

ROCKHAMPTON REGIONAL COUNCIL

# SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY.

YEAR IN REVIEW: FY 2022-23



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

Rockhampton Regional Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live and work, the Darumbal People, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We extend that respect to the neighbouring Aboriginal peoples within our Local Government Area, the Gaangalu Nation People and Barada Kabalbara Yetimarala People, and 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. Key collaborators include: The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Department of Environment and Science, Local Government Association of Queensland, CQUniversity, Fitzroy Basin Association, Fitzroy Partnership for River Health, Fitzroy River Water, Rockhampton Regional Waste and Recycling, Capricornia Catchments, Darumbal Enterprises, Landcare, Multicultural Australia, Capricorn Conservation Council, Native Plants Capricornia, Birdlife Capricornia, local schools and kindergartens.

FY 2022-23 edition

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# SUSTAINING OUR REGION.



**COUNCILLOR**  
**DONNA KIRKLAND**

Water and Environmental  
Sustainability Portfolio  
Rockhampton Regional Council

Rockhampton Regional Council is committed to putting sustainability into action so that our Region can continue to be a great place to live, visit and invest. Establishing its first Sustainability Strategy in 2018, Council renewed this commitment by adopting a revised Sustainability Strategy (Towards 2030) in late 2022. I'm very proud of the way Council is working with our local residents, communities, businesses, industries and other levels of government to align with the evolving policy landscape and strengthen our resilience. It's a journey of many steps, but one that is critical to the continued liveability and prosperity of our communities.

This Year in Review report checks in on our progress against the Strategy and highlights some of the key actions Council is taking as we transition towards a more sustainable future. Some of the highlights from FY2022-23 include:

- Continued momentum towards zero waste, with Council finalising the Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) trial, adopting a revised Resource Recovery Strategy and introducing new waste diversion initiatives at the Community Recycling Centre and Waste Transfer Stations.
- Improved water quality outcomes, with work progressing on the recycled water arrangements for both the North Rockhampton and South Rockhampton Sewage Treatment Plants.
- Collaborative stewardship efforts as part of the Reef Guardian Council program, protecting the Great Barrier Reef from climate change impacts and advocating for Commonwealth Government investment in new local initiatives.
- Improved identification and understanding of local climate risks, with Council securing grant funding for local climate risk management planning and training.
- Implementation of the Corporate Emissions Reduction Program, aligning Council with legislated national emissions reduction targets and improving resource use through targeted energy efficiency projects, solar installations, lighting upgrades, landfill gas flaring and greening of Council's supply chains.
- Adoption of a new Urban Greening Policy, committing to increase tree canopy cover, shading and cooling across the Region.
- New community partnerships building local job readiness skills, delivering on ground works and driving sustainability outcomes across the Region.
- Local business and industry development outcomes associated with the Region's renewable energy opportunities, Making Water Work program and Circular Economy Pathway.

I'm excited to see what we can achieve on the next steps of our sustainability journey!

Councillor Donna Kirkland  
Water and Environmental Sustainability Portfolio

# PROGRESSING OUR STRATEGIC SUSTAINABILITY PRIORITIES.

As we move towards 2030, Council's Sustainability Strategy recognises the need to address 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 the priorities help to focus attention on the actions necessary to align with national and state policies and targets; strengthen our community, environmental and economic resilience; and position us to make the most of emerging opportunities for our region.

So how far have we come?

Since adopting its first Sustainability Strategy back in 2018, Council has established a clear sustainability governance framework and continues to implement an annual action plan that sets out targeted improvement initiatives.

Whilst there is still much work to be done, Council has made good progress in establishing some of the foundational policies, partnerships and programs required to deliver on these priorities. This coordinated approach is integrating sustainability considerations across Council's many diverse functions and has already achieved some significant outcomes over the last 5 years.

The Sustainability Strategy Snapshot outlines some of the achievements to date, as they relate to the strategic sustainability priorities.

*Photo: 'First sun' by Madelyn Holmes*

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES.

**SNAPSHOT**  
AS AT JUNE 2023

## PRIORITISE A HEALTHY NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

18,630  
NATIVE PLANTS



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



37  
COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

supported by \$75,140 in Environment and Sustainability Grants since the program was established in 2019.

29,000  
VOLUNTEER HOURS

invested to support local skilling, maintenance and enhancement works at 8 project sites since the Natural Resource Management program was established in 2018.

1,686



SEMI-ADVANCED TREES  
planted to shade and cool key streets, parks, playgrounds and footpaths since 2018.

3,000



LOCAL HOUSEHOLDS

exploring opportunities to adopt sustainable behaviours via Council's Living Sustainably program.



19  
REEF GUARDIAN COUNCILS

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

BIOSECURITY PLAN



in place to guide invasive pest and animal management at a local level whilst assisting state and national initiatives.



FITZROY BASIN REPORT CARD

shows the Fitzroy River Estuary (downstream of Rockhampton) holding steady with a B rating.



URBAN GREENING POLICY

established in 2023 to help increase the Region's tree canopy and vegetation.

## TRANSITION TOWARDS NET ZERO EMISSIONS



COMMUNITY EMISSIONS SNAPSHOT

for the Rockhampton Local Government Area holding steady at 1,707,000 tCO2e per annum based on compared with the FY2018-19 Rockhampton Local Government Area Baseline.

CORPORATE EMISSIONS REDUCTION PLAN



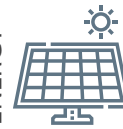
and FY2020-21 Corporate Emissions Baseline established to reduce Council's emissions in line with state and national targets.

6%

CORPORATE EMISSIONS REDUCTION

achieved through organisational improvements as at the FY2021-22 Corporate Emissions Inventory.

407,414 kWh  
RENEWABLE ENERGY



generated per annum via solar installations at 10 Council facilities.



10,228

SMALL SOLAR SYSTEMS  
installed in Rockhampton LGA (postcodes 4700 and 4701) as at April 2023.

## 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



planning underway as part of local implementation of the Climate Risk Management Framework for Queensland Local Government commencing in 2023.



COLLECTIVE CLIMATE ACTION

from 19 Local Governments taking action for the Reef and their communities recognised in the Reef Guardian Council Climate Change Initiatives Snapshot 2022.

REGIONAL RESILIENCE STRATEGY



established for the Fitzroy and Capricornia Regions in partnership with Queensland Government in 2022.



BUILDING RESILIENCE  
by continuing to work with our local community and other government agencies to prevent, prepare, respond and recover from disasters.

## BUILD A LOW-CARBON CIRCULAR ECONOMY



MAKING WATER WORK INITIATIVES

under development including supply chain and precinct visioning, Reef Water Quality improvements and a water hyacinth harvesting trial.



CIRCULAR ECONOMY PATHWAY

approved by Council in 2022, supporting the development of a Circular Economy Plan to help maximise the value of the resources we use, minimise the waste we create, cut emissions and pollution and help boost our local economy.

WASTE DIVERSION



boosted through innovative initiatives including a 12 month FOGO trial, landfill gas capture and flaring, installation of a polystyrene processing facility and new solar panel diversion arrangements.

74%  
OF COUNCIL EXPENDITURE



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



RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

driving local energy generation to help grow new jobs and industries as part of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan.



# OUR PATHWAYS TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

As the level of government closest to the community, Council plays an important role in protecting our local communities and positioning our Region to thrive.

Council is committed to putting sustainability into action through its corporate commitments and governance arrangements; its strategies, services and operations; and its community programs and partnerships.

As we move towards 2030, Council's Sustainability Strategy delivers on our vision for a sustainable future through four interconnected pathways. Council is working together with our local residents, communities, businesses, industries and other levels of government to lead sustainability action and help the Rockhampton Region to prioritise a healthy natural environment, transition towards net zero emissions, create a climate resilient region and build a low carbon circular economy.

As part of Council's Sustainability Governance Framework, the Sustainability Strategy Executive Group meets regularly to guide implementation of Council's 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 to ensure that the Rockhampton Region remains a great place to live, both now and in the future.

We know that a healthy environment underpins a strong community and economy, so when we balance all three, we're ensuring our Region is best placed to prosper.”

– Mayor Tony Williams





## 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

RECYCLING  
**17 HERO SCHOOLS**



working with Council to educate students on waste management and improve local waste diversion rates.



**3,500**  
NATIVE PLANTS

provided free to local residents to help cool and green the Rockhampton Region as part of Council's Native Plant Program.



**282**  
TONNES FOGO  
DIVERTED

from landfill via a successful 12 month trial involving 760 households from Rockhampton and Gracemere.



**54%**  
E-SCOOTER TRIPS

helped to replace a car trip in the Rockhampton Region and avoid 28,943kg CO<sub>2</sub>e in the first 12 months of operation.



## TOWARDS ZERO WASTE

Rockhampton Regional Waste and Recycling completed a 12 month Food Organics and Garden Organics collection trial in September 2022. The trial focussed on increasing local food waste recovery and reducing contamination; whilst collecting information necessary to support the business case for the introduction of a future community wide roll out of the service.

A total of 17 local schools have now participated in Council's Recycling Hero Schools Program, completing school-based waste audits, education and waste infrastructure improvements. Council has also been working with the Queensland Government as part of the state-wide recycling awareness campaign delivered from March to May 2023.

## LIVING SUSTAINABLY

Council's Living Sustainably program continues to deliver practical information and handy tips to over 3,000 residents every month via the Living Sustainably e-newsletter. Residents received information on local events such as National Water Week, Water Night, National Recycling Week, Clean Up Australia Day, National Tree Day, World Environment Day, Birdlife Australia's Aussie Bird Count and the Electric Vehicle Display Day. Local schools participated in the 2022 Sustainability in Action photo competition, showcasing everyday actions our community can take to live more sustainably. Council also engaged with local students at the CQ Youth Sustainability Summit hosted at CQUniversity in July 2022.

## GET READY!

Residents can continue to get timely access to key disaster management information with Council's recently updated Emergency Dashboard and Get Ready disaster preparedness campaigns in place from October 2022. Flood warning infrastructure has also been upgraded.

## ACTIVE TRANSPORT

Council adopted a Walking and Cycling Strategy and is implementing a new Walking Network Plan for Wandal. E-Scooters are also here to stay, following a successful 12 month trial which saw riders travel some 180,900km and avoid nearly 28,943kg CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions. With around 176,000 E-Scooter trips taken, rider surveys indicated nearly 54% of E-Scooter trips replaced a car trip, helping to reduce congestion particularly around the city centre.

## BRINGING NATURE BACK

The local community continues to get involved with a range of Bringing Nature Back activities. Residents, schools and daycare centres took home around 5,000 native plants to establish as part of Council's annual Native Plant Program 2022. Whilst around 200 community members turned out to celebrate National Tree Day with a tree planting day at Yeppen Lagoon. The local community also found out more about caring for our catchments at River Festival 2022, where Council presented in partnership with a number of local organisations including the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Darumbal Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement (TUMRA) Team, Fitzroy Basin Association, Fitzroy Partnership for River Health, and Rockhampton Regional Waste and Recycling.





# 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

SEMI-ADVANCED  
**366** TREES



planted on Council-controlled land as part of Council's Urban Greening Program.



**10,000**  
VOLUNTEER HOURS

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

**15**  
SCHOOLS



participated in the Sustainability in Action Competition 2022, showcasing local community sustainability actions.

**6** COMMUNITY  
INITIATIVES



delivered by local organisations sharing in \$6000 funding from Council's Community Assistance Program - Environment and Sustainability Grants.



## FIRST NATIONS ENGAGEMENT

Council has been working to strengthen partnerships and engagement with local First Nations Peoples including Darumbal and Gaangalu Nation. Councillors participated in cultural awareness training with Darumbal Elders at Nurim (Mount Archer) and also explored the importance of Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) like the one Council currently shares with the Darumbal People. Council has established a new position to help improve engagement and coordination with our local Traditional Owner groups.



## URBAN GREENING

Council adopted a new Urban Greening Policy, recognising the role that our urban tree canopy plays in shading and cooling our streets and parks. The new Policy aims to ensure the Region's urban forest is suitably recognised, managed, protected, enhanced and monitored. Targeted tree plantings continued throughout the cooler parts of the year with a further 366 semi-advanced trees planted on Council streets, parks, playgrounds and footpaths.



## NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT WORKS

As part of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, Council partnered with Capricornia Catchments and Multicultural Australia to deliver on-ground ecological restoration activities along the walking trail at Yeppen Lagoon. Capricornia Catchments also delivered bush regeneration works to protect, maintain and enhance areas in and around Nurim Circuit, whilst CQUniversity continued to train students in ecological restoration techniques at a site along Frenchmans Creek.



## BIOSECURITY

Pest plants and animals can have a significant impact on local agriculture, health and the environment. Council adopted a revised Biosecurity Plan 2022-2026 to help mitigate these impacts and implemented a range of on-ground works including invasive weed control in Frenchmans and Thozet Creeks, parthenium control on rural roads, aerial drone spraying of aquatic weeds in local waterways and feral cat trapping in Mount Morgan.

## COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANTS

Community initiatives were given a boost with Council's Community Assistance Program providing six Environment and Sustainability Grants. Grant recipients included Capricorn Tag and Release Sports Fishing Club (support for Captag fish tagging activities), Stanwell State School P&C Association (sustainability at the tap project), St Mary's Catholic Primary School P&F Association (recycling right project), Ridgeland State School P&C Association (Recycling Heroes), Emmaus College P&F Association (Recycling Heroes) and Multicultural Australia (Tucker Time project).

## TOWARDS ZERO WASTE

Council took another step towards zero waste, officially adopting the Region's revised Resource Recovery Strategy. The Strategy aims to empower the community to embrace the principles of the circular economy, maximise resource recovery opportunities and creates an environment where the circular economy can thrive. Council continues to improve waste diversion opportunities with the introduction of B-Cycle battery recycling, Mobile Muster, E-Waste and expanded polystyrene (EPS) collection points at all Waste Transfer Stations. Council has partnered with Multicultural Australia Ltd to welcome two cohorts of local trainees to repair, reuse and repurpose waste materials at the Upcycle Village. Council also partnered with Hands of Compassion and Containers for Change to divert food waste away from landfill and collect over 33,659 bottles and cans associated with major local events.

*Photos: Fitzroy Partnerships for River Health's (FPRH) mascot, Mindi the Barramundi visiting the Caring for Catchments Precinct at River Festival 2022; Trees lining a residential street in Rockhampton; Barry O'Rourke MP, Minister Dianne Farmer MP, Brittany Lauga MP, Deputy Mayor Neil Fisher, Multicultural Australia CEO Christine Castley and program participants at the Upcycle Village in March 2023.*



# 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.

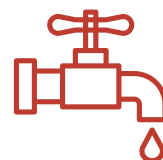
## YEAR IN REVIEW



**42**  
STAFF

from across Council and the Local Disaster Management Group participated in Climate Resilient Leadership workshops.

**CONTINUED  
ADVOCACY**

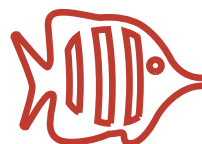


for regional planning and resilience to support our local water supplies, power generation and road networks.

**5** STRATEGIC  
WATER  
INITIATIVES



underway as part of the Communities in Transition - Making Water Work program.



**\$17.48M  
FUNDING**

secured for protection of the Great Barrier Reef, as part of collective advocacy efforts associated with the Reef Guardian Councils Climate change initiatives snapshot.

# CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Council continues to advocate at a state and federal level for priority projects which improve water security, community, environmental and economic outcomes; and disaster resilience.

In FY2022-23, Council:

- worked with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority to contribute to a Regional Resilience Strategy;
- delivered Climate Resilient Leadership training for staff and members of the Local Disaster Management Group;
- secured a \$200,000 grant to commence local implementation of the Climate Risk Management Framework for Queensland Local Government as part of the Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund;
- submitted motions to the Local Government Association of Queensland and National General Assembly of Local Government calling on the Queensland and Australian Governments to support Local Government's transition to net zero emissions through targeted capital and operational funding grants; and
- progressed major amendments to the Planning Scheme including additional flood mapping.



# REEF GUARDIAN COUNCILS

As a Reef Guardian Council, Council contributed to the Reef Guardian Councils Climate Change Initiatives snapshot (2022). The Snapshot showcases the actions, both big and small, that councils (including ours) are taking to help protect the Reef from the biggest threat to coral reefs worldwide. Together, this advocacy work has secured \$17.48m (\$920,000 per member council) from the Federal Budget for shovel ready projects over the next 3 years. Council will continue to work closely with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water to ensure funds are allocated to locally relevant projects.



# REGIONAL WASTE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY

Council continued to work alongside business, government and industry to pursue the target of zero waste and embrace the circular economy. Rockhampton Regional Waste and Recycling worked with other regional councils to support the development of the CQ Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Management Plan and align with the Queensland Government Strategy and targets.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Advance Rockhampton has been working closely with stakeholders, landholders and State and Federal Government to foster local agricultural industry and renewable energy developments.

This includes:

- the Rookwood Weir Landholder Support and Grants Program;
- arranging Meet the Proponent events for local wind and solar developments; and
- the Making Water Work initiative which has progressed 5 key projects associated with supply chain and precinct visioning, South Yaamba planning, water governance, water hyacinth harvesting pilot and a Reef Water Quality project.



# COUNCIL OPERATIONS & SERVICES

## OBJECTIVE

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

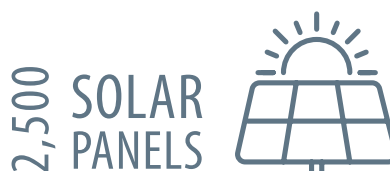
- 4.1** Accelerate Council's transition towards net zero emissions by actively monitoring and reducing emissions within Council's operational control.
- 4.2** Embed climate-related risk considerations into Council's decision-making, planning scheme, local developments and operations.
- 4.3** Apply sustainable 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



### ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLANS

implemented for large scale capital projects including Rockhampton North Access Upgrade, Hanrahan Crossing and River Rose Drive.



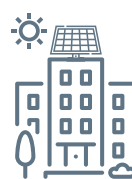
### 2,500 SOLAR PANELS

under construction to drive long-term cost savings and emissions reduction at the Glenmore Water Treatment Plant.

### RESOURCE RECOVERY STRATEGY



adopted by Council in June 2023 to guide action as the Rockhampton Region moves towards zero waste.



### 600,000 KWH PER ANNUM

electricity saved through solar installations and energy efficiency fine-tuning at the Rockhampton Museum of Art (RMOA).

*Photo: Installation of solar panels at Glenmore Water Treatment Plant (GWTP) in June 2023.*

## SECOND NATURE

Council recently implemented a Corporate Emissions Reduction Program to help understand and implement actions to reduce net organisational greenhouse gas emissions in line with state and federal government targets. Emissions originate from a wide range of sources, including infrastructure and services owned, delivered, overseen, or operated by Council. As a result, a broad cross section of the organisation is involved in collecting data for development of Corporate Emissions Inventories and implementation of Council's Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan.

Some of the achievements to date include:

- implementation of the Community Assets & Facilities Solar (CAFS) program,
- the major solar installation at the Glenmore Water Treatment Plant (under construction),
- methane flaring at the Lakes Creek Road Landfill Site and at the South Rockhampton Sewage Treatment Plant,
- the introduction of electric vehicles within Council's light passenger Fleet,
- targeted energy efficiency improvements (such as projects at Rockhampton Museum of Art and the North Rockhampton Library),
- updates to Council's Purchasing Policy for the Acquisition of Goods and Services,
- the trial of the Food Organics and Garden Organics collection service and the grading and reuse of road and construction materials.

## INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES

The North Rockhampton Sewage Treatment Plant augmentation and upgrade works are currently underway with the objective of reducing nutrient outfall. The South Rockhampton Sewage Treatment Plant capacity assessment and upgrade strategy have been completed with the new design embracing best practice industry and environmental standards. The long-term design for the Lakes Creek Road Landfill is also progressing and additional landfill gas extraction wells have been installed within Cell A1 and connected to the gas extraction system. A series of landfill gas extraction wells have also been installed in conjunction with the completion of the final landfill capping system at Gracemere Landfill and a landfill gas flaring trial completed at the site to assess the viability of ongoing flaring.

## FLOOD HAZARD MAPPING

Council undertook community consultation to support a major update to the Planning Scheme. Council has now submitted Planning Scheme Major Amendment version 4.1-4.4 (Fitzroy River and Local Catchment Flood Hazard Overlay Mapping) to the State Government for approval and has responded to all submissions received during the public consultation period.

## IMPROVED ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES

Civil Operations introduced Environmental Management Plans (EMP) for three large-scale capital projects including the Rockhampton North Access Upgrade, Hanrahan Crossing and River Rose Drive. Monitoring includes regular site inspections to assess compliance against eleven environmental criteria. Staff on site are also tasked with ensuring that erosion and sediment control measures are maintained. Further EMPs are planned for nominated capital projects currently in the forward works programme. Council has also developed new procedures for Minor Works In and Around Watercourses and Hazardous Materials Management.







# LOOKING FORWARD.

Council's vision is One Great Region to live, visit and invest in.

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.

As we move towards 2030, we recognise the need to deliver local initiatives that help us to prioritise a healthy natural environment, transition towards net zero emissions, create a climate resilient region and build a low-carbon circular economy.

Looking forward to FY2023-24, Council will continue to:

- Strengthen the capacity of individuals and households to live more sustainably;
- Work together with community and local groups to create a vibrant, liveable and resilient community;
- Position the Rockhampton Region to thrive and grow sustainably by working with business, industry and government; and
- Continually improve the environment and sustainability performance of Council's operations and services.

As we embark on the next chapter in the Rockhampton Region's sustainability journey, we're excited about the opportunity to increase our community, environmental and economic resilience and positively influence the continuing liveability and prosperity of our Region.

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





Photo: 'Darkness falls' by Russel Prothero



## BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!



[rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au/EnvironmentalSustainability](http://rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au/EnvironmentalSustainability)



[sustainability@rrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:sustainability@rrc.qld.gov.au)



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PO Box 1860  
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Photo: 'Sunset over The Range' by Jasmine Mick