



Rockhampton Regional Council

Reef Guardian Council Action Plan

FY2025-26

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Reef Guardian Council program

The Reef Guardian Council program is a partnership between local government and the Reef Authority which recognises that local and regional approaches are central to protecting and managing the Reef and the communities it supports.

Local governments are key management partners as many of the threats to the Reef and heritage values arise outside of the Marine Park boundaries and the Reef Authority’s jurisdiction. Councils are directly involved in a myriad of both statutory and non-statutory activities that minimise impacts, improve values and support the resilience of the Reef, contributing to the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan and the objectives of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*.

The Reef Guardian Council program recognises this and celebrates and supports the important role of local government in the protection and management of the Reef catchment region.

Action plans

This Action Plan records the diversity of council actions and projects that help address the key threats to the Reef. It aligns with Queensland and Australian Government objectives to improve the long-term outlook for the Reef. It may also be used to record potential future priority projects or actions that may benefit the Reef but may only be possible through funding or capacity building.

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

Council recognises the importance of the Reef Guardian Council partnership and values the contributions made by elected members, staff and the community in the protection and management of the Reef catchment region.

Period of Action Plan: FY2025-26

Endorsed:

Evan Pardon, Chief Executive Officer
Rockhampton Regional Council, 29 July 2025



Climate change

(Reef 2050 Work Area 1: Limit the impacts of climate change)

Action	Description	Project Status	Partnerships	Financial/Resource Commitment	Responsible Section
Rockhampton Airport Solar	Implement the Rockhampton Airport Solar project, as a key emissions reduction initiative supported by the Australian Government's 'Accelerating Reef Guardian Local Action Plans' program.	In progress	Australian Government and Rockhampton Regional Council	FY2025-26 Sustainability Action Plan	Project Delivery
Corporate Emissions Reduction	Facilitate implementation of Council's Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan and collate the annual Corporate Emissions Inventory.	In progress	Whole-of-Council	FY2025-26 Sustainability Action Plan	Environmental Sustainability
Climate Risk Management	Facilitate local implementation of Council's Climate Risk Management Plan (guided by the state and national climate risk management frameworks) and monitor progress via an annual Governance Assessment and Staff Survey.	In progress	Whole-of-Council	FY2025-26 Sustainability Action Plan	Environmental Sustainability
TAG Rocky Region	Support local resilience by piloting 'TAG: Rocky Region' (The Adaptation Game) as a key staff and community engagement tool.	In progress	Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal	FY2025-26 Sustainability Action Plan	Environmental Sustainability
Fleet Transition Pilot	Commence implementation of the Fleet Transition Plan for Council vehicles, plant and equipment to support a smooth transition in line with government targets and emerging policy/market requirements.	In progress	Whole-of-Council	FY2025-26 Sustainability Action Plan	Corporate and Technology Services

Coastal development (including head water catchments)

(Reef 2050 Work Area 2: Reduce impacts from land-based activities and Work Area 5: Protect, rehabilitate and restore)

Action	Description	Project Status	Partnerships	Financial/Resource Commitment	Responsible Section
Living Sustainably Program	Deliver the Living Sustainably program to support local sustainability awareness in conjunction with key stakeholders. Target behaviour change initiatives related to waste, water, energy efficiency, biodiversity protection, emissions reduction, climate resilience and the energy transition.	In progress	Residents and community groups	FY2025-26 Sustainability Action Plan	Environmental Sustainability
Waste and Recycling Initiatives	Continue to encourage improved household waste management practices through waste education, behaviour change and communication campaigns throughout the Region.	In progress		FY2025-26 Sustainability Action Plan	Rockhampton Regional Waste and Recycling
Water Security and Education	Continue to improve the resilience of the Region's water storage assets and take steps to increase awareness about the value of water within our Region.	In progress		FY2025-26 Sustainability Action Plan	Fitzroy River Water
Walking and Cycling Initiatives	Progress implementation of the Walking and Cycling Strategy and other associated local transport improvements.	In progress	Queensland Government	FY2025-26 Sustainability Action Plan	Infrastructure Planning
Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD)	Implement Council's Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Procedure in the planning and delivery of Council's major projects to help future-proof our assets, deliver resource efficiencies, minimise emissions and reduce whole-of-life costs.	In progress		FY2025-26 Sustainability Action Plan	Project Delivery / Communities Assets and Facilities
Urban Greening Program	Implement the Urban Greening Policy Action Plan, including planning, delivering and reporting on targeted urban greening activities across the Rockhampton Region.	In progress		FY2025-26 Sustainability Action Plan	Parks

Land-based run-off

(Reef 2050 Work Area 2: Reduce the impacts from land-based activities and Work Area 5: Protect, rehabilitate and restore)

Action	Description	Project Status	Partnerships	Financial/Resource Commitment	Responsible Section
Making Water Work	Continue to build more climate-resilient local agriculture in the Fitzroy River catchment by exploring opportunities to extend the Making Water Work program. This may include improved precinct planning; a feasibility study for water hyacinth control in the Fitzroy River; and supporting the capability of landholders to meet Reef Regulations whilst transitioning from grazing to irrigation cropping.	In progress	Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia	FY2025-26 Sustainability Action Plan	Advance Rockhampton
Natural Resource Management Program	Work with key delivery partners to implement the operational Natural Resource Management (NRM) Program on Council owned/managed land, as collaborative partnerships and grant funding allow.	In progress	Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, CQUniversity, Capricornia Catchments	FY2025-26 Sustainability Action Plan	Environmental Sustainability and Parks
Biosecurity Program	Take steps to reduce the impact of invasive species on the environment by implementing Council's Biosecurity Plan.	In progress		FY2025-26 Sustainability Action Plan	Planning and Regulatory
Water Quality Practice Improvement	Continue to improve practices and processes that address the quality of water discharged from urban development sites (land-based runoff).	In progress	Healthy Land and Water	FY2025-26 Sustainability Action Plan	Planning and Regulatory
Civil Operations Integrated Management System	Continue to improve environmental practices across Civil Operations projects and activities. Key focus areas include continuous improvement of the Integrated Management System and operational erosion and sediment control practices on worksites.	In progress		FY2025-26 Sustainability Action Plan	Civil Operations

Impacts from water-based activities

(Reef 2050 Work Area 3: Reduce the impacts from water-based activities)

Action	Description	Project Status	Partnerships	Financial/Resource Commitment	Responsible Section
Nature-Based Activities	Promote nature-based activities and Council sustainability initiatives to local residents through Live Rockhampton.	In progress		FY2025-26 Sustainability Action Plan	Advance Rockhampton

Conserve historic and cultural heritage

(Reef 2050 Work Area 5: Protect, rehabilitate and restore and Enabler A: Collaboration and partnerships)

Action	Description	Project Status	Partnerships	Financial/Resource Commitment	Responsible Section
Strengthening First Nations partnerships	Work with key stakeholders to strengthen partnerships and facilitate practice improvements through the review of the Darumbal Indigenous Land Use Agreement, Council's Reconciliation Action Plan, cultural awareness training and local engagement initiatives.	In progress	Darumbal People Aboriginal Corporation and First Nations Groups	FY2025-26 Sustainability Action Plan	Community Services Directorate
Celebrating our natural and cultural assets	Showcase the Region's natural assets by encouraging nature-based recreation, tourism and event opportunities.	In progress		FY2025-26 Sustainability Action Plan	Advance Rockhampton