

Rockhampton
Regional Council
FY2023-24

REEF GUARDIAN COUNCIL ACTION PLAN



Australian Government
Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority



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 now includes 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

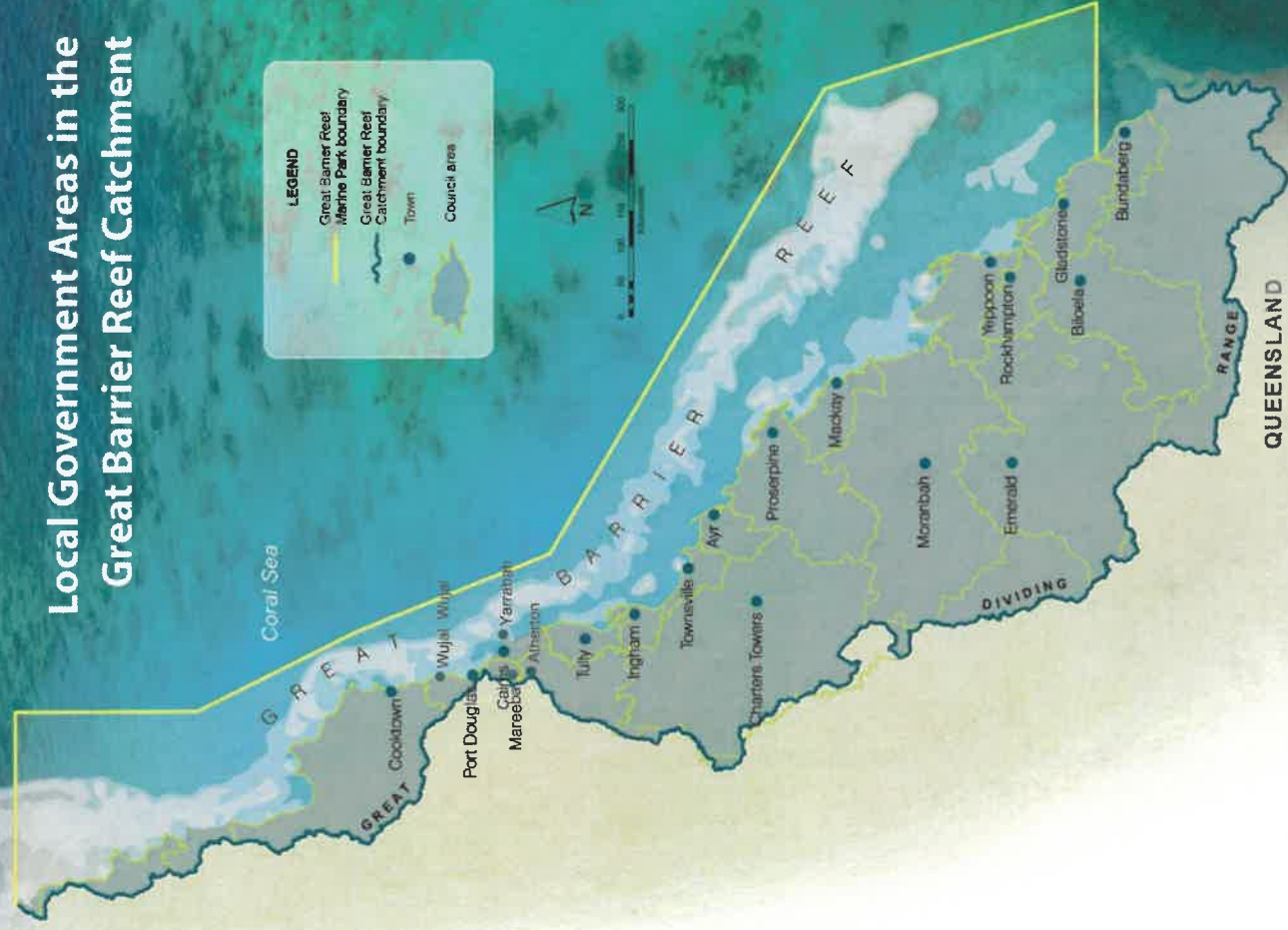
The council recognises the importance of the Reef Guardian partnership and values the contributions made by staff and the community 'working together today for a healthier Reef tomorrow'.

Period of Action Plan: FY2023-24

Endorsed by:


Evan Pardon, Chief Executive Officer
Rockhampton Regional Council, 07 March 2023

Local Government Areas in the Great Barrier Reef Catchment



Climate change

Action	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible department/position	Project Status
Accelerate Council's transition towards net zero emissions by actively monitoring and reducing emissions within Council's operational control (SS 4.1)	Facilitate implementation of Council's Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan and work with the Emissions Working Group to track ongoing progress via Council's Corporate Emissions Inventory.	Sustainability Strategy FY2022-23 Annual Action Plan		Environmental Sustainability	In progress
Accelerate Council's transition towards net zero emissions by actively monitoring and reducing emissions within Council's operational control (SS 4.1)	Continue rollout of the Community Assets and Facilities (CAF) solar installation program at feasible Council-owned sites (subject to capital and/or grant funding).	Sustainability Strategy FY2022-23 Annual Action Plan		Community Assets and Facilities	In progress
Accelerate Council's transition towards net zero emissions by actively monitoring and reducing emissions within Council's operational control (SS 4.1)	Support opportunities to incorporate behind the meter solar installations at the Rockhampton Airport (subject to the availability of capital and/or grant funding).	Sustainability Strategy FY2022-23 Annual Action Plan	Rockhampton Airport (council-owned and operated)	Project Delivery with Rockhampton Airport	Proposed
Accelerate the transition towards zero waste by driving waste avoidance and waste diversion at the individual and household level (SS 1.2)	Take steps to progress the roll-out of the Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) service within the Rockhampton Region.	Sustainability Strategy FY2022-23 Annual Action Plan	Queensland Government	Rockhampton Regional Waste and Recycling	Proposed
Link individuals with sustainable transport and active recreation opportunities that connect with key local destinations and open spaces (SS 1.4)	Progress implementation of the Walking and Cycling Strategy.	Sustainability Strategy FY2022-23 Annual Action Plan		Infrastructure Planning	In progress
Support local residents to adopt sustainable behaviours that help them to save money and reduce household emissions (SS 1.1)	Encourage local sustainability awareness and action by delivering the Living Sustainably program in conjunction with key stakeholders, targeting behaviour change initiatives related to waste, water, energy and biodiversity protection.	Sustainability Strategy FY2022-23 Annual Action Plan	Local residents and local community groups	Environmental Sustainability	In progress

Coastal development

Action	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible department/position	Project Status
Enhance the liveability of our Region by supporting initiatives that protect local biodiversity, restore landscapes and increase urban canopy cover (SS 2.3)	Plan for, and implement, targeted urban greening activities in line with Council's Urban Greening Policy.	Sustainability Strategy FY2022-23 Annual Action Plan	Local residents	Parks	In progress
Advocate and partner to progress local sustainability priorities at the regional, state and national level (SS 3.1)	Progress key local aspects of the Regional Resilience Strategy and Local Action Plan. This may include initiatives that deliver flood resilience, catchment management plans, water security and improved climate risk management for key infrastructure assets.	Sustainability Strategy FY2022-23 Annual Action Plan	Queensland Reconstruction Authority	Infrastructure Planning	In progress
Embed climate-related risk considerations into Council's decision-making, planning scheme, local development and operations (SS 4.2)	Continue to update the Planning Scheme to address emerging climate-related risks.	Sustainability Strategy FY2022-23 Annual Action Plan	Queensland Government	Strategy and Planning	In progress
Apply sustainable procurement, circular economy and lifecycle principles to the delivery of products, services, assets and projects (SS 4.3)	Demonstrate sustainable design and lifecycle thinking in the delivery of all major projects. This should include specific focus on waste avoidance, emissions reduction, resource efficiency and water quality improvements.	Sustainability Strategy FY2022-23 Annual Action Plan	Industry and suppliers	Project Delivery	In progress
Work with business, industry and government to drive low-carbon circular economy initiatives, alongside other innovative and sustainable practices (SS 3.5)	Work with stakeholders to pursue further waste diversion, recycling and circular economy opportunities in the Rockhampton Region. Specific focus areas include initiatives associated with construction and demolition waste, batteries and hard plastics.	Sustainability Strategy FY2022-23 Annual Action Plan	Industry	Rockhampton Regional Waste and Recycling	In progress

Land-based run-off

Action	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible department/position	Project Status
Actively pursue opportunities associated with sustainable industries and infrastructure that deliver local social, environmental and economic benefits for the Region (SS 3.2)	Work with government, industry and community stakeholders to deliver the Making Water Work program. This includes sub-projects associated with nutrient cycles and Great Barrier Reef water quality outcomes.	Sustainability Strategy FY2022-23 Annual Action Plan	Queensland Government and the Collaborative Research Centre for Northern Australia	Advance Rockhampton	In progress
Actively pursue opportunities associated with sustainable industries and infrastructure that deliver local social, environmental and economic benefits for the Region (SS 3.2)	Explore opportunities to reduce land-based runoff through innovative development solutions. This includes new approaches to water quality treatment.	Sustainability Strategy FY2022-23 Annual Action Plan	Local developers	Planning and Regulatory	In progress
Accelerate Council's transition towards net zero emissions by actively monitoring and reducing emissions within Council's operational control (SS 4.1)	Finalise the Glenmore Water Treatment Plant solar project and ensure all water and sewerage upgrades align with best practice, achieve water quality and energy efficiency improvements, and incorporate emission reduction considerations.	Sustainability Strategy FY2022-23 Annual Action Plan	Project Delivery	Fitzroy River Water	In progress
Progress workforce and economic planning that will ensure we prosper as the demand for low carbon products and services grows (SS 3.3)	Work with the local agricultural industry to build capability and both support and attract investment in local agricultural development and innovation.	Sustainability Strategy FY2022-23 Annual Action Plan	Local agricultural industry	Advance Rockhampton	In progress
Implement management policies, planning and practices that protect our natural environment and support the resilience of our biodiversity and natural assets (SS 4.4)	Continue to improve Council's Civil Operations practices to minimise environmental risks. This includes erosion and sediment control practices.	Sustainability Strategy FY2022-23 Annual Action Plan		Civil Operations	In progress

Direct use

Project Name	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible department/position	Project Status
Grow local visitation and tourism opportunities that celebrate our natural assets and contribute to the liveability of the Region (SS 3.4)	Showcase the Region's natural assets by encouraging nature-based recreation, tourism and events opportunities associated with recreational fishing, mountain-biking, walking and bird-watching.	Sustainability Strategy FY2022-23 Annual Action Plan	Local community groups, event organisers, tourism partners	Advance Rockhampton	In progress
Enhance the liveability of our Region by supporting initiatives that protect local biodiversity, restore landscapes and increase urban canopy cover (SS 2.3)	Take steps to reduce the impact of invasive species on the environment by implementing Council's Biosecurity Plan. Key initiatives include at least one targeted feral animal control program, the trial of herbicide injectors in environmentally sensitive areas to reduce the risk of overspray and support to the proposed water hyacinth harvesting trial.	Sustainability Strategy FY2022-23 Annual Action Plan	Fitzroy Basin Association, Capricorn Pest Management Group and local landholders	Planning and Regulatory	In progress
Enhance the liveability of our Region by supporting initiatives that protect local biodiversity, restore landscapes and increase urban canopy cover (SS 2.3)	Work with key delivery partners to implement the operational Natural Resource Management (NRM) Program on Council owned/managed land. This may include targeted works at Yeppen Lagoon, Nurim Circuit, Plover Street and along Frenchmans Creek.	Sustainability Strategy FY2022-23 Annual Action Plan	Skilling Queenslanders for Work, CQUniversity, Multicultural Australia, Capricornia Catchments and other local community groups	Environmental Sustainability and Parks	In progress
Provide residents with the opportunity to participate in a range of local sustainability programs, initiatives, activities and events (SS 1.5)	Encourage nature connection through the 'My Rockhampton' Facebook page and key local events including River Festival.	Sustainability Strategy FY2022-23 Annual Action Plan	Residents and local community groups	Advance Rockhampton	In progress

Reef heritage and social values

Action	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible department/position	Project Status
Explore opportunities to work with, learn from and strengthen outcomes through partnerships with First Nations Peoples (SS 2.2)	Support the development, implementation and review of Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUA) with local First Nations Peoples.	Sustainability Strategy FY2022-23 Annual Action Plan	Traditional Owners and First Nations Peoples	Community Services Directorate	In progress
Explore opportunities to work with, learn from and strengthen outcomes through partnerships with First Nations Peoples (SS 2.2)	Support the continuous improvement of Council's practices by facilitating Cultural Awareness Training and progressing key local initiatives.	Sustainability Strategy FY2022-23 Annual Action Plan	Traditional Owners and First Nations Peoples, Council Staff	Community Services Directorate	In progress
Provide residents with the opportunity to participate in a range of local sustainability programs, initiatives, activities and events (SS 1.5)	Encourage participation in key local environmental activities including National Tree Day, the Native Plant Program, citizen science (such as the Aussie Backyard Bird Count), World Environment Day and other initiatives as appropriate.	Sustainability Strategy FY2022-23 Annual Action Plan	National events and campaigns	Environmental Sustainability	In progress
Provide residents with the opportunity to participate in a range of local sustainability programs, initiatives, activities and events (SS 1.5)	Encourage participation in local waste related activities including Clean Up Australia Day and National Recycling Week.	Sustainability Strategy FY2022-23 Annual Action Plan	National events and campaigns	Rockhampton Regional Waste and Recycling	In progress
Encourage initiatives that help the community to adopt sustainable behaviours, avoid waste and reduce emissions (SS 2.5)	Support local schools and community groups to learn about, and implement, sustainability improvements. This may include participation in the Sustainability in Action competition, Reef Guardian School activities, ecoBiz workshops and other local initiatives.	Sustainability Strategy FY2022-23 Annual Action Plan	Local schools and community groups	Environmental Sustainability	In progress