

FNQROC Regional Waste Management Plan (RWMP) Implementation Technical Committee

Minutes

Meeting No	11
Meeting Name	FNQROC Regional Waste Management Plan (RWMP) Technical Committee
Date	26 th February 2026
Time	9.30 am- 12 noon
Venue	McKenzie Room, 119-145 Spence St Office of Cairns Regional Council

ATTENDANCE

Name	Organisation
Kristina Davidson	Cook Shire Council
Chris Johnston	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Tim O'Brien	Douglas Shire Council
Emma Taylor & Bianca Roccella	Mareeba Shire Council
Charles Dyer	Tablelands Regional Council
Bhakti Devi (Meeting Convenor & Facilitator)	FNQROC

APOLOGIES

Name	Organisation
Steve Cosatto & Nigel	Cairns Shire Council
Mark Pollard	Croydon Shire Council
Alan Clark	Etheridge Shire Council
Onesimo Mukodi	Hope Vale Shire Council
Kiley Hounslow	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
Sam Bann	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council

1. REGIONAL WASTE EDUCATION & BEHAVIOUR CHANGE ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

A) Regional Waste Education & Behaviour Change (EBC) Activity Schedule - Status

- 6 Councils have responded to the survey sent out to understand the Council specific EBC objectives & support each Council requires.
- Informed by the responses of the survey, 5 Council-specific Waste EBC Plan consisting of 12-month activity schedule has been prepared for CSC, CCRC, CrSC, MSC and TRC.
- One on one meetings are being scheduled for each of the 5 Councils with their communication resource person to finalise the plan.
- RWMP Coordinator will work closely with each Council to support in any research on successful campaigns on similar themes by other councils and drafting of collaterals and other relevant tools.

B) Education & Awareness related to Illegal Dumping

- Kristina (CSC) and Tim (DSC) shared the challenges and limitations with Illegal Dumping Grant funding as the education & awareness component related to illegal dumping is not considered as eligible cost by the conditions of the grant.

2. COUNCIL-SPECIFIC WASTE MANAGEMENT & RESOURCE RECOVERY TRACKER

A) Council-specific Waste Management & Resource Recovery Tracker

- Bhakti (RWMP Coordinator) shared the Excel-sheet based Tracker that has been developed for Group 2 (for CCRC, DSC, MSC and TRC) and Group 3 (for CrSC, ESC and CSC) Councils.
- Group 2 and Group 3 Councils will be emailed this week the Tracker file so that they can review the framework and provide any suggestions for changes/edits etc by Monday 9th March to finalise the tracker.
- Group 1 Council (Cairns Regional Council) and Group 4 Councils (Hope Vale, Wujul - Wujul and Yarrabah) will receive their tracker files by email next week.

B) Resolution

It was resolved that Waste Management & Resource Recovery Tracker will be used as a tool to capture status of waste management and resource recovery actions taken (individually) by local councils within their respective region as well as by FNQROC to report on sharing the regional status of the same at FNQ regional level.

3. DECENTRALISED RECOVERY OF FUEL FROM END OF LIFE TYRES (EOLT)- DEMO

Circular Economy FNQ has proposed a cooperative model for recovering bio-fuel from end-of-life tyres using a decentralised Microfactory. The model requires **no monetary CAPEX or OPEX investment from Councils**, aside from providing land to host the Microfactory.

A) Key Updates

1. **Cassowary Coast Regional Council (CCRC)**

CCRC has received formal letter of support from their Councillors for undertaking a detailed assessment and relevant environmental and other compliance relevant to the proposal.

2. **Croydon Shire Council**

The CEO received a presentation from Irene Portelli (Circular Economy FNQ), organised by FNQROC, and is considering arranging a Councillor presentation for the March meeting.

3. **Cook Shire Council**

Cook Shire has expressed *in-principle* interest in the proposed model.

4. **Tyre Stewardship Australia (TSA) – Funding Application**

Encouraged by early support from CCRC, an application has been initiated to Tyre Stewardship Australia under their **Demonstration & Infrastructure Funding Program**, which closes **10 March**.

5. **Draft Proposal Submitted to TSA**

FNQROC, in collaboration with CCRC and Circular Economy FNQ, has submitted a draft proposal for TSA's preliminary review. Feedback from TSA is still pending.

6. **Presentation by Circular Economy FNQ**

To support the RWMP Technical Committee's understanding, **Irene Portelli** was invited to the meeting to answer questions about:

- The Microfactory technology
- Their licence from JCU to manufacture, install, and sub-license units
- The proposed cooperative model and operational structure

7. **Committee Discussion**

Members in attendance asked clarifying questions regarding the cooperative model and the process for recovering bio-fuel (TDFuel) from EOLTs. Members were generally satisfied with the responses provided.

B) Resolution

Support for Demonstration Project

CCRC indicated strong interest from Councillors to support hosting the demonstration project on suitable Council-owned land subject to outcomes of detailed environmental assessment and regulatory reviews.

It was resolved that:

The proposed decentralised Microfactory demonstration for generating TDFuel from end-of-life tyres represents a valuable learning opportunity for Councils across the FNQ region, with significant potential to address long-standing waste management and resource recovery challenges associated with transport logistics.