



## Update to Wide Bay Water Biosolids Strategy

Fraser Coast Regional Council has a focus on sustainability and the environment, with Wide Bay Water currently reviewing its biosolids strategy to identify and enhance its reuse options.

Fraser Coast Regional Council (Council) and Wide Bay Water (WBW) are investigating possible options and are seeking initial community feedback to develop potential treatment and reuse options as part of this work.

Updates to the strategy include reviewing:

- Emerging re-use trends
- Recent changes to legislation
- Work undertaken at the treatment plants

Council, through WBW, operates four major sewage treatment plants. These are located at Eli Creek, Pulgul, Nikenbah and Aubinville. There are four minor treatment plants located at Toogoom, Burrum Heads, Torbanlea and Howard, with their biosolids directed to one of the major treatment plants for further processing/transport.

### What are biosolids?

Biosolids are an unavoidable by-product in the sewage treatment process consisting of mainly water and organic compounds.

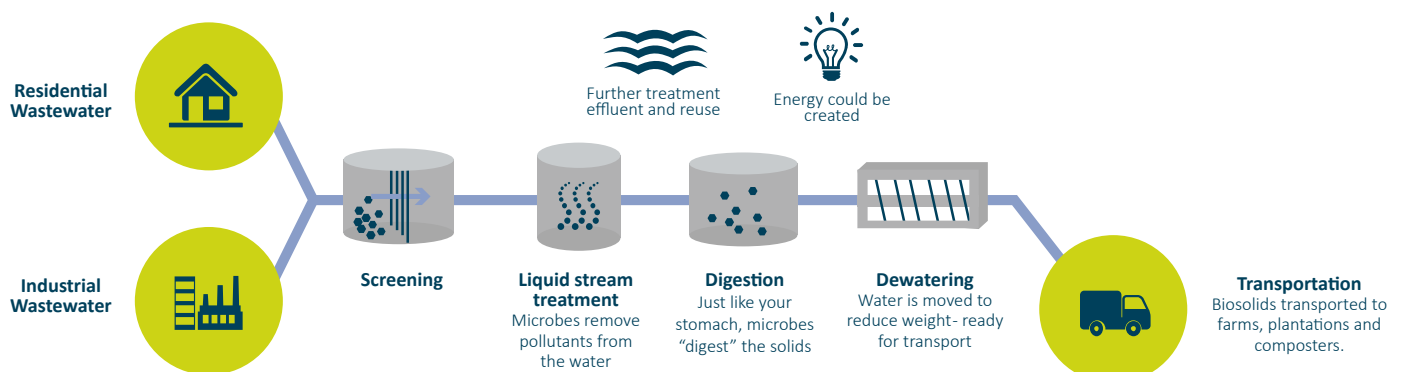
Biosolids are collected from the sewage treatment process and undergo further treatment, prior to reuse. Depending on their grade, biosolids may be applied to a range of uses. These include:

- Composting
- Land application in forestry operations
- Landscaping and topsoil
- Land rehabilitation
- Application to agricultural land

### How are biosolids currently being used in the region?

The Australian Water Association highlights that biosolids are often applied as fertiliser due to their high nutrient value to improve soil structure and water retention capabilities.

### How biosolids are made



The Fraser Coast region currently uses biosolids in the agriculture sector for:

- Pasture (cattle)
- Sugar cane
- Cotton
- Turf farms
- Legumes
- Tree plantations

#### What are future possible uses for biosolids?

Additional uses aligning with industry, such as co-composting, may be available. Industry groups, research institutes and farmers associations may have a need for this product.

Biosolids can also be used as a source of fuel or energy.

#### What is the purpose of the updated strategy?

The strategy will provide a plan guiding future biosolids management and infrastructure investment in the region.

The study will further develop and re-use the options considered to date, develop an understanding of the impacts of new non-cost drivers, improve the robustness of adopted assumptions, and explore alternative approaches and uses into the future.

#### Initial feedback

Council and WBW are committed to ensuring the community is given the chance to provide feedback, as we start work on the new strategy. We want to understand the community's thoughts about the project, and potential treatment and reuse options.

Provide your feedback here:

<https://frasercoast.engagementhub.com.au/biosolids-strategy>

#### Further information

For more information visit Council's Engagement Hub, or contact us on 1800 749 165, or email [wbw@ghd.com](mailto:wbw@ghd.com).

Please provide your feedback, on or before 23 July.

#### Next steps

Initial feedback from the community will be assessed and considered to inform the options identification, analysis and development of final biosolids strategy.

Following review of initial community feedback, WBW will undertake a second round of consultation to survey feedback on potential re-use options identified.

