



Scenic Rim Regional Council  
**Waste Management and  
Resource Recovery Strategy**  
2021 - 2026

# Acknowledgement of Country

We are proud of our diverse communities within the region. We acknowledge the traditional owners of the many lands within the Scenic Rim – the Mununjali in the Centre, the Wangerriburra to the East, the Ugurapul to the West, and all those of the Yugambah and Jagera language groups. We pay respect to Elders, past, present and emerging.

Prepared by: Scenic Rim Regional Council - May 2021

For further information contact Scenic Rim Regional Council on 07 5540 5111  
or email [mail@scenicrim.qld.gov.au](mailto:mail@scenicrim.qld.gov.au)

# Contents

Message from the Mayor	4
Background	5
Definitions	6
Community profile	7
Strategic Alignment	8
Strategy Drivers	10
Principles Followed	11
Current State	12
Waste Services provided by Council	12
Waste management and resource recovery infrastructure	13
Resource recovery and circular economy	14
Data management	15
Council's response to current challenges	16
Queensland's waste reduction and recovery goals	17
Strategic Priorities	18
Strategic Outcomes	19
Data collection and analysis	20
Operations	21
Waste avoidance and reduction	22
Reuse of resources	23
Recovery of resources	24
Regional prosperity	26
Implementation Plan	27

# Message from the Mayor

It is my pleasure to introduce the *Scenic Rim Regional Council Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy 2021-2026* (Strategy).

Council is taking a key role in driving innovation and improvements, not only in the Scenic Rim but also across Queensland. As Chair of The Council of Mayors (South East Queensland) Waste Working Group, I am proud of our region's achievements and our Council's commitment to work with other councils, organisations and the Queensland Government to achieve better outcomes for ratepayers and the environment.

With the support of the community, Council has achieved an enviable environmental record in waste management. Our kerbside mixed recyclables collection continues to have a low contamination rate, enabling a high percentage of plastic, paper, glass and metals to be reprocessed, reused or recycled. Our landfill and seven transfer station operations have continued to receive good results in Queensland Government environmental audits. During the community consultation in the drafting of this Strategy community members overwhelmingly supported a focus on waste avoidance, reuse and resource recovery, community education and infrastructure.

Council aims to manage waste efficiently, cost effectively and in an environmentally responsible manner in line with the ambitious targets set by

the Queensland Government's *Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy 2019* (*Queensland Waste Strategy 2019*). It aims to generate 25 per cent less waste by 2051, with only 10 per cent of all waste disposed in landfill.

The Strategy aims to:

- reduce generation of waste,
- increase recovery of resources and better manage waste,
- align with Queensland Government targets and promote regional collaboration while supporting local implementation,
- build the agility to respond to changes in a rapidly evolving industry, and
- achieve a positive financial impact for Council and ratepayers.

The generation, collection, recycling and disposal of waste continue to evolve and change rapidly in response to community expectations, legislative changes, national and international economic conditions, and technological advances. I am excited by the potential and opportunities these challenges present in enhancing our management of waste.

**Cr Greg Christensen**  
**Mayor**  
**Scenic Rim Regional Council**



# Background

Australia is at a critical crossroads as local governments run out of options to landfill waste, and attitudes to waste continue to shift with a growing focus on resource recovery and transition to a circular economy. In recognition, the State Government released the *Queensland Waste Strategy 2019*. It is Queensland's vision is to become a zero-waste society where waste is avoided, reused and recycled to the greatest possible extent.

Decisions are now being made nationally on infrastructure investment in waste management, recycling and resource recovery which will set direction for the waste sector for years to come. Significant budgets in public and private funds are set to be invested as local, Queensland and Australian Governments seek alternatives to landfill and more sustainable outcomes for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW). These changes are also due to the ripple effect of new policies introduced in China, Container Deposition Schemes, product stewardship schemes and subsequent legislative and policy changes.

In Australia, segregation at source and the subsequent kerbside collection of co-mingled dry recyclables, organic waste and the remaining municipal waste has been practised for many years. A particular challenge faced in Australia is moving recyclables over large distances to metropolitan areas where Materials Recovery Facilities (MRF) are located.

Recyclables collected from kerbside and waste facilities are segregated into categories of paper, plastics, glass, cans and tins before they are exported for further processing. These MRFs are mainly concentrated in the metropolitan areas due to the dense population, volumes of waste generated, low logistics cost and easy access to ports<sup>1</sup>.

Australia generated approximately 74 million tonnes of waste or about 2.9 tonnes per person, in 2018-2019, with about 60 per cent of this being recycled in some form<sup>2</sup>. The recycling industry has been under significant strain for a number of years, due to factors that include lack of sustainable secondary markets in Australia, increasing regulation, unrealistic customer expectations, volatility of global commodity markets and increasingly confusing packaging, and limited public education<sup>3</sup>. There has been significant effort made to solve these issues by taking a circular economy approach, by closing the loop with in-house processing and creation of local jobs.

Approximately 30 per cent of the co-mingled recyclable materials from Australia is sent to China for processing by large recycling companies such as VISY and Cleanaway indicated that contamination levels in Australian co-mingled recyclable materials are currently around 5 per cent<sup>4</sup>. Contamination in recyclables within the waste industry refers to waste that is either hazardous or non-recyclable and, thus, forms part of the residual waste generated as part of the processing of the recyclables at MRFs and other recycling facilities. The residual waste generated is finally disposed at landfills.

In early 2018, China introduced the 'National Sword' which is a mechanism to restrict import licences for 24 categories of recycled products and limit contamination rates to less than 0.5 per cent. The effect of this policy has been felt throughout the supply chain in Australia impacting on approximately 619,000 tonnes of materials equating to \$520M<sup>5</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> GBB (2008) [www.tucsonaz.gov/files/es/GBB-Tucson\\_MRF\\_Feasibility\\_Report\\_-\\_120308.pdf](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/files/es/GBB-Tucson_MRF_Feasibility_Report_-_120308.pdf) (Cited 29/3/2018)

<sup>2</sup> Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment; Blue Environment (2020) National Waste Report 2020, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

<sup>3</sup> WMAA (2018) [www.wmaa.asn.au/Public/Media\\_hub/Newsroom/CEO\\_Report/Public/Media\\_hub/WMAA\\_eNEWS\\_CEO\\_REPORT.aspx?hkey=684f62c7-219f-4138-9d96-c757c90e0e7a](http://www.wmaa.asn.au/Public/Media_hub/Newsroom/CEO_Report/Public/Media_hub/WMAA_eNEWS_CEO_REPORT.aspx?hkey=684f62c7-219f-4138-9d96-c757c90e0e7a) (Cited 22/3/2018)

<sup>4</sup> Ritchie, M (2018) <https://blog.mraconsulting.com.au/2018/02/16/2018-looks-like-a-lot-of-pain-for-mrfs-and-councils/> (Cited 22/3/2018)

<sup>5</sup> ABC (2018) [www.abc.net.au/news/2017-12-10/china-ban-on-foreign-rubbish-leaves-recycling-industry-in-a-mess/9243184](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-12-10/china-ban-on-foreign-rubbish-leaves-recycling-industry-in-a-mess/9243184) (Cited 22/3/2018)

# Definitions

TERM	DEFINITION
Circular economy	The concept of focusing on the value of materials by designing out waste, keeping materials and products in use for as long as possible and considering how positive environmental impacts can occur through material management.
Commercial and Industrial (C&I)	Commercial and industrial waste refers to the waste generated through running commercial or industrial processes.
Construction and Demolition (C&D)	Construction and demolition waste, that is waste generated from the practice of building and modifying built assets, for example, concrete, timber and plasterboard.
Gate fees	The fees and charges payable by users of waste facilities.
Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)	A facility that sorts and processes co-mingled recycling for sale as separate commodities, for example, baling cardboard and different types of plastics and metals.
Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)	Waste generated by an average household, that is, the waste associated with living in a residential premises.



# Community Profile



## POPULATION GROWTH

2016 - 2041

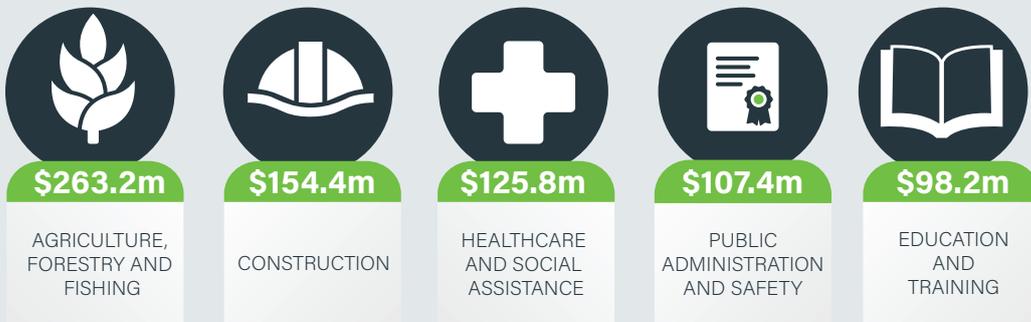


## MEDIAN AGE (years)

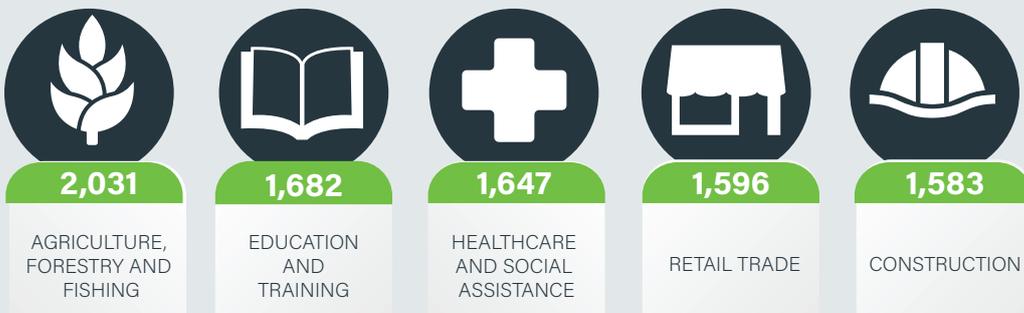


## LOCAL ECONOMY

### TOP 5 SECTORS (2018-2019) ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION



### EMPLOYMENT (number of jobs)



<sup>6</sup> Idcommunity (2020) Scenic Rim Regional Council community profile <https://profile.id.com.au/scenic-rim> (Cited 28/10/20) Idcommunity (2020) Scenic Rim Regional Council economic profile <http://economy.id.com.au/scenic-rim> (Cited 28/10/20)

<sup>7</sup> The State of Queensland (2020), Queensland Regional Profiles – Resident Profile – people who live in the region – Scenic Rim (R) Local Government Area (LGA) (generated 28/10/20)

# Strategic Alignment

*Scenic Rim Regional Council Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy 2021-2026* (Strategy) is an extension of Council's existing strategic documents and provides specific direction for Council to meet state government requirements to monitor and reduce waste generation and increase resource recovery. Changing how waste is understood is critical to supporting the Scenic Rim region to thrive. This Strategy equips our residents and businesses to reduce, reuse and recycle materials through the provision of fit for purpose infrastructure, services and information.

The *Scenic Rim Community Plan 2011-2026* is a comprehensive plan for the future of the Scenic Rim region. It was drafted with significant community consultation and was revised in 2018, it states, "By 2026, Scenic Rim will be a network of unique rural communities embedded in a productive and sustainable landscape. Waste, energy and resources are sustainably managed".

The *Corporate Plan Scenic Rim 2025* further supports this vision with the statement of intent for its accessible and serviced region theme, it states, "Progression towards 'zero avoidable waste to landfill' as an economically viable operation, through collaboration and innovation."

Council's *Operational Plan 2020-2021* requires Council to review and update the previous Waste Strategy, *2025 Vision on Waste*, considering changes in Australian and Queensland Government policy. This Strategy fulfils the operational plan review requirement and Council's statutory requirement to prepare and adopt waste reduction and recycling plans under the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* (WRRRA 2011).

This Strategy sets specific priority outcomes for the region to support targets set by the *Queensland Waste Strategy 2019* on a state-wide basis. Targets include an ambitious landfill diversion target of 90 per cent by 2050. These targets provide significant challenges for councils, however, Scenic Rim Regional Council also has substantial assets available to support responsible landfilling practices and the co-location of expanded resource recovery facilities. This Strategy also aligns with the recently adopted *Scenic Rim Regional Prosperity Strategy 2020-2025* supporting targeting of resource recovery opportunities within the Bromelton State Development Area.

Food waste avoidance, organics recovery and improved co-mingled recycling are identified as key levers to address. Strategic priorities identified by Council include improving data management and operations to provide a sound basis for waste avoidance, reuse and recovery.

**"Progression towards  
'zero avoidable waste to  
landfill' as an economically  
viable operation, through  
collaboration and innovation!"**

– *Corporate Plan Scenic Rim 2025*



**“By 2026, Scenic Rim will be a network of unique rural communities embedded in a productive and sustainable landscape. Waste, energy and resources are sustainably managed.”**

*– Scenic Rim Community Plan 2011-2026*



## STRATEGY DRIVERS

This Strategy responds to a complex and evolving policy context at a global, federal, state and regional level. The Scenic Rim's own context identifies the following key strategy drivers:centred practices and behaviours.

STRATEGY DRIVERS	BENEFITS
Increase the diversion of waste from landfill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced residual waste disposal costs, less exposure to future landfill levy increases, reduced raw materials consumption and sustainable regional prosperity.</li> </ul>
Increase the recovery of valuable organic resources from all waste streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced greenhouse emissions from landfill, return carbon and nutrients to soils, cost savings due to lower fees and charges for processing, options for local reuse and reduced food wastage.</li> </ul>
Delivery of community environmental and economic benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance based waste services contracts that are innovative, efficient and optimise secondary materials resource recovery.</li> <li>• A community engaged in waste and resource recovery decisions.</li> <li>• Use of smart technology for litter prevention and public bin site management improving our public places.</li> </ul>
Plan for the region's growing population and tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land-use planning protection for strategic resource recovery infrastructure and business.</li> <li>• Using cost-effective regional hubs for resources and energy recovery, and efficient collection services minimising collection vehicle traffic impacts.</li> </ul>
Priority waste - resource recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance existing product stewardship schemes and remove toxic material from landfill, recover valuable resources such as e-waste and mattress components.</li> <li>• Strengthened relationships with industry stakeholders and community.</li> </ul>



## PRINCIPLES FOLLOWED

The following principles guide this Strategy:



# Current State

## WASTE SERVICES PROVIDED BY COUNCIL

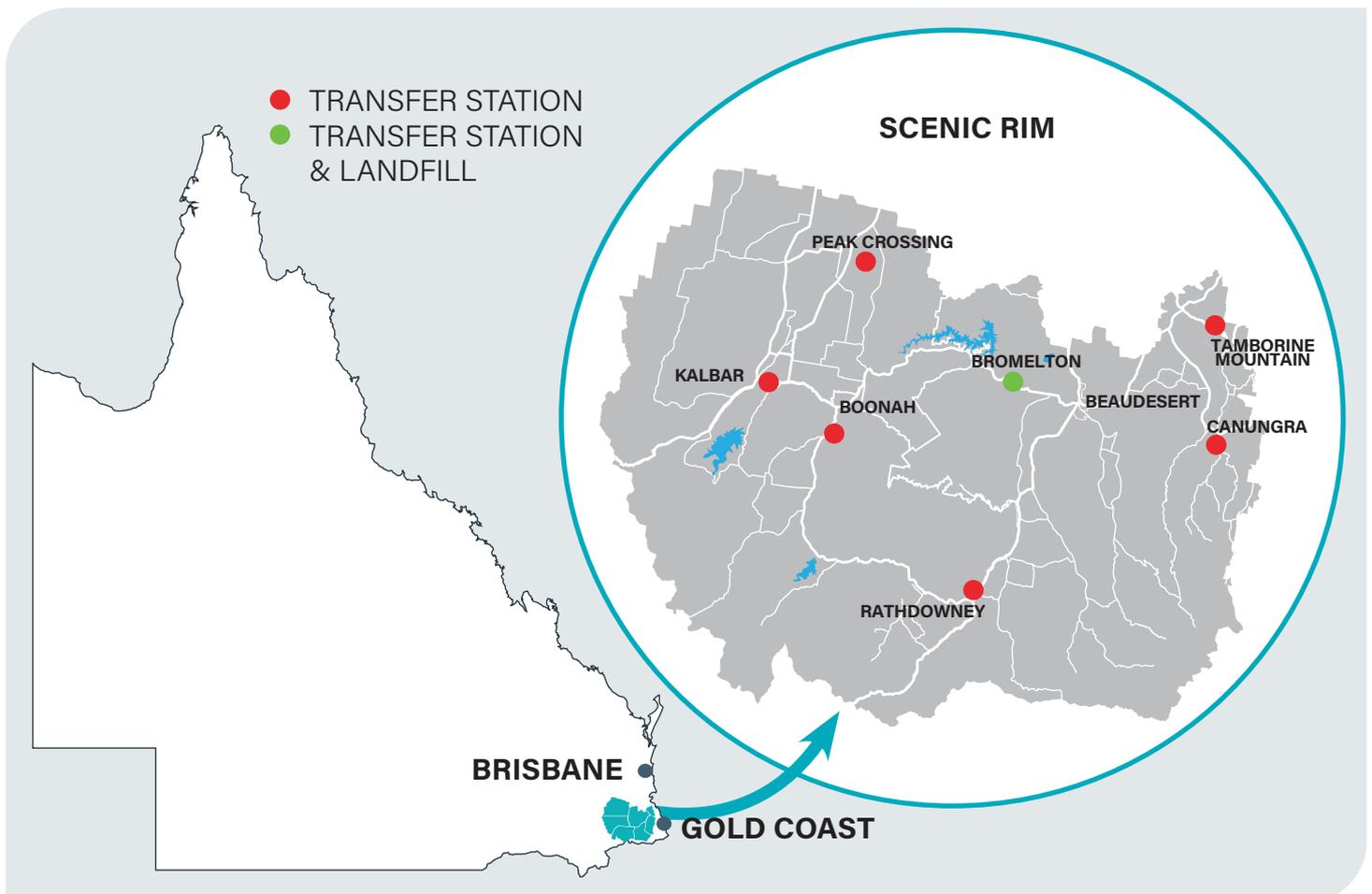
The Scenic Rim Local Government Area encompasses 4,300 square kilometres south-west of Brisbane, with the southern boundary of the area doubling as the border between Queensland and New South Wales. Despite being a mainly rural region, it is also a well-known tourism destination, particularly among bushwalkers and hikers. The region is home to a number of renowned national parks (with World Heritage listings), including the Lamington, Mount Barney, Main Range and Moogerah Peaks National Parks.

The Scenic Rim region is large and diverse. The three main centres of Beaudesert, Boonah and Tamborine Mountain are the largest in terms of population but a number of smaller towns provide a depth of character and uniqueness to the region.

Council provides a kerbside waste collection service for solid waste and mixed recycling to 14,118 residential and 432 commercial properties. This \$2.9 million annual waste collection contract is the largest contract the Council enters into. It includes kerbside collection, public place bins and events waste management. Waste management is the second largest operational item in Council's 2020-2021 budget.

Council operates a major landfill at Bromelton, in the centre of the region, with approved space for decades into the future. Our network of seven transfer stations provides service to most of the region within a 20-minute drive.

Additionally, Council provides waste reduction and resource recovery education and information campaigns to schools, businesses and the general public.



## WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCE RECOVERY INFRASTRUCTURE

The Scenic Rim region maintains a good environmental record in waste management. Our kerbside mixed recycling collection continues to have a low contamination rate, enabling a high percentage of recycled plastic, paper, glass and metals. Our landfill and transfer station operations have continued to receive good results in Queensland Government environmental audits. In the 2019-2020 financial year, Council recovered approximately 5,770 tonnes of material for recycling, with 19,830 tonnes disposed of in landfill.

### WASTE STREAMS AS A PERCENTAGE OF WASTE

(2020 Annual Kerbside Collection Audit)



CATEGORY	EXAMPLE OF MATERIALS
Recyclable	Paper (newspaper, magazines, cardboard, books), packaging and containers made of glass, plastics, steel and aluminium.
Other	Ceramics, bricks and concrete, ash, building materials, fine material (<12.5mm), dust, dirt, rock, and inert.
Organics	Kitchen food, garden waste.
Non-recyclable*	Miscellaneous packaging, wood furniture and off cuts, textiles, leather, rubber, engine and cooking oils, some glass and plastics.
Hazardous	Paint, fluorescent globes, dry cell batteries, car batteries, pharmaceuticals, household chemicals and suspected asbestos.

\*These materials are not currently recyclable through co-mingled recycling collection but may be recycled or reused through other collections or processes.

## RESOURCE RECOVERY AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

On 3 February 2020, Council adopted the Scenic Rim's first ever strategy focused on economic growth. The *Scenic Rim Regional Prosperity Strategy 2020-2025* sets a clear direction and roadmap for future economic growth and sustainability.

Traditional agricultural activities remain a steadfast component of the economy with the Bromelton State Development Area (SDA) also accommodating large-scale industries such as AJ Bush and Sons, SCT Logistics (pictured below), Gelita Australia, Quickcell Technology Products and Council's transfer station. The Bromelton SDA encompasses more than 15,600 hectares of industrial land and has significant potential for future growth, particularly with Inland Rail currently under construction.

Scenic Rim has a number of competitive advantages that it can trade upon. Among these, the advantages relevant to the growth of the waste/resource recovery industry are:

- **Strategic location:** The Scenic Rim region is located on the doorstep of Brisbane, the Gold Coast and the broader South East Queensland region, providing proximity to a large consumer market as well as major transport infrastructure such as the Port of Brisbane, Brisbane International Airport and Gold Coast Airport.
- **Strategic infrastructure:** There is a wide range of strategic infrastructure in the region that can be used as a catalyst for future growth, including the Bromelton SDA, Inland Rail and a large volume of good agricultural land.



<sup>8</sup> Queensland Treasury Corporation (2018) Economic opportunities for the Queensland waste industry: final report.

## DATA MANAGEMENT

Data collection and recording continue to improve but gaps still remain in the process, system and technology which does not allow Council to fully comprehend and validate data on waste and recyclables.

Our community expects more in relation to our corporate, social and environmental responsibilities meaning better recording, management and utilisation of data is vital for better planning, analysis, decision-making, reporting, budgeting and informing our community.

From a corporate social responsibility position, we cannot be viewed as exporting our pollution elsewhere. We need the information for all the materials we collect for all lifecycle aspects.

Rapid advances in technology and associated analytical tools and techniques mean we can now gather and share data in huge quantities. We can process and analyse it at previously unimaginable speed. We can draw conclusions and create policies and services that reflect how people live now.

The Queensland and Australian government agencies rely heavily on the data provided by Local Government to produce reports, policies and guidelines, and allocate budgets.

Current data on waste in Australia is not 'big data'. The quality, quantity and variety of data are insufficient, not robust, and the infrastructure for the management and sharing of data among councils is lacking. There is no common methodology or format nationally to create comparable reporting and common understanding.

Data recorded and reported by councils is:

- monitored for resource recovery performance,
- utilised for funding applications, future planning and infrastructure,
- contributing to regional plans and procurement,
- monitored for fleet and operational efficiency, and
- monitored for education and engagement.

Today major reforms, policy changes and decisions are made based on the Local Government data. Therefore, it is even more important for Councils to look into 'big data' and improve data capture, recording, management, analysis and utilisation through enhanced process, systems and technology. We need to ensure the use of new technology and tools supporting 'big data' will deliver benefits while maintaining compliance with privacy.



# Council's response to current challenges

The cost of waste management is escalating with the changes in legislation, state targets, market trends and community awareness. Council will continue to ensure waste is managed efficiently, cost effectively and in an environmentally responsible manner into the future.

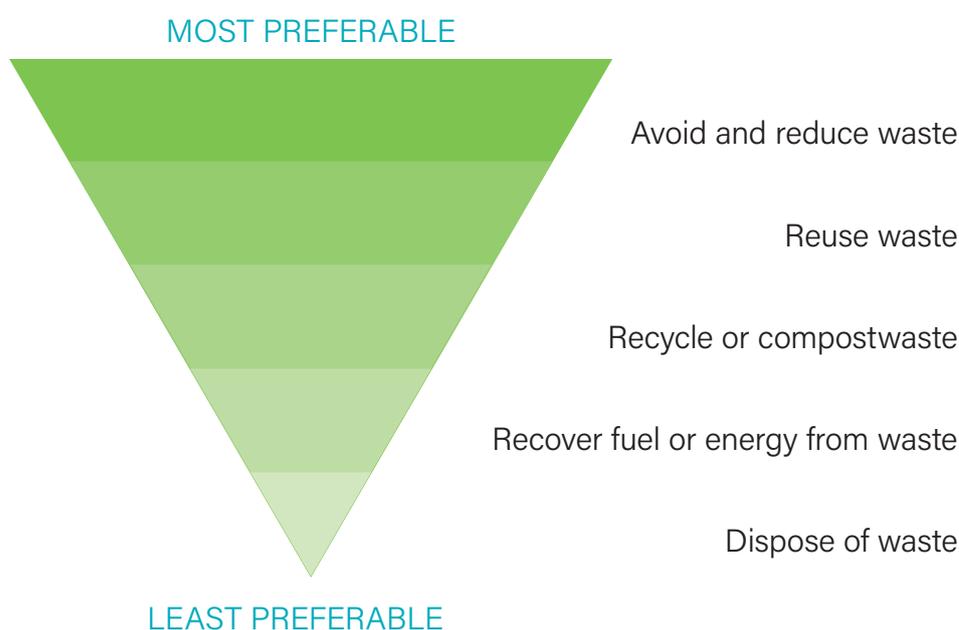
This Strategy aligns Council's targets with the *Queensland Waste Strategy 2019* and the *National Waste Policy*. The *Queensland Waste Strategy 2019* sets targets to generate 25 per cent less waste by 2051 with only 10 per cent of all waste disposed of to landfill and introduced a Landfill Levy with the value of the levy for household waste refunded to local councils for three years.

The Queensland Government has committed to returning 70 per cent of the funds collected 'to resource recovery and other programs that reduce the impact of waste and protect our environment and local communities'. Council will investigate how these funds can be accessed to improve our region's resource recovery efforts.

Through this Strategy, the Scenic Rim Regional Council is committed to establishing accurate baselines in order to monitor reduction by Council, residents, business and industry. The following strategic priorities have been set to support the achievement of Queensland's waste reduction and recovery goals.

Central to this Strategy is the waste hierarchy pyramid from the *Queensland Waste Strategy 2019*.

## WASTE HIERARCHY



## RECOVER FUEL OR ENERGY FROM WASTE

Recovery of fuel or energy from waste is towards the bottom of the waste hierarchy as it requires significant cost and energy inputs. Council is participating in The Council of Mayors (South East Queensland) Waste Working Group which is investigating the potential for fuel or energy from waste on a regional scale.

Where it forms part of a broader circular economy solution, Council supports these developments as identified within the *Regional Prosperity Strategy 2020-2025* and this document's strategic outcomes.



# Queensland's waste reduction and recovery goals

## WASTE AVOIDANCE

The Queensland target for waste avoidance is for a reduction in Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) of 25 per cent by 2050 against the nominal 2018 baseline of 0.54 tonnes per capita.

STREAM	BASELINE (2018)	2025	2030	2040	2050
<b>MSW</b>	0.54t	10%	15%	20%	25%

## REDUCED WASTE TO LANDFILL

In 2019-2020, 77 per cent of Scenic Rim's waste was sent to landfill.

By 2050, the target is for only 10 per cent of waste to be disposed of in landfill, and only five per cent of MSW.

The table below shows the waste diversion from landfill targets set by the Queensland Waste Strategy 2019 on a state-wide basis.

STREAM	BASELINE (2018)	2025	2030	2040	2050
<b>MSW</b>	32.4%	55%	70%	90%	95%
<b>C &amp; I</b>	47.3%	65%	80%	90%	95%
<b>C &amp; D</b>	50.9%	75%	85%	85%	85%
<b>Overall</b>	45.4%	65%	80%	85%	90%

## INCREASING RECYCLING RATES

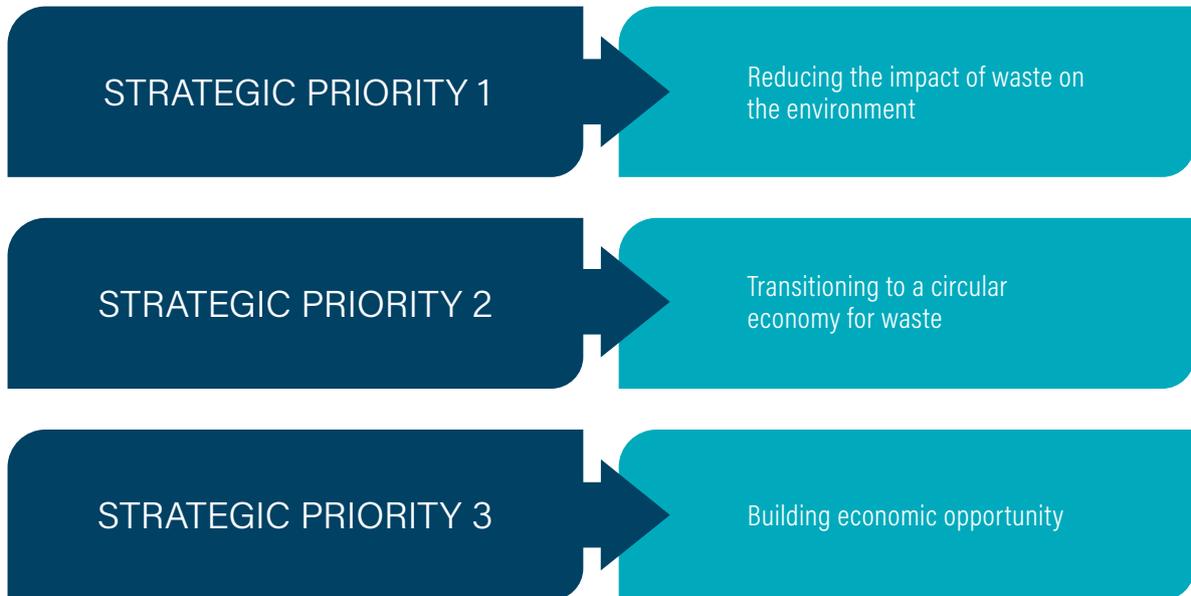
In 2019-2020, Scenic Rim recycled 23 per cent of its waste.

By 2050, 75 per cent of Queensland waste produced must be recycled.

STREAM	BASELINE (2018)	2025	2030	2040	2050
<b>MSW</b>	31.1%	50%	60%	65%	70%
<b>C &amp; I</b>	46.5%	55%	60%	65%	>65%
<b>C &amp; D</b>	50.9%	75%	80%	>80%	>80%
<b>Overall</b>	44.9%	60%	65%	70%	75%

# Strategic Priorities

The *Queensland Waste Strategy 2019* sets three strategic priorities:



# Strategic Outcomes

Council's 19 strategic outcomes build on the Queensland Government's strategic priorities and will measure progress against these targets.

- 1.** Collect and analyse comprehensive, reliable and accurate data as a tool that will assist in making strategic decisions
- 2.** Understand capital and operating costs for each aspect of waste management
- 3.** Efficient and effective management of operations
- 4.** Use technology to improve waste services
- 5.** Minimise generation of waste by Council's activities
- 6.** Increase knowledge of waste reduction by residents and businesses
- 7.** Reduce food waste generated by residents and businesses
- 8.** Increase reuse of waste items and materials
- 9.** Maximise region-wide access to containers for change
- 10.** Promote recovery of resources and discourage disposal to landfill
- 11.** Increase recovery of organic waste
- 12.** Prioritise recovery of problem waste streams
- 13.** Maximise source separation/segregation of recoverable waste and minimise contamination in mixed kerbside recycling
- 14.** Maximise recovery of resources at transfer stations
- 15.** Take a leading role in improving regional waste management
- 16.** Bromelton State Development Area recognised as a resource recovery precinct at a state and national level
- 17.** Strategic enabling infrastructure in place
- 18.** Partnerships with Scenic Rim industry leaders
- 19.** Reduction in waste generated by local businesses

## DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

Effective and efficient management of waste and increasing resource recovery will require robust and comprehensive data gathering and analysis relating to:

- the source and volumes of waste generated,
- the collection and transport process, and
- the stream and volumes of waste recovered.

This data will then inform decisions on which waste streams need to be targeted and how processes and infrastructure can be designed to promote this.

<p><b>STRATEGIC OUTCOME 1:</b></p> <p>Collect and analyse comprehensive, reliable and accurate data as a tool that will assist in making strategic decisions.</p>	<p><b>Council gathers a wide range of data including kerbside waste and recycling quantities, waste sent to landfill across the weighbridge at Bromelton Landfill, waste quantities brought in from transfer stations to Bromelton Landfill.</b></p> <p><b>It also conducts regular audits of the waste stream by material types.</b></p> <p><b>The Queensland and Australian Governments have begun to require standardised data collection across authorities to enable better data analysis.</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Continue to amass waste data in standardised formats.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Address current gaps in data, including gaining a better understanding of regional waste streams such as agricultural waste.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Develop a matrix of waste streams collating source, recovery process and geographic information.</p>
<p><b>STRATEGIC OUTCOME 2:</b></p> <p>Understand capital and operating costs for each aspect of waste management</p>	<p><b>Segregation of capital and operating costs for operation of the Bromelton Landfill, transfer station network, collections and education on a full cost pricing basis will allow reliable analysis of Council's operations.</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Segregation of costs in Council's financial systems.</p>



## OPERATIONS

Council operates the Bromelton Landfill and seven transfer stations. In 2016, Council resumed control of the Bromelton Landfill and has been successfully operating the landfill financially and environmentally with Council employees. Environmental audits by the Queensland Government's Department of Environment and Science have demonstrated continued good environmental practice.

<p><b>STRATEGIC OUTCOME 3:</b> Efficient and effective management of operations</p>	<p><b>Bromelton Landfill has been previously operated by a contractor and was returned to Council operation in 2016. A review of potential delivery structures and business models will ensure best value for money operation.</b></p>
	<p><b>Action:</b> Reassess potential delivery structures for optimal return on investment.</p>
	<p><b>Logan City Council transported 11,815 tonnes of waste to Bromelton Landfill in 2019-2020, resulting in revenue generation through the gate fee charged.</b></p>
	<p><b>Action:</b> Revise gate fee charges for incoming waste from other councils, including, as part of tenders for waste disposal at Bromelton Landfill.</p>
	<p><b>Action:</b> Assess options to provide waste and resource recovery services that consider changing attitudes to materials and the needs of South East Queensland while considering the social, environmental, cultural and economic impacts to our region.</p>
<p><b>STRATEGIC OUTCOME 4:</b> Use technology to improve waste services</p>	<p><b>Tourism is a growing sector within the region, with this growth comes increasing pressure on public place infrastructure including waste infrastructure.</b></p>
	<p><b>Action:</b> Update our public place services with a focus on the growing tourism sector and changing attitudes to waste.</p>
	<p><b>Technology is rapidly changing allowing for smarter and more efficient service offerings.</b></p>
<p><b>STRATEGIC OUTCOME 4:</b> Use technology to improve waste services</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Review options for use of convenient information technology for communications on services issues.</p>
	<p><b>Action:</b> Install smart solutions that can support us in offering fit for purpose services across the region.</p>
	<p><b>Action:</b> Review available low emissions waste collection vehicles.</p>

## WASTE AVOIDANCE AND REDUCTION

Reduction in the quantity of waste generated is at the top of the waste hierarchy and provides the highest benefit for the lowest cost. While many actions are required higher up the supply chain, Council can make a difference and set an example by ensuring procurement decisions support waste reduction. Behavioural changes in the Scenic Rim community can be promoted through Council's education programs.

<p><b>STRATEGIC OUTCOME 5:</b></p> <p><b>Minimise generation of waste by Council's activities</b></p>	<p><b>Reducing the generation of waste involves the decision made at the purchasing stage. Single use products which are immediately thrown away can be replaced with reusable products.</b></p> <p><b>Council has moved many internal and external processes from paper to digital systems, reducing the generation of paper waste and this process continues.</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Continue Action: Prioritise and action opportunities to reduce Council waste generation through procurement and operations with a focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project and maintenance procurement,</li> <li>• Libraries, swimming pools, visitor information centres, and</li> <li>• Council-run events.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> Review Council systems and processes to identify opportunities for waste reduction in design and planning.</p>
<p><b>STRATEGIC OUTCOME 6:</b></p> <p><b>Increase knowledge of waste reduction by residents and businesses</b></p>	<p><b>Building a connected, inclusive and learning community is critical to increasing waste reduction, reuse and recovery.</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Council will improve education to all stakeholders in the Scenic Rim community including residents, businesses and visitors.</p> <p>Programs will integrate with other sustainable living community education initiatives.</p> <p>A key focus of campaigns will continue to be schools, as well as businesses, particularly the tourism industry and community organisations.</p>
<p><b>STRATEGIC OUTCOME 7:</b></p> <p><b>Reduce food waste generated by residents and businesses</b></p>	<p><b>Unwanted or spoiled food in the waste stream is relatively heavy and generates landfill gases such as methane.</b></p> <p><b>Reducing food waste reduces cost exposure to the landfill levy, and reduces greenhouse gases produced by decomposition of organic waste in the landfill.</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Council will roll out an education program to encourage residents and businesses to reduce the amount of food purchased but not consumed.</p>

## REUSE OF RESOURCES

Reuse of resources involves waste items or materials being reused, usually by a different user, in their existing form. This avoids the cost of disposing of the item or material and reduces or removes the cost of purchase of a new item or material by the user. Examples are the donation of clothes directly to another user or through a website or a charity shop or selling unwanted goods online. The use of chipped garden waste as mulch is also reuse of waste resources.

Reuse also provides a high benefit for low cost, as any items which are reused do not cost Council to dispose of or recover. Data is required to identify the items and materials which could be reused and, infrastructure and processes will be designed to promote their reuse.

**STRATEGIC  
OUTCOME 8:  
Increase reuse of  
waste items and  
materials**

**Many items and materials which could be reused end up in landfill.**

**Reuse is already promoted through second-hand processes such as op shops and online forums.**

**Action:** Council will provide additional support to existing processes, as well as new programs, to identify waste streams for reusable products.

**Action:** Council will put in place infrastructure and processes to enable reuse of identified waste streams.

**Action:** Council will investigate reuse processes such as tip shops or storage of reusable items at Bromelton Landfill and the transfer stations, garage sale trails, online buy, sell and swap forums, including programs of promotion.



## RECOVERY OF RESOURCES

Resource recovery includes the recycling or composting of waste which is the third level in the waste hierarchy. It includes kerbside co-mingled recycling, as well as recycling of materials at the transfer stations, and the composting of organic waste. Enhancing organic waste recovery will consider how benefits to land and soil can be maximised along with reducing the risk of biological and chemical contaminants entering supply chains. In particular, green waste management will consider fire ants and weeds species in line with Council's *Biodiversity Strategy* and associated programs.

<p><b>STRATEGIC OUTCOME 9:</b></p> <p><b>Maximise region-wide access to containers for change</b></p>	<p><b>Containers for Change promotes recycling of single-use drinks containers and provides a low-contamination stream of recyclable materials, while reducing disposal to landfill.</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Council will assist with enabling the establishment of Containers for Change pick up points by commercial operators across the Scenic Rim.</p>
<p><b>STRATEGIC OUTCOME 10:</b></p> <p><b>Promote recovery of resources and discourage disposal to landfill</b></p>	<p><b>Gate fees are a powerful driver of behaviour, and combined with the Queensland Government's Landfill Levy, can influence the level of source separation/segregation and resulting resource recovery.</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Gate fees will be revised annually, including consideration of how lower fees can be used to drive reuse, recycling and recovery.</p> <p>All changes will consider the potential for illegal dumping associated with a user pays approach.</p>
<p><b>STRATEGIC OUTCOME 11:</b></p> <p><b>Increase recovery of organic waste</b></p>	<p><b>Reducing the amount of organic waste reduces the weight of waste in kerbside collections, the cost of the landfill levy, and reduces the greenhouse gases produced by decomposition of organic waste in the landfill.</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Increase recycling of organic waste at existing and proposed commercial organic waste processing facilities.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Expand our support for onsite organics processing considering our existing half-price compost bin rebate scheme, inclusion of worm farms and options for businesses such as food retail and tourism.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Implement strategies to target businesses, particularly the key sectors of agriculture and health and the growing tourism sector.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Support voluntary, local small-scale options for organics processing.</p>
<p><b>STRATEGIC OUTCOME 12:</b></p> <p><b>Prioritise recovery of problem waste streams</b></p>	<p><b>Problem waste streams identified by the Queensland and Australian Governments include waste containing hazardous materials such as e-waste and batteries, as well as other waste streams such as mattresses.</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Council will identify problem waste streams in the Scenic Rim and ensure they are included within waste management planning.</p>



<p><b>STRATEGIC OUTCOME 13:</b></p> <p>Maximise source separation/ segregation of recoverable waste and minimise contamination in mixed kerbside recycling</p>	<p><b>Contamination of mixed kerbside recyclables by non-recyclable materials can have significant costs to manage or may result in a portion of the waste being landfilled rather than recycled.</b></p> <p><b>Source separation/segregation of mixed recyclables.</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Council will continue to deliver education campaigns to residents, schools and businesses to promote appropriate source separation/segregation of recyclables.</p> <p>Programs could also utilise bin stickers, rates notices, social media and waste collection trucks as moving billboards.</p>
<p><b>STRATEGIC OUTCOME 14:</b></p> <p>Maximise recovery of resources at transfer stations</p>	<p><b>Council's transfer station network, including at Bromelton Landfill, provide an opportunity to directly influence residents and commercial operators dropping off waste.</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Council will update infrastructure and review staffing required to increase resource recovery.</p>
<p><b>STRATEGIC OUTCOME 15:</b></p> <p>Take a leading role in improving regional waste management</p>	<p><b>The Council of Mayors (South East Queensland) Waste Working Group is led by the Scenic Rim Regional Council Mayor.</b></p> <p><b>With the rapid evolution in waste management and resource recovery in Queensland and nationally, Council needs to be flexible to respond to future opportunities.</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Council will ensure flexibility in contracts to respond to future opportunities.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Council will ensure this Strategy supports the Queensland and Australian Governments' waste management and resource recovery strategies and policies.</p>



## REGIONAL PROSPERITY

The Bromelton State Development Area (SDA) has the potential to support growth in resource recovery and the circular economy.

<p><b>STRATEGIC OUTCOME 16:</b></p> <p><b>Maximise Bromelton SDA recognised as a resource recovery precinct at a state and national level</b></p>	<p><b>Promote Bromelton SDA as a resource recovery precinct at a state and national level.</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Council will promote Bromelton SDA as a resource recovery precinct through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scenic Rim Strategic Coordination Group - consisting of relevant Local and State Government personnel,</li> <li>• The Council of Mayors (South East Queensland), Queensland Treasury Corporation, Department of Environment and Science, State Development, Local Government Association of Queensland and Chambers of Commerce,</li> <li>• Waste industry events,</li> <li>• Identify Queensland and Australian problem waste streams and promote Bromelton SDA as precinct, and</li> <li>• Scenic Rim Strategic Coordination Group to identify likely referrals and likely planning conditions, for example, Seqwater.</li> </ul>
<p><b>STRATEGIC OUTCOME 17:</b></p> <p><b>Strategic enabling infrastructure in place</b></p>	<p><b>Investigate constraints on Bromelton SDA through the Scenic Rim Strategic Coordination Group.</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Identify strategic enabling infrastructure options.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Identify funding options.</p>
<p><b>STRATEGIC OUTCOME 18:</b></p> <p><b>Partnerships with Scenic Rim Industry leaders</b></p>	<p><b>Strengthen partnerships with local business/industry.</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Work with Regional Prosperity team to build partnerships to progress waste to value and resource recovery projects.</p>
<p><b>STRATEGIC OUTCOME 19:</b></p> <p><b>Reduction in waste generated by local businesses</b></p>	<p><b>Disposal of waste is a significant cost for businesses within the region (98.6 per cent classified as a small business).</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Support local model and pilot projects to enhance engagement and demonstrate sound practices.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Facilitate discussions and act as a conduit between local businesses to progress improvements in waste management and resource recovery.</p>

# Implementation Plan

This Strategy is supported by an implementation plan. Performance against the implementation plan will be monitored through Council's existing operational and corporate planning processes.

The implementation plan includes:

- actions,
- timelines,
- responsibilities, and
- budget costs.

## REVIEW PERIOD

This Strategy will be reviewed every three years in line with the requirements of the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act (2011)*.

# SCENIC RIM



REGIONAL COUNCIL

PO Box 25 | 82 Brisbane Street,  
Beaudesert QLD 4285

**Telephone 07 5540 5111**

[scenicrim.qld.gov.au](http://scenicrim.qld.gov.au)