

Rockhampton
Regional Council

REEF GUARDIAN COUNCIL ACTION PLAN



www.gbrmpa.gov.au

Reef Guardian Council program

The Reef Guardian Council program (RGC program) is a collaborative stewardship arrangement between local government in the Great Barrier Reef catchment and the Authority, which recognises that local and regional approaches are central to protecting and managing the Reef and the communities it supports.

The RGC program was first launched in 2007 and in 2020 has grown to include 19 member councils covering an area of 300 000 square kilometres and a population of more than one million people.

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.


Actions are scalable reflecting each council's financial and technical capacities. To be a member, councils with a population of less than 50,000 residents must commit to at least one action for each item (climate change, coastal development, land-based run-off, direct use, heritage values), while councils with greater than 50,000 residents must commit to at least three actions per item. Examples of actions are provided in Table 1 of the Reef Guardian Council program Terms of Reference, however the program empowers councils to drive change and deliver innovative solutions to help the Reef by identifying other actions beyond those provided.

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'.

Period of Action Plan: FY2021 - 22

Endorsed by: _____


Evan Pardon, Chief Executive Officer
Rockhampton Regional Council, 16 July 2021

Local Government Areas in the Great Barrier Reef Catchment



Climate change

Action	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible department/position	Project Status
Develop and maintain partnerships that encourage sustainable industry and infrastructure (ESS 3.1)	Advocate for Region-wide renewable energy projects and local content supply that positively benefit the Rockhampton Region	FY2021-22 Council budget	Advance Rockhampton	Economic Development	In progress
Develop resilience to our changing climate and extreme weather events, by improving our understanding of the impacts of these events and the available response options (ESS 3.5)	Undertake a major amendment to the Planning Scheme for local flood catchment areas in response to our changing climate and extreme weather events	FY2021-22 Council budget		Strategy and Planning	In progress
Develop resilience to our changing climate and extreme weather events, by improving our understanding of the impacts of these events and the available response options (ESS 3.5)	Continue to improve the resilience of the Region's water storage assets	FY2021-22 Council budget	Internal stakeholders within Council's Regional Services department	Fitzroy River Water	In progress
Foster sustainable behaviour, and encourage Council's wise use of resources, by exploring opportunities to use our resources more efficiently (ESS 4.2)	Develop Council-owned renewable energy generation infrastructure at the Glenmore Water Treatment Plant	FY2021-22 Council budget		Fitzroy River Water	In progress
Foster sustainable behaviour, and encourage Council's wise use of resources, by exploring opportunities to use our resources more efficiently (ESS 4.2)	As part of Council's Energy Action Plan, continue to improve energy efficiency and implement rolling solar installations at key community facilities	FY2021-22 Council budget		Community Assets and Facilities	In progress

- ESS = Rockhampton Regional Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy FY2021-22 Annual Action Plan

Coastal development

Action	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible department/position	Project Status
Implement actions to improve waterway health and better manage the condition of key natural assets, green corridors and urban waterways (ESS 1.3)	Work with key delivery partners to implement the operational NRM Program on Council owned/managed land	FY2021-22 Council budget	Key internal and external stakeholders	Environmental Sustainability	In progress
Develop tools to better protect our natural environment, local biodiversity and remnant vegetation from development and other pressures (ESS 1.4)	Encourage positive environmental outcomes by developing an Environmental Offsets Policy which applies where development activities are unable to avoid or appropriately mitigate impacts	FY2021-22 Council budget	Internal stakeholders including Strategy and Planning, Environmental Sustainability and others as required	Planning and Regulatory Services	In progress
Foster sustainable behaviour and encourage the community's wise-use of resources, through targeted sustainability communications and engagement programs. (ESS 2.2)	Support the community's transition from single-use plastics by implementing the Plastic Free CQ program in conjunction with the Boomerang Alliance	FY2021-22 Council budget	Queensland Government, Boomerang Alliance, Livingstone Shire Council and internal stakeholders including Media and Environmental Sustainability	Rockhampton Regional Waste and Recycling	In progress
Develop and maintain partnerships that encourage sustainable industry and infrastructure (ESS 3.1)	Explore circular economy opportunities that improve utilisation of local resources and deliver more sustainable outcomes	FY2021-22 Council budget	Internal stakeholders including Economic Development and Rockhampton Regional Waste and Recycling	Advance Rockhampton	In progress
Encourage and raise the profile of best practice environmentally sustainable development through a range of local demonstration projects (ESS 3.4)	Explore opportunities to embed sustainability considerations in all infrastructure planning (with particular emphasis on active transport, improved flood resilience and catchment management planning)	FY2021-22 Council budget	Key internal and external stakeholders	Infrastructure Planning	In progress

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Land-based run-off

Action	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible department/position	Project Status
Develop and maintain partnerships that encourage sustainable industry and infrastructure (ESS 3.1)	Encourage further sustainable agricultural development in the Fitzroy Agricultural Corridor	FY2021-22 Council budget	Queensland Government and key internal stakeholders including Economic Development	Advance Rockhampton	In progress
Maximise opportunities to embed environment and sustainability considerations within planning, policy and infrastructure development (ESS 3.3)	Explore opportunities to reduce land-based runoff through innovative development solutions and new approaches to water quality treatment	FY2021-22 Council budget		Planning and Regulatory Services	In progress
Foster sustainable behaviour, and encourage Council's wise use of resources, by exploring opportunities to use our resources more efficiently (ESS 4.2)	Implement actions to improve environmental outcomes and meet licence obligations at Council's landfills	FY2021-22 Council budget	Key internal departments as required	Rockhampton Regional Waste and Recycling	In progress
Foster sustainable behaviour, and encourage Council's wise use of resources, by exploring opportunities to use our resources more efficiently (ESS 4.2)	Continue to implement opportunities to improve Council's water efficiency through infrastructure improvements and the use of recycled water where appropriate	FY2021-22 Council budget	Key internal stakeholders including Parks	Fitzroy River Water	In progress
Implement a program to better understand and manage Council's environmental risks (ESS 4.3)	Review Council's pest management approaches and consider opportunities to improve Council's practices in waterways and sensitive environmental areas	FY2021-22 Council budget		Planning and Regulatory Services	In progress
Implement a program to better understand and manage Council's environmental risks (ESS 4.3)	Explore opportunities to improve visibility of key metrics associated with Council's electricity, waste and fuel usage and emissions	FY2021-22 Council budget	Key external and internal stakeholders including Corporate and Technology Services	Environmental Sustainability	In progress

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Direct use

Project Name	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible department/position	Project Status
Foster strong partnerships to protect, maintain and enhance our local natural environment (ESS 1.2)	Continue to actively participate in the Reef Guardian Council program and support community and industry partnerships working to improve Reef Health	FY2021-22 Council budget	Key internal and external stakeholders	Environmental Sustainability	In progress
Grow local visitation and tourism opportunities that celebrate our natural areas and contribute to the livability of our region (ESS 3.2)	Continue to implement the Rockhampton Recreational Fishing Development Strategy to promote sustainable recreation and tourism, whilst protecting the environment, improving ecosystem health and ensuring sustainable harvesting practices	FY2021-22 Council budget	Economic Development, Fitzroy Basin Association, Local Marine Advisory Committee	Advance Rockhampton	In progress
Implement actions to improve waterway health and better manage the condition of key natural assets, green corridors and urban waterways (ESS 1.3)	Take further steps to reduce the impact of invasive species on the environment by updating and implementing Council's Biosecurity Plan	FY2021-22 Council budget		Planning and Regulatory	In progress

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Reef heritage and social values

Action	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible department/position	Project Status
Foster strong partnerships to protect, maintain and enhance our local natural environment (ESS 1.2)	Continue to establish and strengthen mutually beneficial relationships with Traditional Owners, by implementing actions within Council's Reconciliation Action Plan. This includes actions to support dual naming of key Rockhampton Region landmarks, NAIDOC week celebrations and Council support for First Nation focused events/projects	FY 2021-22 Council budget	Traditional Owners	Office of the Mayor	In progress
Demonstrate sustainability leadership by integrating environmental sustainability as a core principle within Council's governance framework (ESS 4.1)	Continue to improve Council's approach to sustainable events. This should include implementing guidelines that apply to all Council coordinated events and all events held at Council facilities	FY 2021-22 Council budget	Communities and Culture, Environmental Sustainability, Plastic Free CQ and local vendors	Advance Rockhampton	In progress
Grow local visitation and tourism opportunities that celebrate our natural areas and contribute to the livability of our region (ESS 3.2)	Continue to showcase the Region's key natural assets to locals and visitors through targeted campaigns that promote nature-based recreation activities and the enhancement of key natural and cultural assets	FY2021-22 Council budget	Tourism, Marketing and Events	Advance Rockhampton	In progress

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