



Wide Bay Water Biosolids Strategy – Stage 2

Fraser Coast Regional Council (Council) is currently reviewing its Biosolids Strategy to identify potential alternative reuse options and take into account emerging trends, recent changes to legislation and the work being done at treatment plants. The strategy will guide future biosolids management and infrastructure investment in the region.

Potential reuse options

Earlier this year, Council and Wide Bay Water (WBW) sought community feedback on potential treatment and reuse options as part of this work. Based on the feedback received, six potential reuse options are now being considered and are outlined in the table below.

<p>1 Option 1 Disposal of biosolids</p>	<p>2 Option 2 Reuse of biosolids on agricultural land by WBW- Business as usual</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full treatment of biosolids at WBW sewage treatment plant. - Transport of biosolids to waste disposal facility for disposal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full treatment of biosolids at WBW sewage treatment plant. - Transport of biosolids to WBW's Nikenbah or St Helen's storage sites. - Reuse of biosolids on local agricultural land or WBW-owned tree plantations. - Plus, source additional agricultural land, maybe further away from townships, to minimise potential odour concerns.
<p>3 Option 3 Reuse of biosolids on agricultural land by WBW- but all biosolids are transported and stored at a WBW centralised site</p>	<p>4 Option 4 Greater reuse of biosolids in agriculture or the community by WBW – biosolids are additionally processed via composting with Council's green waste, at the WBW centralised site</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full treatment of biosolids at WBW sewage treatment plant. - Transport of biosolids to WBW's centralised Nikenbah storage site (to be constructed). This centralised Nikenbah storage site represents a robust solution for storing all biosolids. This allows for additional biosolids processing at the site in the future (for example composting or another technology). - Reuse of biosolids on local agricultural land or WBW owned tree plantations. - Plus, look for additional agricultural land to reuse biosolids, maybe further away from townships, to minimise potential odour concerns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full treatment of biosolids at WBW sewage treatment plant. - Transport of all biosolids to WBW's centralised Nikenbah storage site (to be constructed). - Composting biosolids with Council's green waste, by WBW at the centralised Nikenbah storage site. This option looks at opportunities for WBW to combine Council's green waste to produce a higher quality product. - This option may allow biosolids to be sold for greater agricultural or community use. - This option minimises potential odour concerns.
<p>5 Option 5 Greater reuse of biosolids in agriculture or the community by WBW – with a third-party managing processing on WBW site</p>	<p>6 Option 6 Greater reuse of biosolids in agriculture or the community – with a third-party managing processing, storage and marketing, on a third-party site</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full treatment of biosolids at WBW sewage treatment plant. - Transport of all biosolids to WBW's centralised Nikenbah storage site (to be constructed). - Third-party processing of biosolids by composting or other technology on a WBW site. This option partners with a company to manage the biosolids processing facility on a WBW site. This option will draw upon industry proposals enabling a variety of technologies to be considered. This option may allow biosolids to be sold for greater agricultural or community use. - This option minimises potential odour concerns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full treatment of biosolids at WBW sewage treatment plant. - Transport of all biosolids to a third-party. - Third-party processing of biosolids by composting or other technology (on their site). This option partners with a company to manage the biosolids processing facility, storage and final product marketing. This option will draw upon industry proposals enabling a variety of technologies to be considered. - This option may allow biosolids to be sold for greater agricultural or community use. - This option minimises potential odour concerns.

The 'Business as Usual' approach is summarised below.



Biosolids at Treatment Plant



Existing Storage Pads (St Helen's, Nikenbah)



Agriculture Use

How are we managing odour?

Odour is a significant issue when producing and managing biosolids. As part of the strategy WBW are reviewing the management of their biosolids with a view to reducing odour issues. We are doing this by:

- Assessing our Plant capacities to ensure biosolids are treated for as long as possible
- Optimizing Plant processes to best manage the biosolids
- Investigating additional treatment processes for biosolids

Council is working hard to minimise potential odour concerns for each option.

We want to hear from you!

Council is committed to listening to the community as we start work on the new strategy.

An online survey has been developed to capture your feedback about the project and potential reuse options. Provide your feedback here: <https://frasercoast.engagementhub.com.au/biosolids-strategy>

The online survey will close on Friday 20 November 2020.

Next steps

Feedback from the community will be assessed and considered to inform the development of the Biosolids Strategy. Council will continue to keep the community informed of the outcome of the project.

Further information

Visit our drop-in centres at the following locations:

Maryborough Library	Hervey Bay Library	Tiaro Library and Community Centre
<p>Tuesday 3 November 2020 9am – 12 midday & Thursday 5 November 2020 9am – 12 midday</p>	<p>Saturday 31 October 2020 9am – 12 midday & Tuesday 3 November 2020 1pm – 4pm</p>	<p>Thursday 5 November 2020 2pm – 4pm</p>

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

Contact us: 1800 749 165

Email: wbw@ghd.com