, at the Yeppon Yeppon Lagoon