



Reef Guardian
Council



Rockhampton Regional Council

Reef Guardian Council Action Plan

FY2024-25

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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

The 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: **FY2024-25**

Endorsed:

Evan Pardon, Chief Executive Officer
Rockhampton Regional Council, 07 May 2024



Climate change

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

Action	Description	Project Status	Partnerships	Financial/Resource Commitment	Responsible department/position
Rockhampton Airport Solar	Implement the Rockhampton Airport Solar project, as a key emissions reduction initiative. Council has received funding support from the 'Accelerating Reef Guardian Local Action Plans' program.	Planned	Australian Government	Sustainability Strategy FY2024-25 Annual Action Plan	Project Delivery
Organics Diversion from Landfill	Obtain Council endorsement and commence community preparedness and implementation actions for the proposed Organics Service to divert organic materials from landfill and generate Australia Carbon Credit Units (ACCU).	Planned		Sustainability Strategy FY2024-25 Annual Action Plan	Rockhampton Regional Waste and Recycling
Fleet Transition Planning	Develop a Fleet Transition Plan for Council vehicles, plant and equipment. The Plan should support establishment of the infrastructure and practices necessary for a smooth transition in line with Queensland Government targets and emerging policy/market requirements.	Planned	Whole-of-Council	Sustainability Strategy FY2024-25 Annual Action Plan	Corporate and Technology Services
Climate Risk Management	Facilitate local implementation of Council's Climate Risk Management Plan (guided by the state and national climate risk management frameworks).	Planned		Sustainability Strategy FY2024-25 Annual Action Plan	Environmental Sustainability
Corporate Emissions Reduction	Facilitate implementation of Council's Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan. This includes working with the Emissions Working Group to actively identify, monitor and reduce emissions across Council's Corporate Emissions Inventory.	Ongoing	Whole-of-Council	Sustainability Strategy FY2024-25 Annual Action Plan	Environmental Sustainability
Living Sustainably Program	Continue to encourage local sustainability awareness and action by delivering the Living Sustainably program in conjunction with key stakeholders.	Ongoing	Rockhampton Region community	Sustainability Strategy FY2024-25 Annual Action Plan	Environmental Sustainability
Urban Greening Program	Implement the Urban Greening Policy Action Plan, including planning, delivering and reporting on targeted urban greening activities across the Region.	In progress	Rockhampton Region community	Sustainability Strategy FY2024-25 Annual Action Plan	Parks

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 department/position
Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD)	Implement the Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Procedure in the planning and delivery of all of Council's new builds and renewal projects. Demonstrate ESD outcomes that help future-proof our assets, deliver resource efficiencies, minimise emissions and reduce whole-of-life costs.	In progress		Sustainability Strategy FY2024-25 Annual Action Plan	Project Delivery / Community Assets and Facilities
Water and Wastewater Improvements	Continue to improve FRW operations by pursuing opportunities for the beneficial reuse of water and wastewater by-products and further greening of operational sites where appropriate.	Planned		Sustainability Strategy FY2024-25 Annual Action Plan	Fitzroy River Water
Residential Recycling Program	Improve residential recycling in the Rockhampton Region through educational campaigns to reduce contamination in the yellow lid bin and divert recyclables away from the general waste stream.	Ongoing		Sustainability Strategy FY2024-25 Annual Action Plan	Rockhampton Regional Waste and Recycling
Walking and Cycling Initiatives	Continue to promote sustainable transport initiatives by progressing implementation of the Walking and Cycling Strategy and other associated local transport improvements (within budgetary allocations).	Ongoing		Sustainability Strategy FY2024-25 Annual Action Plan	Infrastructure Planning
Natural Resource Management Program	Work with key delivery partners to implement the operational Natural Resource Management (NRM) Program on Council owned/managed land. This includes targeted works at Nurim, Yeppen Lagoon, Frenchmans Creek, Moores Creek and other locations as grant opportunities arise.	Ongoing	Multicultural Australia, Capricornia Catchments, CQUniversity, Skilling Queenslanders for Work Program	Sustainability Strategy FY2024-25 Annual Action Plan	Environmental Sustainability

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 department/position
Erosion and Sediment Control	Explore opportunities to reduce land-based runoff associated with urban development. Key initiatives include progressing actions outlined in the Erosion and Sediment Control Audit such as staff training and amendments to the Capricorn Municipal Design Guidelines.	In progress		Sustainability Strategy FY2024-25 Annual Action Plan	Planning and Regulatory
Integrated Management System	Continue to refine Council's Civil Operations Integrated Management System to improve environmental practices. A key focus will be targeted awareness training to support implementation of improved erosion and sediment control measures on worksites.	In progress		Sustainability Strategy FY2024-25 Annual Action Plan	Civil Operations
Biosecurity Program	Continue to take steps to reduce the impact of invasive species on the environment by implementing Council's Biosecurity Plan. Key initiatives include investigating potential incentive programs for landholders; reviewing the Biosecurity Plan; and continuing existing works associated with water weed biocontrol, weed control in urban waterways and feral animal control programs.	Ongoing		Sustainability Strategy FY2024-25 Annual Action Plan	Planning and Regulatory
Project ClearFlow	Support CQUniversity's 'ClearFlow' project, which will install and monitor inline litter traps within nominated local stormwater drains. The project will enable researchers to gain a more accurate understanding of plastic litter entering urban waterways so they can develop solutions to mitigate the future flow of plastic pollution.	Planned	CQUniversity, pending grant funding	Sustainability Strategy FY2024-25 Annual Action Plan	Environmental Sustainability
There's More to Moores Creek	Support Capricornia Catchment's 'There's More to Moores Creek' project, which will deliver targeted restoration works and community engagement activities, focusing on the area from Kershaw Gardens to the Fitzroy River.	Planned	Capricornia Catchments, pending grant funding	Sustainability Strategy FY2024-25 Annual Action Plan	Environmental Sustainability

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 department/position
River Festival	Continue to encourage nature connection through 'My Rockhampton' and key regional events including River Festival.	Ongoing	Rockhampton Region community	Sustainability Strategy FY2024-25 Annual Action Plan	Advance Rockhampton (Tourism & Events)
Making Water Work	Finalise delivery of the Making Water Work program.	Ongoing	Cooperative Research Centre of Northern Australia (CRCNA)	Sustainability Strategy FY2024-25 Annual Action Plan	Advance Rockhampton (Economic Development)
Nature-based Activities	Showcase the Region's natural assets by encouraging sustainable nature-based recreation, tourism and event opportunities.	Ongoing	Rockhampton Region community	Sustainability Strategy FY2024-25 Annual Action Plan	Advance Rockhampton (Tourism & Events)

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 department/position
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 (Registered Native Title Body)	Sustainability Strategy FY2024-25 Annual Action Plan	Community Services Directorate

