



JUNE 2025

A healthy environment sustains our communities and drives economic prosperity. The Queensland Government is committed to reducing the impact of waste on the environment by boosting recycling rates, reducing litter to our environment, and reducing the amount of waste we generate that gets sent to landfill. This commitment is reflected in the draft [Queensland Waste Strategy 2025–2030 – Less Landfill, More Recycling](#), which is open for consultation until 26 June.

By finding new ways to avoid generating waste, boost recycling capabilities, and rethinking how we prioritise managing materials as valuable resources; together we have the opportunity to reduce the impact of waste on Queensland's environment whilst unlocking new economic opportunities to sustain and strengthen communities across the state.

Have your say on the draft new Queensland Waste Strategy by 26 June

Queensland is working towards a future with less landfill and more recycling.

To achieve this, we need a strategy that clearly outlines practical action for reducing waste, boosting recycling and supporting jobs.

The Queensland Government is seeking input from Queenslanders, industry, businesses and local governments on the draft [Queensland Waste Strategy 2025–2030 – Less Landfill, More Recycling](#)



Feedback on the draft new Queensland Waste Strategy will be critical to ensure we are implementing practical measures to boost recycling and reduce impacts to the environment, without adding additional costs to businesses and Queenslanders.

Consultation is open until 5pm on 26 June 2025 – and we need your help to spread the word.

We've made it easy to help raise awareness of the consultation among your networks and audiences with an [amplification kit](#) that includes downloadable graphics and content for social media, newsletters, email, and websites.

[Have your say today](#) to help shape a less wasteful future for Queensland — then spread the word to your networks.

Local Government Battery Collection Program - applications now open

The [Local Government Battery Collection Program](#) is a \$2 million grant funding program designed to support Queensland Councils expand the network of collection points in their communities to facilitate safer and more convenient disposal of problem batteries and common everyday items with embedded lithium ion batteries - such as electric toothbrushes, kids toys, power tools, vapes or e-bikes and e-scooters.

Grants of up to \$100,000 (exc GST) are available for Queensland councils or groups of councils to deliver safe and convenient collection, separation, and/or storage locations in their region for problem batteries that currently have limited options for disposal.

Full details on the program guidelines, eligibility, and how to apply for funding is available on the [Queensland Government website](#).

Applications close at 4pm on Thursday 10 July 2025.

The Local Government Battery Collection Program is a critical initiative of the [Queensland Government's three-point plan](#), announced in February, to implement strategies to address battery fire risks.

Never dispose of batteries and battery-operated items in your kerbside bins.

Instead, take them to a nearby collection point to dispose of them safely.

Did you know that safe battery disposal options vary for the different types of batteries and battery-operated items, like mobile phones, kids toys, power tools or vapes?



Check your knowledge, and find your nearest collection point by using [Recycle Mate](#) to search for safe disposal locations for different types of batteries or battery operated items.

Alternatively, contact your local Council to learn where you can safely dispose of different batteries or battery operated items in your area.

Impacts of incorrect disposal of batteries

When batteries are compacted or punctured in collection trucks or at waste or resource recovery facilities, they can start fires that pose serious safety risks to people and cause significant damage to local infrastructure or major disruptions to waste and recycling services.



Loose batteries or batteries embedded in everyday items can also emit toxic materials that contaminate soils and waterways when they end up in landfill or when people litter or illegally dump them in local environments.

Thank you for keeping yourself, waste and recycling workers, and the environment safe from the risks of incorrectly disposed batteries.

Recent regulation changes to reduce costs to businesses

The Queensland Government has made changes to the Environmental Protection Regulation 2019 and the Waste Reduction and Recycling Regulation 2023. These

changes reduce environmental compliance costs for industry and business; providing greater clarity about waste management regulations and contribute to boosting recycling rates across Queensland.

The changes continue to protect Queenslanders and the environment by maintaining obligations for appropriate management and regulation of waste related activities.

Amendments to the Environmental Protection Regulation 2019

The changes include:

- Increasing the regulated waste thresholds for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), so materials with very low levels don't need special disposal.
- Clarifying that solar panels are no longer classified as regulated waste, so they don't need special transport or handling.
- Clarifying that contaminated soil from land recorded on the Environmental Management Register or Contaminated Land Register is not classified as regulated waste.

Further information about the changes made to the Environmental Protection Regulation 2019 can be found on the [Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation website](#).

To view the legislation, please visit the [Queensland Legislation website](#).

Amendments to the Waste Reduction and Recycling Regulation 2023

Changes to the Waste Reduction and Recycling Regulation 2023 (WRR Regulation) make it easier to recycle waste and reduce costs for recycling businesses. This includes:

- Adding construction and demolition waste as a prescribed recycling activity, where businesses can apply for a waste levy discount on residual waste if they are achieving a recycling rate of more than 80%.
 - Changes include amending Schedule 3 to include recycling mixed construction and demolition waste to produce aggregate or other new products to a particular specification. This change comes into effect on 1 July 2025.
 - This change will help those businesses that have invested in infrastructure needed to reduce waste to landfill. This approach is consistent with other recyclers of materials like glass and cardboard.

Further information is available on the Queensland Government website about the [discounted waste levy for residue waste](#) and changes made to the [Waste Reduction and Recycling Regulation 2023](#).

To view the legislation, please visit the [Queensland Legislation Website](#).

Applications now open for Challenge Waste – the Lithium Ion Battery Challenge

[Challenge Waste- the Lithium Ion Battery Challenge](#) is an innovation challenge supported by the [Queensland Government's Recycling and Jobs Fund](#) that seeks to uncover breakthrough solutions which can make an immediate impact in reducing battery fires within Queensland's waste streams.

Delivered by the Waste and Recycling Industry of Queensland (WRIQ), the innovation challenge is open to startups, registered businesses, social enterprises, research institutions, group of businesses, or a group of individuals from any industry with sufficient expertise to develop solutions to address Australia's current lithium ion battery management and disposal challenges.

All applications will be assessed by a panel of waste and recycling industry experts and government leaders. They will evaluate applications and shortlist candidates for funding based on market fit, product readiness, commercial business case, and potential impact.

There are six categories open for this challenge. Detailed information on eligibility, categories, application requirements, and how to enter the challenge is available on the [Challenge Waste website](#).

Reducing the impact of littering and illegal dumping on Queensland's natural environments

Littering and Illegal dumping is a major issue in Queensland that costs millions of dollars to manage and clean-up each year.

It also continues to pollute Queensland's unique land, waterways and ocean environments – leading to harmful consequences for fragile ecosystems and wildlife that get tangled in, injured by, or ingest littered items.

Love Queensland? Let's keep it clean.

The Queensland Government has completed a major upgrade of the [Litter and Illegal Dumping Online Reporting System \(LIDORS\)](#) to help make it easier to report those that choose to litter our beautiful state.

- ▶ see it
- ▶ report it
- ▶ stop it



And thanks to you Queensland, there has been a 26 per cent increase in reports of illegal dumping across Queensland in the last half of 2024.

Of the littering reports received by the department almost 75% result in the registered owner of the vehicle or boat receiving a penalty infringement notice.

If you find piles of dumped waste, see someone littering, or witness illegal dumping activities you can report it using the new [Litter and Illegal Dumping Online Reporting System](#)

Circular Economy Investment Program

Eight projects are transforming waste materials into innovative new products with support from the [Queensland Government's \\$5 million Circular Economy Investment Program](#).

From a robotic pallet dismantler to innovative recycling approaches for mattresses, medical plastics and truck tarpaulins; grants between \$250,000 and \$750,000 are enabling recipients to progress innovations that revolutionise a range of key industries and support up to 72 local jobs. Details of the eight recipients are available on the [Queensland Government website](#).

By rethinking how we handle waste materials and how they can be repurposed; these projects are great examples of finding new ways to reduce Queensland's reliance on natural resources to create new materials or products, and help lower the impact of waste on the environment.

[Learn more](#)

Celebrating Recycling Success from Cape York to Southern Queensland

Recycling can be a challenge for remote communities due to infrastructure constraints. Through [support from the Queensland and Australian Governments](#), indigenous businesses across the state are supporting their local communities and making strides in our recycling efforts.

The Torres Shire Council is launching an exciting community recycling program on Thursday Island - expected to divert 118.4 tonnes of waste per annum from landfill. This initiative makes recycling glass, paper, cardboard and plastics a part of everyday island life. Trailers will be placed in key areas, collected weekly, and processed at Horn and Thursday Island facilities before being sent to the collection depot in Cairns. This program is set to create a vibrant culture of recycling on the island!

Additionally, in the Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire you will see a waste recovery centre that is the first of its kind in an indigenous community. Cherbourg Material Recovery Facility is not only reducing waste but also creating valuable jobs for the Cherbourg community. Many workers have been involved since the beginning, making a significant impact. The facility handles kerbside recycling and is part of the Containers for Change program. Exciting plans are also underway for an educational centre to teach school children and visitors about recycling.

Supporting young environmental champions to become the next generation of leaders

The Queensland Government is investing in the learning and development of young environmental leaders through the EcoMarines Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation delivering free environmental education programs to schools and early learning centres across Queensland.



Funding will enable EcoMarines to continue expanding delivery of its free programs into 560 schools across the state by the end of 2026, with a focus on improving access to environmental education programs in regional areas.

Through classroom education, learning from Traditional Custodians, and peer-to-peer support networks (kids teaching kids); more than 400,000 Queensland

students have been engaged to become champions for the environment by leading waste reduction, recycling, and other environmental projects within their school to tackle sustainability challenges impacting their local community.

93% of EcoMarines teachers report seeing positive behaviour change in their school towards Waste Reduction, Recycling and other environmental issues.

During the month of June, the EcoMarines Foundation is encouraging schools and supporters to Go Green for EcoMarines to amplify the incredible environmental work happening across Queensland and beyond.

Visit the [EcoMarines Foundation website](#) to learn more about their environmental education programs.

Subscribe to Down to Earth

The [Down to Earth blog](#), produced by the Department, helps equip Queenslanders to make informed decisions and embrace behaviours that contribute to a healthier planet.

Subscribe to the [Down to Earth newsletter](#) to stay informed with handpicked environmental news, tips, and stories sent directly to your inbox.

[Find out more](#)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Subscribe](#)

