

# FNQROC Regional WMRR – RRR Plan Implementation

## Minutes

<b>Meeting No</b>	2
<b>Meeting Name</b>	FNQROC Regional WMRR RRR Plan Implementation Technical Committee Meeting
<b>Date</b>	9 February 2024
<b>Time</b>	1:00pm
<b>Venue</b>	Committee Room, Level 3, Cairns Regional Council, Spence Street, Cairns

### 1. ATTENDANCE

Name	Organisation
Steve Cosatto	Cairns Regional Council
Geoff Allnutt	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Kristina Davidson	Cook Shire Council
Garry Pickering	Croydon Shire Council
Abbey Hastie	Douglas Shire Council
Paul Hoyer	Douglas Shire Council
Morris Hamill	Mareeba Shire Council
Emma Taylor	Mareeba Shire Council
Bruce Gardiner	Tablelands Regional Council
Amanda Hancock	FNQROC
Rudi Pretzler <i>via teleconference</i>	LGAQ

### 2. APOLOGIES

Name	Organisation
Nigel Crumpton	Cairns Regional Council
Jim Doidge	Cook Shire Council
Kerry Bull	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Raju Ranjit	Etheridge Shire Council
Elai Semesi	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
Muhammad Abdullah	Tablelands Regional Council
Kylie Hounslow	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
Sam Bann	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council

### 3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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Noted and agreed.

### 4. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

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NA

### 5. RRR PLAN DEVELOPMENT, POST COMPLETION FEEDBACK - GERARD KAVNEY, KAVNEY CONSULTING

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Gerard Kavney from Kavney Consulting has been appointed by DESI to provide a post Project Completion Report including Lessons Learned for the Regional Resource Recovery Plan Development for all regions excluding SEQ.

Gerard facilitated a session at the meeting to seek collective feedback from all council officers in attendance which was captured and will be included in the report.

**ACTION POINT 2.1 Amanda to circulate document from Gerard Kavney summarising the comments provided for inclusion in the post Project Completion Report. Councils to review and provide any additional comments or amendments for inclusion in the final report by 16 February 2024.**

### 6. UPDATE, DESI

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*Details of the update provided to follow from DESI.*

### 7. EPA DRAFT GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS GUIDELINE – MARIA ANSELMO, FNQROC

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#### Draft GHG Emissions Guidelines for EA Applications

Maria Anselmo, FNQROC Regional Climate Resilience Coordinator, provided a brief update on the GHG Emissions Guidelines for any new and amended Environmental Authority applications.

The new guidelines are applicable to any new and amended EA applications.

#### Guideline Purpose

- Set minimum expectations for information provided with EA applications in relation to GHG emissions under existing regulatory framework i.e., *Human Rights Act 2019, Environmental Protection Act 1994*.
- Limited to **new and expanded applications**.
- Not intended to duplicate Commonwealth requirements. Rather, provide consistency at the State level.
- Aligns Queensland with other jurisdictions that have similar requirements.
- Address community expectations to consider GHG emissions when deciding EAs.
- Provides for rigorous, defensible decisions – recent Land Court decisions confirmed emissions should be considered as part of the EA assessments.

## **Draft GHG Emissions Guidelines for Environmental Authority (EA) Applications are open for feedback until COB Friday 16 February.**

Jacqui Hurwood from LGAQ is consolidating feedback from Councils and has asked for feedback to be emailed to her, she's also more than happy to talk through any feedback over the phone. If any of the Water Alliance would also like to discuss this further, Rudi Pretzler, Lead – Public Health and Waste, and Josie Raftery, Lead – Water and Wastewater Infrastructure are both very happy to discuss any questions or comments about their particular expertise areas. Their contact details will be shared along with a copy of the guidelines.

Maria Anselmo will investigate if the new Greenhouse Gas Emissions Guidelines for Environmental Authority includes minor amendment applications and advise further in due course.

## **8. UPDATE – RUDI PRETZLER, LGAQ**

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Rudi provided an overview of the Climate Change Authority 2023 Review of the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) Legislation. The government website commits to consider which of the recommendations can be implemented by the end of 2023-24, committing to carrying out detailed technical research and analysis and stakeholder consultation. This is of particular relevance given the significant implications of Recommendation 4 – Extend NGER coverage to publicly owned landfills where legally possible. LGAQ will provide updates regarding progress and consultation.

## **9. COUNCIL UPDATES**

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All councils keen to receive further information on the progression of the Regional Resource Recovery Coordinator and Governance & Funding arrangements to commence implementation of the RRR plan.

## **10. REGIONAL BIOSOLIDS SUB-COMMITTEE, AMANDA HANCOCK**

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Amanda provided the following overview of the work of the Regional Biosolids Committee:

Amanda provided the following update:

- The Regional Biosolids Sub-committee met for the second time on 9 January 2024.
- At this meeting the innovative Resources and Waste Technologies (iRWT) team from RMIT University delivered a presentation on the research and development they are undertaking on biosolids thermal treatment options.
- This research is being carried out in partnership with the Australia Research Council's Training Centre for Transformation of Australia's Biosolids Resource and the team are keen to work the FNQROC as we continue to look at the various options that might be best suited to our region.
- Potential to include FOGO also being considered.
- Work is now underway to provide the team with information required to progress: -
  - Amount of biosolids produced at each location.
  - Treatment steps in each location.
  - If biosolids are dried, what is the process (example: solar dried)
  - How much FOGO is produced in each council.
  - How far are these FOGO facilities located from the water treatment plants?
  - Any available analysis on both biosolids and FOGO (example: elemental analysis, heavy metal concentrations etc.,)
- A Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) is currently under discussion.

## 11. UPCOMING EVENTS

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Organics Working Group Meeting – 28 February 2024, Online

## 12. NEXT MEETING

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Next meeting is to take place in May unless otherwise deemed necessary.

Committee to be notified as soon as any updates are received from DESI.

**The meeting closed at 4.20pm**

**Minutes prepared by Amanda Hancock, Regional Strategic Infrastructure Coordinator**

### ACTION ITEMS

Action Item	Action	Responsible Person(s)
2.1	Amanda to circulate document from Gerard Kavey summarising the comments provided for inclusion in the post Project Completion Report. Councils to review and provide any additional comments or amendments for inclusion in the final report by 16 February 2024.	Gerrad Kavney & All Councils