


Building our Regions

Cherbourg Material Recovery Facility Upgrade

 Funding*			
	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
Total project cost	\$499,000	\$520,985	\$499,000
BoR funding	\$499,000	\$499,000	\$489,000
Council funding		\$21,985	\$10,000

The upgrade of the Cherbourg Material Recovery Facility, being funded through the Department of State Development's Building our Regions program, is laying the foundations for economic development and jobs in the community.

Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council has secured a total of \$1,487,000 in three Building our Regions funding rounds, and is contributing nearly \$32,000 of council money, to increase the facility's annual output from 250 tonnes up to an estimated 3,500 tonnes, once stage three of the upgrade is completed.

This will ensure the Cherbourg Material Recovery Facility—the first in a remote Indigenous community in the country and the South Burnett's first and only recycling centre—can service existing contractual arrangements and unlock new opportunities with other businesses and local governments within the Wide Bay Burnett region.

The number of jobs at the recycling centre is expected to rise from five to seven full-time equivalents, along with opportunities for training.

And with plans for an educational centre attached to the facility, schoolchildren and visitors will also be able to learn about the environmental and economic benefits of recycling—all thanks to the Building our Regions program.

Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council Project Manager Andrew Beckett Snr says the centre is a win-win for the community and the region.

"It's good for the Cherbourg community but if you look at the overall impact it's going to make, it's going to be a service that provides for the whole South Burnett region, which is very important," Mr Beckett Snr said.



“We’re starting at the level of kerbside recycling with a little bit of commercial waste, but that’s where we’re crawling then we’re going to walk – for us to start running, once the recycling plant is processing the basic commodities we need to reduce landfill, the diversity of recycling then will be different – we can branch into plastics, steel ... all those other areas depending on what the market dictates.

“I’m hoping we can capitalise on that to increase more employment and more economic development.”



A win-win for community and the region: (from left) Andrew Beckett Jnr; Manager Andrew Beckett Snr; Damian Selby and Thomas Weazel welcome the opportunities the plant upgrade will deliver.

* Funding amounts referenced are as approved.