

Maroochydore, Sunshine Coast

Case Study

Segment : Smart City

Client : Sunshine Coast Council

Type : Mixed-use

Location : Maroochydore City, Australia

Australia's First City-Wide Automated Waste Collection System

The Sunshine Coast Council launched the Maroochydore City Centre project in 2016 as a model for sustainable urban living. Envac's Automated Waste Collection System (AWCS) was selected as a key component of this visionary development. The project represents Australia's first large-scale integration of underground automated waste collection. It aligns with the city's ambition to become the country's most sustainable urban community.

By 2035, the city centre will include 4,000 new homes, commercial hubs, and cultural facilities. The system eliminates the need for traditional waste trucks and visible bins. Waste from residential, commercial, and public areas is deposited into inlets connected to an underground pipe network.

2 waste types
general waste, mixed recyclables

9 tons/day
design capacity

2.3 pipe length(km)
for stage 1

4,000 residential units
when fully completed

2021 operation start
for stage 1

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The sealed design prevents odours and pests, improving hygiene and public aesthetics. Waste is automatically transported to a central collection station, reducing heavy vehicle traffic and improving urban safety and cleanliness.

The first construction phase, including the collection station, was completed in 2019. Commissioning and commercial operation began in 2021. As new buildings are completed, they are gradually connected to the system network. Full development of the Maroochydore City Centre is planned for completion by 2041.

Envac Team Australia oversees daily operations, maintenance, and optimisation. *Operations Manager, Ian Pritchard,* uses advanced monitoring tools to ensure consistent system performance. The team also engages with the community through educational tours and sustainability programs.

The project demonstrates how automation supports cleaner, quieter, and safer city environments. It highlights the potential of smart infrastructure to reduce CO_2 emissions and operational costs.

Maroochydore now stands as a national benchmark for sustainable urban development powered by Envac technology.

"I think the city has a really strong focus on smart city technology, and certainly the technology that we have implemented here with the automated waste collection system and the work that we do with Envac is absolutely an Australian first, and it really demonstrates the possibility of what a future city can look like."

Amanda Yeates
Former CEO, SunCentral Maroochydore Australia

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