

**ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY
STRATEGY.**

YEAR IN REVIEW: FY 2021-22

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

Rockhampton Regional Council would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians within our Region, the Darumbal People, the Gaangalu Nation People and the Barada Kabalbara Yetimarala People, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

We also acknowledge the Torres Strait Islander people whose land is in the Torres Strait but who live and work on Aboriginal land.

Council also recognises the contributions of a range of organisations, individuals and the broader community who have each helped to bring the Environmental Sustainability Strategy to life and who continue to help make change happen across our Region. Key collaborators include: The 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, Fitzroy Partnership for River Health, Fitzroy River Water, Rockhampton Regional Waste and Recycling, Capricornia Catchments, Darumbal, Landcare, Multicultural Australia, Jobs Queensland, Capricorn Conservation Council, Native Plants Capricornia, Birdlife Capricornia, Central Queensland Aboriginal Corporation for Cultural Activities, local schools and kindergartens.

FY 2021-22 edition

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CREATING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.



COUNCILLOR
DONNA KIRKLAND

Water and Environmental
Sustainability Portfolio
Rockhampton Regional Council

The Rockhampton Region is a great place to live, visit and invest. Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2018-2022 has been helping to ensure it remains that way both now and in the future by providing shared objectives and pathways to advance sustainability across our Region. Despite the challenging times we're living through, I'm very proud of the way Council has been working together with our local residents, community partners, local businesses and other levels of government to support the continued liveability and prosperity of our communities.

This Year in Review report checks in on the progress we've made and highlights some of the key actions Council is taking as we transition towards a more sustainable future. Some of the key highlights from FY2021-22 include:

- Increased momentum on renewable energy projects including the installation of small-scale Council owned solar systems on key Council and community facilities and progress on a range of large-scale energy generation projects across the Region.
- The roll-out of new waste diversion initiatives bringing us another step closer to zero waste, like our Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) trial, polystyrene recycling trial and new arrangements for the recycling of end-of-life solar panels.
- Increased focus on improving water security and the resilience of the Region's water storage assets.
- Innovative and sustainable approaches embedded within major project design and delivery at the Rockhampton Museum of Art, Rockhampton Airport and the Rockhampton Botanic Gardens & Zoo.
- Extension of Council's shared pathway network supporting active transport such as walking and cycling and the local trial of e-scooters.
- Growing community interest in environment and sustainability initiatives, such as National Tree Day, the Native Plant Program, Plastic Free CQ and the student-led CQ Sustainability Youth Summit.
- The strengthening of collaborative efforts to protect, maintain and enhance our natural environment in conjunction with key partnership programs and local stakeholders.
- Continued efforts to embed environment and sustainability considerations in Council's operational practices and procedures from procurement to asset management and local services.

I'm excited to see what can be achieved within the Rockhampton Region as we set out together towards 2030 on the next chapter of our sustainability journey.

Photo: 'Murray Lagoon' by Jan Wilson

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 has lead over the life of this four-year 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 and the community.

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.





NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

OBJECTIVE

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

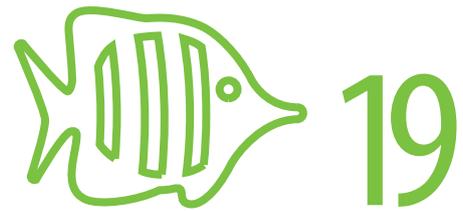
TARGETS

- 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



bringing nature back into our local communities through Council's Native Plant Program.



REEF GUARDIAN COUNCILS

working together to protect and conserve the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park through activities that improve the health and resilience of the Reef.



NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

activities delivered on-ground works at a number of key sites across the Region in collaboration with local community groups.



GROWING REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

continuing to improve management of our natural assets as part of the Central Queensland Sustainability Strategy 2030, Fitzroy Partnership for River Health and local research initiatives.

BRINGING NATURE BACK

Council's Bringing Nature Back Program provides an overarching framework for a range of activities designed to connect our community with nature and protect, maintain and enhance our natural environment. Bringing Nature Back activities included:

- local residents received 5,000 native plants to take home and plant in their yards as part of Council's Native Plant Program (July 2021);
- over 200 local residents participated in community planting activities to mark National Tree Day 2021, planting over 450 native plants to help restore riparian areas and shade and cool open spaces;
- 187 locals made nearly 12,000 bird sightings (120 different species) as part of Birdlife Australia's Aussie Backyard Bird Count in October 2021;
- residents and community groups hosted or joined in to 'step up to clean up' at a range of Clean Up Australia Day events held across the Region in March 2022;
- Local kindergartens, daycare centres and early childhood education programs received customised Rockhampton Region Nature Play Passports to encourage nature play and help local families explore and engage with our local natural assets.



NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Council's Natural Resource Management (NRM) Program works with local partners to deliver on-ground outcomes on Council land, whilst developing skilling and employment pathways for locals. In FY2021-22, Council fostered partnerships with CQUniversity, Multicultural Australia, Capricornia Catchments, Central Queensland Aboriginal Corporation for Cultural Activities, Max Employment Rockhampton, and the Commonwealth Government's Work for the Dole Program. Works were delivered at Fraser Park, Yeppen Lagoon, Frenchville Road/Frenchmans Creek, Col Austin Park and Moores Creek.



INCREASING URBAN CANOPY COVER

Council delivered around 320 new semi-advanced trees to increase canopy cover and help shade and cool our Region. The new trees were planted at Bryan Bulman Park, Rigalsford Park, Murray Lagoon, Lakes Creed Road, Kerrigan Street, Baker Street Park, Apex Park, Aquatic Place, Eton Street, Rosel Park, Duthie Park, John Leak Memorial Park, Kettle Park and Violet Street Gracemere. Council is continuing to scope additional sites for future tree planting activities.

BIOSECURITY ACTIVITIES

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (Qld), Council is required to maintain a Biosecurity Plan for Pest Management. The Plan identifies how Council manages the risk of introduced plants and animals to our environment, the economy and our community. Under the Plan, Council continues to implement feral pig baiting and trapping programs, floodplain inspection activities, prickly acacia and feral leucaena control works, aquatic weed control on the Fitzroy River and targeted weed control on Council-managed land. Council also continues to participate in the Capricorn Pest Management Group and to deliver a biological control program using living organisms such as insects to suppress aquatic weed infestations and supports local landholders by providing access to relevant biocontrols. Council's Biosecurity Plan is being reviewed.

IN FOCUS:

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN LAND USE PLANNING

The *Planning Act 2016* (Qld) is the principal law regulating land use planning and development. It provides a framework for regional and statewide planning instruments, and supports the development assessment process. Under the Act, Councils are required to maintain a local planning scheme. The planning scheme is the document that the community, the development industry and governments all look to in order to understand the local government's plan for managing growth and change, including what sort of development they can expect in a local area. The planning scheme also guides what land can be used for, how land may be developed and what assessment process is required.

The Rockhampton Region covers a diverse geographic area of 6,575km². The Fitzroy River, fed by a vast catchment being the largest draining to the Great Barrier Reef, flows through the Rockhampton Region and is vital for water supplies, agriculture and recreational activities. Broad wooded areas, wetlands and national parks provide habitat for a diversity of native species. The Region also showcases natural environmental values and species that are distinctive to the Region and which contribute to Queensland's biodiversity.

The Rockhampton Region Planning Scheme provides a powerful tool to protect, maintain and enhance the natural environment. The Planning Scheme can help to:

- Prevent inappropriate development and land uses by setting the strategic intent and strategic framework for the region;
- Ensure that the settlement pattern focuses on urban infill to minimise further encroachment on natural areas;
- Protect areas from urban development such as conservation areas, open space, natural corridors and links;
- Ensure that environment and heritage values are appropriately identified and protected through the use of zones and overlay mapping;
- Identify areas vulnerable to natural hazards such as flood, bushfire, steep slopes, coastal erosion and acid sulfate soils; and
- Assess and regulate any development impacts and environmentally relevant activities.

Council regularly updates the Planning Scheme to incorporate both major and minor amendments. In FY2021-22, Council commenced a major amendment to update the flood hazard overlay mapping and associated development controls. To inform the amendments, Council completed several flood studies to improve its understanding of flooding in the Rockhampton Region, updated the regional flood model and local catchment studies and undertook consultation with local residents.





MANAGING LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

ROCKHAMPTON
REGION



PLANNING SCHEME

adopted in 2015,
currently seeking
approval of version 4.4.



150 - 200

development applications
processed by Council
per year.



>6,000

DEVELOPMENT ENQUIRIES

per year including property
searches, planning, compliance,
building and plumbing matters.



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

IMPROVING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE



Council's Community Education, Relief, and Recovery Trailer helps local families prepare their households for natural disasters.

2,686 HOUSEHOLDS



subscribe to the Living Sustainably e-newsletter receiving practical information, tips and actions to implement in their homes.

4



COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

shared in \$9,200 funding via Council's Environmental Sustainability Scheme helping to support local sustainability action.

68

LOCAL BUSINESSES



ELIMINATED 300,960 SINGLE USE PLASTIC ITEMS

as part of their participation in the Plastic Free CQ program.



COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Council's Disaster Management unit has prepared a range of educational resources designed to help children learn about, and prepare for, emergencies and disasters that they may experience in the Rockhampton Region. Local residents can learn how to stay safe and become more resilient by helping their family to prepare a Household Emergency Plan, Emergency Kit and Evacuation Kit. A dedicated Community Education, Relief, and Recovery Trailer has been established to support education initiatives as well as the relief and recovery phases following disaster events.



LIVING SUSTAINABLY

Council's Living Sustainably program focuses on simple actions that residents can take in their own homes. The program fosters sustainable behaviour and encourages the community's wise-use of resources through 12 sustainability themes. As part of the Living Sustainably program:

- residents were able to access a range of household sustainability focused program materials and resources via Council's website;
- more than 2,686 households receive practical information, handy tips and calls to action via the monthly e-newsletter;
- local schools participate in the annual Sustainability in Action schools calendar competition which is designed to encourage students to adopt and model sustainable behaviour within our local community and to recognise their achievements; and
- over 4,000 local families received a copy of the 2022 Rockhampton Region community calendar which recognised and featured 12 of our local 'sustainability champion schools'.



WORKING TOWARDS ZERO WASTE

Council's Waste Strategy outlines strategies to support the transition of our community towards a circular economy with the long term goal of achieving zero waste by 2050. A range of initiatives are being implemented as part of the Strategy's goal and priority to change local waste behaviours.

This includes:

- Council's Recycling Hero Schools program, which is designed to implement and monitor tailored school based waste reduction actions;
- Council-hosted teacher Professional Development workshops providing materials and resources covering environmental sustainability, waste and water, local laws, and disaster management;
- Working with the Boomerang Alliance to implement the Plastic Free CQ program to support local businesses transition to reusable or compostable options in response to the legislated Queensland single-use plastic ban;
- Improving access to residential bin collection information through the development of a new bin day search tool on Council's website; and
- Partnering with CQUniversity, Multicultural Australia and other local organisations to support the development of an Upcycling Village.

IN FOCUS:

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND SUSTAINABILITY YOUTH SUMMIT

The inaugural CQ Sustainability Youth Summit was held on 16 July 2021, coordinated by the Emmaus College Student Sustainability Committee and hosted by CQUniversity.

The Emmaus College Student Sustainability Committee is a small group of students who are passionate about sustainability and caring for the world around us. Working in partnership with CQUniversity, the Students planned and delivered the CQ Sustainability Youth Summit with around 200 participants from secondary schools across Central Queensland.

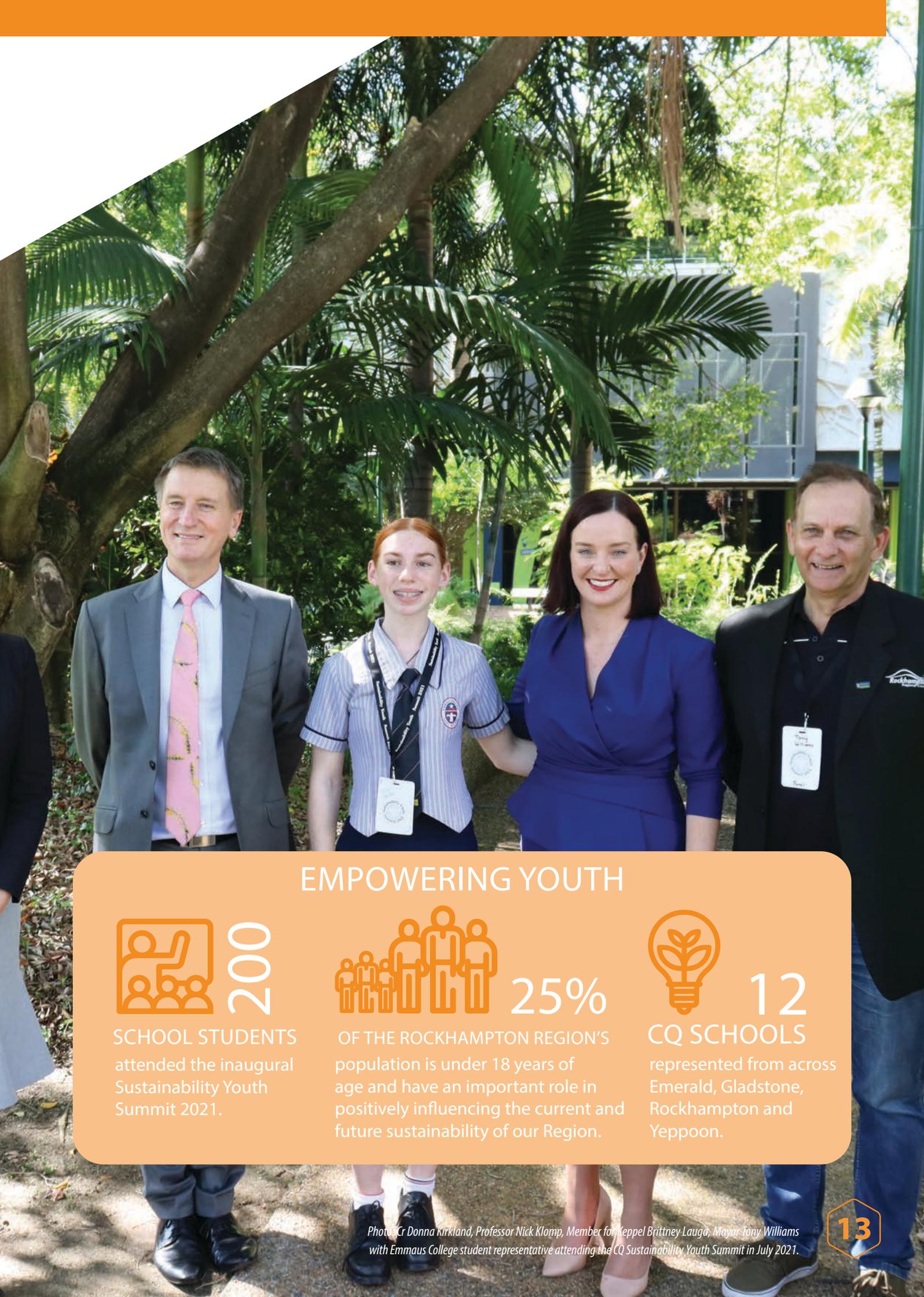
The aim of the event is to bring together students to discuss and identify ways in which young people can be more active in their local community, with particular focus on how to transition to a more sustainable future. Participants prepared a range of discussion topics and questions to present to a guest panel and participated in a range of sustainability focused activity stations and stalls.

The CQ Sustainability Youth Summit included:

- guest speakers Brittany Lauga MP, Barry O'Rourke MP, Mayor Tony Williams, Councillor Donna Kirkland, Professor Nick Klomp, Patrice Brown and Jackson Munton;
- activities and a networking session to further increase sustainability awareness and build better connections between schools, businesses and industry;
- student showcase of sustainability initiatives that they currently run within their schools;
- local business and industry stalls to showcase innovative and sustainable practices within their operations;
- students sharing ideas and networking with peers who were also passionate about the environment;
- student introduction to a variety of higher education courses focussed on environment and sustainability;
- media assistance to share youth interest in sustainability and key sustainability messages with the broader community.

The inaugural event received support from Council's Community Assistance Program – Environment and Sustainability Scheme as well as a range of local sponsors. Based on the success of the inaugural event, the Emmaus College Student Committee plan to continue delivering an annual Youth Summit to empower local youth to actively participate in sustainability actions.





EMPOWERING YOUTH



200
SCHOOL STUDENTS
attended the inaugural
Sustainability Youth
Summit 2021.



25%
OF THE ROCKHAMPTON REGION'S
population is under 18 years of
age and have an important role in
positively influencing the current and
future sustainability of our Region.



12
CQ SCHOOLS
represented from across
Emerald, Gladstone,
Rockhampton and
Yeppoon.

*Photo: Cr Donna Kirkland, Professor Nick Klomp, Member for Keppel Brittney Lauga, Mayor Tony Williams
with Emmaus College student representative attending the CQ Sustainability Youth Summit in July 2021.*



INDUSTRY & INFRASTRUCTURE.

OBJECTIVE

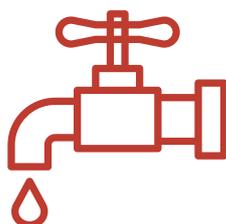
Let's work together to create a liveable region that encourages sustainable industry and infrastructure.

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

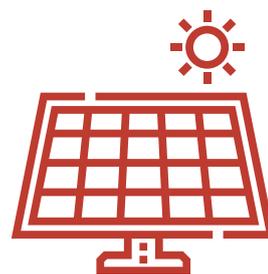
NEW
3.75ML



RESERVOIR AND PUMP STATION

progressing in Gracemere to support the proposed Mount Morgan water pipeline and help improve water security.

100%



END OF LIFE SOLAR PANELS DIVERTED from landfill for reuse or recycling as part of new Rockhampton Regional Waste and Recycling partnership arrangements.

RENEWABLE
ENERGY
ZONE



driving new local projects including the construction of the Clarke Creek Wind Farm and other new wind and solar initiatives.



2,500M³
EXPANDED
POLYSTYRENE

foam processed to form dense pellets which can be recycled into products such as synthetic timber, stationery and plant pots.

WATER SECURITY

Water security is key for our Region and our communities, yet can be challenging to achieve given the ongoing drought and extreme weather conditions. To address critical water shortages at Mount Morgan, Council has progressed business case planning and secured funding commitments from all levels of government to develop a water pipeline as a permanent water supply solution. Council also endorsed to commence the design and construction of a new reservoir and pump station at Lucas Street Gracemere.



MAKING WATER WORK

Council recognises that water security is also key to a range of different local economic development opportunities. The Making Water Work program has been created to progress sustainable agriculture development in the Rockhampton Region. The Program is part of the Region's roadmap to support clean growth choices. The Fitzroy River has the largest river catchment on the eastern seaboard of Australia and provides the Region with long-term opportunities to develop irrigated agriculture such as horticulture, cropping and livestock production in the Fitzroy Food Bowl. Advance Rockhampton has been working with industry and other levels of government to support landholders to access water resources associated with Rookwood Weir, create more local food manufacturing and related service jobs and to access domestic and export markets, whilst ensuring sustainable agricultural growth and positive outcomes for the Great Barrier Reef.



WASTE DIVERSION INITIATIVES

As we transition towards zero waste, Rockhampton Regional Waste and Recycling has rolled out a number of new waste diversion initiatives. This includes a Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) trial to determine whether an organics kerbside bin is a good solution for the Rockhampton Region, a recycling trial for expanded polystyrene foam and new arrangements for the recycling of end-of-life solar panels. Council continues to extend active landfill gas extraction at the Lakes Creek Road Landfill and has been working with CQUniversity's Social Innovation Hub to support opportunities to turn local waste into resources. Advance Rockhampton has also been working with local industry to develop a circular economy discussion paper.

ACTIVE TRANSPORT

Through implementation of the newly adopted Walking and Cycling Strategy, Council aims to provide the necessary infrastructure and programs to enable a 50% increase in active transport usage by 2031. Council has been supporting community connectivity by constructing new walking circuits and addressing missing links in our existing footpath network. Council also commenced a 12 month trial of E-scooters within Rockhampton. E-scooters are ideal for short trips in and around our commercial precincts, reducing the number of cars on the road and providing locals and visitors with greater choice in mobility options.

IN FOCUS:

FOOD ORGANICS AND GARDEN ORGANICS TRIAL

Organic wastes are a significant component of our local waste streams. Yet the good news is, it's possible to divert much of these organic materials from landfill. In late 2021, Council received Queensland Government funding to trial a Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) kerbside collection system within the Rockhampton Region.

Rockhampton Regional Waste and Recycling kicked off a 12-month FOGO trial in October 2021 with a total of 762 residential households to investigate which organics kerbside bin service configuration would be the most viable solution for our Region.

The FOGO trial identified three groups of residential households to receive different bin sizes and service configurations, with some receiving a food organics and garden organics bin and others receiving a garden organics only bin. Organic material collected from the trial is taken to a commercial composting facility in Gracemere where it is composted for between 12-18 weeks in order to turn it into several grades of compost products.

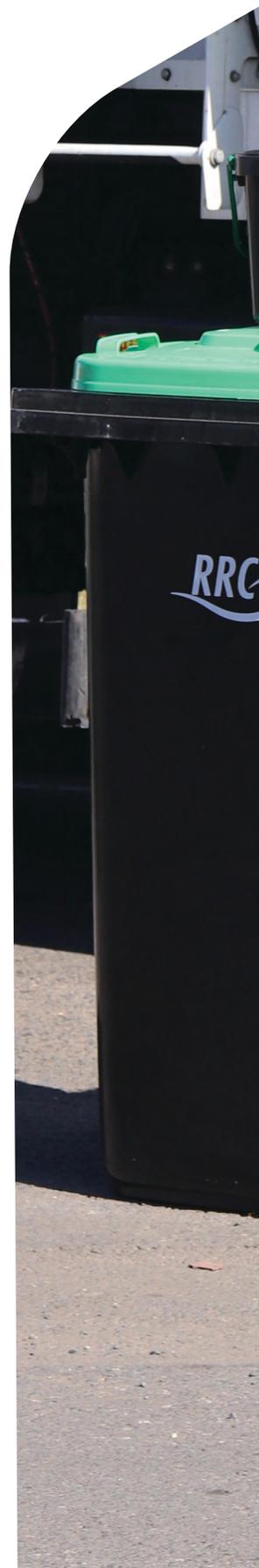
The trial will compare and evaluate the total tonnes of material collected, contamination levels, cost and community response to each of the service configurations. Council will use the learnings from the trial to make a decision about the feasibility of FOGO collections in the Rockhampton Region and the most suitable service to roll out across the whole community.

So far, initial bin monitoring and compositional audits have shown that the new FOGO bins are proving popular. Participation rates are around 70%, with the majority of bins at least half full, whilst contamination rates have remained relatively low.

If implemented successfully across the Region, the FOGO service has the potential to:

- Significantly reduce the quantity of waste going to landfill (estimated at around 8,000 tonnes per year);
- Reduce waste management costs by extending the life of the Lakes Creek Road Landfill facility;
- Reduce carbon emissions from landfill;
- Mitigate the impact of the Queensland Government's waste levy on ratepayers;
- Help the Rockhampton Region to meet National and State government waste reduction targets;
- Return valuable nutrients back into productive use in our local soils; and
- Provide community-wide environmental and economic benefits by closing the loop on organic waste.

Implementation of the FOGO trial delivers on key organic waste actions identified in Council's Waste Strategy and marks another significant step towards zero waste.



THIS TRUCK ALSO COLLECTS FOR

FOGO TRIAL
FOOD ORGANICS & GARDEN ORGANICS



LOCAL FOGO TRIAL



762
HOUSEHOLDS
participating in the trial
across three residential
areas.



12 MONTH TRIAL
including regular
monitoring and
compositional
bin audits.



3
SERVICE DELIVERY
options trialed to
determine most viable
organics kerbside bin
service configuration.



COUNCIL OPERATIONS.

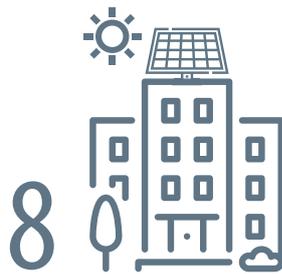
OBJECTIVE

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 SOLAR INSTALLATIONS

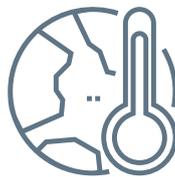
bringing Council's solar generation capacity to over 500kW, with a 1300kW system also under development at the Glenmore Water Treatment Plant.



AUSTRALIAN SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

2021 TIDY TOWN AWARDS

winner in the Environmental Sustainability - Natural Environment and Environmental Sustainability - Water categories.



STRENGTHENING CLIMATE RESILIENCE

through local collaborative action, regional partnerships, training, working groups and government forums.

CORPORATE METRICS



being collated to better understand efficiency opportunities associated with electricity, waste, fuel and other resources under Council's operational control.

SECOND NATURE

Council's Second Nature program aims to increase staff sustainability awareness and action. During the year, the program worked with Council's Internal Sustainability Working Group to:

- establish a purchasing arrangement for the supply of compostable foodware for Council events and other activities;
- run refreshers on sustainable catering practices and office recycling;
- refine processes for the collection, reuse and recycling of old uniforms;
- support the Pilbeam Theatre's switch to rechargeable batteries for key performance equipment; and
- continue the expansion of guidance materials within the Sustainability Toolkit on the Staff Hub.



RENEWABLE ENERGY INITIATIVES

Council continues to increase the amount of its operational electricity needs sourced from renewable energy, with an additional 8 solar systems installed this year. Council now has over 500kW of solar generation capacity. The new systems at the Animal Management Centre, Bauhinia House, Mount Morgan administration building, Memorial Gardens, Northside Library and Dooley Street Depot, join existing solar installations at the Gracemere Library, Rockhampton Museum of Art and the Boathouse. Solar works at Glenmore Water Treatment Plant are also progressing. Further planning will continue to prioritise future solar opportunities across key Council and community assets.

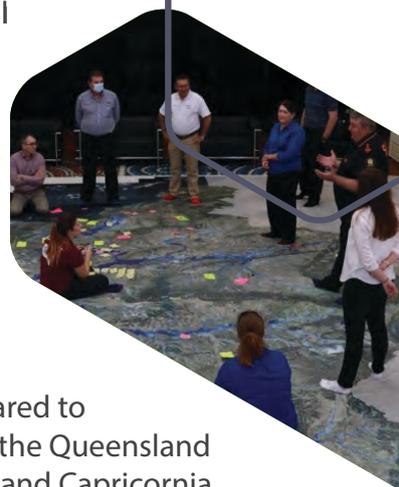


STRENGTHENING LOCAL RESILIENCE

Council is committed to ensuring the Rockhampton Region is resilient and prepared to manage climate-related risks and opportunities. Council has been working with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority to develop the Regional Resilience Strategy for Fitzroy and Capricornia as well as the subsequent local resilience action. Council successfully secured funding from the Australian Government's Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants to help progress bushfire resilience planning, increase capacity for firefighting response, support staging areas at the Gracemere SES Depot and a number of other key local projects.

Council has been actively planning for major asset renewals. This includes upgrades to infrastructure such as Sewage Treatment Plants, Water Treatment Plants, roads and a range of other facilities. Energy, water and waste efficiencies continue to be prioritised in all major projects. Council has also been pursuing funding for more comprehensive climate resilience planning.

Council continues to work with key stakeholders to support the development and installation of an improved flood warning network throughout the Fitzroy Basin. Officers have also contributed to local networks via the Renew Economy Forum, Towards a Low Carbon Economy workshops, the CQ Climate Change Symposium and the CQ Local Government Climate Forum.



IN FOCUS:

ELECTRIC VEHICLE TRANSITION

In March 2022, the Queensland Government released the Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy 2022 -2032 and the first Zero Emission Vehicle Action Plan 2022 - 2024. The Strategy has been developed in partnership with the Department of Transport and Main Roads and Department of Energy and Public Works. It aligns with the Queensland Transport Strategy supporting strategic outcomes for accessible, convenient transport; efficient reliable and productive transport for people and goods; and sustainable, resilient, and liveable communities.

The 10-year Strategy establishes Queensland's shift to zero net emissions by 2050 through the following targets:

- 50% of new passenger vehicle sales to be zero emission by 2030, moving to 100% by 2036;
- 100% of eligible Queensland Government fleet passenger vehicles to be zero emission by 2026; and
- every new TransLink funded bus added to the fleet to be a zero emission bus from 2025 in South East Queensland and from 2025-2030 across regional Queensland.

The Queensland Government has established the Queensland Electric Vehicle Super Highway by installing 31 fast-charging sites that enabling Queenslanders and tourists to travel from Brisbane to Toowoomba in a low or zero emission vehicle. Council worked actively with the State Government to ensure our Region was included in the infrastructure roll out with a publicly available fast-charge electric vehicle charging station located at City Hall. The next phase of the Super Highway rollout will also see an additional 24 fast-charging sites installed, linking inland townships to the statewide network.

Council is progressing a long-term transition to a low carbon fleet. Council's Fleet Vehicle Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Policy was adopted in 2012. Consistent with the policy, Fleet continues to include emission ratings in plant assessments resulting in the procurement of plant and vehicles with low emissions. As at June 2022, Council's vehicle fleet included six fully electric vehicles and seven hybrid vehicles. There is potential to significantly increase this number once hybrid and electric utility vehicles (utes) become more readily available over the next few years.

To further support this transition, Council maintains Fleet charging stations at the Glenmore Water Treatment Plant and the Dooley Street Depot (including a newly installed 50KW fast charger). Council is also advocating for the installation of additional public chargers across the Region for use by locals and visitors to the Region.





ZERO EMISSIONS FLEET

50%



of all new passenger vehicle sales to be zero emission by 2030, as per the Queensland Government's Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy.



6

ELECTRIC VEHICLES within Council's fleet, with low emissions opportunities considered in every new purchase.

8

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING SITES

located with our Region, with chargers currently located at City Hall, Stockland Rockhampton and a range of local accommodation venues.

Photo: One of Council's electric vehicle fleet at the charging station located at City Hall.

LOOKING FORWARD.

Council is very pleased with the progress made under the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2018-2022. Over the last four years, the Strategy has guided the delivery of a range of new sustainability initiatives both within Council and across our Region.

As we move towards 2030, we recognise the need to deliver local initiatives that accelerate the Rockhampton Region's progress towards emissions reduction targets whilst simultaneously working to strengthen community, environmental and economic resilience to climate-related risks and impacts.

So we're taking the opportunity to refresh our Sustainability Strategy to incorporate these rapidly evolving requirements.

Looking forward to FY2022-23, Council is planning to adopt a revised Sustainability Strategy that focuses on:

- transitioning towards net zero emissions;
- prioritising a healthy natural environment;
- building climate resilience; and
- ensuring that we thrive in the low carbon economy.

Council's vision is One Great Region. Live. Visit. Invest. Achieving this vision requires Council to work together with our communities, businesses, industries and other levels of government as we continue to create a sustainable future for the Rockhampton Region.

This means we'll be continuing the great work that we've started, whilst looking for new ways to strengthen our capacity to live sustainably; to create even more liveable and resilient communities; to position our Region for further investment; and to continually improve our environment and sustainability performance.

We're excited about the opportunity to positively influence the continuing liveability and prosperity of this wonderful place we call home. And we welcome you to be part of the next chapter in the Rockhampton Region's sustainability journey.

**Let's continue to work together to create
One Great Region to live, visit and invest in.**



Photo: "Sunset over The Range" by Jasmine Mick

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!



rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au/EnvironmentalSustainability



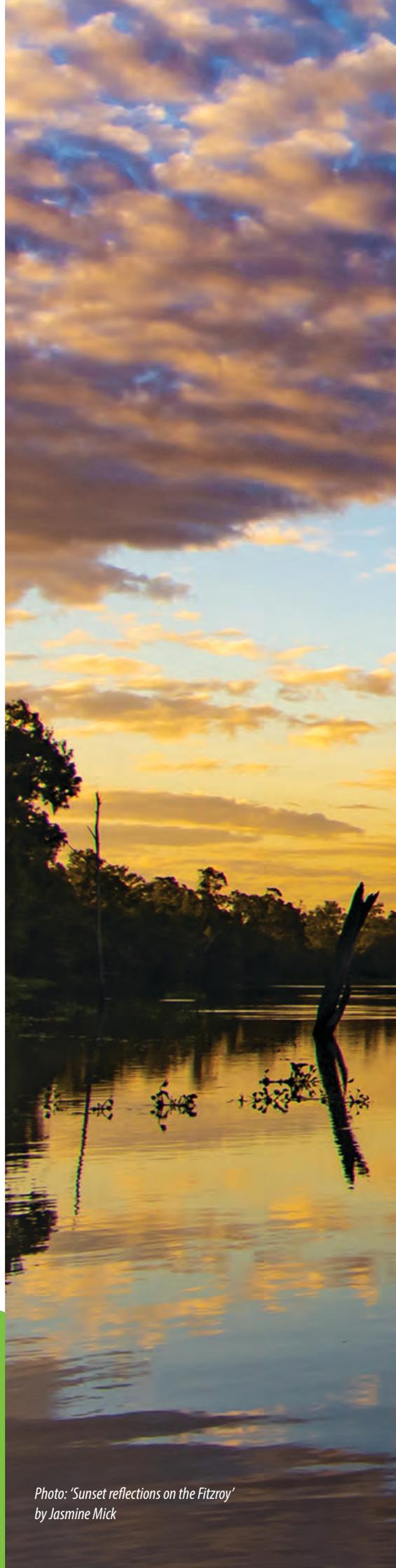
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*Photo: 'Sunset reflections on the Fitzroy'
by Jasmine Mick*