

WASTE NOTes

August 2022

Regional communities embracing new ways to manage waste

The Department of Environment and Science is supporting Townsville City, Rockhampton Regional, and Lockyer Valley Regional Councils to trial the collection of household organic material - food organic/garden organic (FOGO) waste, and garden organic (GO) - through their kerbside collections.

Over 3,000 households have been participating in the trial since April 2021 to reduce food and garden organics from landfill.

[Townsville City Council](#) is trialling both FOGO and GO collections using council's waste collection fleet.

[Rockhampton Regional Council](#) is trialling both FOGO and GO collections and have been able to reduce the size of participants' general waste bins.

[Lockyer Valley Regional Council](#) is trialling FOGO collections in Gatton and Laidley using the existing waste collector and has established a temporary composting facility, using forced aeration technology, at the council-owned landfill site.

So far the trials have proved popular among residents participating and have resulted in high yields of FOGO and GO collected. The project has also been resource intensive for most councils as they manage various teams such as administration services, truck drivers, councillors and composters and provide education information to the communities to make the trial a success.

Initial reports have identified that the costs of processing collected FOGO materials is about \$40 household, per year.

The full report on the trial will be available next year following the completion of the trials.

For more information on FOGO collections in your area contact your local council.



Single-use plastics: Expanding the ban



We are continuing to phase out problematic and unnecessary, single-use plastics in Queensland with the next items to be banned from 1 September 2023. From this date we are saying no to:

- cotton buds with plastic stems
- expanded polystyrene loose packaging (packing 'peanuts')
- plastic microbeads in rinseable personal care and cleaning products
- Single-use heavy weight plastic shopping bags (such as department store bags)
- the mass release of lighter than air balloons.

These items will add to the list of already banned lightweight, single-use plastic shopping bags and single-use plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery, plates, unenclosed bowls, and expanded polystyrene (EPS)

takeaway containers and EPS cups.

Community, industry and business consultation has shown strong support to expand the ban of single-use plastics.

The [five-year roadmap](#) shows how we will to continue to consult with suppliers, manufacturers and

businesses on the inclusion of additional single-use plastic items in the ban.

Many Queensland businesses are already taking voluntary measures and going beyond our bans to further prevent plastic pollution.

[More information on the single-use plastics ban in Queensland is available here.](#)

Five billion containers refunded

More than \$500 million has gone back into the pockets of Queenslanders with five billion containers returned for a refund at more than 360 container refund points across Queensland.



The Containers for Change scheme not only helps reduce the amount of beverage container litter ending up in our environment, it also gives new life to thousands of tonnes of recycled materials and has created more than 800 jobs at the same time.

The Containers for Change scheme provides a 10-cent refund on eligible beverage containers returned across the Queensland-wide network.

The container refund point network operates in remote towns like Birdsville to some of the busiest shopping centres in Brisbane and the Gold Coast and are run by small-family owned businesses, not-for-profit and social enterprise organisations and large specialty companies.

To make the scheme more convenient and accessible, options now include drive through depots, bag drops, reverse vending machines and there is a trial of a free home collection service.

Many Queenslanders have chosen to distribute refunds from the containers collected to charities and community groups, with more than \$7 million donated through container refunds since 2018.

For more information on containers eligible for refunds and refund point locations visit the Containers for Change [website](#).

Budget highlights 2022-23 now available

The Department and Environment and Science [budget highlights for 2022–23](#) is now available.

\$964.2 million will be allocated over five years, as part of the ten-year \$2.1 billion Waste Package, to transform Queensland's waste and resource recovery industry and drive the transition to a zero waste society.

Find out how this budget will help us continue our important work and undertake new actions for the environment, science, heritage and youth over the next 12 months.

[View the budget highlights 2022–23.](#)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [View online](#)

