



2013-14

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.

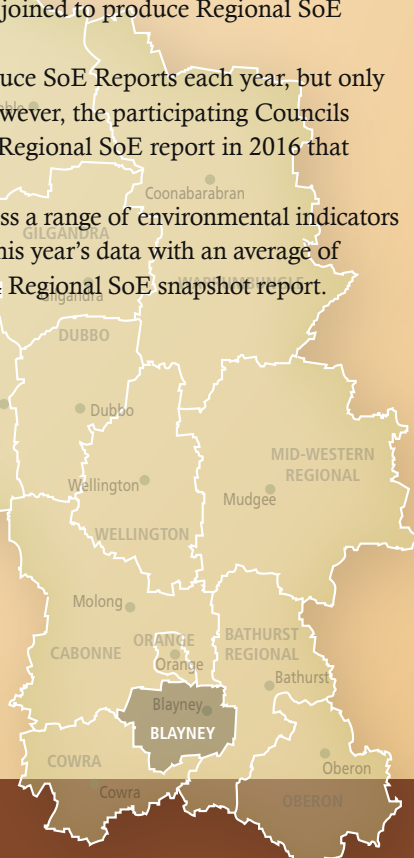
Since 2007, the Councils of the Greater Central West Region of NSW (see map) have joined to produce Regional SoE Reports as part of Council reporting requirements.

Recent 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 (which will next be in 2016). However, the participating Councils have decided to continue reporting on an annual basis so that they can provide a detailed Regional SoE report in 2016 that covers trends in the intervening years.

This is a brief snapshot of data for the Blayney Local Government Area in 2013-14 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 2013-14 Regional SoE snapshot report.

2013-14 Highlights

- ⬇ Potentially contaminated land sites increased by almost 50% to 24%.
- ⬆ Riparian vegetation recovery was reported for the first time, with Council undertaking white box woodland tree planting at Carcoar and Blayney.
- ⬆ There were no Erosion and Sediment Control complaints received by Council compared with eight received last year.
- ⬆ There were an increasing number of heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists renovated or improved over the past three years.
- ⬆ The 20 tonnes of E-waste collected through the NetWaste contract was almost 20% of the total for the entire region.



Land

Issue	Indicator	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	Trend
Contamination	Contaminated land sites - Contaminated Land Register	0	0	0	0	➡
	Contaminated land sites - potentially contaminated sites	14	14	15	24	⬇
	Contaminated sites rehabilitated	0	0	0	0	➡
Erosion	Erosion affected land rehabilitated (ha)		0	0	0	➡
Land use planning and management	Number of development consents and building approvals	126	151	161	130	⬆
	Landuse conflict complaints	4	0	0	0	⬆
	Loss of primary agricultural land through rezoning			0	0	➡
Minerals & Petroleum	Number of mining and exploration titles			36	45	⬇
	Area covered by mining and exploration titles (ha)			127,000	131,000	⬇

⬆ improvement ➡ no or little change ⬇ worsening trend

Note - the trend is based on comparing the average of the three previous years of reporting with 2014-14

Biodiversity

Issue	Indicator	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	Trend
Habitat Loss	Total area protected in Wildlife Refuges (ha)	12,608	12,608	12,608	12,608	→
	Total area protected in conservation reserves & under voluntary conservation agreements (ha)	126	126	126	126	→
	Roadside vegetation management plan	1	1	1	1	→
Threatened Species	Fish restocking activities: native species	30,000	17,000	10,000	15,000	↓
Noxious weeds and feral animals	Fish restocking activities: non-native species	58,000	62,000	62,000	54,000	↑
	Number of declared noxious weeds	100	107	107	66	↑
	Invasive species (listed noxious or WONS) under active management	0	0	0	0	→

Towards Sustainability

Issue	Indicator	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	Trend
Waste Generation	Total waste entombed at primary landfill (tonnes)	5,380	5,120	4,503	4,500	↑
	Total waste entombed at other landfills (exc recyclables) (tonnes)	102	80	0	200	↓
	Average total waste generated per person (tonnes)	0.76	0.72	0.62	0.64	↑
	Average cost of waste service per residential household	\$240	\$280	\$300	\$310	↓
Hazardous/ Liquid Waste	Household Hazardous Wastes collected (kg)		429	1,065	1,203	↑
Reduce	Garden organics collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	711	473	587	1,026	↑
	E-Waste collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	3	3	2	20	↑
Recycle	Volume of material recycled (tonnes)	864	552	1,133	370	↓
	Volume of material recycled per person (kg)	119	77	156	50	↓
Littering and illegal dumping	Number of illegal waste disposal complaints to Council	0	0	0	0	→
Engineering, Infrastructure and Civil Works	New road construction (km)	0	0	8	0	↑
	Road upgrades (km)	17	28	6	19	↓
Climate Change Mitigation	Office paper used by Council (A4 reams)		127		730	↓
	Council sustainability initiatives		0		1	↑
Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Annual electricity consumption for Council controlled facilities (MWh)	938	682	692	599	↑
	Annual natural gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (Gj)		442		408	↑
	Total fuel consumption (KL)		279		272	↑
	Council total operational greenhouse gas emissions (tCO ₂ -e/year)			3,480	4,917	↓
Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Small scale renewable energy uptake (kw installed)		124	217	365	↑



Water and Waterways

Issue	Indicator	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	Trend
Riparian	Riparian vegetation recovery actions	0	0	0	2	↑
	Riparian vegetation recovery area (ha)	0	0	0	1	↑
Industrial/ Agricultural Pollution	Load Based Licencing Fees (\$)		0		0	→
	Exceedances of license discharge consent recorded		0		0	→
	Erosion & Sediment Control complaints received by Council	0	2	8	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		0		0	→
Dam Levels	Average dam levels	44.1%	89.1%	83.2%	47.1%	↓
Water extraction	Number of irrigation licences from surface water sources			89	61	↑
	Volume of surface water permissible for extraction under licences (GL)			37	102	↓
	Number of bore licences from groundwater resources			735	688	↑
	Volume of groundwater permissible for extraction under licences (GL)			3	0.9	↑
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)	7	4	4	4	↑
Town Water Quality	Number of instances drinking water guidelines not met		0		0	→
	Number of drinking water complaints	20	6	0	9	↓

People and Communities

Issue	Indicator	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	Trend
Active community involvement	Environmental volunteers working on public open space (hrs)	85	0	0	0	↓
Aboriginal Heritage	Inclusion in DCPs & rural strategies	0	1	1	1	↑
	Extent of liaison with Aboriginal communities (self-assessed from 0 = none to 3 = High)	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	↓
	Development approvals on listed aboriginal sites	1	0	0	0	↑
	Number of indigenous heritage management actions/responses		0		0	→
Non-Aboriginal Heritage	NSW Heritage Items	14	13	14	14	↑
	Locally listed heritage items	126	355	322	350	↑
	Actions to protect non-aboriginal heritage (including management plans)	1	1	1	1	→
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists demolished/ degraded in past year	0	0	0	0	→
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists renovated/improved in past year	6	11	15	19	↑

CASE STUDY: Carcoar Catholic Church (Blayney LGA)

Historically, Carcoar has an important place in the development of the Central West region. It was the third official town to be established west of the Blue Mountains and served as an important administrative centre for much of the nineteenth century. The lack of twentieth century intrusions into the town is unusual and has ensured that Carcoar has retained its strong historic character, its aesthetic qualities being reinforced by its setting in the Belubula River valley.

The Carcoar Catholic Church and its wall were built in 1869 by convict labour and is a locally listed heritage building. The wall had stood for 144 years before collapsing as a consequence of heavy rainfall and the cumulative effects of a lack of an appropriate foundation, poor construction, a minimal lime content of the original mortar and a lack of maintenance.

Blayney Shire Council through its local heritage assistance was able to assist with the restoration of the multi-coloured sandstone wall at the Immaculate Conception Church. Work on the restoration of the wall was completed in May of 2014.



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