

# Free Council recycling app

Download the Brisbane Bin and Recycling app, available for smartphones and tablets.

This free app includes a bin collection calendar, quick guide to recycling, directions to resource recovery centres and more.

If you don't have a smartphone or tablet you can access the bin collection calendar on Council's website.

For more information visit [brisbane.qld.gov.au](http://brisbane.qld.gov.au) or phone Council on 3403 8888.



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3403 8888

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## Brisbane's best recycling guide for households



*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*

# Recycling in Brisbane

Brisbane City Council is committed to making Brisbane a cleaner and greener place to live. Every Brisbane resident has a role to play in recycling what we use. Every item you recycle goes a long way to protecting your local environment and reducing waste to landfill.

## Recycling

- ✓ Reduces greenhouse gas emissions.
- ✓ Saves energy and water.
- ✓ Conserves non-renewable resources for future generations.
- ✓ Reduces waste to landfill.
- ✓ Creates more job opportunities than landfill disposal.
- ✓ Empowers everyone to be part of the waste solution.

Council recycles over 72,200 tonnes of paper, cardboard, glass, plastic and metal from Brisbane households through the kerbside recycling service every year. The majority of these items are recycled locally.

All paper and cardboard items are pulped and recycled locally and reprocessed into other usable goods. Plastics, glass and metals are all sorted in bales and sent to a mix of Brisbane-based, and interstate reprocessing partners.

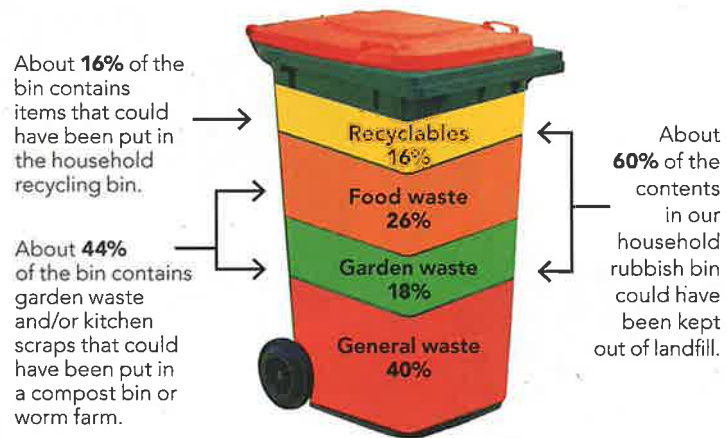
This is a fantastic effort!

Together, we'll get recycling sorted.

# What are we throwing away?

This picture shows what the average Brisbane household puts in their general waste bin each week.

You can help reduce what is sent to landfill by finding out more about what can be recycled and by putting the right items in the right bin.

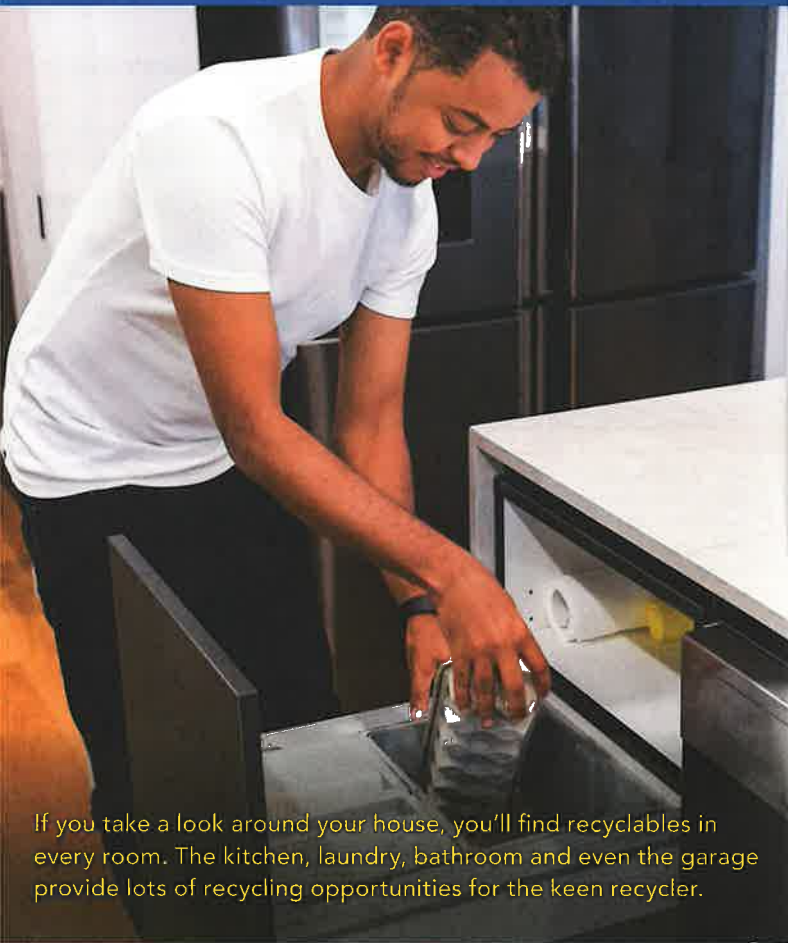


60% of materials within the average Brisbane general waste bin can be diverted from landfill and recycled into other valuable outputs.

Based on an average bin in 2022.



# Recycling around your house



If you take a look around your house, you'll find recyclables in every room. The kitchen, laundry, bathroom and even the garage provide lots of recycling opportunities for the keen recycler.

Place items made from **paper, cardboard, firm plastic, metal (aluminium and steel)** and **glass** in your recycling bin at home. Also be sure to check the packaging for an Australasian Recycling Label.

The Australasian Recycling Label (ARL) is a standardised system that provides you with easy to understand recycling information for packaging of participating brands. It shows what needs to be done with each piece of a package to dispose of it in the best way.



## In the kitchen

### Recycle:

- cereal boxes, egg cartons and pizza boxes (greasy stains are acceptable, food scraps to be removed)
- biscuit trays, milk, juice, cordial bottles, strawberry and other fruit punnet containers
- jam jars, beverage bottles
- paper bags, butcher's paper
- aluminium foil, pie trays and food cans
- oil spray cans.



# What can be placed in your recycling bin?



## In the laundry

### Recycle:

- washing detergent boxes
- all plastic containers (washing liquid, fabric softener, stain remover and cleaning products).

## In the bathroom

### Recycle:

- toilet rolls
- shampoo, conditioner and body wash containers
- hair gel tubs
- aerosol cans (air fresheners, deodorants, hair sprays)
- glass bottles (vitamins)
- empty cleaning product bottles.



## In the garage

### Recycle:

- newspapers
- boxes
- empty aerosols and packaging materials
- all plastic containers and paint tins (empty and dry).

Containers or tins still containing paint, oil or chemicals can be disposed of at one of Council's resource recovery centres. See page 18 for details.

## Paper



Most types of paper can be recycled.



Newspaper, junk mail, brochures, office paper, gift wrapping paper, books, packaging paper, glossy paper and magazines, envelopes (including window envelopes), greeting cards, coloured paper, paper bags and scrap paper.



Padded envelopes, photographs, thermal fax paper, wax-coated paper, tissues, toilet paper, paper towels, baking paper and nappies.



### Why can't we recycle tissues or nappies?

Not only is it unhygienic for items containing bodily fluids to be processed alongside other recyclables, the paper fibres in these items are too short to recycle making it too difficult to recover any worthwhile material.



## Cardboard

✓ Cardboard boxes, milk/juice cartons (e.g. long-life milk and fruit juice cartons/boxes), egg cartons, toy boxes, pizza and cereal boxes, detergent boxes, tissue boxes.

✗ Wax-coated cardboard boxes e.g. fruit boxes.

? **Why can't a wax-coated cardboard box be recycled?**  
The wax covering the box makes it too difficult to recover paper fibres.



## Plastic



Plastic items are sorted using an optical sorting machine which groups similar plastic types together and detects and removes non-recyclable plastics.



All firm and flexible plastic containers such as soft drink bottles, takeaway containers, margarine containers, milk and juice bottles, yoghurt tubs, biscuit and sushi trays, detergent and shampoo bottles can be placed in your recycling bin.



All soft plastics such as plastic bags, plastic film or cling wrap, chip packets, toothpaste tubes, bubble wrap, styrofoam and polystyrene products and disposable nappies. Hard plastics that are not containers such as toys or toothbrushes cannot be recycled.

Soft plastics should not be placed in your household recycling bin as their light-weight nature often results in them getting caught around moving machine parts in the recycling process.



## Metal (aluminium and steel)



All aluminium and steel packaging can be recycled including aerosol cans, paint tins (empty and dry), aluminium foil and pie trays.



Vegetable and food cans, pet food cans, soft drink cans, pie trays, aerosol cans, aluminium foil and paint tins (empty and dry).



Batteries, gas bottles, wire, scrap iron or tin, cutlery and whitegoods.



**What should I do with other metal items that cannot be recycled through the household recycling bin?**

You can dispose of other household items including batteries, gas bottles, scrap metal or whitegoods at one of Council's resource recovery centres. *See page 20 for details.*



## Glass



Only glass used for packaging (e.g. bottles and jars) is collected for recycling through the household recycling bin. Other glass items are manufactured differently and less suitable for recycling.



All clear, green and brown bottles and jars, including jam jars, food jars, sauce bottles, beverage bottles and vitamin bottles.



Drinking glasses, ceramics, window glass, light bulbs, mirror or window glass, heat-proof glass and cookware such as Pyrex.



**Why can't I recycle these items?**

The glass used for bottles and jars is heavy duty and durable, while other glass types are designed for specific uses making them more fragile, transparent or heat resistant. When mixed with recyclable glass, other glass types weaken the new glass products. Glass not suitable for recycling is best to be thrown in your general waste bin.

### Keep lids on

Leave lids on bottles, containers and jars when placing them in your recycling bin. Plastic bottles and containers can be crushed or squashed with the lids replaced on them. This helps to free up space in your recycling bin and ensures the lid is recycled with the bottle.

Lids not attached to bottles are too small to be processed and will end up in landfill.



# Larger recycling bins

## Upgrade the size of your recycling bin

Is your recycling bin full or overflowing by collection day on a regular basis? You can upgrade the size of your recycling bin at no additional cost. Landlords, tenants, owner-occupiers and property investors are all eligible to order a larger recycling bin. Body corporates can order larger recycling bins online.

These larger recycling bins have been ergonomically designed for easy use and provide an additional 120 litre capacity for your household recycling.



Don't let good recycling go to waste. Upgrade your recycling bin today. Visit [brisbane.qld.gov.au](http://brisbane.qld.gov.au) or call Council on **3403 8888**.

# What CANNOT go in my recycling bin?

## Items that CANNOT be placed in your recycling bin include:

- ✗ batteries
- ✗ clothes
- ✗ disposable nappies
- ✗ e-waste
- ✗ food waste
- ✗ garden waste
- ✗ plastic bags
- ✗ wood products

## Food waste

Empty the contents of your containers in your general waste bin or compost system. Containers can have a small amount of residue and will not ruin the whole recycling load. Rinsing is not required, although it helps to reduce odour in your recycling bin. Visit Council's website for information about reducing food waste at home.

## Other contaminants

You can safely dispose of containers that previously held household chemicals in your recycling bin, as long as they are empty and dry.

Oil, paint, batteries and gas bottles cannot be placed in your recycling bin. Drop these off at one of Council's resource recovery centres. See page 18 for details.

Items such as wire, plastic strapping and hoses are not recyclable and should be placed in your general waste bin or disposed of at one of Council's resource recovery centres.

Other hazardous waste items, such as pool chemicals, pesticides, and acids can be safely disposed of at one of Council's free hazardous waste drop-off days. For more information visit [brisbane.qld.gov.au](http://brisbane.qld.gov.au) or phone Council on **3403 8888**.



# Top 10 recycling tips

- 1 Do not put your recyclables in plastic bags.** Instead place the items loose in your recycling bin. Plastic bags cannot be opened at the recycling facility for safety reasons and all the goods inside are sent to landfill.
- 2 Identify recyclable items around the house.** It's easy if you remember that if it is made from **paper, cardboard, firm flexible plastic, metal (aluminium and steel) or glass** it can be put in your recycling bin at home. You can also check for the Australasian Recycling Label (ARL) to help identify how to dispose or recycle the item.
- 3 Look for the new Australasian Recycling Labels.** This is a standardised system that will provide easy to understand recycling information. Remember if an item doesn't have a label and is made from paper, cardboard, glass, metal or firm plastic it can be recycled.
- 4 Aerosol cans are recyclable.** You can safely dispose of all empty aerosol cans and containers that previously held household chemicals in your recycling bin.
- 5 Trust the process.** Do your best to decide if an item can be recycled and trust in Council's state-of-the-art recycling system. Brisbane residents are great recyclers with only 10% of non-recyclables incorrectly placed in the recycling bin.

- 6 Use different bins to collect more.** Make collecting your recyclables at home easier by placing a bin for recyclables in your kitchen, bathroom and laundry. Sorting your recyclables at the point of disposal will help you to recycle more.
- 7 Containers do not need to be rinsed** before being placed in your recycling bin. Although rinsing does reduce bin odours, unrinsed containers will not ruin the whole load of recycling.
- 8 Every little bit counts.** Even making the effort to recycle one or two extra items each week, such as the junk mail from the letterbox or the empty air freshener can from the bathroom, helps to conserve precious resources from going to landfill.
- 9 Know when to remove the lids from containers and bottles.** Only remove the lids from containers and bottles when returning these items to a container refund point, otherwise leave the lids on when placed in your recycling bin.
- 10 Only glass jars and bottles are suitable for recycling.** Drinking glasses, ceramics and heat-proof glass (e.g. Pyrex) melt at a different temperature and cannot be recycled. Put these items in your rubbish bin at home.



# What happens to my recycling?



Your recycling is collected from the kerb by a dedicated recycling truck and transported to Visy's material recovery facility in Brisbane. Here it passes through a series of manual and mechanical sorting processes.

At the beginning of the sorting process, workers attempt to manually remove potentially harmful items such as gas bottles, or items that are not suitable for recycling such as disposable nappies, garden waste, plastic bags or electronics.

The items then travel through several machines that sort the items by size and material type. By the end of the journey, the items have been grouped by material type and are put into bales, ready for sale and reprocessing.

This is very different from what happens to the waste in your rubbish bin, which goes to landfill. After your rubbish bin is collected, it is taken to a Council facility to be crushed and compacted as much as possible. Compacting materials helps to reduce the size of the waste and prolong the space and life of the landfill. After the rubbish has been compacted, it is loaded into large semi-trailers and taken to the landfill site for disposal.



# Recycling at Council's resource recovery centres

## Recycling at Council's resource recovery centres is free and easier than ever before.

Council has upgraded the sites to provide free recycling for vehicles with a Combined Gross Vehicle Mass (CGVM) under 4.5 tonnes.

Green waste and general waste is still accepted and will attract the advertised disposal fees, or you can use Council's vouchers for household waste. When you arrive, please let the staff know what type of material you wish to unload.

The centres are open from 6.30am to 5.45pm every day of the year, including public holidays.

*\* For a list of acceptable items, please see page 20.*



- 📍 **Nudgee Resource Recovery Centre**  
1372 Nudgee Road, Nudgee Beach
- 📍 **Willawong Resource Recovery Centre**  
360 Sherbrooke Road, Willawong
- 📍 **Chandler Resource Recovery Centre**  
728 Tilley Road, Chandler
- 📍 **Ferry Grove Resource Recovery Centre**  
101 Upper Kedron Road, Ferry Grove

## Staying safe

When visiting a resource recovery centre remember to dress appropriately to stay safe. Consider wearing fully enclosed shoes, long pants, protective glasses (e.g. sunglasses), and protective gloves. Children under 12 and family pets are to remain in the vehicle at all times.

If you have a heavy load, bring a friend or family member to help you unload it. Council resource recovery centres are non-smoking sites.



# Recycling at Council's resource recovery centres

Council's resource recovery centres accept a wide range of recyclable items free of charge.



Normal fees apply for disposal of green waste or use your waste vouchers.  
\* The limit for each product applies to residents and commercial operators.



## Treasure Trove donations

Residents can donate items in reusable condition for free at any of the four Council resource recovery centres. Items accepted include household furniture, books, toys; sporting equipment and bric-a-brac in clean, working condition.

Council's two Treasure Troves are open every weekend. They sell quality used, recycled and second-hand products salvaged from landfill.

The Endeavour Foundation operate both Treasure Troves.

Clothing can be donated to charity clothing bins at resource recovery centres.

## Find your nearest Council Treasure Troves

Open weekends only 8am to 4pm

📍 **Southside**

46 Colebard Street West, Acacia Ridge

📍 **Northside**

27A Prosperity Place, Geebung

# Preparing to visit the Resource Recovery Centre

## Pack your load

When planning your trip to the resource recovery centre, it is important to consider the order in which you should pack your waste so it can be easily deposited at the correct processing facility.

Council's resource recovery centres process three different types of waste: recycling, green waste and general waste. Each type of waste is processed in a different area, so separate your items before arriving to make your visit quicker and easier.

To save yourself time and hassle, we suggest packing your load in the following order:

1. Pack general waste first, as this is the final area you will come to at the resource recovery centre.
2. Green waste should be packed in the middle of your load as this is the second area you will visit.
3. Pack recycling last, at the front of your load. The recycling area is the first drop off area of the resource recovery centre.

## Tipping trailer safety

If you choose to use a tipping trailer to dispose of your waste at Resource Recovery Centres, following these steps will ensure the safety of yourself and others.

- ✓ **Slow down** - Slowly reverse your vehicle against the wheel stop.
- ✓ **Mind the edge** - Never lean over the edge of the pit. Remain as far as practical from the edge of the pit at all times.
- ✓ **Think before acting** - If your load does not fully discharge, safely drive forward from the edge of the pit to assist with the process.
- ✓ **Trailer safety** - Do not climb onto your tilted trailer when over or near the pit.

Clean up hazards - Please place all items that fall on the floor from your trailer into the pit.

# Green waste recycling



## Green waste recycling bins

**Green waste recycling bins are an easy and affordable way to recycle your garden waste.**

- Green waste recycling bins are collected fortnightly from your home and the green waste is taken to a green waste recycling facility where it is processed into compost and mulch.

Recycling your lawn clippings, palm fronds, prunings and leaves reduces green waste from going to landfill. For a small quarterly charge on your rates, Council's green waste recycling service is a cost effective and simple way to reduce your landfill waste.

If your green waste output is more than the 240 litre wheelie bin can hold, you can find local businesses that operate garden bag collection services by searching for 'garden bag service' online.



A green waste bin is available to all property owners. Your quarterly service fee will appear on your rates notice. If you are renting, ask your property owner or agent to order the service on your behalf.

To order your new green waste recycling bin visit [brisbane.qld.gov.au](http://brisbane.qld.gov.au) 'green waste recycling service', or call Council now on **3403 8888**.



# Recycling food and garden waste



## Composting food and garden waste

Did you know that more than half of what goes to landfill is food and green waste from our kitchens and gardens?

Composting and worm farming is an inexpensive, natural process that transforms your kitchen and garden waste into a nutrient-rich fertiliser or mulch for your garden. It's easy to make and use.

Everybody can compost no matter how small your outdoor space might be. Compost bins are perfect for even the smallest of backyards, while worm farms fit perfectly on patios or in garages.

### Worm farms can compost:

- ✓ fruit scraps (except for citrus such as oranges, mandarins, lemons and limes)
- ✓ vegetable scraps (except for onions, leeks, garlic and chillies)
- ✓ tea leaves and coffee grounds
- ✓ egg shells.

Establishing a worm farm is a great family activity that your children will love. Get the kids involved by playing Worm World.

See page 33 for details.



## Do you need some help starting out?

Council runs free composting workshops across Brisbane that teach residents how to compost using a bin or worm farm. For more information, call Council on **3403 8888** or visit [brisbane.qld.gov.au](http://brisbane.qld.gov.au)

### Compost bins can compost:

- ✓ fruit and vegetable scraps (even onions and citrus)
- ✓ tea leaves and coffee grounds
- ✓ egg shells
- ✓ grass clippings and straw
- ✓ other garden waste, including prunings and shrubs
- ✓ manure from herbivores e.g. cows and sheep (no cat or dog manure)
- ✓ pet hair
- ✓ shredded paper and cardboard
- ✓ wood ash and untreated sawdust.



# Recycling food and garden waste

## Compost rebate program

Council is making purchasing an organic recycling system easier with a compost rebate program. The program provides residents with a rebate of up to \$70 off the purchase of eligible\* composting equipment.

### Eligible composting equipment includes:

- compost bin or compost tumbler
- compost aerator or compost drill
- worm farm or worm tower
- in-ground composter
- bokashi composting system
- compost monitoring device (e.g. temperature probe, compost sensor).

The rebate is available to Brisbane residents, including tenants. One rebate claim, one item, per household.

Visit [brisbane.qld.gov.au](http://brisbane.qld.gov.au) and search 'compost rebate program' to check your eligibility and find out more.



*\*Consumable products are not eligible as part of the rebate program.*



# Recycling food and garden waste

## Compostable products

Compostable packaging including bamboo plates and cutlery or corn starch bags don't belong in your recycling bin. Bio plastic compostable products must be disposed of in your general waste bin. Home compostable products can be composted in your backyard compost system. Please note these products are not accepted at Council's community composting hubs.

Garden and food waste such as lawn clippings and fruit and vegetable scraps are biodegradable and compostable. Although they are not suitable for your recycling bin, there are other ways to recycle these.

Garden trimmings and lawn clippings can go in your green waste bin (see pages 22-23), composted at home (see pages 24-25), or taken to one of Council's resource recovery centres for mulching (see pages 18-19).

Fruit and vegetable scraps can be composted using a worm farm or compost bin at home (see pages 24-25) or at a community composting hub located at community gardens across Brisbane.



Ideal for compost bin or worm farm



Can't go in your recycling bin at home



## Community composting hubs

Council has partnered with a number of community gardens around Brisbane to help residents turn kitchen scraps into nutrients for the soil. Registered participants are eligible to collect a free kitchen caddy to transport their kitchen fruit and vegetable waste to their local community composting hub.

To find your local community composting hub and register, visit [brisbane.qld.gov.au](https://brisbane.qld.gov.au) and search 'community composting hubs', or phone 3403 8888.



# Businesses and community groups

## Recycling at work is now as easy as recycling at home

When businesses recycle, they help recover valuable resources and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.

Council has taken the hard work out of recycling in the workplace with recycling bins for businesses and customised solutions. It's simple to recycle paper, cardboard, glass, metal and firm plastic all in one bin!

Business recycling is offered as a voluntary, user-pays service with options for weekly or fortnightly collections. Bin sizes range from standard 240 or 360 litre wheelie bins through to 660 litre up to 4.5 cubic metre bulk bin solutions. Costs will depend on size and frequency of the service.

All businesses can download free posters to help staff and customers understand what can be recycled.

## Recycling for community groups

Council supports not-for-profit community groups reducing waste to landfill. If your community group is a registered charity with a Council waste collection service, you may be eligible for a free recycling service.

## Business recycling support

Council can help improve the way your business manages waste and resources.

### The program provides:

- free expert waste reduction and recycling advice for businesses
- access to online tools and resources
- access to education sessions or toolbox talks for your staff
- assistance in running waste audits with a focus on identifying contamination in your bins
- an option to register for Council's user pays business recycling service.



Call Council on **3403 8888** or visit **[brisbane.qld.gov.au](http://brisbane.qld.gov.au)** to place an order or for more information regarding education and free online resources.



# Recycling at early learning centres and schools

## Does your early learning centre, kindergarten or school reduce waste and recycle?

Council provides waste education programs, teacher resources and bin options to encourage recycling and to help educate future generations. Teachers can arrange an excursion to the Towards Zero Waste Education Centre or borrow a free waste audit kit.

The Waste Smart Kindy program provides free online professional development for educators and early learning centres can become recognised as a Waste Smart Kindy.



## Free for kids!

Get the kids involved in recycling and worm farming at home! Download Lunchtime Legends and Worm World free from the App Store.

### Lunchtime Legends

It's lunchtime and the race is on to recycle! Sort the falling rubbish into the two school bins, and beat the clock and your friends to become Brisbane's best recycler. Once you've mastered lunchtime recycling, take your knowledge home and become the king of recycling. But watch out for the possums who will try to raid your bins!



### Worm World

Meet with nature's cutest recyclers and take charge of your very own worm farm. They're sensitive little creatures, so keep your worm farm healthy! Watch out for the rats and other nasties that will invade and wreak havoc in your worm farm.



This is a great way for children to learn about worm farms and organic recycling.





## Translation Help

To have this information translated, call **131 450** and ask to speak to Brisbane City Council on **3403 8888**.

### Hindi:

यदि आप 131 450 पर फोन करके, 3403 8888

पर ब्रिसबैन सिटी काउंसिल से बात करने का आग्रह करें तो यह सूचना आपको हिन्दी में भी मिल सकती है।

### Vietnamese:

Tin tức này có thể được dịch sang tiếng Việt bằng cách gọi số 131 450

và xin được nói chuyện với Hội Đồng Thành Phố Brisbane qua số 3403 8888.

### Korean:

본정보는한국어로번역가능합니다.한국어번역을원하시면 131 450

번으로전화하시거나브리스번시청에 3403 8888 번으로연락해주시오.

### Traditional Chinese:

可透過致電 131 450 並要求與布里斯本市政廳（電話號碼：

3403 8888）通話，將本資訊譯成中文。

### Arabic:

يمكن ترجمة هذه المعلومات إلى اللغة العربية بالاتصال بالرقم 131 450 وطلب التحدث إلى مجلس

مدينة بريزبن على الرقم 3403 8888.

