

**ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY.**

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY.

YEAR IN REVIEW: FY 2019-20

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

Rockhampton Regional Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and work and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Council also gratefully acknowledges the contributions of a range of organisations, individuals and the broader community who have each helped to bring the Environmental Sustainability Strategy to life.

Key collaborators include: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Department of Environment and Science, Local Government Association of Queensland, Department of Corrective Services, Greening Australia, CQUniversity, Fitzroy Basin Association, Capricornia Catchments, Darumbal, local Landcare, Multicultural Australia, Jobs Queensland, Jolly Rogers Fishing Club, Capricorn Conservation Council, Native Plants Capricornia, Birdlife Capricornia and local schools.

FY 2019-20 edition

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**COUNCILLOR
DONNA KIRKLAND**

Water and supporting a better
environment Portfolio
Rockhampton Regional Council

CREATING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

In September 2018, Rockhampton Regional Council adopted the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2018-2022. The Strategy provides a vision, shared objectives and pathways to advance sustainability across our Region.

This annual highlights report checks in on the progress we've made to date and demonstrates some of the key actions Council is taking as we move towards a more sustainable future for the Rockhampton Region.

Some of the key highlights from FY2019-20 include:

- The construction of new recycled water schemes and upgrades to sewage treatment plants that will reduce nutrient releases to the Fitzroy River estuary and promote more sustainable water use by local landholders.
- Project planning to support implementation of a 2.5MW solar power generation system at the Glenmore Water Treatment Plant.
- Further progress on Council's long-term transition to a low carbon fleet, with installation of two new electric vehicle charging stations and additional hybrid and fully electric vehicles in Council's Fleet.
- Development of a new Waste Strategy, helping us to move our Region towards zero waste.
- Establishment of new landfill gas to energy arrangements that have the potential to generate carbon credits by 2021 and electricity from landfill gas by 2025.
- Working with local organisations to establish a Natural Resource Management Program to help protect, maintain and enhance our key natural assets.
- Renewed focus on tree canopy cover to shade and cool our Region, with tree plantings in key corridors and recreation parks and free native plants for residents.
- Renewed commitment to the Reef Guardian Council program through to 2024, working to support a healthy and resilient Reef through local government and community actions.

I'm very proud to see Council working together with our local residents and community partners to take care of our environment, so that it can continue to take care of us. This is an exciting time to be working together to support the liveability and continued prosperity of our communities. I look forward to many more achievements as we continue to work together in the years ahead.

Photo: Tree planting at Gavial Gracemere Road, Gracemere.

OUR PATHWAYS TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

Council is committed to putting sustainability into action through its corporate commitments and governance arrangements; its strategies and operations; and its community services, programs and partnerships.

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy delivers on our vision for a sustainable future through four interconnected pathways. Together the pathways guide our approach to protect our natural environment, empower our community to live more sustainably, enhance the liveability of our Region, ensure that we use our resources wisely and much more. The pathways are supported by a range of strategic actions that Council are leading over the life of the Strategy.

Council recognises that strong partnerships are critical to achieving these outcomes and continues to work with a range of stakeholders to actively pursue funding and collaborative opportunities.

As part of Council's Sustainability Governance Framework, the Sustainability Strategy Executive Group meets regularly to guide implementation of Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy. They also monitor and review progress against the supporting annual action plan, work together to identify further opportunities for improvement and collaboration across Council and report this progress back to Council.

We want the Rockhampton Region to be a great place to live, work, play, learn and invest - both now and in the future.

- Environmental Sustainability Strategy Vision

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

Let's work together to protect, maintain and enhance our natural environment.



EMPOWERING COMMUNITY.

Let's work together to strengthen our community capacity to live sustainably.

INDUSTRY & INFRASTRUCTURE.

Let's work together to create a liveable region that encourages sustainable industry and infrastructure.



COUNCIL OPERATIONS.

Let's work together to continually improve Council's environment and sustainability performance.

Photo: 'Hiking the hills of Mount Morgan'
by Camille Steinberger



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

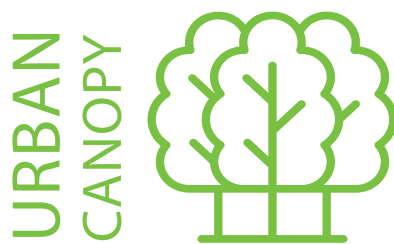
OBJECTIVE

Let's work together to protect, maintain and enhance our natural environment.

TARGETS

- Programs in place to maintain and enhance our natural assets, waterways and green corridors
- Programs in place to protect remnant vegetation and support local biodiversity in urban areas
- Long term trending improvement in net waterway health

YEAR IN REVIEW



COVER ASSESSMENT

and baselines established for vegetation cover across the Region.



LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

strengthened to help protect, maintain and enhance our natural environment.



RESOURCE TRAILERS

established to support implementation of the Natural Resource Management program.



NATURE PLAY PASSPORTS

distributed to help locals explore and engage with our local natural environment.

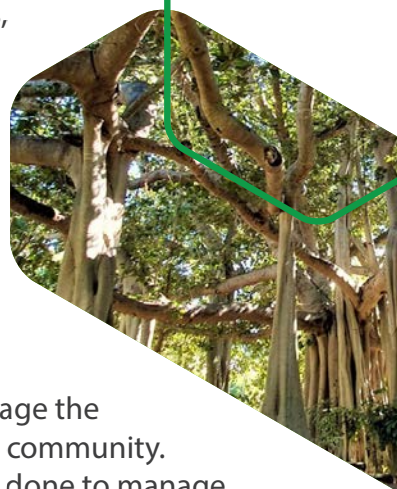
BRINGING NATURE BACK

Council's 'Bringing Nature Back' Program provides an overarching framework for a range of Council activities designed to connect our community with nature and protect, maintain and enhance our natural environment. Bringing Nature Back activities were celebrated through National Tree Day in July 2019, Tropicana in September 2019 and both Landholders Expo and Cleanup Australia Day in March 2020. Following the successful launch of the Rockhampton Region Nature Play Passport, more than 12,000 locals have now accepted the challenge to explore the great places to see and things to do in our Region. Council also awarded the winners of the Rockhampton Region Nature Photography Competition to celebrate World Environment Day on 05 June 2020.



INCREASING URBAN CANOPY COVER

Council is committed to increasing tree canopy cover to help shade and cool our key corridors and parks and improve the beauty and liveability of our Region. Throughout the year, Council delivered more than 300 new semi-advanced trees, with planting improvements implemented within the Rockhampton CBD, Georgeson Park, Victoria Park, Eddie Baker Park, Cherryfield Road, Yewdale Park, All Blacks Park, McLeod Park, the Mount Morgan entry statement, Kingfisher Parade, Gavial Gracemere Road and the Ski Gardens. Council also secured further grant funding to help support continued planting improvements in FY2020-21.



PROTECTING OUR LOCAL WATERWAYS

As part of the Rockhampton Region's Biosecurity Plan, Council continues to manage the risk of introduced plants and animals on our environment, the economy and our community. Council's Pest Management Team is particularly proud of the work that has been done to manage and contain water hyacinth in the Fitzroy River and to provide landholders with a range of biocontrols that help protect our local waterways.

PROUD REEF GUARDIAN COUNCIL

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) is the Commonwealth agency responsible for the management of the Marine Park. GBRMPA recognises the role that local government plays in managing the broader reef catchment and supports this role via the Reef Guardian Councils program.



A Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Initiative

In June 2020, Council proudly renewed its commitment to the Reef Guardian Council program. The collaborative stewardship program involves 18 councils along the Queensland coast working to support a healthy and resilient Reef through local government and community actions. As part of the agreement, Council commits to take actions that address the key risks to the Reef – which are climate change, coastal development, land-based run-off, and direct use of the Marine Park.

CASE STUDY:

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

In FY2019-20, Council trialled a new operational Natural Resource Management (NRM) Program to help better manage the condition of Council's key natural assets.

The Program aims to:

- Foster strong partnerships to protect, maintain and enhance key natural assets and green corridors across the Rockhampton Region.
- Implement targeted on-ground works that help sites to function as resilient, self-sustaining natural areas (this may include works to increase canopy cover and ground cover, improve biodiversity and environmental amenity, stabilise waterways or help achieve mowing reductions on Council land).
- Work collaboratively with local organisations to provide opportunities for members of the community to increase their practical knowledge, skills and experience.
- Build nature connection within our local community and raise awareness about our local natural assets, environmental values, flora and fauna.

The trial leveraged Council's existing partnership arrangements with Multicultural Australia, Jobs Queensland, Capricornia Catchments and Capricornia Correctional Centre. Work sites included a range of significant wetlands and waterways, as well as key recreation areas and nature reserves.

The Program contributed to the long-term management of these areas through a range of tasks such as plant propagation, planting, mulching, watering, weeding and litter collection. On-site works trialled the use of new water and tools trailers to provide Work Teams with ready access to required materials. Council also successfully trialled the use of slow-release water bags to continuously drip feed young tubestock during the first 12 weeks after planting. Where used, the water bags significantly increased the plant survival rates and many of the new plantings continue to thrive despite the variable weather conditions experienced during the year.

The participating Work Teams enjoyed the opportunity to develop practical skills and knowledge about land management and to give back to our community. They have also gained critical job readiness skills, with many participants going on to secure jobs or further study opportunities by the end of their activities.

Moving forward, the NRM Program aims to build upon the success of this trial, by further strengthening arrangements with the delivery partners, enhancing existing work sites and extending the natural areas under the Program's management.



ON-GROUND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



NATIVE PLANTS

planted within natural areas and open spaces across the Region.



PROJECT SITES

where on-ground natural resource management activities were delivered.



VOLUNTEER HOURS

invested in natural resource management works such as planting, weeding and cleanup activities.

Photo: Planting site alongside Moores Creek, Eichelberger Park, North Rockhampton



EMPOWERING COMMUNITY.

OBJECTIVE

Let's work together to strengthen our community capacity to live sustainably.

TARGETS

- Community sustainability engagement programs in place
- Community-based environment and sustainability initiatives encouraged and recognised
- Increased canopy cover within the urban footprint

YEAR IN REVIEW



1,033
LIVING SUSTAINABLY
community workshop* participants.



1,930 **LOCAL**
HOUSEHOLDS
subscribed to the Living
Sustainably e-newsletter.



13
SUSTAINABILITY
PROJECTS
shared in \$26,000 funding
via Council's Environment and
Sustainability Scheme.



4,300
NATIVE PLANTS
provided to the community
as part of Council's Native
Plant Program.

**July 2019 - February 2020, including the September 2019 School Holiday Program.*

Photo: Tropicana 2019 Stallholder - Mama's Natural Magic

LIVING SUSTAINABLY

Council's Living Sustainably Program fosters sustainable behaviour and encourages the community's wise-use of resources. In just its second year, the program attracted over 1,000 local residents to hands-on workshops at Rockhampton Regional Libraries and continued to deliver practical information and handy tips to nearly 2,000 households via the monthly e-newsletter. The Living Sustainably program is delivered in collaboration with internal Council units and local organisations. The program focuses on simple actions that residents can take and addresses 12 sustainability themes ranging from growing your own fruit and vegetables and reducing single use plastics to improving energy efficiency and recycling right with yellow lid bins.

Schools are at the forefront of educating the next generation about environment and sustainability issues. As part of the Living Sustainably program, Council runs an annual Sustainability in Action schools calendar competition, designed to celebrate and recognise sustainability action within local schools. Council awarded 14 winning schools as 'sustainability champions' and each of the schools featured in Council's 2020 Community Calendar which was widely distributed across the Region.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Council's Community Assistance Program provides funding and support for a range of community-based environment and sustainability initiatives. During FY2019-20, Council supported 13 local organisations to deliver projects which ranged from on-ground habitat protection and weed control works, to vegetable gardens and food rescue programs, water wise initiatives and improved waste management practices. Key community stakeholders also participated in a Council facilitated Changeology workshop that provided participants with the tools to design and implement effective behaviour change projects.

NATIVE PLANT PROGRAM

Trees and shrubs play an important role in our very own backyards. In FY2019-20, Council provided residents with 4,300 native plants as part of the Native Plant Program. The initiative encourages residents to take an active role in increasing urban canopy cover and to learn about the benefits of planting the right plant, in the right place, for the right reasons. The Program included giveaways from the Rockhampton, Gracemere and Mount Morgan Customer Service Centres in July 2019, as well as activities at National Tree Day 2019, Emergency Services Day 2019, Tropicana 2019 and Landholders Expo 2020.

INSPIRING COMMUNITY ACTION

Council recognises that only together can we create the sustainable future we want to see for our Region. A range of community members, local organisations, community groups, schools and businesses came together to participate in Tropicana 2019 under the theme 'celebrate and connect with nature'. Thousands of local residents shared in over 40 hands-on workshops, activities and interactive stalls focused on practical local sustainability actions.



CASE STUDY:

DRAIN BUDDIES

Council is responsible for maintaining the urban stormwater drainage system. Across the Region, there are an estimated 3,000 stormwater drains, each of which are designed to capture and redirect stormwater into local waterways. When it rains, any litter and other contaminants can also be carried down into our drains, creeks, rivers and out to the Great Barrier Reef.

The 'What's Down Our Drains?' project aims to identify and prevent land-based sources of marine debris polluting local waterways and the Great Barrier Reef.

The collaborative project was delivered with support from:

- Capricorn Coast and Gladstone Local Marine Advisory Committees (LMAC),
- Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA), Capricornia Catchments,
- Cleanwater Group,
- Rockhampton Regional Council,
- Gladstone Regional Council, and
- Livingstone Shire Council.

Made possible by a Local Action Community Reef Protection Grant, the project was funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation and also received funding from Council's Community Assistance Program – Environment and Sustainability Scheme.

During FY2019-20, the project saw 27 at-source litter traps, known as Drain Buddies, installed at litter hotspots around Rockhampton, Yeppoon and Gladstone. Drain Buddies are essentially a heavy-duty basket designed to catch rubbish, organic debris and sediment.

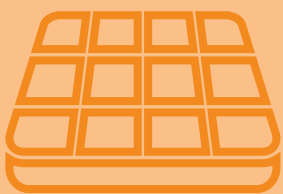
Locally, the project selected 9 trial locations within the Rockhampton CBD. Over the course of the year, the four quarterly servicing cycles removed a total of 6,727 litter items, weighing 240kg. The results found that cigarette butts and filters accounted for around 50% of the litter items, followed by cigarette packaging, foil wrappers, plastic film remnants and other hard/soft plastic pieces. To help minimise cigarette butt litter, additional butt bins, bin stickers and footpath decals were also installed at some locations.

This project shows that what we do in our yards, on our streets and across the landscape has the potential to affect the health of our local waterways and the Reef. Collaborative initiatives, such as the Drain Buddies project, are helping to increase awareness across our community, and to drive behaviour change and practice improvements across our Region.





DRAIN BUDDIES - ROCKHAMPTON



9 LITTER TRAPS
trialled in Rockhampton
Central Business District.

6,727+



LITTER ITEMS
captured within
FY2019-2020.



**BEHAVIOUR
CHANGE**

IMPLEMENTED
via local butt bin
installation, signage
and footpath signage.

Photo: Demonstrating how 'Drain Buddies' capture litter in stormwater drains.



INDUSTRY & INFRASTRUCTURE.

OBJECTIVE

Let's work together to create a liveable region that encourages sustainable industry and infrastructure.

TARGETS

- Council's planning instruments actively encourage sustainable development
- Major Council projects incorporate sustainable design and procurement considerations
- Eco-tourism ratings achieved for key local destinations
- Roadmap in place to support clean growth choices

YEAR IN REVIEW



LANDFILL GAS TO ENERGY

arrangements to generate both carbon credits and electricity.

4



LAND BASED FISHING

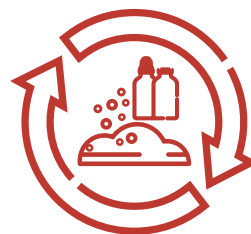
platforms delivered as part of the Rockhampton Recreational Fishing Development Strategy.

25KM



MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS

under construction as part of the Advancing Mount Morgan Strategy.



100%

LOCALLY CRUSHED GLASS

reused in local construction projects, as part of local market development.

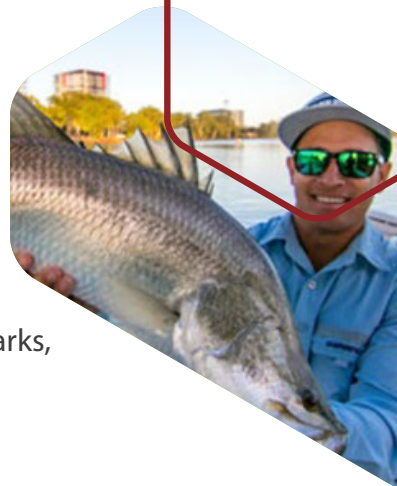
INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

Council has been developing a range of partnerships that encourage sustainable industry and infrastructure. A continued focus has been highlighting economic opportunities associated with sustainable agriculture, construction, recycling and reprocessing activities, as well as clean energy opportunities. Key projects include progress on the Region's Aquaculture Development Strategy, Rookwood Weir and a business case for the Clean Growth Choices – Communities in Transition Program. Council also continues to participate in a range of other related networks including the Reef Urban Stormwater Management Group (RUSMG), Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) and the Steering Committee for the Capricorn Municipal Development Guidelines.



GROWING NATURE-BASED TOURISM

Our Region provides a range of unique nature-based recreation activities. Recreational fishing opportunities have increased through implementation of Council's Recreational Fishing Development Strategy. Four new land based fishing platforms have been constructed along the Fitzroy River and the Fishing the Fitzroy campaign has attracted local and visiting anglers to the Region. Council has also commenced implementation of the Advancing Mount Morgan Strategy, which has already seen a range of works implemented at the Mount Morgan Number 7 Dam including a fish habitat rehabilitation project and commencement of 25km of new mountain bike trails. Council also continues to implement the Mount Archer Activation Plan, completing additional recreational facilities at Fraser Park and along Pilbeam Drive. Council's Explore Rockhampton website and social platforms have also promoted local national parks, walking trails, hiking tracks, mountain biking and bird-watching.



BEST PRACTICE PROJECTS

Council is keen to encourage and raise the profile of best practice environmentally sustainable development through a range of local demonstration projects. Construction of the new Rockhampton Museum of Art project has incorporated a range of sustainable site management practices, from reuse or recycling of all salvageable fixtures through to site dewatering and stockpiling of all concrete and brick rubble for future processing as a construction resource. Council's Civil Operations projects have been reusing 100% of our locally crushed glass as sand in local construction and also incorporating urban canopy cover and asphalt reduction strategies in new road designs to reduce long term costs, whilst improving urban shading, cooling and amenity.

BUILDING RESILIENCE

Council recognises that it's important to develop resilience to our changing climate and extreme weather events. Work is being undertaken to develop a floodplain management plan and implement associated maintenance and enhancement works to improve flood resilience. Minor stormwater upgrades have also been completed in Port Curtis and Mount Morgan and work has commenced on a new Gavial Creek bridge to replace the century old structure which had been damaged by floods and cyclones.

CASE STUDY:

TOWARDS ZERO WASTE

Council recognises that fundamental change is required in the way we think about waste. A circular economy approach aims to ensure that resources are retained in productive use for as long as possible, being used over and over to maximise their value and reduce the consumption of virgin resources. Building a circular economy benefits the environment, whilst creating industries, jobs and boosting the local economy.

Council's new Rockhampton Region Waste Strategy 2020-2030 aims to collectively build a circular economy to transition our Region towards zero waste. The Strategy is structured around three key priorities:

- Diverting waste from landfill through community behaviour change
- Building resource recovery capacity to process the majority of our waste and
- Developing markets and local industry for the recovered materials.

Rockhampton Regional Waste and Recycling have already begun establishing the foundations required to deliver the Waste Strategy. This includes:

- A long-term community engagement plan to guide waste diversion actions and behaviour change as we build a local circular economy.
- A detailed options analysis to evaluate the operational and financial impact of various changes to kerbside bin services, including the local industry and infrastructure required to collect and process food and other organic waste material.
- Phased planning for an Alternative Waste Treatment facility to process mixed residual commercial waste that will enable Council to divert the Region's largest single waste stream from landfill over the next 5-10 years.
- A new agreement for the capture and management of landfill gas for potential energy production at the Lakes Creek Road Landfill and closed Gracemere Landfill site.

In line with the Strategy's vision to become a zero waste community by 2050, within FY2019-20 Rockhampton Regional Waste and Recycling has:

- Established two standardised Waste Transfer Stations in Bajool and Bushley, increasing residential access to recycling and recoverable item options.
- Extended the life of Lakes Creek Road Landfill by improving waste separation and alternative diversion options for targeted waste streams such as mattresses.
- Diverted 34,000 tonnes of construction and demolition waste via Council's Dale Park material stockpiles for reprocessing and reusing concrete, asphalt and soil.
- Diverted over 4,500 tonnes of domestic recyclables via kerbside collections.
- Worked to develop local markets to achieve 100% crushed glass reuse.
- Continued to beneficially reuse 100% of green waste.
- Operated take back schemes such as drum muster, paint back, batteries and TechCollect.
- Provided salvage options for reusable items via free drop off areas, resale through Trendy Trash activities and participation in Garage Sale Trail.
- Increased on-site vegetation at the Lakes Creek Road Waste Management Facility, planting over 5,000 native trees and shrubs.

As we move towards zero waste, Council recognises that a whole of community response is required. The Waste Strategy is the first step in a much longer journey with our community, local business, government agencies, waste industry and procurement stakeholders.



BUILDING A LOCAL CIRCULAR ECONOMY



REDUCE
WASTE

TO LANDFILL
via community
behaviour change.

Build capacity for



LOCAL
RESOURCE
RECOVERY

CLOSE
THE LOOP



DEVELOP
markets to achieve
a circular economy.

Photo: Local resident composting kitchen organic waste in their backyard.



COUNCIL OPERATIONS.

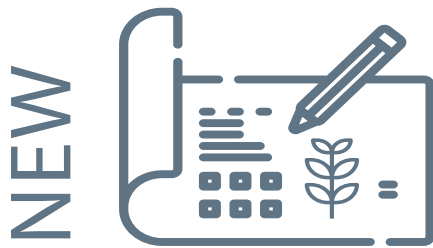
OBJECTIVE

Let's work together to continually improve Council's environment and sustainability performance.

TARGETS

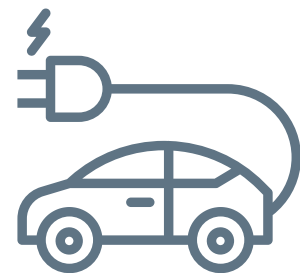
- Internal sustainability engagement program in place
- Environmental management systems operating for nominated units
- Majority of Council's operational electricity needs sourced from renewable energy

YEAR IN REVIEW



NEW ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

outlining Council's commitment to continually improve its sustainability culture and performance.



REDUCING FLEET EMISSIONS

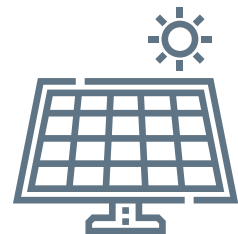
Council's fleet includes 10 hybrid or electric vehicles, supported by 3 electric vehicle charging stations.



10 SEED FUND INITIATIVES

implemented by Council's Internal Sustainability Working Group.

ENERGY MONITORING



via the LG Sherlock Energy Detective trial identified new opportunities for energy savings and solar installations.

SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT FUND

Sustainability initiatives have the potential to reduce Council's environmental footprint whilst delivering real financial savings. As part of Council's Sustainable Rockhampton Investment Fund, Council is currently progressing a number of projects including a 2.5MW solar installation at the Glenmore Water Treatment Plant and opportunities for further energy and waste improvements across Council's facilities. Council continues to progress actions under the Energy Action Plan, including improved energy monitoring, management and upgrades to energy efficient fittings and continuing to progress planning for future solar installation.



SECOND NATURE PROGRAM

As part of Council's Second Nature Program, the Internal Sustainability Working Group aims to advance sustainability awareness and action across Council's operations. Staff submit ideas to the Sustainability Seed Fund and the Working Group selects a number of initiatives each year to trial, refine and then roll out across the organisation. Council's first internal pre-loved stationery muster diverted over 100kg from landfill, to be reused or recycled via the TerraCycle program and centralised hundreds of unwanted stationery items to be reused in Council offices.

Following on from a previous recycled paper trial, Council successfully made the transition to using 100% Australian-made recycled A4 paper across Council operations. The Working Group also supported a range of other initiatives including an annual staff recycling refresher and Clean Up Australia Day activities, plus trials for lunch room composting, battery recycling stations, reusable coffee cups, internal reusable catering kits and more.



ELECTRIC VEHICLE TRANSITION

Council is progressing a long-term transition to a low carbon fleet. Following commissioning of a new electric vehicle charging station at Council's Dooley Street Depot and at the Glenmore Water Treatment Plant, Fleet is working with operational areas to implement more electric vehicles. As at June 2020, Council's current fleet now includes 5 Corolla Hybrids, one Camry Hybrid, three fully electric Nissan Leaf and one fully electric Hyundai Ioniq. Consistent with Council policy, Fleet continues to include emission ratings in plant assessments resulting in the procurement of plant and vehicles with lower emissions.

SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP

Council recognises its role in encouraging a culture of environmental sustainability among its workers and the community. In FY2019-20, Council renewed its commitment to continually improve its environment and sustainability performance by adopting a new Environmental Sustainability Policy that applies to all Council activities and operations. Council's Corporate Risk Register was also updated to address the strategic risks associated with local climate change impacts on Council's interests.

CASE STUDY:

INCREASING RESILIENCE AND WATER STORAGE

Built in 1970, the Fitzroy River Barrage is the major water storage for our Region and the main water source for the towns of Rockhampton, Gracemere and associated agricultural land. The Barrage separates the fresh water upstream from the tidal salt water downstream and features 18 vertical lift gates, designed to operate in response to rises in river height. The Barrage storage supplies raw water for the Glenmore Water Treatment Plant, which provides a reliable source of high quality drinking water to the local community. As a business unit of Council, Fitzroy River Water manages the operation of the Barrage water storage and treatment plants in accordance with Queensland Government legislation and regulations.

Council recognises that it's important to develop resilience to our changing climate and extreme weather events. Fitzroy River Water is developing a detailed design to raise the height of the barrage gates. This project will increase the Barrage storage capabilities by 10,000ML, future-proof our water storage against rising sea levels, minimise the risk of salt water contamination of our fresh water storage and in turn, improve the immunity of our water supply to future drought events. Fitzroy River Water has undertaken feasibility and detailed design work for this project and is continuing to work closely with the Queensland Government to finalise approvals so that the project can proceed to construction stage in 2021.

Fitzroy River Water has also progressed a range of other initiatives to protect our environment and ensure wise use of our resources. These include:

- Further energy efficiency upgrades to key pump stations and sewage treatment plants, delivering significant cost savings whilst also reducing carbon emissions.
- Reducing the amount of Total Nitrogen released to the Fitzroy River estuary by 24% (the lowest amount released in more than 10 years), by decommissioning the old West Rockhampton Sewage Treatment Plant and the completion of upgrades to the South Rockhampton and North Rockhampton Sewage Treatment Plants.
- Progressing recycled water schemes that will soon supply 1 ML per day to the Rockhampton Jockey Club and up to 4 ML per day to adjacent landowners, whilst also helping to further reduce future nutrient releases.

Whilst these initiatives increase our region's resilience, they are also key examples of how Council is continuously improving our environmental sustainability performance.

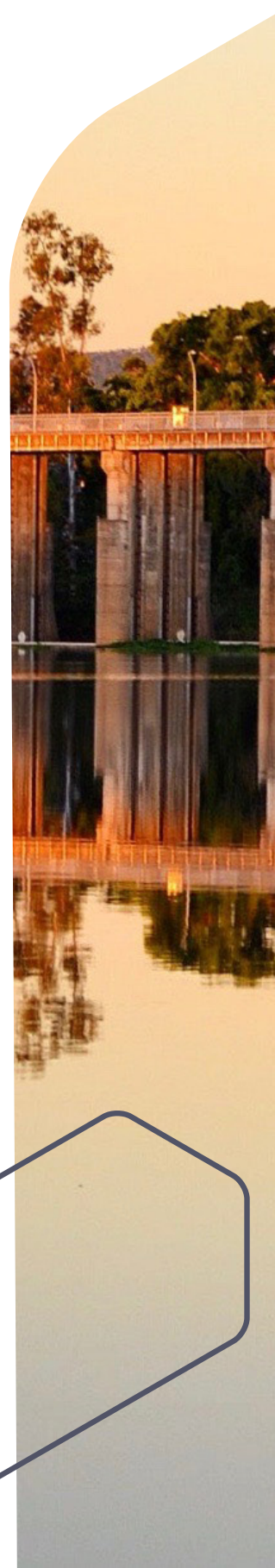
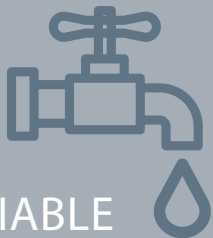


Photo: Vertical lift gate on the Rockhampton Barrage.

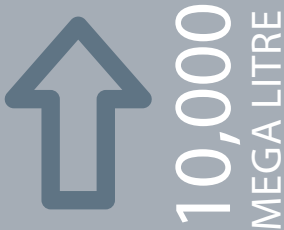


FITZROY RIVER BARRAGE - WATER STORAGE



RELIABLE WATER SOURCE

Glenmore Water Treatment Plant provides up to 120 ML drinking water per day to the Rockhampton Region.



10,000 MEGA LITRE INCREASE

to water storage by raising the height of the Barrage gates.



LONG TERM WATER SECURITY

and improved resilience to sea level rise and contamination of fresh water storage.

Photo: 'Still' by Michael Cave, Fitzroy River Barrage, Rockhampton.

LOOKING FORWARD.

Council is very pleased with the progress made in FY2019-20. But there is always more that can be done.

Already Council has a range of plans in place for FY2020-21 including:

- Implementation of Council's Waste Strategy including targeted community waste education activities to increase materials diverted from landfill whilst reducing recycling contamination rates.
- Development of a business case for the management of the Region's organic waste.
- Installation of a 2.5 MW solar power generation facility at the Glenmore Water Treatment Plant, to reduce carbon emissions and offset the site's reliance on grid electricity.
- Active transport improvements through upgrades to bicycle lanes and walking paths.
- Working with key delivery partners to implement Council's on-ground Natural Resource Management Program to protect, maintain and enhance Council's key natural assets.
- Implementation of Council's Biosecurity Plan to reduce the impact of invasive species on agriculture and the environment.
- Continued implementation of Council's Bringing Nature Back program to create opportunities for local residents to connect with, and take actions to care for the environment.
- Prioritised tree planting improvements that increase urban canopy cover at key gateways, corridors and parks.
- Renewed focus on illegal dumping activity in partnership with the Department of Environment and Science.
- Further work to identify and respond to climate-change related operational risks and opportunities.
- Continued support for community-based environment and sustainability initiatives through Council's Community Assistance Program.
- Finalising Council's transition to single-use plastic free operations, initially focussing on plastic straws, plates and cutlery.
- Transitioning key customer service and rates notices to electronic means.
- Activation of Mount Morgan Dam through the completion of 25km new mountain bike trails and associated signage and wayfinding.

Let's continue to work together to make the Rockhampton Region a great place to live, work, play, learn and invest.



Photo: 'Moores Creek' by Fletcher Dean

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!



rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au/EnvironmentalSustainability



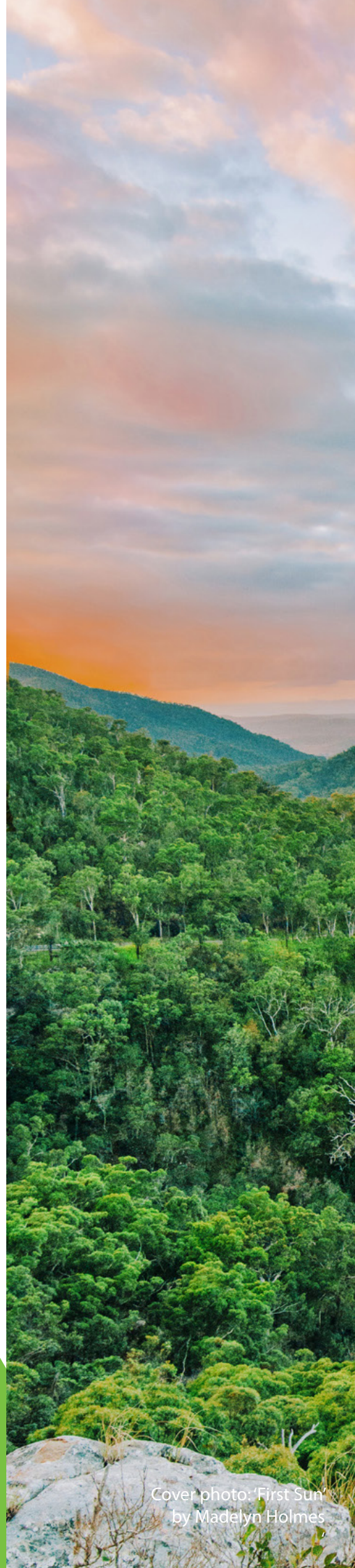
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