



# 2015–16

## State of the Environment Snapshot

A State of the Environment (SoE) Report is an important management tool which aims to provide the community and Local Council with information on the condition of the environment in the local area to assist in decision-making.

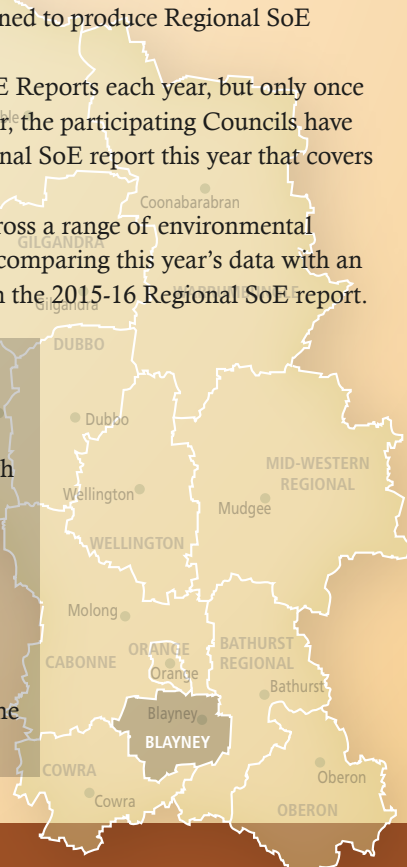
Since 2007, the Councils of the Greater Central West Region of NSW (see map) have joined to produce Regional SoE Reports as part of Council reporting requirements.

Changes to NSW legislation mean that Councils are no longer required to produce SoE Reports each year, but only once every four years, in the year of the Council election (this year for some Councils). However, the participating Councils have decided to continue reporting on an annual basis so that they can provide a detailed Regional SoE report this year that covers trends in the intervening years.

This is a brief snapshot of data for the Blayney Local Government Area in 2015-16 across a range of environmental indicators as shown in the tables below. The tables provide an understanding of trends by comparing this year's data with an average of previous years. The Council snapshot report should be read in conjunction with the 2015-16 Regional SoE report.

### 2015-16 Highlights

- ⬇ There was an increase in complaints to Council about landuse matters compared with the last three years.
- ⬇ The number of native fish restocked in local streams declined significantly from the levels of the past three years.
- ⬆ There was a substantial increase in the area of roadside vegetation rehabilitated over previous years.
- ⬆ Volunteers spent 350 hours working on environmental projects this year.
- ⬆ Council used considerably less office paper this year, a trend that has continued for the past three years.



### Land

Issue	Indicator	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Trend
Contamination	Contaminated land sites - Contaminated Land Register (Number)	0	0	0	0	➡
	Contaminated land sites - potentially contaminated sites (Number)	15	24	24	24	⬇
	Contaminated sites rehabilitated (Number)	0	0	0	0	➡
Erosion	Erosion affected land rehabilitated (ha)	0	0	0	0	➡
Land use planning and management	Number of development consents and building approvals	161	130	100	166	⬇
	Landuse conflict complaints (Number)	0	0	0	5	⬇
	Loss of primary agricultural land through rezoning (ha)	0	0	0	0	➡
Minerals & Petroleum	Number of mining and exploration titles	36	45	46	47	⬇
	Area covered by mining and exploration titles (ha)	127K	131K		132K	⬇



improvement



no or little change



worsening trend

Note - the trend is based on comparing the average of the three previous years of reporting with 2015-16

# Biodiversity

Issue	Indicator	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Trend
Habitat Loss	Total Area in the National Parks Estate (ha)			0	0	→
	Total Area of State Forests (ha)			1,789	1,789	→
	Total Area Protected in Wildlife Refuges (ha)	12,608	12,608		12,608	→
	Total Area protected in conservation reserves & under voluntary conservation agreements (ha)	126	126	126	126	→
	Proportion of Council reserves that is bushland/remnant vegetation		0%	0%	0%	→
	Habitat areas revegetated (ha)		0	20	20	↑
	Roadside vegetation management plan	1	1	1	1	→
Threatened Species	Roadside vegetation rehabilitated (ha)			2	12	↑
	Threatened species actions implemented (e.g. PAS, recovery plans) (Number)	0	0	2	1	↑
Noxious weeds and feral animals	Fish restocking activities: native species (Number of fish)	10,000	15,000	11,000	8,000	↓
	Fish restocking activities: non-native species (Number of fish)	62,000	54,000	64,000	64,000	↓
	Number of declared noxious weeds	107	66	125	125	↓
	Invasive species (listed noxious or WONS) under active management (Number of species)	0	0	8	8	↑

# Towards Sustainability

Issue	Indicator	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Trend
Waste Generation	Total waste entombed at primary landfill (tonnes)	4,503	4,500	4,002	6,002	↓
	Total waste entombed at other landfills (exc recyclables) (tonnes)	0	200	0	0	↑
	Average total waste generated per person (tonnes)	0.62	0.64	0.54	0.83	↓
	Average cost of waste service per residential household	\$300	\$310	\$310	\$370	↓
Hazardous/Liquid Waste	DrumMuster collections (number of drums)	0	0	0	0	→
	Household Hazardous Wastes collected (kg)	1,065	1,203	921	2,308	↑
Reduce	Garden organics collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	587	1,026	140	129	↓
	E-Waste collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	2	20	0	4	↓
Recycle	Volume of material recycled (tonnes)	1,133	370	1,239	1,015	↑
	Volume of material recycled per person (kg)	156	50	167	135	↑
Littering and illegal dumping	Number of illegal waste disposal complaints to Council	0	0	0	1	↓
Risk Management	Flood management plans/ flood mapping - increase in area covered (ha)	0	0	1	0	↓
	Hazard reduction burns (Number)		0	0	0	→
Climate Change Mitigation	Office paper used by Council (A4 and A3 reams)		730	648	417	↓
Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Annual electricity consumption for Council controlled facilities (MWh)	692	599	599	687	↓
	Annual natural gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (GJ)		408	40	27	↑
	Annual bottled gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (L)		40	3	0	↑
	Total fuel consumption (KL)		272	305	344	↓
	Council total operational greenhouse gas emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> -e/year)	3,480	4,917	4,672	4,654	↓
Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Small scale renewable energy uptake (kW installed)	217	365	241	311	↑
	Number of solar water heaters and heat pumps installed	10	9	9	8	↓



# Water and Waterways

Issue	Indicator	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Trend
Surface & Ground Water Quality	E.coli remote from wastewater treatment plants (per 100ml)		0	0	0	→
Riparian	Riparian vegetation recovery actions (Number)	0	2	3	3	↑
	Riparian vegetation recovery area (ha)	0	1	10	10	↑
Industrial/ Agricultural Pollution	Load Based Licencing Volume (kg)		0	0	0	→
	Exceedances of license discharge consent recorded		0	0	0	→
	Erosion & Sediment Control complaints received by Council (Number)	8	0	0	0	↑
Stormwater Pollution	Number of gross pollutant traps installed	2	2	2	2	→
	Total catchment area of GPTs (ha)	253	253	253	253	→
	Water pollution complaints (Number)		0	0	0	→
Dam Levels	Average dam levels	85.9%	47.5%	22.8%	14.2%	↓
Water extraction	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from surface water sources		61	62	46	↑
	Volume of surface water permissible for extraction under licences (GL)		102	108	108	↓
	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from groundwater resources	735	688	702	722	↓
	Volume of groundwater permissible for extraction under licences (GL)	2.7	0.9	1.9	1.8	→
	Actual volume extracted through groundwater licences (GL)			0.01	0.25	↓
Council water consumption	Area of irrigated Council managed parks, sportsgrounds, public open space (ha)	24	24	24	24	→
	Water used by council for irrigation (including treated and untreated) (ML)	4	4	5	23	↓
Town water consumption	Annual metered supply (ML)		536	532	574	↓
	Annual consumption (Total from WTP) (ML)		536	532	574	↓
	Average level of water restrictions implemented		0.0	0.0	0.0	→
	Water conservation programs (Number)		0	0	0	→
Town Water Quality	Number of instances drinking water guidelines not met		0	0	0	→
	Number of drinking water complaints	0	9	40	21	↓

# People and Communities

Issue	Indicator	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Trend
Active community involvement	Environmental volunteers working on public open space (hrs)	0	0	0	350	↑
	Number of environmental community engagement programs	0	0	1	1	↑
	Number of growers markets/local food retailers specialising in local food	2	2	14	14	↑
Indigenous Heritage	Number of Indigenous sites on AHIMS register		37	39	40	↑
	Inclusion in DCPs & rural strategies (Yes or No)	No	No	No	No	→
	Extent of liaison with Indigenous communities (self-assessed from 0 = none to 3 = High)	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	↓
	Development approvals on listed Indigenous sites (Number)	0	0	0	0	→
	Number of Indigenous heritage management actions/responses		0	0	0	→
Non-Indigenous Heritage	NSW Heritage Items (Number)	14	14	13	14	→
	Locally listed heritage items (Number)	322	350	350	345	↑
	Actions to protect non-Indigenous heritage (including management plans) (Number)	1	1	2	2	↑
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists demolished/degraded in past year (Number)	0	0	1	0	↑
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists renovated/improved in past year (Number)	15	19	12	9	↓



## **CASE STUDY: Revive! Rehabilitation of the Belubula River at Pound Flat (Blayney LGA)**

Blayney Shire Council has completed willow removal works which are the single largest component of a project to rehabilitate the Belubula River at Pound Flat.

In developing the project budget Council overestimated both the cost of the willow and other woody weed removal, as well as the cost of re-snagging this part of the river to provide in-stream habitat. This being the case Council will allocate the residual funds towards the cost of tub-grinding the removed timber for use as mulch on-site, rather than burning it. This will increase the environmental outcomes of the project by suppressing weed growth.

Interpretive signage will be installed along the adjacent pathway to raise awareness of the project and the harmful effects of willows on local waterways.

The local Landcare group will continue to maintain the site through ongoing weed control, planting and watering. To encourage the broader community to get involved at the site, the regular working bees will be advertised at the site, in the local paper and also on local radio. To date good outcomes have been achieved through Council working with the Landcare group and neighbours.

The next stage of the project, will engage the community in the erection of nest boxes which are being constructed by the local high school. Local schools were also invited to join in tree planting at the site as part of National Tree day in July.

The project has gained the support of DPI Fisheries, which will use it to show-case the benefits of such rehabilitation works to the wider community.

This project has been assisted by the NSW Government through its Environmental Trust.



Belubula River looking downstream of the level crossing at the east of the project area before the project commenced. (28/01/2015) (top picture); looking downstream after project completion. (08/01/2016) (bottom picture).



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