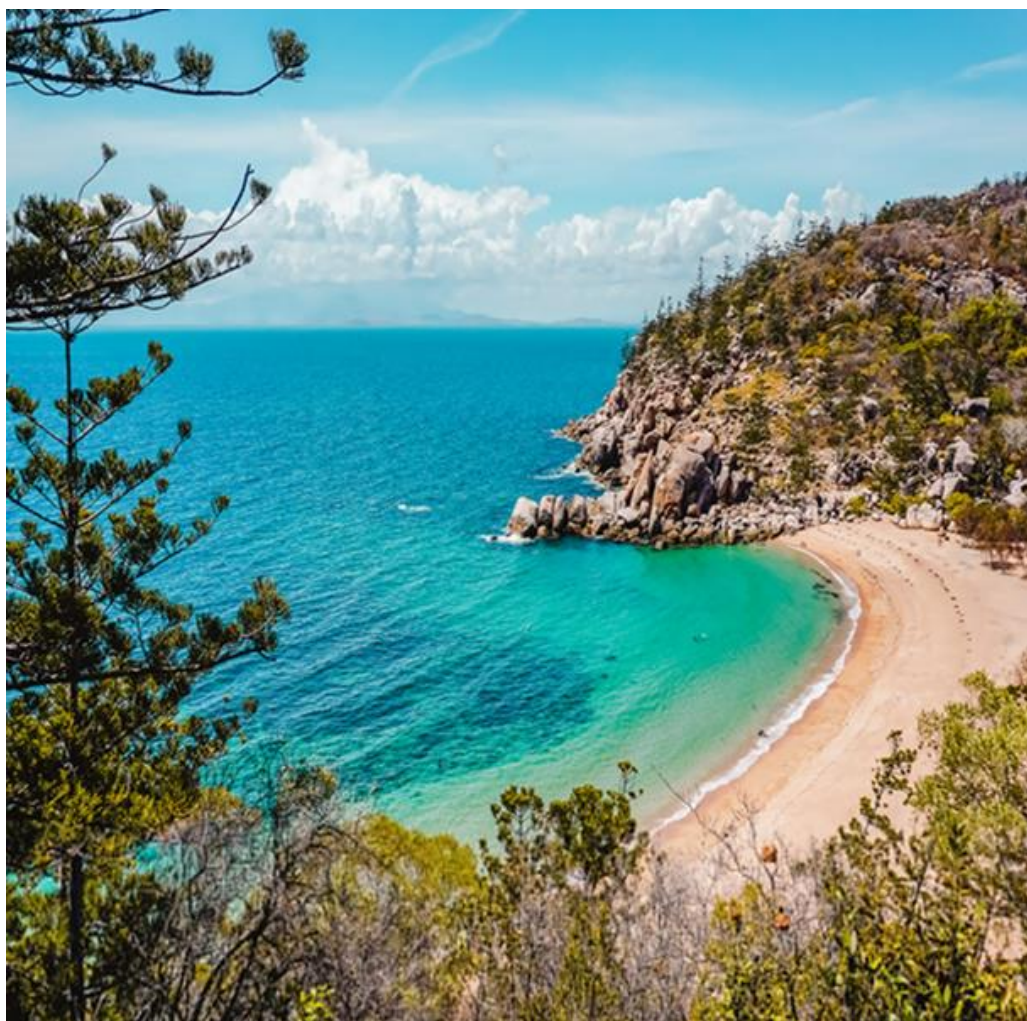


# Towards Zero Waste Strategy Magnetic Island (Yunbenun) 2025-2030

## Summary



Towards Net Zero Community Action Climate Project

# Towards Zero Waste Magnetic Island 2025-2030 Strategy

## Summary Paper

As a community, we must take greater responsibility, - both individually and collectively - for reducing waste generation. This five-year waste strategy sets out a roadmap for how we can transition into become a leading zero-waste community and divert 80% of all waste from landfill. To achieve this target, an additional 500 tonnes per annum must be diverted by taking actions to refuse, reduce, reuse, repurpose, regift, recycle, repair and return.

**Vision:** *Magnetic Island to become a global leader in sustainability and a Towards Zero Waste community – protecting our precious Great Barrier Reef and natural environment for generations to come.*

**Mission** - Towards Zero Waste

### Goals

1. Reduce waste to landfill
2. Improve organics recovery
3. Implement new waste management practices
4. Promote circular economy
5. Drive community and visitor behaviour change

### Targets by 2030

- Divert 80% or 500 tonnes of waste from landfill
- Recycle 65% of waste
- Recover 80% of all Containers for Change containers
- Reduce greenhouse gas generation by 35%
- Reduce household waste by 15%

### Actions, responsibility and timeline

There are 61 actions identified in the strategy, with organisations nominated to lead each one and an expected timeline for implementation. The actions are summarised below:



### ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGETS AND VISION

<b>Garden waste:</b> Council to introduce a new fortnightly kerbside garden organics service. Develop a Garden Planting Guide to identify preferred plantings to reduce garden waste generation and support wildlife.
<b>Food waste:</b> Investigate best method to collect and process food waste from all households, hospitality and accommodation businesses including expanding Bio-Regen facility.
<b>Zero waste events:</b> All events held on Council land adhere to a <i>Zero Waste Events Policy</i> aiming to reduce overall waste generation, purchase a community-owned and operated, island based mobile wash and hydration station, along with reusable food-ware for premises without access to washing facilities
<b>Reduce plastics:</b> Introduce a by-law to regulate the use of single-use items.
<b>Greenhouse gas reduction:</b> Investigate installing solar panels on the transfer station roof to offset power use and to charge a new electric waste collection vehicle.
<b>Litter reduction:</b> Install waste, recycling and/or marine debris collection bins at litter hotspots such as parks, bus stops, jetties and boat ramps and install litter booms at stormwater outlets to reduce debris entering waterways. Conduct regular beach clean-ups at remote bays.
<b>Community garden/s:</b> Establish community garden/s as demonstration and training hubs for training forums / programs including composting workshops, permaculture courses, repurposing activities.

<b>Textiles:</b> Support “Give a Sheet Day” to recycle old linen and explore options for poor-quality, unsaleable textiles to be reused/recycled.
<b>Reusables rebate:</b> Maintain and increase the TCC budget for rebates on reusable nappies and incontinent products.
<b>Share Library:</b> Explore establishing a share library for tools, equipment, and toys to promote reuse.
<b>Solar panels:</b> Council introduce testing service to encourage panel reuse and resale at tip shop.
<b>Tip shop:</b> Provide awning over outdoor hard stand area for weatherproofing items stored outside.
<b>Bins:</b> Ensure standard bin colours are used throughout the island and replace as necessary.
<b>Commercial accommodation:</b> In partnerships with Tourism Magnetic Island encourage all hosts to include waste management in literature, inductions and welcome packs. Ensure all premises, including accommodation rooms, have both internal and external waste and recycling bins.
<b>Commercial hospitality:</b> Council to develop a Contamination Management Action Plan to reduce recycling contamination, and waste collection drivers to identify sites with contaminated recycling bins.
<b>Container Refund Scheme (CRS):</b> Establish a permanent depot, provide a mobile collection service to households / commercial premises and install wire cages to high-profile litter bins for container donations.
<b>Batteries:</b> Provide battery recycling collection points wherever batteries are sold
<b>Expanded polystyrene (EPS);</b> Council to record the quantity of EPS delivered to determine if an on-site compactor is warranted to compact this bulky material for recycling.
<b>Repair café:</b> The community investigate a Repair Cafe on Magnetic Island
<b>Horseshoe Bay yacht moorings:</b> That a dedicated waste area be provided for yacht moorings
<b>Hazardous and chemical waste:</b> To prevent landfill contamination, Council are to provide a dedicated storage area for out-of-date and unwanted chemicals and encourage community use.
<b>Commercial deliveries of recyclables:</b> Households and commercial operators are charged the same fees for deliveries of garden waste and recyclables.
<b>Differential Bin Charges:</b> Council to review the cost differential between general waste bin sizes to reflect the difference in capacity and encourage waste minimisation.
<b>Behaviour Change:</b> Utilise Council’s quarterly newsletter to provide regular updates about waste management. Develop and deliver specific behavioural change programs for residents based on the “Let’s Get It Sorted” campaign and issue new household resident waste management information packs annually. Request ferry operators to promote recycling and environmental messages on vessels. Design graphic-based educational resources to reduce language barriers for international visitors and distribute these resources along with bin stickers to commercial accommodation premises. Encourage owners to install recycling bins in all holiday premises and help hospitality businesses educate staff on correct recycling behaviour.
<b>Implementation:</b> Install a digital “Sustainability Notice Board” in a high-profile position at the gateway to the island with information about waste strategy targets and targeted messages. Introduce an environmental levy (suggested to be imposed on ferry & barge tickets) on non TCC residents to support strategy implementation. Such funds to be quarantined, co-managed by Council and Island community non-for-profits with funds used for strategy implementation including the employment of an island-based waste co-ordinator with annual budgets and outcomes reported annually to community. Council to report bi-annually on waste performance. Conduct a waste audit 6 – 12 months after new garden or garden and food waste collections introduced to measure use of the new service by households and commercial premises.

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