The background of the cover is a scenic landscape photograph showing a winding river or coastline through a lush green valley, with a large tree trunk in the foreground on the right. Overlaid on the right side are several white-outlined hexagons of varying sizes, some of which are filled with a solid green color. The text is positioned in the upper left quadrant.

ROCKHAMPTON REGIONAL COUNCIL

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY.

YEAR IN REVIEW: FY 2024-25

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

Rockhampton Regional Council acknowledges 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 Sustainability Strategy to life and who continue to help make change happen across our Region.

FY 2024-25 edition

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Rockhampton Qld 4700

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Disclaimer:

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SUSTAINING OUR REGION.

As we reflect on the past year, we're proud to share the progress we've made building a more sustainable, resilient, and connected Rockhampton Region. Our community continues to demonstrate strength, innovation, and a shared commitment to protecting our Region and ensuring it remains a special place to live, visit and invest.

In FY2024–25, Council has taken meaningful steps to embed sustainability and improve the resilience of our community, environment and economy. From new walking and cycling paths, increasing urban greening and delivering major infrastructure projects, we're seeing positive changes delivered.

Over the year, we've worked closely with households to improve recycling habits, reduce waste, and promote water efficiency. Our community events, like National Tree Day, the Rockhampton River Festival and the Fitzroy River Barrage Open Day, have brought people together to learn, connect, and act. We've also supported local schools, groups, and volunteers to deliver a range of sustainability initiatives through grants and partnerships.

At a regional level, we've strengthened our resilience to climate risks through updated flood studies and disaster preparedness planning. We've advocated for and delivered projects including the Mount Morgan water pipeline and upgrades to the North Rockhampton Sewage Treatment Plant which improve sustainability while constructing, renewing or upgrading infrastructure. These initiatives not only meet our Region's long-term needs, but create jobs and economic opportunities.

Within Council, we've continued to lead by example - reducing our corporate emissions, installing solar at key community facilities, preparing for our Fleet transition needs, and taking steps to consider climate risk in our planning and decision-making. By adopting environmentally sustainable design standards in major projects, we're building infrastructure that's not only more resilient, but also more cost-effective over its lifetime.

While we are proud of the progress we've made, we know that meeting the evolving needs of our community - today and into the future - requires continued dedication, innovation, and collaboration. That's why Council remains focused on delivering the goals outlined in our Sustainability Strategy: Towards 2030.

We extend our thanks to the individuals, households, businesses, and organisations whose contributions have made this year's achievements possible. Together we've laid a strong foundation and, with that momentum, we're looking forward to tackling the opportunities, projects and initiatives ahead.



**MAYOR
TONY WILLIAMS**



**COUNCILLOR
ELLIOT HILSE**

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
PORTFOLIO

Photo: 'Mount Archer sunset' by Kaddie Chilly

PROGRESSING OUR STRATEGIC SUSTAINABILITY PRIORITIES.

Council's Sustainability Strategy is built around four strategic priorities:

- Prioritise a healthy natural environment by protecting, maintaining and enhancing our natural assets;
- Transition towards net zero emissions by accelerating local climate action;
- Create a climate resilient region by preparing our Council, Region and community to adapt and prosper in a changing climate; and
- Build a low-carbon circular economy by working with business, industry and government to ensure our Region thrives.

Together, these priorities help us focus on the local actions needed to align with national and state policies and targets; build resilience and empower our communities, environment and local economy; and seize emerging opportunities that will shape the future of our region.

Since launching the first Sustainability Strategy in 2018, Council has steadily built the policies, partnerships, and programs needed to deliver on these priorities. Through a strong governance framework and a clear annual action plan, Council is continuing to embed sustainability into the fabric of its' operations - ensuring that local decisions, operations and services contribute to a more sustainable future.

The Strategic Priorities Snapshot highlights just some of the key achievements to date - milestones that reflect the collective effort of Council, our partners, and our community in driving meaningful change as they guide our journey towards a more resilient and thriving Region.

“Sustainability isn’t just a goal - it’s a shared responsibility. We’re not just planning for our future. We’re building a sustainable future, one project, one partnership, and one community initiative at a time.”

- Councillor Elliot Hilse

Photo: 'First sun' by Madelyn Holmes

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES **SNAPSHOT** FY2024-25

PRIORITISE A HEALTHY NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



20 REEF
GUARDIAN
COUNCILS

working together to reduce impacts to the Reef and our local communities.

26,217
NATIVE PLANTS



provided to local residents as part of the Native Plant Program since it was established in 2018.



50
COMMUNITY
INITIATIVES

shared in \$102,500 since Council's Environment and Sustainability Grants were established in 2019.



71,722 VOLUNTEER
HOURS

have supported local training and bush regeneration outcomes across 9 Council project sites since 2018.



**FITZROY
BASIN
REPORT
CARD**

monitors overall ecosystem health for the waterways of the Fitzroy Basin including the Fitzroy River and Estuary.

TRANSITION TOWARDS NET ZERO EMISSIONS



**COMMUNITY
EMISSIONS**

for the Rockhampton Local Government Area trending down at 1,419,000 tCO2e per annum.



11,329

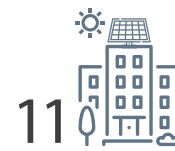
SMALL SOLAR SYSTEMS

across the Rockhampton Local Government Area (including postcodes 4700 and 4701).



8%
CORPORATE EMISSIONS
REDUCTION

since FY2020-21, driven by improvements within Council's Corporate Emissions Inventory.



11
COUNCIL FACILITIES

generating solar power to help support operational electricity needs.



18
ELECTRIC
VEHICLES

within Council's Fleet including 8 fully electric vehicles and 10 hybrids.

CREATE A CLIMATE RESILIENT REGION

54

CLIMATE
RESILIENT
COUNCILS



working together since 2018 to address climate related risks as part of the Queensland Climate Resilient Councils program.

CLIMATE RISK
MANAGEMENT
PLAN



developed in line with the Climate Risk Management Framework for Queensland Local Government.



BUILDING
DISASTER
RESILIENCE
2,288

local residents registered for alerts via Council's Emergency Dashboard since its launch in 2024.



48ML
WATER
USED DAILY

across the Rockhampton Region, fluctuating from 40-66ML a day depending on weather and the seasons.

REGIONAL
CLIMATE
ALLIANCE



across Wide Bay, Burnett and Central Queensland to support collaborative advocacy, planning and action.

BUILD A LOW-CARBON CIRCULAR ECONOMY

NEW
ENVIRONMENTALLY
SUSTAINABLE
DESIGN



standards and technical specifications applied to capital projects to improve long-term benefits and efficiencies.

HOUSEHOLD
BIN HEALTH
CHECK PROGRAM
LAUNCHED



to increase the quality and quantity of recycling in yellow lid bins, with support from the Queensland Government.



22
RECYCLING
HERO
SCHOOLS

have partnered with Council to educate students on waste management and boost local recycling efforts since 2019.

80+%
OF COUNCIL
EXPENDITURE



spent locally as part of Council's commitment to support our Region's economy, local businesses and community.



RESOURCE
RECOVERY
AUSTRALIA
LAUNCHED

THE TINKERAGE

a new community space to support upcycling, reuse and repair, helping to extend the life of materials and reduce waste.

OUR **PATHWAYS** TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

As the level of government closest to the community, Council plays a vital role in shaping a future where the Rockhampton Region thrives. To achieve our four strategic sustainability priorities, Council is committed to working together with our staff, local residents, community groups, business, industry and all levels of government.

Council is committed to putting sustainability into action through our governance structures, strategic planning, day-to-day operations, and the programs and partnerships we deliver in collaboration with our community. Sustainability is a holistic initiative - it's embedded in how we serve, support, and grow with our Region.

Looking ahead to 2030, our Sustainability Strategy provides a roadmap for action through four interconnected pathways. These pathways guide our efforts to protect and enhance our natural environment, accelerate the transition to net zero emissions, build resilience to climate impacts, and foster a low-carbon circular economy.

To support implementation of the Strategy, Council maintains a robust Sustainability Governance Framework guided by a Sustainability Strategy Executive Group. The Group meets regularly to oversee delivery and monitor progress against the annual action plan, identify opportunities for collaboration and continuous improvement, and share updates with Council and the community. Their leadership ensures sustainability remains a shared responsibility across the organisation and is embedded in all aspects of Council's work.



INDIVIDUALS & HOUSEHOLDS.

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

COMMUNITY & LOCAL GROUPS.

Let's work together to create a vibrant, liveable and resilient community.

One Great Region.
Live. Visit. Invest.

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES.

Prioritise a healthy natural environment.
Transition towards net zero emissions.
Create a climate resilient region.
Build a low-carbon circular economy.

BUSINESS, INDUSTRY & GOVERNMENT.

Let's work together to position the Rockhampton Region to thrive and grow sustainably.

COUNCIL OPERATIONS & SERVICES.

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

INDIVIDUALS & HOUSEHOLDS.

OBJECTIVE

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

- 1.1** Support local residents to adopt sustainable behaviours that help them to save money and reduce household emissions.
- 1.2** Accelerate the transition towards zero waste by driving waste avoidance and waste diversion at the individual and household level.
- 1.3** Help residents build their household resilience to climate-related risks by connecting them with practical tools, workshops and resources.
- 1.4** Link individuals with sustainable transport and active recreation opportunities that connect with key local destinations and open spaces.
- 1.5** Provide residents with the opportunity to participate in a range of local sustainability programs, initiatives, activities and events.

YEAR IN REVIEW

**97
LOCAL
RESIDENTS**



claimed a residential rebate for water efficient products from Fitzroy River Water.

**33,000+
HOUSEHOLDS**



receiving waste and recycling education as part of the Let's Get it Sorted Rocky Region campaign.



**~30%
RESIDENTS
SIGNED UP TO
E-NOTICES**

transitioning from traditional paper-based systems to digital for rates, water and animal registrations.

**4,619
LOCAL
HOUSEHOLDS**



explored opportunities to adopt sustainable behaviours via Council's Living Sustainably program e-newsletter.

LET'S GET IT SORTED ROCKHAMPTON REGION

Council launched its Bin Health Check Program supported by funding from the Queensland Government's Recycling and Jobs Fund. The program aims to help local residents sort household items into the right bin to increase resource recovery, build a local circular economy and help reach zero waste to landfill. Over 33,000 households will receive a quick, visual bin check on collection day, followed by a bin health rating tag and recycling information pack.

The program also provides practical tips, guides, and resources including:

- A kerbside bin education package aligned with the standardised Queensland Government's 'Let's Get It Sorted' campaign,
- Rollout of the 'Let's get it sorted Rocky Region' marketing campaign,
- Community engagement Recycling Resources Pop-Up stalls, and
- Recognition of local recycling champions via the BINfluencer Competition.

GET READY WITH EMERGENCY DASHBOARD

The upgraded Rockhampton Region Emergency Dashboard is helping to keep the community safe and informed during severe weather and emergency events. The new opt-in Emergency Alerts feature allows residents to receive real-time updates via email or SMS, including weather warnings, bushfire alerts, and critical information from the Bureau of Meteorology, Queensland Fire Department, and Council. By centralising emergency communications, the dashboard empowers residents to better prepare and respond to events such as storms, floods, heatwaves, and cyclones - enhancing the region's overall resilience and readiness. Local residents have also had the opportunity to build household resilience by getting involved with disaster management stalls and activities at local events such as the Volunteer Expo, Rockhampton Show and participation in a range of school visits.

HELPING RESIDENTS TO LIVE SUSTAINABLY

From recycling and water conservation to catchment care and energy efficiency, residents across the Rockhampton Region continued to embrace sustainable living. Community events such as Clean Up Australia Day, Birdlife Australia's Aussie Bird Count, the Electric Vehicle Display Day, River Festival, National Water Week, National Recycling Week, and the Upcycle Fair brought people together to connect and learn new skills.

Through Council's Native Plant Program, hundreds of residents celebrated National Tree Day at home, while schools and childcare centres held on-site plantings. A large-scale community planting event at River Rose Drive attracted around 200 participants. The 2024 Sustainability in Action Photo Competition received over 100 creative entries, showcasing everyday sustainable actions. Meanwhile, Council's monthly Living Sustainably e-newsletter continued to provide households with practical tips to make informed choices at home, at work, and on the go.

MAKING WISE USE OF OUR WATER RESOURCES

The Fitzroy River Barrage Open Day gave residents a rare opportunity to explore one of the region's most important water assets. Guided tours, led by Fitzroy River Water staff, showcased how the barrage separates fresh and tidal water to secure Rockhampton's drinking water supply. With educational displays and kids' activities, the event highlighted the importance of the barrage infrastructure to our local water security. In addition, residents took advantage of Council's Residential Rebate Scheme for Water Efficient Products, which offers financial incentives for installing water-saving washing machines, dishwashers, shower-roses, dual flush toilets, and rainwater tanks. These initiatives are helping households reduce water use, lower bills, and contribute to long-term water security across the region.



COMMUNITY & LOCAL GROUPS.

OBJECTIVE

Let's work together to create a vibrant, liveable and resilient community.

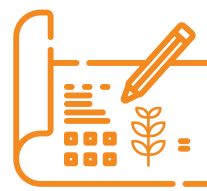
- 2.1** Grow the community's capacity and capability to understand, adapt and build resilience to climate-related risks.
- 2.2** Explore opportunities to work with, learn from and strengthen outcomes through partnerships with First Nations Peoples.
- 2.3** Enhance the liveability of our Region by supporting initiatives that protect local biodiversity, restore landscapes and increase urban canopy cover.
- 2.4** Foster community collaboration on key local environment and sustainability initiatives.
- 2.5** Encourage initiatives that help the community to adopt sustainable behaviours, avoid waste and reduce emissions.

YEAR IN REVIEW



**THE TINKERAGE
HOSTED 24
COMMUNITY
WORKSHOPS**

helping to build a local circular economy by fostering a culture of upcycling, reuse and repair.



3,110

VOLUNTEER HOURS

invested in on-ground restoration works as part of Council's Natural Resource Management program.

329 NEW
**SEMI-ADVANCED
TREES**



planted to shade and cool key streets, parks, playgrounds and footpaths as part of Council's commitment to urban greening.



7
**COMMUNITY
INITIATIVES**

shared in \$17,770 funding from Council's Community Assistance Program - Environment and Sustainability Grants.

COMMUNITY-LED INITIATIVES

Through the Community Assistance Program, Council continued to support grassroots sustainability efforts by awarding a series of Environment and Sustainability Grants. These grants empowered local schools, community groups, and not-for-profit organisations to deliver on-the-ground projects that promote environmental awareness, reduce waste, and enhance local biodiversity. From school garden upgrades, recycling initiatives and habitat restoration, the funded projects support our community to build a more sustainable Region. Congratulations to Lighthouse Christian School P&C Association, Capricorn Conservation Council (two separate grants), Rockhampton Grammar School P&F Association, Parkhurst State School P&C Association, Yellow Paint Inc and Capricornia Catchments on their delivery of successful local projects.

THE TINKERAGE

In partnership with Council, Resource Recovery Australia launched The Tinkering in November 2024 - a creative and community-driven hub for reuse and repair, helping to foster a culture of sustainability whilst diverting valuable materials away from landfill. Located at the Lakes Creek Road Waste Management Facility, The Tinkering offers a space where residents can learn new skills, repair broken items, and give pre-loved goods a second life. Throughout the year, a range of workshops and events focused on upcycling, tool use, and sustainable living. By encouraging hands-on learning and community connection, The Tinkering supports Council's broader waste reduction goals and empowers individuals to take practical action in their everyday lives.

URBAN GREENING AND TREE PROTECTION

Council is making good progress in enhancing green spaces and protecting our urban tree canopy. Council completed establishment maintenance for the 165 new street trees planted as part of the 2024 pilot program and delivered 329 new semi-advanced trees to shade and cool parks and public areas. Community planting events, like National Tree Day at River Rose Drive and the Cap-Coast Eco-Warriors planting day at Nurim (Mount Archer), brought locals together to support biodiversity. Council also introduced a Tree Management Procedure to guide how trees are selected, maintained and renewed, ensuring decisions are consistent and transparent.

STRENGTHENING BIOSECURITY

Council's Pest Management Team continues to deliver on the objectives of the Region's Biosecurity Plan, managing invasive species across land and water environments. Key actions included:

- Intensified aquatic weed control following heavy rainfall in August 2024, which caused the spread of water weeds from creeks and lagoons into the main Fitzroy River channel.
- Trialling new herbicides for treating large Prickly Acacia infestations in the Gracemere area.
- Expanding biocontrol initiatives, including monitoring the successful spread of the Prickly Acacia Gall Thrip, and supplying water lettuce biocontrols to Sunwater for use at Rookwood Weir and the upper Fitzroy River.
- Conducting feral animal control programs targeting foxes at the Rockhampton Botanic Gardens and Zoo.
- Implementing the Rapid Logics system to improve the accuracy and efficiency of herbicide tracking.
- Enforcing biosecurity regulations, including the seizure of illegal *Salvinia* sales at local pet stores.
- Educating local residents and landholders at the Mount Morgan, Ridgeland and Rockhampton Show.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES - BUSHFIRE AWARENESS

In partnership with Healthy Land & Water, Council delivered a series of targeted Bushfire Awareness Workshops focussed on Stanwell, Mount Morgan, and Mount Archer to help residents in high-risk areas build resilience and preparedness. These free, locally tailored sessions provided landholders with practical tools and fire ecology knowledge to help reduce bushfire risk. The Stanwell workshop focused on developing personalised fire management plans using property maps, while the Mount Morgan and Mount Archer sessions explored what it means to live adjacent to bushland, including vegetation types, fire history, and local regulations.

Photos: Participants of National Tree Day community planting sessions at River Rose Drive, Norman Gardens (July 2024); The Tinkering staff member with an upcycled 'mud kitchen' donated to a local kindergarten (December 2024); Cap-Coast Eco-Warriors participating in a planting day at Nurim, Mount Archer (October 2024).



BUSINESS, INDUSTRY & GOVERNMENT

OBJECTIVE

Let's work together to position the Rockhampton Region to thrive and grow sustainably.

- 3.1** Advocate and partner to progress local sustainability priorities at the regional, state and national level.
- 3.2** Actively pursue opportunities associated with sustainable industries and infrastructure that deliver local social, environmental and economic benefits for the Region.
- 3.3** Progress workforce and economic planning that will ensure we prosper as the demand for low-carbon products and services grows.
- 3.4** Grow local visitation and tourism opportunities that celebrate our natural assets and contribute to the liveability of the Region.
- 3.5** Work with business, industry and government to drive low-carbon circular economy initiatives, alongside other innovative and sustainable practices.

YEAR IN REVIEW



976KW
SOLAR SYSTEM

to be installed at the Rockhampton Airport as part of the Australian Government's 'Activating Local Councils Reef Action Plans' program.



**WATER
QUALITY
IMPROVEMENTS**

delivered through implementation of best practice erosion and sediment control approaches for new developments.



28KM
WATER
PIPELINE

funded by three levels of government, securing a reliable water supply for Mount Morgan.



**CLIMATE
RESILIENCE
GRANTS**

secured to support local implementation of the Climate Risk Management Framework for Queensland Local Government.

Photo: Stormwater management, erosion and sediment control installation at Edenbrook Stage 2 development.

WATER SECURITY AND PIPELINE

Ensuring long-term water security remains a key priority for Council, particularly in the face of increasing climate variability and regional growth. In FY2024–25, Council made significant progress in strengthening the region's water resilience through infrastructure investment, planning, and collaboration. A major milestone was progress on the Mount Morgan water pipeline – a vital project which will provide a permanent, reliable water supply to the Mount Morgan community. Alongside this, Council also contributed to regional water planning efforts, to better understand future supply and demand requirements. These insights will guide future infrastructure and policy decisions, helping ensure our water infrastructure keeps pace with community needs.



IMPROVING DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES

Under Queensland's State Planning Policy, local governments play a critical role in ensuring that development proposals meet water quality objectives, particularly in stormwater management, erosion and sediment control (E&SC). Council has strengthened its approach by partnering with Healthy Land and Water to promote best-practice E&SC measures. Council officers have undertaken training to enhance technical capabilities in assessing, inspecting, and compliance with the State Planning Policy. A new E&SC guideline has been developed for inclusion in the Capricorn Municipal Development Guidelines (CMDG), and Planning Scheme amendments are underway to reinforce water quality and asset handover requirements. Recent developments, such as Ellida and Edenbrook Estates, highlight the adoption of innovative practices, including polymer coatings and the Region's first operational High Efficiency Sediment (HES) basins. Environmental Health Officers are also engaging directly with builders, providing guidance to support improved E&SC practices.



BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE

To safeguard the Region against a range of emerging climate risks, Council is delivering the Climate Resilient Rockhampton Region (CRRR) program in conjunction with local, state and federal partners. Key initiatives include:

- Applying the Climate Risk Management Framework for Queensland Local Governments.
- Implementing Council's Climate Risk Management Plan, with funding support from the Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund.
- Piloting a local version of TAG: The Adaptation Game to engage the community in climate and disaster resilience, with a grant from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal's Community-Led Climate Solutions.
- Securing funding to commence targeted climate risk assessments to ensure Council operations and services remain effective in a changing climate, with grant support from the Queensland Treasury and the Local Government Association of Queensland through the Climate Risk and Resilience Fund.
- Working with the Local Government Association of Queensland and other local councils as part of the Queensland Climate Resilient Councils (QCRC) program and the Wide Bay Burnett and Central Queensland Climate Resilient Alliance.



REEF GUARDIAN COUNCILS COLLECTIVE ACTION

Council is proud to be part of the Reef Guardian Council program - a partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Authority and local governments which recognises that local and regional approaches are central to protecting the Great Barrier Reef and the communities it supports. As part of this program, Council is installing a new 976kW solar system at the Rockhampton Airport Terminal. The project was jointly funded by Council and the Australian Government, which contributed \$920,000 through the Activating Local Councils' Reef Action Plans Program. This initiative supports the goals of the 'Reef 2050 Plan' by helping to mitigate climate change impacts and deliver cost-effective renewable energy to advance Council's transition towards net zero emissions. Additionally, Council has contributed to a range of Reef advocacy activities including development of the Reef Rescue Plan and the Reef Authority's proposed new Southern Plan of Management.

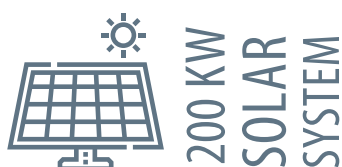
COUNCIL OPERATIONS & SERVICES

OBJECTIVE

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

- 4.1 Accelerate Council's transition towards net zero emissions by actively monitoring and reducing emissions within Council's operational control.
- 4.2 Embed climate-related risk considerations into Council's decision-making, planning scheme, local developments and operations.
- 4.3 Apply sustainable procurement, circular economy and lifecycle principles to the delivery of products, services, assets and projects.
- 4.4 Implement management policies, planning and practices that protect our natural environment and support the resilience of our biodiversity and natural assets.
- 4.5 Foster sustainable behaviour, and encourage the wise use of resources, by making sustainability second nature within Council's operations and services.

YEAR IN REVIEW



installed at the Southside Pool to help reduce grid electricity usage and save up to 276 tCO₂e per year.

TREATMENT
CAPACITY
BOOSTED

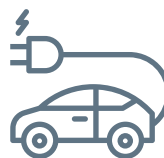


to 75,000 equivalent persons via major upgrades to the North Rockhampton Sewage Treatment Plant.



13,840
TONNES

of reclaimed road materials were collected and processed for use in Council's local construction projects.



FLEET
TRANSITION
ROADMAP

developed as part of Council's Corporate Emissions Plan to help Council prepare for increasing vehicle efficiency standards.

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Council is expanding the capacity of the North Rockhampton Sewage Treatment Plant to support our growing region. The upgrade will boost treatment capacity from 50,000 to 75,000 equivalent persons, improve operational efficiency and help the site to meet modern environmental standards. The \$85 million project has incorporated significant local materials and labour, supporting the local economy whilst positioning our Region for a more resilient future. At the Lakes Creek Road Waste Management Facility, Council undertook a comprehensive program of work including completion of final landfill design and rehabilitation plans to guide long-term environmental protection; development of targeted environmental management plans for stormwater, leachate, and landfill gas control; and finalisation of the capping design for the 'Piggy Back' cell.

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN STANDARDS

Council is embedding environmentally sustainable design into its community infrastructure projects to deliver long-term benefits:

- At the 2nd World War Memorial Aquatic Centre (Southside Pool), Council has installed a 200KW behind-the-meter solar system.
- The Rockhampton Airport installed solar-powered lighting at the long-term carpark.
- Works at the South Rockhampton Cemetery are helping to naturalise a stormwater drain, by reshaping it and planting native vegetation to mimic a natural watercourse. This project improves safety, amenity and biodiversity, whilst protecting archaeological features at the site.
- At the High Street short stay carpark, Council reused approximately 700 tonnes of recycled road profiling material. This circular economy approach reduced the environmental impact of material extraction and transport, whilst delivering cost efficiencies for Council and the community.

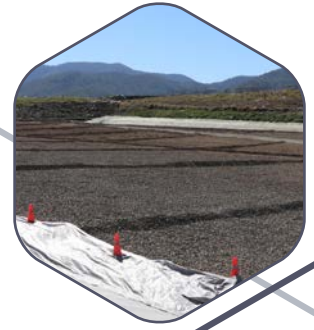
TRANSITIONING TOWARDS NET ZERO

Council is actively working towards net zero emissions in line with national and state targets. Implementation of Council's Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan focuses on opportunities to reduce emissions, boost efficiency, manage risks and save costs. Recent actions include:

- Identifying energy-saving opportunities through the Queensland Government's Council Decarbonisation Review.
- Managing Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions to achieve an 8% emissions reduction since FY2020-21.
- Preparing for future climate-related reporting under the Australian Sustainability Reporting Standards.
- Embedding environmentally sustainable design into infrastructure projects to lower energy use and lifecycle costs.
- Installing solar and energy efficient systems at major Council facilities to reduce emissions and grid reliance.
- Exploring options to cost-effectively transition Council's Fleet to low emissions vehicles and equipment over time.
- Engaging suppliers to better understand and reduce Council's supply chain emissions.
- Continuing biogas flaring at the Lakes Creek Waste Management Facility to reduce landfill-related emissions.

SUSTAINABLE MAINTENANCE PRACTICES

As part of Council's commitment to resource efficiency, Civil Operations uses reclaimed road materials in a variety of local projects. A new sifter and hydrocarbon separator has improved the quality of recycled materials, whilst helping to remove contaminants and protect local waterways. Council has also enhanced the sustainability and efficiency of its rural road maintenance through the implementation of a structured grading and re-sheeting procedure. The updated approach tailors the grading type to the specific road conditions and usage levels, optimising resource use and ensuring consistent road surface quality.



LOOKING FORWARD.

Council's vision is clear: to create One Great Region - a place where people want to live, visit, and invest. Achieving this vision means working with our communities, businesses, industries, and all levels of government to shape a sustainable and resilient future for the Rockhampton Region.

As we move toward 2030, we remain focused on delivering local solutions that protect and enhance our natural environment, accelerate the transition to net zero emissions, build climate resilience, and foster a thriving circular economy.

In FY2025–26, Council will continue to:

- Empower individuals and households to adopt more sustainable lifestyles;
- Collaborate with community groups to build a vibrant, connected, and climate-ready region;
- Partner with business, industry, and government to drive sustainable growth and innovation; and
- Lead by example through continuous improvement in Council's own operations and services.

We understand the importance of strengthening our community, environmental and economic resilience. Not only are we securing the long-term liveability and prosperity of our region, but we're ensuring the Rockhampton Region is both a place we're proud to call home, and one that's ready for the future.

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



Photo: 2024 National Tree Day community planting at River Rose Drive, Norman Gardens.

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!



rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au/EnvironmentalSustainability



sustainability@rrc.qld.gov.au



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PO Box 1860
Rockhampton Qld 4700



*Photo: 'Branches of the River' by
Madelyn Holmes*