

RESPONSE TO QUEENSLAND'S WASTE STRATEGY 2010–2020 WASTE AVOIDANCE AND RECYCLING CONSULTATION DRAFT

SUBMITTER: CENTRAL QUEENSLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

On behalf of

- *Banana Shire Council*
- *Central Highlands Regional Council*
- *Gladstone Regional Council*
- *Isaac Regional Council*
- *Rockhampton Regional Council*

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INTRODUCTION

CQLGA, in support of our member councils provides the following feedback on the Waste Avoidances and Recycling Consultation Draft, and the Proposed Industry Waste Levy Consultation Draft.

In conjunction with our member councils, CQLGA supports, in principle, the overall concepts of the strategy and the introduction of levies to the C&I and C&D sectors, and values the opportunity to provide feedback for consideration to best benefit our local community.

ABOUT CQLGA

The Central Queensland Local Government Association (CQLGA) is the peak local government association for the Central Queensland region and membership is voluntary.

The Association represents a broad range of local government interests at a regional level.

THE CQLGA VISION IS:

To be a united, proactive advocate and regional governance body as the primary connection with State and Federal Government for the Central Queensland community.

THE CQLGA MISSION IS:

To ensure the CQ region achieves sustainable social, economic and environmental outcomes within a dynamic and accountable Local Government framework.

The CQLGA Member Councils are:

- *Banana Shire Council*
- *Central Highlands Regional Council*
- *Gladstone Regional Council*
- *Isaac Regional Council*
- *Rockhampton Regional Council*

ABOUT CENTRAL QUEENSLAND WASTE MANAGEMENT (CQWM) STRATEGY

The Central Queensland Waste Management Strategy (CQWMS) is an integral part and major project of the Central Queensland Local Government Association (CQLGA). The CQWM group is facilitated by the CQLGA and each member council has operational staff and councillor representation. This group meets bi-monthly across Central Queensland.

The primary aim of the CQWMS is to lead the way in recycling and reduce waste to landfill. The strategy achieves this through research, developing effective management methods, providing solutions and creating awareness to reduce waste in the Central Queensland region through a variety of regional strategies and projects. The strategy ties in with Local Government obligations under the National Packaging Covenant (NPC) to reduce the quantity of waste to landfills.

The CQWM Strategy:

- Produces economic benefits for the region via cost savings, employment and business generation;
- Reduces the risks to Councils and public in the operation of waste services;
- Promotes resource sharing and utilisation between Councils (knowledge, contracts, staff, plant, facilities, etc.);
- Increases efficiency and professionalism in the operation and management of waste;
- Increases waste management and utilise knowledge within the community; and
- Shows strong societal leadership in the area of regional sustainable development.

This strategy, adopted by all 5 member councils is one of the first regional strategies in Queensland.

LOBBYING AND REPRESENTATION

CQ Waste Management lobbies on behalf of its member councils regarding many waste management issues. The CQLGA has advocated for and supports the establishment of national and state strategies to ensure sustainability and direction for the region.

Additionally, CQWM has representatives on the National Packaging Covenant's Queensland Jurisdictional Project Group, Waste Management Association of Australia's Queensland Executive Committee and the Queensland Waste Educators Group. Participation in these groups keeps CQWM and its member councils abreast and at the forefront of all waste management issues.

FUNDING AND RESOURCES

Each of CQLGA's member councils contribute to fund employment of approximately 4.5 staff at CQLGA to work with council staff to implement the CQWM strategy. In the 2009-2010 financial year, collectively, member councils contributed over \$413,000 to CQLGA to implement the strategy. The CQLGA attracted external funding of more than \$1.60 for every dollar contributed by member councils.

IMPLEMENTATION OF QUEENSLAND WASTE STRATEGY AND LEVIES

The implementation date of 1 July 2011 is less than a year away. With the introduction of levies, there will be a significant impact on councils as the primary collector of these fees regionally. There are concerns from our member councils that the implementation timeframe will not allow enough time to fully make all the changes required – especially if funding is not made available immediately to begin this process. There may also be difficulty sourcing contractors as there will be a large number of councils seeking similar services.

CQLGA member councils would like to be able to work together to obtain, construct and integrate infrastructure for regional landfills.

IDENTIFIED INFRASTRUCTURE

The following types of infrastructure have been identified as being required:

- Weighbridges for main landfills in region
- Fencing and gates for all landfills
- Bailing/sorting systems for recyclables
- Signage
- Software that integrates with existing software to allow for uniform reporting (iWeigh, Mandalay, AWS, Newcastle)

IDENTIFIED STAFFING

- Many regional landfills and transfer stations are unmanned and open 24 hours a day. These sites will now require manning to ensure collection of fees.
- Finance staff – to process accounts on behalf of DERM

PROMOTION

A state-wide education and awareness campaign in regards to the introduction of the levies will need to be included as part of the support to councils for the rollout of waste levies.

This campaign should, through a variety of channels, include:

- Information on introduction of strategy
- Information on introduction of levies and how they will be applied
- Benefits to the community/environment from the new strategy/levies
- A strong brand and design resources freely available for use at all locations (in line with current Public Place Recycling options)
- Ministerial support and media tied with local government councillors.

IDENTIFIED ISSUES

- A definitive timeline for the implementation of the strategy, and associated levies is required to help councils plan for implementation. This timeline will need to take into consideration the budgeting requirements of councils, which have already been established for the 2010-2011 financial year.
- It was identified that councils should use the interest earned from levies collected to offset the additional staffing costs. In regional and remote areas, there may not be enough income generated to create sufficient funding for this.
- Councils have raised concerns about the responsibility for bad debts resulting from unpaid levies. Escalation of these to a State government level should be included into the procedures so that councils do not bear a negative financial burden on behalf of the State.
- Landfills have been traditionally seen as the responsibility of the council in regional areas and there has been considerable negative media about recent increases to landfill costs due to the application of full cost accounting practices now required by some council waste management sections. As such, the introduction of a levy may negatively impact on local government through the media if not coordinated well by the state.
- Concerns were raised that if not all sites were fenced/manned that C&I and C&D may commence disposing of their waste at the smaller transfer stations to avoid paying levies.
- To successfully collect levies, councils may be required to make a determination to limit the hours of access to these waste management facilities, and will need to spend time ensuring that a negative backlash on 'services lost' is not perceived to be an outcome of amalgamation.
- Clarification is sought on how C&I will be identified – in particular if businesses use methods also available to residents become utilised (i.e. use of an unmarked utility).

Scenario

Contact A brings 10 tonne of construction and demolition waste into waste disposal facility destined for landfill and pays the disposal fee including waste levy. The operator of the landfill diverts this material to a grid or sorting area at the landfill where the material is sorted in various categories i.e. concrete for recycling, scrap steel, soil, etc. Accordingly 6 tonne is diverted from the landfill, resulting in only 4 tonne actually being landfilled.

Questions

How should the levy component be treated given that the generator paid a levy on 10 tonne of waste (money belonging to State) the operator at some cost separated the material and reduced the amount going to landfill. How should the levy on the 6 tonne that was diverted be treated? Is the levy is only to be paid on waste going to landfill?

Scenario

CQ Councils have a contract to deliver domestic recycling to a newly constructed MRF in Rockhampton. From this, a proportion of waste will be generated (contaminated materials, non-recyclables). This waste will then be disposed of to landfill.

Questions

As the waste originates from MSW stream, the company processing this should not be charged a levy, however, this will become co-mingled with other waste from commercial recycling. How will this be dealt with?

FUNDING

Since the inception of the CQWM group in 1996, Central Queensland councils have voluntarily contributed over \$3,000,000 in funding to support the implementation of the CQWM strategy. In addition to this, a considerable amount of grants and funding from external parties has been received to further waste management practices in the region. This funding has been utilised to provide value for money services across Central Queensland.

In addition to the CQWM group, CQLGA also coordinates a number of groups on behalf of our member councils to foster networking and regional collaboration. These groups include an Environmental Health Officer's group and a Sustainability group with membership from all member councils.

ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDING

As identified, the CQLGA attracts additional funds from external parties through grants on behalf of member councils. The CQLGA would like to ensure that we will be able to directly apply for funds to enable us to continue to provide exceptional value for money for our councils, as well as continued regional outcomes.

Through the CQWM Strategy, CQLGA will increasingly need to work with the community, businesses and consultants and would also like clarification as to which identified actions will be funded at a state level, which are funded at a local government level, and which areas business and community will be able to apply for funds to improve waste management within our region. Clarity in funding opportunities over the next 4 years will allow for better planning and engagement at a regional level.

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

Due to the significant impediments surrounding delivering leading waste management in a regional area, such as the tyranny of distance, lack of local markets and lower population concentrations, it is vital that funding is not delivered on a per capita basis, as it may cost more to deliver the same outcomes in regional and remote areas.

In addition to this, CQLGA would like to ensure the funding for programs remains at a merit and performance based level to ensure that funding is distributed on the basis of the best opportunity to deliver a significant outcome. CQLGA strongly believes that the State government has a duty of care to ensure the method of criteria for funding ensures there is not a 'grab for money' by organisations without the capability to deliver outcomes, especially at the expense of those with proven abilities. We would also like to ensure that those organisations that continually deliver from funding received are not denied access to funding based on the amount of funding previously received, either from the proposed funding sources, or externally.

Organisations who have historically received strong funding (through member councils, grants, NPC, industry etc), and implemented many of the actions identified, should also not be penalised due to their success, but be rewarded and encouraged to tackle some of the more complex and strategic projects.

ALLOCATION OF FUNDING

To ensure best outcomes, it will be vital that where funds are to be received through a grant or application process, that the process is not so onerous as to deter application by local governments or their representatives as this may unduly disadvantage smaller councils who do not have staff to dedicate to writing funding applications.

Clarification is sought on how the funding will be allocated to local governments, and if this funding can be combined to deliver regional projects. For example, if the CQWM group sought to introduce an organics collection service across Central Queensland as a regional project, could funds be applied for on behalf of all councils, or would each council be required to seek funding separately?

TARGETS

To enable ease of reference, the targets as stated have been numbered as follows:

1. reverse the overall trend for an annual increase in waste generation
(Avoid)
2. reduce the per capita generation of waste (based on the 2008 figure of 2.4 tonnes per person)
(Reduce)
3. reduce the total amount of, and the environmental impacts from, litter and illegal dumping
(Dispose?)
4. recover and recycle:
 - 4.1. 65 per cent of municipal solid waste
 - 4.2. 60 per cent of commercial and industrial waste
 - 4.3. 75 per cent of construction and demolition waste
 - 4.4. 15 per cent of higher hazard regulated waste.
(Recover, Recycle)
5. reduce climate change impacts of waste disposal by at least:
 - 5.1. 33 per cent for household greenhouse gas landfill emissions
 - 5.2. 50 per cent for total landfill emissions.

CQLGA understands that the above targets are aspirational, and not mandated, however, these targets still need to be measurable to determine the success of the strategy, and to also provide some guidance to councils as to the State's expectations, and where best to focus regional projects.

It is also of concern that education and awareness targets have not been implemented, and as such will not be recognised as a highly valued activity, in particular, in the avoidance area where education and awareness would be one of the major drivers of success. In particular, if funding for proposed projects is assessed against their ability to meet targets, then many of these projects/activities may not receive funding.

There is also a need for a strong set of definitions and consistent methods of measurements to be included to help determine if targets are achievable and this may need to include legislation to gain accurate data and measurement for private contractors, and baseline data through waste audits.

While many of the stated targets appear to be achievable, most of the short term ones will not be due to the time lag for implementation of the strategy, grant or budgeting processes for local government and final implementation.

Costs associated with transportation continue to make resource recovery and recycling activities challenging for remote and regional facilities. Targets for remote and regional areas need to be readjusted to allow for the initial development of "local markets" as these are not as readily available.

As recognised in the consultation draft, there needs to be a strong emphasis on avoidance through the Waste and Resource Management hierarchy. The above targets have been grouped under the main hierarchy headings and each of the actions checked to determine which target they were achieving.

Target 1 (Avoid)	1 Action
Target 2 (Reduce)	4 Actions
Target 4 (Recover, Recycle)	18 Actions
Target 3 (Dispose?)	4 Actions
Target 5 (unclear)	1 Action

While this is based on our interpretation of the targets and actions, and does not include the complexity or simplicity of some actions, it would be beneficial to be able to view targets and actions linked to the hierarchy more specifically.

In addition to the comments above, below are specific comments relating to some of the targets:

1. reverse the overall trend for an annual increase in waste generation (Avoid)

- There is concern that major growth, in particular industry (mining) may make this target unable to be achieved if developed on a per capita basis as there is large industry, but a lower population base. This should be factored into the overall target being better defined.
- Is this for total waste generation, or should it be split into specific targets as per target 4?

2. reduce the per capita generation of waste (based on the 2008 figure of 2.4 tonnes per person) (Reduce)

- Action 17 – Target 150 states that there is a target to decrease household waste disposal to 150kg per person within 10 years. This target should be included – but may need to be readjusted to include a 4 year milestone target to align with the 4 year targets here.

3. reduce the total amount of, and the environmental impacts from, litter and illegal dumping (Dispose?)

- These targets would be better achieved at a regional level.

4. recover and recycle:

4.1. 65 per cent of municipal solid waste

- This target can only be achieved with the introduction of a three bin system, in particular, organics, and currently there is not a regional market established for organics.
- Not all council areas in regional communities have introduced recycling bins which may affect these targets and priority funding to establish this would be necessary.

4.2. 60 per cent of commercial and industrial waste

- Will require face-to-face regional facilitation support for C&I businesses.
- Queensland will need to generate 'codes of practices' for key industry waste management businesses.

ACTIONS

Please find below feedback specific to Action Items as proposed.

Program	Description	Target data for commencement	Addresses Targets	Comment
Queensland Government				
Strategic action— Stakeholder Advisory Committee	The Queensland Government will establish a Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC). In the first 12 months the SAC will provide advice regarding implementation of the strategy and legislative reforms. Following the implementation phase, the SAC will evolve to provide advice regarding program funding priorities and program design. The SAC has no statutory function and is an advisory group not a decision-making body	Ongoing	All	It is vital that this committee have a range of representatives from across the state and various stakeholder groups. CQLGA would like membership in this committee as a proactive leader in regional Waste Management. CQLGA supports this action.
Action 1—Toward a resource efficient government	The Queensland Government is a significant generator of commercial and industrial (C&I) and construction and demolition (C&D) waste across its many operations, including hospitals, offices, schools, national parks, emergency services, correctional facilities, and road and major infrastructure construction and maintenance. The Queensland Government will lead by example and ensure that government actions are based on the goals and target the strategy. All government departments will be required to prepare and implement strategic waste management plans. These plans will be required to include targets for the purchase of recycled- content products, recycling and actions to avoid waste generation and disposal. Departments will also be required report on the use of recycled-content product, such as recycled aggregate in government works programs.	2011	4.2 4.3	The State should be a leader in the appropriate purchasing of products, ie recycling content or from a low carbon footprint manufacturer. The State must also lead the way in the recycling and recovery of it’s own waste. This should be done in such a way to be publicly visible so as to work on two levels. The first being the State setting this lead and secondly the State is showing the community including business that it can be done successfully. CQLGA is currently working on a Regional Integrated Recycling Project (RIRP) to increase recycling in the commercial and industrial sector. Results of this will be able to be used to advise Qld Government offices on methods to best reduce their waste. CQLGA, through its staff, are able to offer a fee for service waste audit to Qld Government within Central Queensland to identify current waste streams and advise on the best opportunities to address this. CQLGA is currently working with CQ schools to deliver recycling and smart shopping education. CQLGA has applied for private funding to deliver an EarthSmart Schools program in conjunction with DERM to CQ Schools to reduce waste by 50%.

				<p>This program which will run over 3 years includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Waste Audits • Public Place recycling support for schools • Education and Awareness Program – Interactive presentations to class groups • Policy development assistance (nude food) • Implementation of composting/worm farming options to schools. <p>CQLGA welcomes the opportunity for this program to gain additional funding, and will continue to work with DERM on this.</p> <p>CQLGA supports this action.</p>
<p>Action 2—State-wide litter prevention strategy</p>	<p>The Queensland Government will prepare and implement a state-wide litter prevention strategy that outlines the long-term strategic actions to reduce litter and raise awareness of the impacts of litter in Queensland. Programs that could be included in the strategy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introducing a public reporting system for littering from vehicles • implementing a ban on the release of lighter-than-air balloons from government and government-sponsored events • working with retail associations to reduce the use of plastic shopping bags and develop awareness information on the impacts of plastic bag use and opportunities to recycle bags. There could be potential to partner with interested retailers to trial different approaches and plastic bag alternatives • support programs, such as Adopt-A-Road, Clean Beach Challenge, Clean Site, Tidy Towns and Clean Up Australia Day • working with the Australian Catalogues Association and community newspaper publishers and distributors to reduce the incidence of unwanted advertising material and community newspapers from becoming litter. 	2011	3	<p>Clarification on how programs will be supported is required. Is this financial, exemption from levies or in kind support?</p> <p>Littering is an issue that has affected all CQ councils.</p> <p>CQLGA is working in this field and has submitted application to the NPC to gain funding to provide research on littering ‘hot spots’ to enable an informed anti-littering program to be implemented. CQUniversity has also indicated their willingness to conduct this research.</p> <p>This action will require a regional focus and delivery based on region specific research for successful implementation.</p> <p>CQLGA supports this action.</p>

<p>Action 3—Expand the “Do the right thing, use the right bin” public place recycling program</p>	<p>The Queensland Government will expand the current public place recycling program to allow Queenslanders access to more recycling bins when they are away from home. This expansion will involve the installation of recycling facilities into additional shopping centres, sporting venues, major events, theme parks, workplaces and schools.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>4.2</p>	<p>For Public Place Recycling to be implemented most effectively, there needs to be funding for a part time staff member for each council area.</p> <p>CQLGA, along with its member councils is planning to introduce support for implantation of public place recycling in the near future to actively promote PPR across the region.</p> <p>CQLGA has been successful in acquiring funding from the DERM to put up Do the Right Thing signage in Central Queensland in 2008-2009.</p> <p>CQLGA has also been promoting the DERM’s bin caps for various events in Central Queensland.</p> <p>CQLGA supports this action however there needs to be someone on the ground with a good understanding of public place recycling to drive this in regional Queensland.</p>
<p>Local Government</p>				
<p>Strategic action— Local government reference group</p>	<p>The Queensland Government will establish a local government reference group to provide advice on priority areas and the design of programs to best meet the needs of local government, recognising issues such as regional differences and contractual obligations.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>1-5</p>	<p>CQLGA is a peak body made up of five councils in the region. The five councils along with the CQLGA representatives meet every two months to discuss waste related issues in the CQ region as the ‘Central Queensland Waste Management group’. CQ Councils voluntarily fund this group, and this funding provides staff at CQLGA to work on regional projects on behalf of the group. Local government groups such as CQLGA are in an ideal position to liaise with councils and state government in this regard. CQLGA, on behalf of, and in conjunction with, member councils strongly supports this action.</p>
<p>Action 4—Strategic waste management planning</p>	<p>The Queensland Government will work with, and provide financial assistance for, local governments to prepare and implement strategic waste management plans that are consistent with the goals and targets of the strategy. Regional waste management planning will be encouraged where practical.</p>	<p>2011</p>	<p>1-5</p>	<p>CQLGA and its five member councils have a waste management strategy in place since 2001 and have been implemented in the form of projects and research. The strategy is due for review in 2011 and CQLGA will be seeking continued support for this.</p> <p>CQLGA supports this action and recommends funding also be made available for regional groups who have established a regional waste management strategy to enable these to be realigned to the new Qld Waste Strategy.</p>

<p>Action 5— Improvement and performance payments</p>	<p>The Queensland Government will establish a scheme to reward local governments where there is improved performance against specified priorities and performance outcomes. This scheme aims to provide an incentive to local governments to further improve waste management and resource recovery practices.</p> <p>An advisory group will be established to develop the guidelines, priority targets and performance measures for the scheme, as well as to establish the payment formula.</p>	<p>2012</p>	<p>1-5</p>	<p>Rewards for local government for improved performance will need to also formerly acknowledge their efforts and commitment to date of proactive councils that have already invested heavily in improving their performance.</p> <p>Due to the disparities between local government areas, and the services available, it is recommended that benchmarking be performed prior to implementation.</p> <p>CQLGA, and our member councils, through the CQWM group needs to be represented as part of this advisory group. It is vital that if this action was to go ahead, that the performance measures were equitable across the state, and did not disadvantage areas that do not have the volumes, or face greater challenges for success.</p>
<p>Action 6—Local government assessment and mitigation program</p>	<p>The Queensland Government will establish an assessment and funding program to help local governments assess the environmental risks and infrastructure needs of small to medium sized facilities. In partnership with local government, application and assessment guidelines and program funding criteria will be developed.</p>	<p>2010</p>	<p>3 5</p>	<p>This is a great opportunity for councils (small and medium) to upgrade their waste facilities by fencing and commissioning weighbridges for more precise data collection.</p> <p>However, in regional areas, it may be considerably more difficult to attract contractors that will undertake some of the work involved as it may not be cost effective on an individual landfill basis, and to be successful, this may need to be coordinated on a regional level.</p> <p>CQLGA is keen to work with our member councils and the State through a regional tender process to provide a time and cost effective solution to ensure the optimum infrastructure across the region.</p>

<p>Action 7—Alternative waste treatment technology</p>	<p>The Queensland Government will provide assistance to local governments considering alternative waste technologies by establishing assessment guidelines to aid decision making.</p>	<p>2011</p>	<p>No specific target</p>	<p>This action is too broad and may involve spending on AWT's that are not commercially viable. CQLGA recommends that there needs to be a framework around this to ensure projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase efficiencies • Improve environmental outcomes • Are commercially viable <p>CQLGA along with its member councils has been exploring the AWT options and its practicality within individual councils.</p> <p>CQLGA will continue working and researching on AWT's for its member councils.</p> <p>CQUniversity has also expressed a strong interest in working with CQLGA in regard to this.</p>
<p>Action 8—Orphan and historical waste removal</p>	<p>The Queensland Government will establish a program to assist local governments with the cleanup and removal of historic wastes, such as abandoned vehicles in remote areas of the state or for sites with accumulated illegally dumped waste, such as tyres and builders' rubble.</p>	<p>2011</p>	<p>No specific target</p>	<p>Tyre waste is a serious problem in Central Highlands and Isaac Regional Council. Funding through this scheme will help the councils mitigate a very long and prolonged issue.</p> <p>C&D waste is also a concern in the CQ region. A few councils in the region are crushing stored concrete and using it within the council for various purposes, however smaller councils are still finding it difficult to find an economical solution to this problem due to shear distance.</p>

<p>Action 9—Enhanced litter and illegal dumping compliance program</p>	<p>The Queensland Government will work with local governments to identify litter and illegal dumping hot spots and partner with local governments through regional illegal dumping squads.</p>	<p>2010</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Littering is an issue that has affected all CQ councils. CQLGA has been working in this field for some time now and has submitted application to the NPC to gain funding to provide research on littering ‘hot spots’ to enable an informed anti-littering program to be implemented. CQUniversity has also indicated their willingness to conduct this research. Much of this littering is on Main Roads, and this will need to be taken into account when developing partnerships. CQLGA supports this action.</p>
<p>Action 10—Indigenous council area waste removal and litter program</p>	<p>The Queensland Government is committed to reducing the incidence of illegal dumping across Queensland and will work in partnership with Indigenous councils to address the environmental and social issues of illegal dumping occurring on Indigenous council land. The objectives of the program are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clean-up illegally dumped material • assist with litter prevention infrastructure and awareness • raise education and awareness of issues associated with illegal dumping to help deter this activity • maximise recovery and recycling from the illegally dumped materials (where possible)—for instance, car bodies can be recovered and recycled • foster relationships between Aboriginal Councils, state and local government, the waste and recycling sector and community and environment groups. 	<p>2011</p>	<p>3</p>	

Industry development				
<p>Strategic action— Competitive grant program: industry investment and infrastructure program</p>	<p>The Queensland Government will establish a competitive grants program to encourage and facilitate industry investment in infrastructure and market development. Priority funding areas may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regional infrastructure and market development for recovered concrete, used glass, end-of-life tyres, organic materials • establishing opportunities for the recovery and use of particle board and low-value timber recovered from mixed wastes • developing processing capability and markets for end-of life agricultural plastic mulches and irrigation tape. 	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>One of the main issues with regional Queensland is the requirement to bulk haul large amounts of recyclable materials out of the region, causing added costs to processing, and unwanted environmental impacts.</p> <p>The new state of the art MRF located in Rockhampton will be able to process many recyclables, and CQLGA supports funding to develop local markets within the region.</p> <p>Councils are working towards a solution to recycling concrete and CQLGA has been overseeing a regional green waste mulching contract.</p> <p>This strategic action will help find us a niche market for recycling and reusing these processed material within the CQ region thereby making it more viable for the councils.</p> <p>CQLGA supports this action.</p>
<p>Action 11—Market development for recycled organic products</p>	<p>The Queensland Government will work with the organics processing industry to help develop markets and uptake for recycled organic products.</p>	<p>2011</p>	<p>4 4.1</p>	<p>Within CQ, organics make up approximately half of the average waste bin. Developing local markets for this will greatly assist diverting organics from the waste stream to help achieve greater recovery and recycling targets.</p> <p>Each year, CQ councils also receive a large amount of green waste at their landfills. The CQWM group have been proactive in creating a regional green waste mulching contract which has been in place since 2006 to allow for mulching of these products. The three year contract ended in December 2009 and a new tender is being developed.</p> <p>CQLGA supports this action.</p>
<p>Action 12—Regional resource recovery support programs</p>	<p>The Queensland Government will undertake 25 strategic projects in regional Queensland aimed at reducing waste disposal, improving resource recovery and creating ‘green’ jobs in regional areas. Priority areas will include organics processing, material recovery facilities, establishing strategic regional resource recovery infrastructure, local market development and waste processing for construction waste.</p>	<p>2012</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>CQLGA, through the CQWM group has a proven track record of implementing strategic projects for the region and is now in a strong position to develop and implement strategic regional strategies.</p> <p>CQLGA supports this action and will work with DERM to continue to develop strategic projects for the CQ region.</p>

All sectors				
Strategic action— Design for Environment (D4E)	<p>This program will encourage product development and design professionals to use sustainable product design across the entire lifecycle of the product. The D4E program may include initiatives, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regular forums and information for each sector • pilot projects and partnerships • funding development of design tools • sponsorship of events and awards • showcasing leading D4E product designs. 	2011	2	<p>CQLGA, as part of its waste education and awareness program has been promoting the use of sustainable products to residents and community groups.</p> <p>CQLGA is currently developing a ‘Smart Shopping’ education and awareness program to specifically raise awareness about unnecessary waste brought into the household through shopping choices (i.e. too much packaging, excess food disposal, not recyclable packaging).</p> <p>This action will support these programs.</p>
Strategic action— Identification of priority products	<p>The Queensland Government will develop a process for identifying priority end-of-life products for action. This initiative will ensure that recyclable products and materials are not disposed of in landfill when there are clear and viable alternative uses. It will reduce the amount of heavy metals and other toxins in Queensland landfills and the environment. Products such as batteries, electronic waste and fluorescent lamps contain toxic metals. For example, fluorescent lights contain mercury, a powerful neurotoxin that can be toxic in landfill. It is an international substance of concern, and governments need to carefully manage mercury emissions to limit any potential for it to contaminate the environment.</p>	2010	4	<p>CQLGA is currently working with its member councils to recycle and reuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Waste • Concrete • Tyres • E-waste <p>CQLGA supports this action.</p>
Strategic action— National projects	<p>The Queensland Government will continue to work with the Australian Government and states and territories on national priorities, including implementing the National Waste Policy and developing a national product stewardship framework.</p>	Ongoing	No specific target	<p>It is vital that work continues towards preventing waste at the source.</p> <p>CQLGA supports this action.</p>

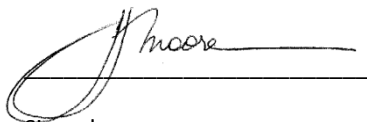
<p>Strategic action— Research and development</p>	<p>The Queensland Government will work with various sectors, industry bodies and associations to identify research and development opportunities for innovative technologies, processes and products and to support the work of Cooperative Research Centres and similar entities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>		<p>CQLGA has been researching on AWT’s and other landfill technologies such as phytocapping. CQLGA has submitted a funding application to Fitzroy Basin Association to research on the practicality and potential of biosolids/mulch mix for land application. CQLGA is keen to work with CQUniversity for ongoing research to develop capabilities within the region, and we would support a program that fosters university level research across the state.</p>
<p>Action 13— Community recycling champions</p>	<p>The Queensland Government will provide funding for five recycling champions. This program aims to foster community leadership to encourage innovative local recycling and management solutions. It also aims to provide community- based education and advocacy on waste avoidance and resource recovery</p>	<p>2011</p>	<p>4.1</p>	<p>It is essential that education and awareness are a high priority if targets are to be achieved. CQLGA is well placed to provide community-based education and awareness to the CQ region and would like to ensure an ongoing commitment to this. CQLGA also works with local groups and community members with their recycling efforts. CQLGA has a strong <i>Recycling Heroes</i> program that will be utilised by DERM in school based education and awareness. Through this, all local governments will have access to 11 television commercials, radio commercials and other promotional items that can be used to promote community awareness. Funding for air-time for these commercials (or state wide advertising by DERM) would be highly beneficial. An aspect of this campaign asked community members to tells us their ‘heroic tales’ or to let us know of people in their community who they considered recycling heroes. This was well received, and could be further developed to include community groups, delivering a consistent and clear message across the region. CQLGA has been a driving force in the delivery of education and awareness, and has not only been able to deliver this regionally, with exceptional cost savings, but also supported statewide initiatives. Any funding for community groups should be coordinated at a regional level. It is unclear why this is only for 5 recycling champions, and if these champions are individuals, community groups, or organisations such as CQLGA.</p>

Action 14—Collection program for priority products	This action will involve several program areas. The initial phase will involve an infrastructure assessment to identify current and future collection infrastructure needs and considerations. The second phase will include an infrastructure roll-out.	2011	4	Further clarity is required about what a 'priority product' is, and what infrastructure would be involved. Currently, not all councils have a recycling service in CQ, and provision of infrastructure to support this will greatly increase the ability to meet targets. CQLGA is currently working with its member councils on E-waste collection program is keen to work on other opportunistic areas.
Household an community sector				
Action 15— Household green and organic waste collection	The Queensland Government will work with local governments and the organics processing industry to design a series of different green and organic waste collection options (for example, a third kerbside collection bin for green waste only; provision of a kitchen food waste bin and collection of green and food waste using an existing two-bin system with collection in the alternate week to the recycling bin). These options will be trialled in selected areas across the state.	2011	4.1	This is an identified priority for CQ councils with Rockhampton Regional and Gladstone Regional Councils exploring options to introduce a third organic bin. A regional approach to this may provide a solution that benefits all councils, as well as the community and utilises the characteristics of the region (urban, agriculture etc) CQLGA supports this action and would like to be actively involved.
Action 16— Household waste avoidance strategy	Consumer purchasing decisions play a central role in determining the amount of waste that is generated, recycled and disposed of. However, in order for consumers to make better choices, the information needs to be available to help make these decisions. The Queensland Government will work with local governments, industry associations and products manufacturers to raise consumer awareness of the issues associated with wasteful consumption and to provide information about the options available to them.	2011	1 2	CQ waste management strategy has always promoted waste avoidance through community awareness programs and waste audit programs. The CQWM group has identified that education and awareness is a priority to address waste issues. One of the projects being developed in 2010 is a 'Smart Shopping' program aimed at creating awareness at the point of sale to reduce the amount of waste entering the household. NSW has also recently launched a 'love food, hate waste' campaign that supports this. The proposed education centre at the MRF will be an added asset to CQLGA and its community to raise awareness about recycling and its sorting process. Any education and awareness program will be most effectively delivered at a regional level, and CQLGA is keen to take on a leading role in this. CQLGA supports this action.

<p>Action 17—Target 150</p>	<p>The Queensland Government will work with local government, the waste and resource recovery industry and community groups to increase household recycling and decrease household waste disposal to 150 kg per person within 10 years. The current household recycling level is 64 kg per person and the current disposal level is 267 kg per person. This program may include initiatives such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RecycleSmart education and awareness to inform householders of the problems with contamination in the recycling bin, the materials that can be recycled and useful tips for recycling smarter • assessing options to provide people with enhanced capacity to recycle more and better (e.g. smaller waste bin, larger recycling bin) • investigating incentive programs to motivate increased household recycling of priority products such as end-of-life televisions and computers, batteries and fluorescent lights. 	<p>2011</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Average waste disposal in the CQ region is 259kg/capita/yr which is lower than the state average and the average recyclables disposal in the CQ region is 76 kg per capita per year, which is higher than the current state average.</p> <p>CQLGA has implemented a very strong recycling awareness and education campaign across the CQ Region and has developed television and radio advertising to support this, which DERM are currently purchasing the rights to. Considerable savings can be made regionally with education and awareness campaigns, in particular in printing and airtime.</p> <p>These figures are not reflected in the targets, and should be included. Also, this seems to overlap many of the other actions.</p>
<p>Action 18—Plastic bag management program</p>	<p>The Queensland Government will work with retailers, consumers and community groups to help reduce the use and environmental impact of plastic shopping bags.</p>	<p>2012</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Action 19—Community gardens project</p>	<p>The Queensland Government will work in partnership with local governments, compost manufacturers and environment and community groups, such as Greening Australia and organic farming associations, to establish community garden and permaculture projects. The program could include competitive grants funding for communities to plan and design gardens and purchase equipment and plants, etc. The project will help begin behavioural change in households about the way we view food and reduce the amount of food waste generated.</p>	<p>2012</p>	<p>No specific target</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Commercial and industrial sector				
Action 20—Online resource exchange register	The Queensland Government will establish an online database and resource exchange register to link business to a recycled- content product directory. An awareness campaign will be undertaken to promote then online database. The resource exchange register will help businesses reduce the amount of waste they dispose of by listing the material online to potentially become an input for another business.	2010	4.2 4.3	Through discussions with CQ businesses, this has been identified as a desirable outcome. This may be incorporated into Planet Ark's Business Recycling website?
Action 21—Business waste avoidance and resource recovery program	The Queensland Government will assist 5 000 Queensland businesses to put in place practices and install infrastructure and equipment to help increase recycling and reuse, reducing the amount of waste generated and disposed to landfill.	2010	4.2	CQLGA is currently developing a model in association with Kenmore - DMP to increase recycling in the C&I sector and is keen to be able to continue to support CQ businesses.
Action 22—Regulated waste program	The Queensland Government will establish a regulated waste research and development program with a focus on avoidance, treatment to reduce the hazard characteristics and alternative end-uses for this waste.	2011	4.4	CQLGA has been exploring options to recycle regulated waste such as tyres, oil and E-waste in the region.
Construction and demolition sector				
Action 23—Resource recovery and awareness	The Queensland Government will work with the construction and demolition sector to develop a waste avoidance and resource recovery awareness program. This will help developers, builders, architects and planners minimise waste generation and optimise resource recovery during refurbishment, planning, building and occupation.	2011	4.3	CQLGA in association with the Master Builders Association is planning to conduct a C&D waste audit. Support for this program would be of benefit to the region.
Action 24— Working with developers to achieve waste avoidance and resource recovery	The Queensland Government will work with developers and peak bodies to raise awareness of the costs associated with resource inefficiencies and wastage and the actions that can be taken to improve waste avoidance and recycling.	2010	4.3	CQLGA could get involved in this project. May be conduct a workshop on waste segregation and recycling for all builders and demolishers ain association with the Master Builders Association. Keep Australia Beautiful has also run a program for this, but stopped.
Action 25—Timber and wood waste product stewardship	The Queensland Government will work with peak timber industry organisations to find sustainable solutions to help improve timber and wood waste recycling, improve community and potential end-user awareness and reduce unnecessary wastage and disposal.	2011	4.3	Another project to be explored. Suggestions are welcome.

Measurement and performance				
Strategic action— Improved data collection and reporting	The Queensland Government will reform the legislative framework to improve the current data collection and reporting methodologies.	2011	No Specific Target	CQLGA conducts regular Kerbside waste and C&I waste audits to monitor continuous improvement and identify issues that may arise from the waste streams. CQLGA would like to be involved in the development of this to ensure best practice.
Action 26— Measuring community behaviour and attitudes	The Queensland Government will undertake biennial community surveys to measure people’s attitudes on waste management, recycling, litter and their response to actions taken to improve practices.	2012	No Specific Target	CQLGA has engaged CQUniversity Australia Students to research and study community, behaviour and attitudes of people towards waste and recycling.



Signed
Jenny Moore
Chief Executive Officer
CQLGA



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OUR REF: Commercial Services
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2 August 2010

Project Manger
Queensland Waste Strategy Consultation
Department of Environment & Resource Management
GPO Box 400†
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Queensland's Waste Strategy 2010-2020: Waste Avoidance And
Recycling Consultation Draft**

Please find enclosed a copy of Council's submission relating to comments on Queensland's Waste Strategy 2010-2020 – Waste Avoidance and Recycling Consultation Draft.

This submission is a collection of comments workshopped by the Central Queensland Local Government Association (CQLGA) in conjunction with officers of the CQLGA – Central Queensland Waste Management (CQWM) and the Regional Council's of Gladstone, Rockhampton, Central Highlands, Isaac and Banana Shire Council.

A collective approach offered the opportunity to discuss a wide range of issues resulting on the key elements being incorporated into the response to the consultation document.

I trust that the issues as raised will assist your department in shaping Queensland's Waste Strategy 2010-2020 with practical and achievable measures and look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully,

Col Dziewicki
General Manager Commercial Services

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - AT (IN: [CONTACT NAME])
PO BOX 21/65 Egerton Street Emerald Qld 4720 General Enquiries: 1300 242 888 Fax: 1300 242 887 Email: enquiries@chrc.qld.gov.au



GLADSTONE
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Gladstone Regional Council
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Email info@gladstonerco.qld.gov.au
Website www.gladstonerco.qld.gov.au

Please address all correspondence to The Chief Executive Officer

Contact Officer: Mr Sotiris
Our Ref: WM4.1

9 August 2010

Project Manger
Queensland Waste Strategy Consultation
Department of Environment & Resource Management
GPO Box 4001
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: QUEENSLAND'S WASTE STRATEGY 2010-2020: WASTE AVOIDANCE AND RECYCLING CONSULTATION DRAFT

Please find enclosed a copy of Council's joint submission relating to comments on Queensland's Waste Strategy 2010-2020 – Waste Avoidance and Recycling Consultation Draft.

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I trust that the issues as raised will assist your department in shaping Queensland's Waste Strategy 2010-2020 with practical and achievable measures and look forward to your response.

In addition to the above, I would like to take the opportunity to express my support for the operation of regional waste groups as these are not operated in all parts of Queensland.

My comments stem from achievements made in Central Queensland by the group (CQWM) that as individual Councils could not be made.

In brief, some of the achievements made over recent years include; regional waste collection contract, regional recycling processing facility, waste strategy and regional waste management, investigation into regional landfilling, regional promotion of recycling etc.

Should you have any queries into the above matter, please do not hesitate in contacting me to discuss further.

Yours faithfully


RON DOHERTY
DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENT & REGULATION
Encl.



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Please quote
Our reference:

11th August 2010

Project Manger
Queensland Waste Strategy Consultation
Department of Environment & Resource Management
GPO Box 4001
BRISBANE QLD 4001

To Whom It May Concern,

**RE: QUEENSLAND'S WASTE STRATEGY 2010-2020: WASTE AVOIDANCE
AND RECYCLING CONSULTATION DRAFT**

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I trust that the issues as raised will assist your department in shaping Queensland's Waste Strategy 2010-2020 with practical and achievable measures and look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gordon Webley', is written over the typed name and title.
GORDON WEBLEY
Chief Executive Officer