



Happy Global Recycling Day!

Did you know that for every 3 jobs in landfilling there are 9 jobs in recycling?

We all have a role to play in recycling and the Queensland Government is committed to working in partnership with industry, local governments and the community to boost recycling rates, improve resource recovery, reduce litter across our natural environment, and support innovation in cutting edge waste technologies.

Together, let's help protect Queensland's unique environment and create safe and healthy communities across the state.

Queensland's environmental regulatory response to ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred

To assist with the impacts of ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred, the department approved 10 Temporary Emission Licence (TEL) applications, which covered a range of operations including sewage treatment plants, waste facilities, and extractive sites. A TEL is a permit that temporarily allows the release of a contaminant into the environment in response to an event that was not foreseen.

During and after ex-Tropic Cyclone Alfred, the department proactively engaged with high-risk regulated sites to determine the extent of the impacts resulting from the recent event and liaised closely with local governments and utility providers. Four extraordinary waste working group meetings were convened to discuss issues experienced by the waste industry and local government. Daily discussions were also held with the New South Wales Environmental Protection Authority (NSW EPA) regarding cross-border waste management.

The department is now undertaking compliance inspections of high risk regulated sites to understand the impacts of the disaster event, supply chain challenges, any releases from the site and to offer regulatory support. The nature of these inspections is to offer practical support to aid operators within the regulatory framework, and to assist the site to return to compliance.

To help operators prepare and be ready to respond to future high-risk weather events, the department provides a range of resources that are [available online](#).

Waste levy exemptions to support community recovery

To support local communities impacted by ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred, the department issued a total of 16 waste levy exemptions to local governments in Queensland and New South Wales, as well as for the New South Wales Environment Protection Authority. This included 10 waste levy exemptions to Queensland councils for a State-declared disaster, four waste levy exemptions to Queensland councils for a serious local event, and two waste levy exemptions for exceptional circumstances, being waste from New South Wales disposed of in Queensland.

The department can identify waste as exempt from the waste levy if it has been generated by or because of a State-declared disaster or a serious local event. These wastes, often called disaster waste, include waste generated during the clean-up, repair, demolition (partial or complete) and/or reconstruction (partial or complete) of an affected building, item of infrastructure, and/or public space.

Disaster waste management framework under development

Queensland is facing increasing challenges in managing the high volumes of waste generated through natural disasters. Long-term planning is needed to ensure Queensland's disaster waste management arrangements are fit for purpose and align with Queensland's waste recovery objectives. The department is investigating mechanisms to improve resource recovery rates for disaster waste in Queensland. Mechanisms will be focused on targeted actions and initiatives that will enable change and the achievement of resource recovery and disaster management objectives and benefits. Targeted industry consultation will be undertaken over coming months to inform a final disaster waste framework which will be made available online.

Don't bin batteries

Never dispose of batteries and battery-operated devices in your waste or recycling kerbside bins. This includes battery-operated devices and everyday items that may have batteries embedded within them. For example, electric toothbrushes or kids toys that light up.

Instead, take them to a dedicated collection point where you can return batteries and battery-operated items for safe disposal.

Use [Recycle Mate](#), check with your local council, or visit the [B-cycle website](#) to find your nearest collection point.

Why safe battery disposal matters

In the past year, the Queensland Fire Department reported more than 200 battery-

related fires across Queensland, including multiple incidents in resource recovery facilities from Cairns to the Gold Coast.

Household and lithium-ion batteries power modern life. However, incorrectly disposing batteries into household kerbside bins or public general waste bins, can be a potential fire hazard. When batteries are compacted or punctured in collection trucks or at waste facilities they can start fires that pose serious safety risks to people, cause significant damage to local infrastructure, disrupt essential collection services, or result in environmental harm.

Working with councils and the waste industry to address battery fire risks

The Queensland Government recently announced a three-point plan to tackle battery safety risks, which includes:

- providing \$2 million in grants to support councils in expanding their battery collection points at convenient locations, including for problem batteries like those found in vapes and e-bikes
- working closely with the waste industry on practical ways to reduce fire risks to protect workers and essential waste services
- equipping Queenslanders with information to make informed decisions about safe battery disposal through education and awareness initiatives.

More information about the grants program for councils will be available on the Queensland Government website when funding program guidelines are released, and applications open.

[Find out more](#)

Have your say on the Parliamentary Inquiry into Queensland's Container Refund Scheme

A Parliamentary Inquiry is underway to review Queensland's Container Refund Scheme and find ways to make it more effective.

Queensland's container refund scheme, Containers for Change, aims to reduce the amount of drink containers that are littered and increase Queensland's recycling rate by offering 10c refunds for returns.

Administered by Container Exchange (COEX), the scheme has a legislated target return rate of 85%. COEX's 2023-24 annual report reveals an annual recovery rate of 67.4%, and the recovery rate for the first two quarters of this financial year is 62.7%.

The Inquiry will examine the current state and operation of the scheme, its efficiency and effectiveness in delivering on its legislative objects.

Queenslanders are invited to provide feedback on the scheme by [submitting an online submission](#) to the inquiry. The closing date for written submissions is 10am, Friday 4 April 2025.

The Parliamentary Committee will be tasked with delivering a report by August 2025.

Find out more

Queensland councils sharing more than \$6 million in funding for targeted behaviour change initiatives

Queensland councils play a vital role in providing reliable waste management services to households and businesses across the state.

These services are an important avenue for change to ensure that recycling is maximised and as much waste as possible is diverted away from landfill.



Queensland Government offered two funding streams within the Let's Get it Sorted (LGIS) Partnership Program to support councils and groups of councils to drive a shift in community attitudes and behaviours towards household waste management and recycling, and reduce litter and illegal dumping incidents.

First grants under the program, totalling more than \$6 million are supporting 26 councils in their waste reduction, recycling, and reusing efforts within their communities.

Projects range from community wide education programs to address contamination in yellow lid bins, and targeted education addressing kerbside waste management practices, to education addressing roadside littering across a region.

The LGIS Partnership Program (Behaviour Change Intervention) provides individual councils with a framework, tools and funding to implement targeted behaviour change interventions for household waste and recycling services and public place littering and illegal dumping.

Details of successful recipients are published on the Queensland Government website.

[Learn more](#)

Grants for Litter and Marine Debris Clean Up and Prevention

Community groups, First Nations groups and not-for-profit organisations have the opportunity to share in \$500,000 in Queensland Government funding to deliver local on-ground projects to remove harmful litter from parks and reserves, and marine debris from beaches, creeks, rivers and wetlands.

Grants of up to \$50,000 will be awarded, under the Community Sustainability Action (CSA) Grants Program, Litter and Marine Debris Clean Up and Prevention.

Applications close 4pm on Thursday, 27 March 2025.

[Find out more](#)

Funding and Grants

Learn what funding is available to assist the delivery of initiatives to reduce waste, boost recycling rates, and enhance resource recovery capabilities in your community.

[Learn more](#)

2024 Recycling and Waste in Queensland Report

The most recent performance data in 2023-24, show that Queensland is on track to reach four of the nine 2025 targets in the current [Strategy](#).

Waste diversion for the headline waste streams were:

- 28.3% for municipal solid waste (the current target is 55% by 2025)
- 54.6% for commercial and industrial waste (the current target is 65% by 2025)
- 83.3% for construction and demolition waste (current target is 75% by 2025).

Good progress has been made in relation to targets for construction and demolition waste, as well as commercial and industrial waste. However the performance data indicates that there has been slower progress for municipal solid waste (which includes household waste, littering and illegal dumping).

In 2023-24, a total of 5.6 million tonnes of headline wastes were recovered for recycling. This an 11.6% increase in recovery from 2022-23. Queensland's overall recovery rate is 57.1%.

You can find more detailed data on waste recovery, recycling and disposal in Queensland on the Queensland Government website.

[Learn more](#)



Global Recycling Day - 18 March

Global Recycling Day reminds us that the small daily actions Queenslanders take to ensure more of what can be recycled, is recycled, can make a big difference in boosting recycling rates and reducing the amount of waste that ends up in landfill.

Consistent recycling habits not only help the environment, but also contribute to creating more jobs and new opportunities for economic growth that benefit people and communities across Queensland.

To check your knowledge about what can be recycled in your kerbside recycling bin, and other recycling services in your local government area, visit your council website or use [Recycle Mate](#)

**Thank you for continuing to champion recycling in your household,
workplace, business, industry or local community.**

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