



Office of the Information Commissioner
Queensland

Follow-up of Report No. 2 for 2022-23

Publishing information about waste management

Report No. 3 to the Queensland Legislative Assembly for 2023-24

Acknowledgement of Country

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May 2024

Mr Peter Russo MP
Chair
Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4001

Dear Mr Russo

I am pleased to present 'Follow-up of Report No. 2 for 2022-23: Publishing information about waste management'. This report is prepared under section 131 of the *Right to Information Act 2009* (Qld).

The report outlines what progress Queensland Government departments have made in implementing the recommendations I made in the 2022-23 audit.

In accordance with subsection 184(5) of the *Right to Information Act 2009* (Qld), I request that you arrange for the report to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joanne Kummrow', with a large loop at the start and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joanne Kummrow
Information Commissioner



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Summary

This report is about the progress Queensland Government departments made in implementing the recommendations from the original audit.

In 2022, we examined the legislative requirements in the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* (the **Act**) about publishing plans and strategies. We assessed the extent to which the departments met these requirements.

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet (**DPC**) and the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (**DESI**)¹ have leadership responsibilities to publish statewide strategies, plans and progress reports about waste management.

All departments are responsible for publishing their own waste reduction and recycling plan.

The objective of our 2022 audit was to identify legislative requirements to publish information about Queensland's waste management framework and associated documents and assess whether the information is:

- easy to find – on the website
- easy to use – in an accessible format and easy to read
- up to date – published promptly and within legislated timeframes
- useful – meaningful, explanatory and in compliance with the legislation.

In 2022, we concluded that:

Overall, The Queensland Plan, the Queensland Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy and their associated reports are easy to find and use. However, the annual reports about the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy are not published promptly, impeding community access to relevant, up to date information. They also miss some specific information required under the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011.

We also concluded that government department plans:

are easy to read, but they are not necessarily up to date, easy to find or address the required inclusions.

¹ Formerly the Department of Environment and Science

We made one recommendation to DPC and five to DESI. The departments accepted all recommendations.

We also made five recommendations to all government departments.

Results and conclusions

Statewide plans and reports

Over the last 18 months the two lead departments responsible for publishing statewide strategies, plans and progress reports about waste management have done significant work to implement the recommendations from our 2022 audit. Five of six recommendations are fully implemented. One recommendation is in progress to full implementation.

DPC and DESI have cross-referenced *The Queensland Plan* and the *Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy* (the **strategy**), making it easier for the community to get a full picture of the State's vision and strategic direction for waste management planning and progress.

DESI has published the 2022-23 annual report on waste disposal and recycling by 31 December as required under the Act. The department has also included in the annual report all items described in the legislation. This means the public has timely access to more meaningful data about the State's progress in meeting its waste management goals and objectives.

DESI has published most of the information about the review of Queensland's waste management strategy as required by the Act. Publishing the final report when it is finalised will satisfy the final requirement of our recommendation.

Departments' plans

Departments have improved their compliance with the publication requirements about their waste reduction and recycling plans. However, progress is not uniform, and more work is needed to ensure they all meet the legislative requirements.

The number of departments with a waste management plan on their websites has increased from 16 in 2022 to 18 in 2024. Surprisingly, two departments that previously published a waste reduction and recycling plan have since removed them from their websites.

Fourteen departments have clear pathways to their plans making it easier for the public to find and access this information. Four departments need to make their plans more accessible. We had to use a search engine to locate the plans of these departments.

All the published plans are easy to use and read, although only 13 of them are current and up to date. The remaining five departments need to ensure they review their plans, as prescribed by the legislation.

The plans of 16 departments include meaningful information describing the **actions** the departments will take to address waste management and recycling. And 14 plans have **targets** to measure the departments' success of their initiatives.



1. Context

The Queensland Government informs the community about how it intends to manage waste now and into the future to protect the environment through two overarching documents: *The Queensland Plan* (the **plan**) and the *Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy* (the **strategy**).

In 2022, we considered the publication requirements for the plan and the strategy. We assessed whether information was easy to find, use, up to date and useful – in compliance with the legislation.

Under the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* (the **Act**), Queensland Government departments must have a comprehensive waste reduction and recycling plan. This plan must be adopted by the chief executive, contain specific elements such as targets, and be published on the department's website.

In 2022, we assessed whether departments met the publication requirements for their plans. We also considered whether the information they publish was easy to find, easy to use, up to date and useful.

We made six recommendations to the two lead departments responsible for the plan (Department of the Premier and Cabinet – **DPC**) and the strategy (Department of Environment, Science and Innovation² – **DESI**). We also made five recommendations to all departments about their waste reduction and recycling plans.

The audit report³ was tabled in Parliament on 29 November 2022.

We commenced a follow-up audit in December 2023. The purpose of the follow-up audit was to assess what progress departments have made in implementing our recommendations.

Figure 1 explains the ratings we used to measure progress.

² Formerly the Department of Environment and Science

³ 'Publishing information about waste management: Report No. 2 to the Queensland Legislative Assembly for 2022-23' available at <https://www.oic.qld.gov.au>.

Figure 1
Implementation status ratings

Rating	Description
Fully implemented	The agency has implemented the recommendation substantially or in its entirety.
Partially implemented	The agency has implemented part or parts of the recommendation, but it has not fully satisfied the intent of the recommendation.
In progress	The agency has taken action to implement the recommendation and efforts to complete implementation are ongoing.
Some progress	The agency has taken preliminary steps to implement the recommendation. Progress is limited and the underlying issues are not yet addressed.

Source: Office of the Information Commissioner

Chapter 2 presents our findings on how DPC and DESI implemented the recommendations from our 2022 audit **about the plan and the strategy**.

Chapter 3 examines whether all departments have implemented the recommendations from our 2022 audit **about their waste reduction and recycling plans**.

2. Statewide plans and reports

Introduction

There are two overarching plans guiding the way Queensland Government agencies plan and measure progress in reducing waste and increasing waste recycling and recovery. These are *The Queensland Plan* and the *Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy* (the **strategy**).

The Queensland Plan is a 30-year document spanning 2014 to 2044. It describes baseline measures of waste generation and recovery for Queensland and Australia. The Department of the Premier and Cabinet (**DPC**) is responsible for *The Queensland Plan*.

Under the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* (the **Act**) the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation⁴ (**DESI**) must publish a waste management strategy for Queensland. The Act prescribes what information the strategy may include.

DESI must also publish an annual report on waste disposal and recycling that summarises the amounts of waste and recycling reported by entities for that financial year. It must publish the annual report by 31 December each year.

In 2022, we reviewed the strategy and associated annual reports against the publication requirements. We considered whether the information was easy to find and use, up to date and meaningful, explanatory and in compliance with the legislation.

We reported that Queensland has captured big-picture aspirations for waste management and recovery in its key plans and strategies. However, these plans did not align, making it harder for the community to get a full picture of waste management planning and progress.

We recommended that DPC cross-reference *The Queensland Plan* website to Queensland's *Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy* and its associated reports.

We also recommended that DESI cross-reference Queensland's *Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy* and its associated reports to *The Queensland Plan*.

While DESI reports annually on progress against the strategy, we found that the publication of these reports has lagged behind the legislated deadline. As a result, the

⁴ Formerly the Department of Environment and Science

community did not have access to relevant, timely information. Furthermore, DESI could improve the annual reports to make sure they meet all legislative requirements in the Act.

We recommended that DESI:

- simplifies and clarifies the pathway to the *Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy* so that the strategy is easier to find.
- publishes information about the review of Queensland’s waste management strategy as required by the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*.
- publishes the annual reports on waste disposal and recycling by 31 December each year, as required by the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*.
- includes all the information required by the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* in the annual reports on waste disposal and recycling.
- cross-references from Queensland’s *Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy* and its associated reports to *The Queensland Plan*.

DPC and DESI accepted the recommendations.

Figure 2 shows our assessment of the implementation status of the recommendations to DPC and DESI.

Figure 2
Statewide plans and reports

We recommended that:		Status
1	Within 12 months, the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation ⁵ simplifies and clarifies the pathway to the <i>Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy</i> so that the strategy is easier to find.	Fully implemented
2	Within 12 months, the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation publishes information about the review of Queensland’s waste management strategy as required by the <i>Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011</i> .	In progress
3	Within 12 months, the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation publishes the annual reports on waste disposal and recycling by 31 December each year, as required by the <i>Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011</i> .	Fully implemented

⁵ Formerly the Department of Environment and Science

We recommended that:		Status
4	Within 12 months, the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation includes all the information required by the <i>Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011</i> in the annual reports on waste disposal and recycling.	Fully implemented
5	Within 12 months, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet cross-references from <i>The Queensland Plan</i> website to Queensland's <i>Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy</i> and its associated reports.	Fully implemented
6	Within 12 months, the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation cross-references from Queensland's <i>Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy</i> and its associated reports to <i>The Queensland Plan</i> .	Fully implemented

Source: Office of the Information Commissioner

Results and conclusion

Overall, DESI has made significant progress. It has fully implemented four recommendations from our 2022 audit and is progressing the remaining recommendation.

Publishing the final report about its review of the State's strategy will satisfy the final requirement of Recommendation 2.

DPC has cross-referenced *The Queensland Plan* website with the strategy, thus fully implementing the recommendation.

Queensland's *Waste Management Strategy* and annual reports

Easy to find

In our original audit we reported that DESI had published the strategy on its website. However, we found that the strategy would be easier to find if the user did not have to navigate five different webpages to access it.

We reported that it would be easier to find the strategy if it was linked directly from the main 'Waste' webpage rather than through a signpost about the strategy's development process.

We recommended that the department simplify and clarify the pathway to the strategy so that it is easier to find.

In January 2024, DESI reported that the strategy has a greater online presence and profile and is now three webpage clicks from the department's website homepage.

We accessed DESI's website and confirmed that the strategy was easy to find. The link to the webpage is now titled 'Queensland's waste strategy' which is clearer than referring to the development of the strategy.

We assess Recommendation 1 as fully implemented.

Up to date

Review of the waste management and resource recovery strategy

The chief executive must prepare a review report in draft form of the Queensland waste management strategy; and give public notice of when the draft has been prepared.⁶

The public notice must be published on the department's website and invite written submissions from the public on the draft review report.⁷

During our original audit, we found that a review report was due in July 2022. DESI had prepared a draft report for the Chief Executive's review so that it could be released for public consultation.

We recommended the department publishes information about the review of the strategy as required by the Act.

A review report must have regard to goals and targets included in the waste management strategy. *The Draft Review Report - Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy March 2023* is available on the department's website. The draft report includes goals and a section on progress towards quantitative targets. It also contains key findings about waste generation, household waste, waste diversion from landfill and recycling.

DESI has published a public notice of the review on its website. It invited written submissions from the public on the draft review report. Submissions closed in May 2023.

The chief executive must within a reasonable time after the submission period has closed, prepare and publish on the department's website, a final report of the review. In preparing the final review report, the chief executive must consider all submissions on the draft review report.⁸

6 Section 21(1) *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*.

7 Section 21(2) *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*.

8 Section 22(1) and (2) *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*.

The department's Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy webpage states:

Following the close of the consultation period, the department will consider the submissions received with a view to preparing a final review report.

The webpage does not indicate when the department intends to publish the final report on the outcome of the review.

Notifying stakeholders of when and how outcomes of consultations will be available supports greater transparency and public trust in government's decision-making processes.

We asked the department about when it expects to publish the final review report.

DESI advised:

the draft Review Report elicited responses from stakeholders across a broad range of matters, a number of which focus on the declined progress towards targets with calls for significant change to Queensland's waste levy settings. Themes raised in stakeholder consultation presented us with cause to seek a Government position on proposed forward direction (in progress).

The December 2023 Recycling and Waste data was our first real opportunity to gain insight into whether the decline in performance in 2021-22 was a trend or an anomaly associated with an unusual period in time.

It is also noted that the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 was amended in 2023 to increase the strategy review period from three years to five years as a direct result of challenges experienced in drawing meaningful conclusions from just two years of data.

The department said it is continuing to work towards publishing the final review report in the first half of 2024.

Given that the department has yet to publish the final review report, we assess Recommendation 2 as in progress to implementation.

Annual reports on waste and recycling

The chief executive must, by 31 December each year, prepare and make publicly available a report that summarises the amounts of waste and recycling reported in the most recently completed financial year.

The report about the 2020-21 financial year was not published until May/June 2022. For the previous three years, DESI had published the annual report five to eight months late.

We recommended that the department publishes the annual reports on waste disposal and recycling by 31 December each year, as required by the Act.

DESI advised that it published the *Recycling and Waste in Queensland 2023* report on its website on 22 December 2023. On 3 January 2024, we confirmed that the report was available on DESI's website in accordance with the legislation.

The annual report is easy to find. The 'Waste data and reports' webpage links directly to them from a clear label of 'Recycling and waste in Queensland report'.

We assess Recommendation 3 as fully implemented.

Useful

Section 154 of the Act requires DESI to report annually on progress, summarising the amounts of waste and recycling reported to it in the most recently completed financial year. The section itemises the information that the report must include, and states that, if appropriate, the report should include an evaluation of the information.

At the time of our original audit in 2022, the latest annual report available was for 2021. We found that the department included in the *Recycling and Waste in Queensland 2021* report, 12 of the 15 required items. It partially addressed the other three items. The 2021 report:

- did not identify the amounts and types of waste disposed of by local governments
- did not describe the amounts and types of waste reported as being disposed of by reporting entities
- relied on local governments self-reporting having a plan. It did not confirm this number or advise how many local governments reported on the plan.

At the time, DESI explained that types of waste disposal are difficult to itemise because disposed waste is mixed and not separated on receipt. The report itemises recycled

waste because local governments and reporting entities separate recycled waste by type when they receive it. The department is reluctant to report on entities in a way that might identify individual businesses.

We found that the department should report as required. If it has a reason for not addressing a legislative requirement, the annual report should explain this.

We recommended the department includes all the information required by the Act in the annual reports on waste disposal and recycling.

In March 2024, we assessed the *Recycling and Waste in Queensland 2023* report.⁹ The report contains all the information required under section 154(3) of the Act.

It includes:

- information about the amounts and types of waste disposed of by local governments. For example, green bin lid services collected 113,933 tonnes of garden and food organic wastes, 2,900 tonnes greater than the amount collected in 2021-22.
- the amounts and types of waste reported as being disposed of by reporting entities. For example, private sector waste facilities disposed of 27 percent of municipal solid waste.

Finally, the Act requires a report about the number of local governments that have adopted a waste reduction and recycling plan and have reported on the plan.¹⁰ DESI relies on local governments to self-report on these requirements.

While the self-reporting method may not be fully accurate, there are practical difficulties in independently verifying the number of local governments that have adopted a plan. For example, local governments are not required to publish their plans on their website. This means DESI cannot use local government websites to confirm which councils have adopted a plan. Self-reporting is a practical option to collect and report on this information for reporting under the Act.

We assess Recommendation 4 as fully implemented.

⁹ *Recycling and Waste in Queensland 2023* report available at <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/circular-economy-waste-reduction/data-reports/recycling-waste>.

¹⁰ Section 154(3)(l) *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*.

Alignment between *The Queensland Plan* and Queensland's *Waste Management Strategy*

In 2022-23, we found that *The Queensland Plan* and the strategy were consistent at a high level and presented common qualitative goals, for example, biofuels and bio-manufacturing. However, despite their complementarity, they did not cross-reference each other.

We reported that cross-referencing *The Queensland Plan* and the strategy and their associated annual reports would:

- help the community understand waste management planning and progress
- improve the meaningfulness of the documents and assist the public to make use of the reports.

We recommended that DPC cross-references from *The Queensland Plan* website to Queensland's *Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy* and its associated reports.

The Queensland Plan website¹¹ includes a link to the State's strategy. It explains that:

*The Queensland Government outlines how it intends to manage waste now and into the future through both *The Queensland Plan* and the *Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy (the Strategy)*.*

DPC outlines how the strategy's vision for the State aligns with the vision and targets of *The Queensland Plan*.

We assess Recommendation 5 as fully implemented.

We also recommended that DESI cross-references from the *Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy* and its associated reports to *The Queensland Plan*.

DESI's Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy webpage includes direct access to The Queensland Plan website. The webpage states:

*These practices will also contribute to achieving the environmental vision, goals and targets identified in *The Queensland Plan*.*

We assess Recommendation 6 as fully implemented.

¹¹ Available at <https://www.queenslandplan.qld.gov.au/about/environment.aspx>.

3. Departments' waste management plans

Introduction

Under the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* (the **Act**), Queensland Government departments must have a comprehensive waste reduction and recycling plan. Each department's chief executive must adopt the plan and publish it on the department's website.¹²

The Act also specifies the information the plan must include:

- actions to address waste reduction and recycling
- waste reduction and recycling targets
- how the department will monitor its performance
- achieving continuous improvement in waste management.

A department's chief executive must consider current and predicted information about the department's waste, principles in the Act and how the department's plan contributes to the State waste management strategy.

The plan must be in effect for at least three years, and the chief executive must review it every five years.¹³

In 2022, we assessed departments' waste management plans against the requirements of the Act to see whether the published plans contained all the information necessary. We made five recommendations to all departments that they should:

7. publish their waste reduction and recycling plans on their websites, or link to their plans from their websites.
8. ensure their waste reduction and recycling plans are easy to find, including from the publication scheme.
9. publish waste reduction and recycling plans that are up to date.
10. describe, in their plans, the actions they will take to improve waste reduction and recycling.

¹² Chapter 6, Part 3, *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*.

¹³ Amendments made to section 136 of the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* changed the review period from three years to five years.

11. outline, in their plans, their waste reduction and recycling targets.

In December 2023, the number of government departments in Queensland increased from 20 to 21 following the establishment of the Department of Youth Justice by the Queensland Government.¹⁴

We have excluded this department from our assessment because we had already started the follow-up audit when it was established. Therefore, we report on 20 government departments.

Figure 3 shows the number of departments that satisfied the assessment criteria from our original audit and in this follow-up audit.

Figure 3
Departments' waste management plans

Assessment criteria	2022	2024
The department has published a plan on their website.	16	18
The department's plan is easy to find and access on their website.	12	14
The department's plan is easy to use – in an accessible format and easy to read.	16	18
The department's plan is up to date – published promptly and within legislated timeframes.	8	13
The department's plan is useful – includes actions to improve waste reduction and recycling.	15	16
The department's plan is useful – includes waste reduction and recycling targets.	13	14

Source: Office of the Information Commissioner

Results and conclusion

Overall, departments have improved compliance with the publication requirements about their waste reduction and recycling plans, but progress is not uniform. More plans are easy to find and up to date but two departments still have not published their plans on their websites.

¹⁴ Queensland Government Gazette: No. 98: Vol 394: 18 December 2023.

Published plans

In 2022, we found that 16 of 20 departments published their plans on their websites. One shared a plan with another department (which published the shared plan) but did not mention it on its own website. Three departments did not publish a plan and did not provide a reason why they had not published one.

We recommended that all departments publish their waste reduction and recycling plans on their websites, or link to their plans from their websites.¹⁵

As of January 2024, 18 of 20 departments have published a plan on their websites. The three departments that did not publish a plan in 2022 have since uploaded their plan on their websites. One department that shared a plan with another department in 2022, now publishes its own plan on its website.

Surprisingly, two departments that previously published a waste reduction and recycling plan have since removed them from their websites.

We noted at the time of our original audit, that the plans for these two departments were either out of date or had reached the end of their useful lives. Neither department has published an updated waste management plan. Their websites do not explain the lack of a published plan, for example through a 'placeholder comment' like:

the department is currently reviewing its plan and will publish it shortly.

We find that 18 of 20 departments have implemented this recommendation by publishing their waste reduction and recycling plans on their websites or linking to their plans from their websites.

Easy to find

In 2022, we reported that 12 departmental websites had a clear pathway to their plans from the department's website homepage. Four had an unclear pathway to their plans.

We recommended that departments ensure their waste reduction and recycling plans are easy to find.¹⁶

In January 2024, we found that the plans for 14 departments are easy to find and access from their websites. We needed to use a search engine to locate the plans for four other departments, three of which also had an unclear pathway when we conducted the original audit.

¹⁵ Recommendation 7: Publishing information about waste management: Report No. 2 to the Queensland Legislative Assembly for 2022-23 available at <https://www.oic.qld.gov.au>.

¹⁶ Recommendation 8: Publishing information about waste management: Report No. 2 to the Queensland Legislative Assembly for 2022-23 available at <https://www.oic.qld.gov.au>.

We find that 14 departments have implemented the recommendation to make their waste reduction and recycling plans easy for a member of the public to locate and access from their website.

Up to date

A waste reduction and recycling plan for a state entity must be in effect for a period of at least three years. The chief executive officer must review the plan at least every five years.¹⁷

In 2022, we found that the plans for eight departments were up to date. One plan was undated, and five plans had expired in 2021. We also found that five plans were badged under the name of former departments before machinery of government changes¹⁸ in November 2020.

We recommended that departments publish waste reduction and recycling plans that are up to date.¹⁹

As of January 2024, 13 departments have published up to date plans. Four plans were out of date based on their stated effective period. For example, one department's plan had an effective period of 2018 to 2021.

We are unable to determine the currency of one plan. The plan is dated 2022 but does not specify the effective period.

The number of departments with up to date plans has improved since our original audit. However, only 13 departments have published up to date waste reduction and recycling plans.

Useful

A department's waste reduction and recycling plan must describe the **actions** the department will take to improve waste reduction and recycling. It must also include measurable waste reduction and recycling **targets**.

In 2022, we found that 15 of 16 plans included actions to improve waste reduction and recycling. One plan had insufficient information about its actions to be meaningful. It simply stated the department would adopt waste management and reduction practices.

¹⁷ Legislative amendments made to section 136 of the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* in 2023 adjusted the timeframe in which the chief executive officer must review the plan from three years to five years. No such amendment was made to the minimum three year period for which a plan must be in effect for.

¹⁸ By a machinery of government change in November 2020 by Administrative Arrangements Order (No. 2) 2020.

¹⁹ Recommendation 9: Publishing information about waste management: Report No. 2 to the Queensland Legislative Assembly for 2022-23 available at <https://www.oic.qld.gov.au>.

It did not describe what the department intended to do or how it would measure progress.

We also found that only 13 of 16 plans included waste reduction and recycling targets and 12 mentioned the State goals and targets explicitly.

We recommended that, in their plans, departments describe the actions they will take to improve waste reduction and recycling and outline their waste reduction and recycling targets.²⁰

In January 2024, we found that 16 of 18 published plans include actions to improve waste reduction and recycling. Two plans do not.

- One plan mentions that the department has developed an action plan to address waste reduction and recycling initiatives, but the action plan is not on its website.
- One plan is high level and has insufficient detail to describe the specific actions the department has adopted to address waste reduction and recycling.

Only 14 of 18 departments include targets to measure their actions in their plans. Four plans do not.

- One plan relies on the statewide targets for waste reduction and recycling. However, the Act requires departmental plans to establish waste reduction and recycling targets for the department specific actions to reduce waste.
- One department includes detailed actions in its plan but not the actual targets it wants to achieve.
- Two departments mention in their plans that they have developed action plans about their waste reduction and recycling initiatives. They indicated that these action plans include deliverables such as performance targets and measures. However, the departments have not published these plans on their websites.

²⁰ Recommendations 10 and 11: Publishing information about waste management: Report No. 2 to the Queensland Legislative Assembly for 2022-23 available at <https://www.oic.qld.gov.au>.



4. Appendix – Lead departments’ responses

Department of Environment, Science and Innovation



Our Ref: CTS 08318/24

Department of
**Environment, Science and
Innovation**

13 May 2024

Ms Joanne Kummrow
Information Commissioner
PO Box 10143
ADELAIDE STREET BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Ms Kummrow

Thank you for your letter of 2 May 2024 regarding a follow-up audit on the legislative requirements to publish information under the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*.

The Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (the department) has reviewed *Report No. 3 Follow-up of Report No. 2 for 2022-23 - Publishing information about waste management* (Report No.3), which is intended to be tabled in the Queensland Legislative Assembly in the sitting week of 21 May 2024.

The department has accepted all recommendations from Report No.3, all of which have now been acted upon.

It is noted that four of the five recommendations pertaining to the department have been completed, with the final recommendation, Recommendation No. 2 - the publishing of the Waste Strategy Final Review Report, progressing to full implementation.

Since the department's previous progress report to your office, we can confirm the additional time taken to progress the Final Review Report has allowed for the inclusion of waste data from the 2022 2023 Recycling and Waste Report. Incorporating this additional year of data has provided a more comprehensive analysis and as such, allowed for its inclusion into the review of the Waste Strategy. It allowed further analysis and understanding of the impact of the COVID-19 and natural disasters on the generation of and treatment of waste, together with the effect on recycling rates.

Should your officers require any further information, please contact Andrew Connor, Executive Director - Office of Circular Economy, Environment and Heritage Policy and Programs of the department on [REDACTED] or by email at andrew.connor@des.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jamie Merrick".

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Department of the Premier and Cabinet



Department of the
Premier and Cabinet

For reply please quote: *EPP/GP- TF/24/9434 - DOC/24/96384*

Ms Joanne Kummrow
Information Commissioner
audit@oic.qld.gov.au

Dear Ms Kummrow

Thank you for your letter of 2 May 2024 concerning the follow-up audit report on *Publishing information about waste management* (the Report).

As outlined in the Report, the Department of Premier and Cabinet had responsibility for Recommendation 5: within 12 months, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet cross-references from *The Queensland Plan* website to Queensland's Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy and its associated reports.

This recommendation has been fully implemented and can be viewed on *The Queensland Plan* website at www.queenslandplan.qld.gov.au.

Again, thank you for raising this important matter with me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike Kaiser'.

¹ Mike Kaiser
Director-General

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