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Proposed legislative amendments to reduce litter and boost recycling

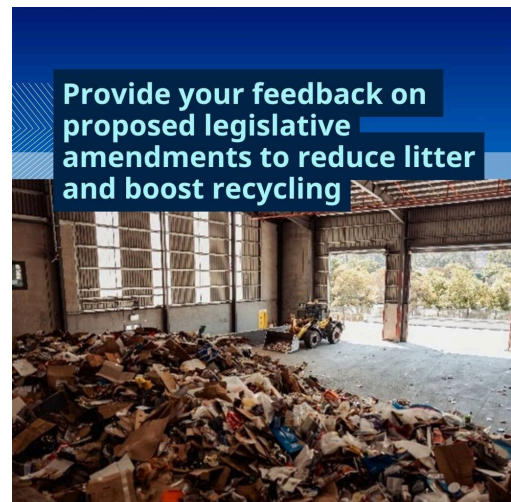
The Queensland Government is committed to protecting the environment by boosting recycling rates and reducing litter.

To help deliver on these commitments, we are inviting feedback on the proposed legislative amendments outlined in the consultation paper: [Proposed legislative amendments to reduce litter and boost recycling](#)

The proposed legislative amendments aim to:

- clarify the meaning of waste
- increase recycling
- simplify administration
- reduce regulatory burden
- encourage reuse of soils
- help tackle litter and illegal dumping.

These address feedback provided through consultation on the new Queensland Waste Strategy, and issues identified through the [End of Waste Framework Review Report](#) and [Local Government Red Tape Reduction Taskforce](#).



Provide input on the proposed legislative amendments

Visit [In the Loop](#) to read the Consultation Paper and submit your feedback.

Your feedback is important to help boost recycling so Queensland can become a leader in reducing, reusing and recycling waste.

Funding and grants

\$54 million program to enhance organic waste management in South East Queensland

Applications for the [SEQ City Deal Organics Processing Program](#) are now open, and will close on Wednesday 1 July 2026.

Developed under the SEQ City Deal Partnership, the program supports member councils of Council of Mayors South East Queensland (CoMSEQ) to build new infrastructure and upgrade existing facilities for improved collection, sorting and processing of organic waste.

The program is jointly funded and will be delivered through a competitive funding program, with \$36 million provided by the Queensland and Australian Governments, and \$18 million to be contributed by local governments.

Funding is available via two streams (small and major projects). The funding program is open to CoMSEQ member councils. Eligible councils can also partner with other councils or with the private sector.

Full details on the program guidelines, eligibility requirements, and the application process is now available on the [Queensland Government website](#).

Mapping Queensland's future waste and recycling infrastructure needs

The Queensland Government is funding the development of a Statewide Recycling Infrastructure Plan to map a pathway for critical infrastructure across Queensland and create investment opportunities to expand local waste processing across the state.

The roadmap will help:

- Show how much waste we produce and where it goes.
- Map existing facilities and pinpoint where more are needed.
- Identify hubs to move waste in regional and remote areas.
- Support small-scale local processing where it makes sense.
- Explore innovative solutions like waste-to-energy.

The roadmap will be developed with local councils, industry and investors to share data, understand market needs, identify the best locations for new facilities, and create the right conditions for long-term private investment needed to progress towards a more integrated system designed to strengthen Queensland's resource recovery capabilities and support ongoing collective efforts to improve recycling behaviours.



Queensland Government response to Queensland's Container Refund Scheme Parliamentary Inquiry

The Queensland Government has tabled its response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Queensland's Container Refund Scheme and introduced new legislation to enhance the scheme's governance, transparency, and performance.

The response supports 20 of the 21 recommendations from the Inquiry, ruling out one recommendation on the basis it risked Queenslanders being hit with extra costs.

Key measures include:

- Strengthened governance through increased oversight of the scheme's board.
- Enhanced transparency by making strategic and operational plans publicly available.
- Clearer responsibilities for the scheme coordinator, including investment in strategic recycling infrastructure.
- Cost relief for small businesses, such as exemptions for small beverage manufacturers (e.g., microbreweries and distilleries) from contributions for their first 20,000 containers.



This marks the first comprehensive review of the scheme since its establishment in 2017 and aims to ensure the program continues to deliver positive recycling outcomes for Queenslanders.

The [Waste Reduction and Recycling \(Strengthening the Container Refund Scheme\) Amendment Bill 2026](#) reflects a commitment to improving governance, boosting transparency, and addressing the recommendations of the Inquiry.

The Bill was referred to the [Health, Environment and Innovation Committee](#) for consideration, with the [Committee report](#) tabled on 15 May 2026.

Partnering with Salvos Stores to launch Australia's first automated Textiles Recovery Facility in Queensland

The Queensland Government has partnered with Salvos Stores to deliver Australia's first automated Textile Recovery Facility, helping tackle the growing environmental impacts of fast fashion and textile waste.

Backed by a \$4.9 million Queensland Government investment, the Ipswich facility uses advanced artificial intelligence and robotics to recover up to 5,000 tonnes of clothing and textiles locally each year for reuse and recycling.



The technology will ensure sellable items go to Salvos Stores for resale, while unwearable items are recycled. Salvos Stores are working with businesses to turn old textiles into products such as sound-proofing and insulation, and to recover good fibres that can be remade into new fabric and blankets.

By investing in critical infrastructure and innovative partnerships, the Queensland Government is strengthening local resource recovery, supporting local jobs, and improving local access to high-quality recycled materials to help strengthen markets for recycled content — while ensuring more waste is recovered, reused and diverted from landfill.

[Read more](#)

Recycle Mate partner councils now reach 90% of Queensland's population

The Queensland Government's partnership with Recycle Mate has reached a major milestone, with participating councils now representing more than 90% of Queensland's population.

Local councils play a vital role in providing their communities with accessible and reliable, localised information to help support residents and visitors to recycle correctly and safely dispose of hazardous items.

The Queensland Government's \$2.4 million investment to extend the Recycle Mate partnership enables councils to continue utilising Recycle Mate data, reporting tools and resources to enable evidence-based service and infrastructure planning, and the delivery of effective education, to support lasting behaviour change in their community.

The next phase of the Queensland partnership will focus on equipping councils with upgraded Recycle Mate platform features, advanced data and reporting tools, expanded collaboration with national

partners, and new resources to support local community awareness and education initiatives.

Recycle Mate's dynamic platform provides councils with more data to make better decisions and tools which enable local recycling and safe disposal information to be more easily accessible to diverse communities.

It does this by bringing together usage insights from more than 20,000 searches on Recycle Mate each month, and integrating up-to-date recycling, reuse and disposal information from various data sources, including:

- more than 89 different kerbside bin systems across Australia
- local councils, recyclers, charities, composting services and safe disposal providers nationwide
- more than 45,000 product barcodes.

The platform also uses artificial intelligence to translate information into more than 92 languages enabling people, irrespective of their language, to access answers to their recycling questions via Recycle Mate's website, app or widgets for Council websites.

We are excited to see the positive outcomes this initiative continues to bring to councils and communities across Queensland.



In November 2025, councils from across Queensland came together at Recycle Mate workshops held in Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, Maryborough, Brisbane and Toowoomba. The sessions brought together waste, education, communications and data specialists – sparking valuable discussions and knowledge sharing on how to better use Recycle Mate tools and resources to support ongoing community education efforts to improve Queenslanders recycling and disposal habits.

Continually improving Queensland's Annual Waste Data Survey

For more than a decade, the Department has delivered the Annual Waste Data Survey to accurately measure and report on how much waste is generated, recovered, treated and disposed of across Queensland.

The survey, which underpins the annual [Recycling and Waste in Queensland report](#), is a critical tool for collecting performance data from different reporting entities across the state including local councils, state government departments, private landfill operators, transfer station operators, recyclers, organic processors, waste transporters and facilities such as incinerators and monofills.

As part of the improvement project, the department is engaging with local council and industry representatives to streamline data collection, update survey questions, modernise the survey

software, and refresh the underlying waste data framework to ensure the survey continues to be fit for purpose and accurately measure performance against Queensland's waste reduction and resource recovery objectives.

Feedback from councils and industry highlighted a clear need for better-defined survey questions and improvements to the survey and data frameworks to better reflect the needs of different operating models and the practical realities of waste data collection in varying local contexts.

In response, new draft survey questions are being developed. These changes are expected to make future surveys easier and quicker to complete, reduce reporting burden, and improve data confidence and quality.

Improving the survey enables the department to continue providing government and industry stakeholders with access to high quality, accurate waste data, while protecting survey respondent privacy and commercial confidentiality. Such data is critical for improving collaboration between governments, industry and the community to make better planning, investment and policy decisions at a local, regional or state-wide level that drive stronger waste reduction and improved recycling outcomes for Queensland.

Accelerated Food Transformation research project

The Queensland Government has supported the Accelerating Food Transformation research project, led by End Food Waste Australia in collaboration with QUT, to explore the growing interest in upcycled food in Australia.

In Australia, around 2.96 million tonnes of food is wasted each year in primary production and manufacturing (FIAL 2021). Upcycling food represents new opportunities for food producers and manufacturers to grow existing operations or create innovative new businesses, while helping reduce and better manage food that often goes to waste.

The multi-phase research project engaged the expertise of growers, entrepreneurs, government representatives, and consumers to examine the regulatory, manufacturing and consumer dimensions that underpin the commercial viability of safely turning surplus and by-product food into new high value food products and ingredients.

The project findings demonstrate that while Australia is well positioned to grow a competitive upcycled food sector, it identified the need for targeted action to address key barriers around shared manufacturing infrastructure and clearer upcycling definitions to better equip businesses to communicate safety focused messaging to consumers.

A suite of evidence-based resources and case studies are available on the End Food Waste Australia website to support growers, producers and manufacturers considering upcycling as option for their business.

[Read more](#)



WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU CHECKED YOUR RECYCLING HABITS?

RECYCLING BEHAVIOUR

UNHEALTHY GOOD HEALTHY

RECYCLE mate

Download the app

GET IT ON Google Play

Download on the App Store

The image features a dark blue background. On the left, a white bracketed box contains the text 'WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU CHECKED YOUR RECYCLING HABITS?'. In the center is a semi-circular gauge labeled 'RECYCLING BEHAVIOUR' with a needle pointing to the 'GOOD' section. The gauge is divided into three segments: 'UNHEALTHY' (red), 'GOOD' (yellow), and 'HEALTHY' (green). On the right, the 'RECYCLE mate' logo is shown above the text 'Download the app'. Below this are two buttons: 'GET IT ON Google Play' and 'Download on the App Store'.

2026 Awareness Days

Save the date, make a difference – little steps for lasting impact.



World Environment Day



[Queensland Day](#)



World Oceans Day



[Plastic Free July](#)

DELIVERING
FOR QUEENSLAND



Queensland
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