

# FNQR Regional Waste Management Plan (RWMP) Implementation Technical Committee

## Minutes

<b>Meeting No</b>	3
<b>Meeting Name</b>	FNQR Regional Waste Management Plan (RWMP) Technical Committee
<b>Date</b>	10 May 2024
<b>Time</b>	1:00pm
<b>Venue</b>	Committee Room, Level 3, Cairns Regional Council, Spence Street, Cairns

### 1. ATTENDANCE

Name	Organisation
Nigel Crumpton	Cairns Regional Council
Geoff Allnutt	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Kerryn Bull	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Kristina Davidson	Cook Shire Council
Garry Pickering	Croydon Shire Council
Brian Pickering	Croydon Shire Council
Abbey Hastie <i>via teleconference</i>	Douglas Shire Council
Morris Hamill	Mareeba Shire Council
Emma Taylor	Mareeba Shire Council
Bruce Gardiner	Tablelands Regional Council
Amanda Hancock	FNQROC
Ieva Pradal	FNQROC

### 2. APOLOGIES

Name	Organisation
Steve Cosatto	Cairns Regional Council
Jim Doidge	Cook Shire Council
Raju Ranjit	Etheridge Shire Council
Geoff Rewald	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
Kylie Hounslow	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council

### 3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Noted and agreed.

### 4. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

Complete

### 5. UPDATE - DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE & INNOVATION (DESI)

An update was provided by the following DESI representatives:

For the **GROW FOGO** grant program – OCE Programs team, [wasteprograms@des.qld.gov.au](mailto:wasteprograms@des.qld.gov.au); Stephanie Slade and Rosa Lohrisch

For **Education and Behaviour Change** – OCE EBC team, [CircularEconomy@des.qld.gov.au](mailto:CircularEconomy@des.qld.gov.au); Katie Bain and Susy Trier

For all **other initiatives** – OCE Partnerships and Governance team, [wasteplanimplementation@des.qld.gov.au](mailto:wasteplanimplementation@des.qld.gov.au); Rosie Savoca and Brooke Laidlaw

Dylan Walker, Director Circular Economy Partnerships was also in attendance.

#### **GROW FOGO**

The [Growing the Recovery of Organic Waste via Food Organic Garden Organic \(GROW FOGO\) Fund](#) provides support to assist Queensland Councils to implement or expand kerbside food organic garden organic (FOGO) collection services that form part of a core waste service. It also provides funding for bin harmonisation to support councils to provide statewide consistency in waste collection services, resulting in cleaner waste streams and improved resource recovery.

The updated [GROW FOGO Program Fund Guidelines \(v3\)](#) have now been released by the Minister of Environment, Science and Innovation, with v2 superseded. Specifically, this update provides additional opportunity for:

- R7 Regional Councils to apply for funding across streams 1-4 of the Program.
- Other Regional Councils to apply for funding to achieve bin harmonisation (stream 3 only).

*Communication distributed to councils circulated with the minutes.*

#### **RWMP Governance and Finance**

#### **Regional Waste Management Plan Coordinator Program:**

- FNQROC has been approved to receive funding under this program.
- FNQROC and DESI are commencing negotiations for the funding agreement.
- The funding for these activities currently goes till 30 June 2027

#### **Regional plan governance:**

- A State governance framework to support implementation of regional waste management plans has been approved by the Director-General of DESI
- A process flow is provided with the minutes.
- DESI is operating an internal advisory group to assist regional plan coordinators and their councils prepare and submit initiatives for regional governance decision and then State funding consideration
- The OCE Partnerships and Governance team continue to be the first point of contact for local councils on their proposed initiatives
- Projects submitted for funding will be assessed and recommended by a Regional Investment Review Committee (RIRC), which will comprise representatives from DESI, the Department of State Development and Infrastructure, Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works, Queensland Treasury Corporation, and LGAQ
- The RIRC will make recommendations to the relevant financial delegate on the funding source for projects
- DESI is working through the initiatives across all regional waste management plans and determining if dedicated grant programs need to be established. All other initiatives will be considered as 'on-off' proposals and DESI will have a general principles-based approach in place for these assessments.
- If councils are in the concept phase of a proposal through to a well-advanced initiative, please reach out to the OCE Partnerships and Governance team to start discussions

#### **Funding:**

- The State has funding approved and available for regional waste management plan implementation currently through to 30 June 2027
- Current funds available:
  - o to support the implementation of regional waste management plans, \$153.7 million is currently allocated up to 2026-27 from the 10-year Recycling and Jobs Fund (R&J Fund) and administered by DESI.
  - o to support statewide education and behaviour change initiatives, \$24 million is currently allocated up to 2026-27 from the R&J Fund and administered by DESI.
  - o to support industry development and innovation, \$147.2 million is currently allocated up to 2026-27 from the R&J Fund and administered by Department of State Development and Infrastructure
  - o to support the roll-out of FOGO collection services, \$151 million has been allocated from the R&J Fund

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#### **Education and Behaviour Change Initiative**

A number of programs are now coming live to support councils under the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation's Education and Behaviour Change Initiative (EBCI). One of them being the Let's Get it Sorted Partnership Program. Open since 24 April, the program is open for application for:

- [Behaviour Change Intervention](#): Eligible local councils may apply for funding support to implement targeted behaviour change interventions for household waste and recycling services and public place littering and illegal dumping. Applications open 24 April and close at midday on 6 June 2024.

Stream 1 – Kerbside Waste Service Interventions relates to funding for:

- Education and behaviour change interventions for:
  - existing red, yellow and green bin kerbside collection services; or
  - new yellow bin services
- Apply for \$8 per household for SEQ Queensland councils with more than 60,000 households.
- Apply for \$12 per household for all other Queensland councils.

Note that funding for new green bin services is not available through this Program, due to the availability of support through GROW FOGO.

Stream 2 – Litter and Illegal Dumping Interventions relate to funding for:

- Education and behaviour change interventions to reduce littering and illegal dumping in hot spot locations addressing:
  - Cigarette Butt Littering
  - Kerbside Dumping
  - Roadside Littering
- Apply for funding up to \$40,000 per project for all Queensland councils.
- [Behaviour Change Coordinator](#): Groups of geographically aligned Queensland councils or lead councils for a Queensland region may apply for funding to engage a behaviour change coordinator to develop and deliver waste education and behaviour change intervention activities for households, on behalf of the councils they represent. Applications open from 24 April 2024.

The two program guidelines are available via the [department's website](#), and provide information on funding eligibility and how to apply through the SmartyGrants portal.

A suite of resources are available for councils and/or regional representation organisations to undertake behaviour change interventions to improve recycling opportunities, reduce contamination in yellow lid bins and address litter and illegal dumping issues. The resources include a best practice intervention guide with behaviour change methodology, planning and implementation templates, and a range of adaptable assets. Access is via the dedicated EBCI SharePoint which houses all EBCI-related materials—links are available via the program guidelines to register to gain access to this page.

In addition, the FNQROC has a nominated member on the EBCI working group and will regularly be updated on all projects and programs developed under the initiative. (Such as the LGIS advertising campaign, and the Recycle Mate opt-ins for councils).

## 6. UPDATE – CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL

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Nigel Crumpton provided a presentation on CRC RR2040 and Strategic Procurement.

*A copy of CRC's presentation circulated with the minutes.*

## 7. COUNCIL UPDATES

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Councils provided an overview of their current priorities.

- CCRC - Introducing recycling bin. Kerbside contract to commence shortly. Focus on education.
- Croydon SC – Currently no Coex so looking at options to address.
- CSC - Keen to obtain composition data to inform decision making.

- DSC - Similar profile to CRC due to previous amalgamation. Focus on education.
- MSC – Council workshop taking place regarding landfill, recycling etc.
- TRC – Currently have 2 active landfills. Recycling in some areas.

## 8. UPDATE – AMANDA HANCOCK ON BEHALF OF RUDI PRETZLER LGAQ

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Amanda provided the following update on Rudi's behalf:

- **PFAS in Organic Waste**
  - ESR within DESI has released a position statement regarding PFAS in organic waste. The statement makes it clear that ESR is unwilling to change their stance on limits imposed and is ignoring feedback from industry and local government saying that these limits will stop any investment.
  - Industry is planning to provide evidence to Minister Linard to support their stance and is seeking data on PFAS in processed organic waste.
  - LGAQ are keen to understand the implications of the limits on food waste management and if the regions will be looking closer at advanced processing like pyrolysis or gasification and if so, what are the economic and logistical challenges associated with it. LGAQ would like to understand the role of advocacy given that PFAS is just one of many Chemicals of Emerging Concern.
  - LGAQ is aware that there are no simple answers to these questions, but a combined voice by LG would be beneficial to get a change in stance (either for the limits or for management expectations for food waste/support for options).
- **Batteries Working Group**
  - Queensland has taken leadership in the national process to find better solutions for battery waste. To date the Battery Stewardship Council notes that approximately only 10% of eligible batteries get collected through their system, noting that many critical batteries are not eligible currently and that especially lithium-ion batteries are expected to rise exponentially with the electrification of the Queensland economy.
  - LGAQ has taken the ALGA seat on the working group which is looking to provide a solution to the Environment Ministers Meeting by end of this year. Currently industry (mostly represented by WMRR and ACOR) is proposing two solutions: The expansion of the BSC with support from state governments to close the loop on collection spots (including council owned assets) with separate solutions for industrial scale batteries through an alternate national process OR the full regulation through an extended producer responsibility scheme through the National Product Stewardship Act.
  - Both sides have their arguments – any thoughts on the group which solution should be supported by ALGA would be welcome, as well as additional considerations regarding compliance management. LGAQ has previously argued that only a scheme like the CRS will be successful as without financial incentive buy in will always be low, but any alternate considerations/case studies are welcome to add to the discussion.
- **Tyres Working Group**
  - Similar to above, Western Australia has taken leadership to reform tyre stewardship in Australia. We are involved through the Western Australia Local Government Association (WALGA) and can provide input into the process – however to date there was no request for input or further information made.
- **Packaging Regulation**
  - In November 2023, the Environment Ministers meeting agreed that the Federal Government will become the new regulator of packaging standards, including design standards and minimum

recycled content requirements, as well as prohibition of harmful chemicals. How this will look in practice is yet to be seen but APCO is currently touring the country advertising on their new strategic plan forward (no doubt hopeful that they will remain part of the picture under the new regulation). LGAQ are expecting a public consultation on this process to start quite soon and they encourage the region to keep an eye on this website:

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/waste/packaging/reforming-packaging-regulation> to stay abreast of any developments.

- **LGAQ Annual Conference motions**

- The process for motions will open again on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2024. As always, the group is encouraged to bring forward topics that need to be addressed on a whole-of-state level and Rudi is happy to help with drafting. As a reference, LGAQ resolutions need to be approved through a council resolution before being submitted officially, but Rudi is happy to help in the drafting process and can advise on if ideas are likely to be supported by other regions in Queensland.

**ACTION POINT 3.1 Amanda to provide feedback to LGAQ in relation to battery waste that full regulation through an extended producer responsibility scheme through the National Product Stewardship Act is the preference together with a scheme like Coex.**

## 9. REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN COMMITTEE & TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

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Amanda proposed the re-establishment of the Regional Waste Management Advisory Committee which is made up of elected representatives. This is important for the following reasons:

- Ensuing effective implementation and oversight of the Regional Waste Management Plan (RWMP) actions
- Facilitating cooperations among participating councils to share resources, knowledge, and best practices and
- Securing necessary funding and regulatory support from State and Federal governments to achieve the Plan's targets.

This was agreed by the committee with FNQROC to seek nominations and review the Terms of Reference. It was agreed that this committee would ideally meet quarterly, immediately following the Regional Waste Management Plan Technical Committee meetings.

**ACTION POINT 3.2 FNQROC to seek to re-establish the Regional Waste Management Advisory Committee and seek nominations for elected representatives from participating councils.**

**ACTION POINT 3.3 FNQROC to update the Regional Waste Management Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.**

## 10. REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN COORDINATOR

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- Amanda advised that following a successful funding application, FNQROC would shortly be undertaking recruitment for a Regional Waste Management Plan Coordinator.
- This role will sit in the FNQROC team and report to the FNQROC CEO and will be responsible for the coordination of the Regional Waste Management Advisory Plan Committee and Technical Committee to ensure engagement, collaboration, consultation, and communication to implement the FNQ Regional Waste Management Plan.

- The committee confirmed that FNQROC will undertake the recruitment and short-listing of potential candidates. Geoff Allnutt, CCRC and Morris Hamill, MSC will sit on the interview panel along with FNQROC.

**ACTION POINT 3.4 Geoff Allnutt, CCRC and Morris Hamill, MSC to represent the committee on the Regional Waste Management Plan Coordinator interview panel.**

## 11. EDUCATION AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE PROGRAM

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### Let's Get It Sorted Partnership Program

- As per DESI's earlier update, DESI's education and Behaviour Change program, the *Let's Get It Sorted Partnership Program*, is now open for applications, there are two separate programs, one for individual councils and the other for regional organisations.
- The close date for applications for individual councils is Thursday 6 June 2024 with further rounds to follow.
- Both CCRC and DSC indicated that they would be applying for the first round of funding
- The technical committee indicated a preference for the Regional Behaviour Change Coordinator to sit within the FNQROC team although it was noted that funding is insufficient for a full-time position.
- If necessary, the committee would support looking at potential funding contributions from individual councils, but more information would be required to enable councils to consider this further.

**ACTION POINT 3.5 Councils to keep the RWMP Technical Committee informed of the progress of their EBCI Program funding applications.**

### Education & Behaviour Change Working Group

- DESI have also recently extended an invitation for FNQROC to become members of the EBCI working group. The working group was initially established in late 2022 with 13 council waste managers across the state to inform the development of the EBCI.
- DESI have advised that now moving towards implementation of an education and behaviour change framework, they have conducted an internal review to assess how to move forward with these meetings and identified the need to expand representation of the group to include Regional Organisation of Council (RoC) executive officers and additional councils to ensure adequate representation across RoCs.
- This engagement is considered particularly important as the EBCI transitions to implementation through partnerships and programs, which will require engagement, collaboration, and input from both councils and RoCs.
- The working group is expected to meet every two months from May 2024 to February 2025 to attend group meetings/discussions, impart your knowledge, resources, and experience relevant to the projects at hand, and review any project documentation for expert advice.
- FNQROC has accepted the membership and there is also the opportunity to invite on additional council representative. Cairns Regional Council are already members of the working group.
- With her agreement, the committee agreed to nominate Abbey Hastie, Douglas Shire Council as the additional council representative.

**ACTION POINT 3.6 FNQROC to nominate Abbey Hastie, DSC to join the Education & Behaviour Change Initiative (EBCI) Working Group.**

**ACTION POINT 3.7 FNQROC EBCI Working Group members to provide regular updates to the RWMP Committees on the outputs of the EBCI Working Group.**

## 12. ORGANICS WORKING GROUP

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- DESI runs an Organics Working Group that meets online every two months. The next meeting is 19 June 2024.
- FNQROC, Cairns Regional Council & Douglas Shire Council currently attend the meetings.
- Emma Taylor, Mareeba Shire Council indicated that she would also like to attend the meetings.

**ACTION POINT 3.8 Amanda to forward the contact details for the DESI representative for the Organics Working Group to Emma Taylor, MSC so she can send a new membership request.**

**ACTION POINT 3.9 FNQROC Organics Working Group members to provide regular updates to the RWMP Committees on the outputs of the Organics Working Group.**

## 13. UPCOMING EVENTS

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- WMRR Waste 2024 – 14 – 16 May – Coffs Harbour
- Organics Working Group – 19 June 2024
- LAWMAC – 20 & 21 June - Cairns
- WMRR Enviro Conference 2024 – 26 & 27 June – Brisbane
- National Food Waste Summit – 24 & 25 July – Melbourne
- Future Waste Resources Symposium, WRIQ – 31 July & 1 August – Gold Coast
- LAWMAC – 22 & 23 August - Rockhampton
- LAWMAC – 21 & 22 November - Mackay

## 14. NEXT MEETING

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Meetings to take place quarterly but brought forward as required.

**The meeting closed at 4pm**

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

**ACTION ITEMS OVER PAGE**



## ACTION ITEMS

Action Item	Action	Responsible Person(s)
3.1	Amanda to provide feedback to LGAQ in relation to battery waste that full regulation through an extended producer responsibility scheme through the National Product Stewardship Act is the preference together with a scheme like Coex.	Amanda Hancock, FNQROC
3.2	FNQROC to seek to re-establish the Regional Waste Management Advisory Committee and seek nominations for elected representatives from participating councils.	Amanda Hancock, FNQROC
3.3	FNQROC to update the Regional Waste Management Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.	Amanda Hancock, FNQROC
3.4	Geoff Allnutt, CCRC and Morris Hamill, MSC to represent the committee on the Regional Waste Management Plan Coordinator interview panel.	Geoff Allnutt, CCRC & Morris Hamill, MSC
3.5	Councils to keep the RWMP Technical Committee informed of the progress of their EBCI Program funding applications.	All Councils
3.6	FNQROC to nominate Abbey Hastie, DSC to join the Education & Behaviour Change Initiative (EBCI) Working Group.	Amanda Hancock, FNQROC
3.7	FNQROC EBCI Working Group members to provide regular updates to the RWMP Committees on the outputs of the EBCI Working Group.	FNQROC EBCI Working Group Members
3.8	Amanda to forward the contact details for the DESI representative for the Organics Working Group to Emma Taylor, MSC so she can send a new membership request.	Amanda Hancock, FNQROC & Emma Taylor, MSC
3.9	FNQROC Organics Working Group members to provide regular updates to the RWMP Committees on the outputs of the Organics Working Group.	FNQROC Organics Working Group Members