



2016–17

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. However, the participating Councils have decided to continue reporting on an annual basis so that they can provide a detailed Regional SoE report that covers trends in the intervening years.

This is a brief snapshot of data for the Blayney Local Government Area in 2016-17 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 2016-17 Regional SoE report.

2016-17 Highlights

- ⬇ There was a large increase in the number of potentially contaminated land sites in the LGA compared with the previous three years.
- ⬆ The number of drinking water complaints received by Council was the lowest recorded in the past four years.
- ⬇ Annual water consumption in 2016-17 was greater than in the three previous years.
- ⬆ The number of hours that volunteers worked on environmental projects increased in 2016-17 compared with previous years.
- ⬆ The household hazardous wastes collected rose in 2016-17 from previous years.

Land

Issue	Indicator	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-07	Trend
Contamination	Contaminated land sites - Contaminated Land Register (Number)	0	0	0	0	➡
	Contaminated land sites - potentially contaminated sites (Number)	24	24	24	123	⬇
	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	130	100	166	122	⬆
	Landuse conflict complaints (Number)	0	0	5	10	⬇
	Loss of primary agricultural land through rezoning (ha)	0	0	0	0	➡
Minerals & Petroleum	Number of mining and exploration titles	45	46	47	47	⬇
	Area covered by mining and exploration titles (ha)	131,000		132,000	133,000	➡

⬆ improvement ➡ no or little change ⬇ worsening trend

Note - the trend is based on comparing the average of the three previous years of reporting with 2016-17

Biodiversity

Issue	Indicator	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-07	Trend
Habitat Loss	Total Area in the National Parks Estate (ha)			0	0	→
	Total Area of State Forests (ha)		1,789	1,789	1,796	→
	Total Area Protected in Wildlife Refuges (ha)	12,608		12,608	12,608	→
	Area protected in conservation reserves & under voluntary conservation agreements (ha)	126	126	126	126	→
	Extent of Traveling Stock Reserves in LGA (ha)			245	216	→
	Proportion of Council reserves that is bushland/remnant vegetation	0%	0%	0%	0%	→
	Habitat areas revegetated (ha)	0	20	20	20	↑
	Roadside vegetation management plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	→
	Roadside vegetation rehabilitated (ha)		2	12	8	↑
Threatened Species	Threatened species actions implemented (e.g. PAS, recovery plans) (Number)	0	2	1	0	↓
	Fish restocking activities: native species (Number)	15,000	11,000	8,000	10,000	↓
Noxious weeds and feral animals	Fish restocking activities: non-native species (Number)	54,000	64,000	64,000	66,100	↓
	Number of declared noxious weeds	66	125	125	95	↑
	Invasive species (listed noxious or WONS) under active management (Number)	0	8	8	8	↑

Towards Sustainability

Issue	Indicator	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-07	Trend
Waste Generation	Total waste entombed at primary landfill (tonnes)	4,500	4,002	6,090	5,830	↓
	Total waste entombed at other landfills (exc recyclables) (tonnes)	200	0	0	0	↑
	Average total waste generated per person (tonnes)	0.64	0.54	0.83	0.79	↓
	Average cost of waste service per residential household	\$310	\$310	\$370	\$400	↓
Hazardous/Liquid Waste	DrumMuster collections (number of drums)	0	0	0	0	→
	Household Hazardous Wastes collected (kg)	1,203	921	2,308	3,442	↑
Reduce	Organics collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	1,026	140	129	98	↓
	E-Waste collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	20	0	4	10	↑
Recycle	Volume of material recycled (tonnes)	370	1,239	1,015	225	↓
	Volume of material recycled per person (kg)	50	167	138	30	↓
Littering and illegal dumping	Number of illegal waste disposal complaints to Council	0	0	1	6	↓
Engineering, Infrastructure and Civil Works	New road construction (km)		0		1	→
	Road upgrades (km)		29		41	↓
Risk Management	Hazard reduction burns (Number)	0	0	0	2	→
Climate Change Mitigation	Office paper used by Council (A4 & A3 reams)	730	648	417	522	↑
	Council sustainability initiatives (Number)		1		0	↓
	Council mitigation initiatives (number)		1		0	↓
Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Annual electricity consumption for Council controlled facilities (MWh)	599	599	687	770	↓
	Annual natural gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (Gj)	408	40	27	4,849	↓
	Annual bottled gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (L)	40	3	0	0	↑
	Total fuel consumption (KL)	272	305	344	401	↓
	Proportion of Council's electrical energy demand met from council-owned renewable energy infrastructure			0.0%	0.0%	→
	Council total operational greenhouse gas emissions (tCO ₂ -e/year)	4,917	4,672	4,654	5,123	↓
Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Small scale renewable energy uptake (kW installed) – data collected 30 July 2017	365	241	311	230	↓
	Number of solar water heaters and heat pumps installed	9	9	8	4	↓



Water and Waterways

Issue	Indicator	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-07	Trend
Surface & Ground Water Quality	E.coli remote from wastewater treatment plants (per 100ml)	0	0	0	194	↓
Riparian	Riparian vegetation recovery actions (Number)	2	3	3	3	↑
	Riparian vegetation recovery area (ha)	1	10	10	10	↑
Industrial/ Agricultural Pollution	Load Based Licencing Volume (kg)	0	0	0	78	↓
	Exceedances of license discharge consent recorded (Number)	0	0	0	2	↓
	Erosion & Sediment Control complaints received by Council (Number)	0	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	0	→
Town Water Quality	Number of instances drinking water guidelines not met	0	0	0	0	→
	Number of drinking water complaints	9	40	21	5	↑
Dam Levels	Average dam levels	47.5%	22.8%	14.2%		
Water extraction	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from surface water sources	61	62	46	50	↑
	Volume of surface water permissible for extraction under licences (GL)	102	108	108	114	↓
	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from groundwater resources	688	702	722	737	↓
	Volume of groundwater permissible for extraction under licences (GL)	0.9	1.9	1.8	2.8	→
	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	5	23	23	↓
Town water consumption	Annual metered supply (ML)	536	532	574		
	Annual consumption (Total from WTP) (ML)	536	532	574	625	↓
	Average annual household mains potable water usage (kL)			177.7	170.2	↑
	Average level of water restrictions implemented	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	→
	Water conservation programs (Number)	0	0	0	0	→

People and Communities

Issue	Indicator	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-07	Trend
Active community involvement	Environmental volunteers working on public open space (hrs)	0	0	350	450	↑
	Number of environmental community engagement programs	0	1	1	3	↑
	Number of growers markets/local food retailers specialising in local food	2	14	14	14	↑
Indigenous Heritage	Number of Indigenous sites on AHIMS register	37	39	40	41	↑
	Inclusion in DCPs & rural strategies	No	No	No	No	→
	Extent of liaison with Indigenous communities (self-assessed from 0 = none to 3 = High)	0.0	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	0	→
Non-Indigenous Heritage	NSW Heritage Items (Number)	14	13	14	13	↓
	Locally listed heritage items (Number)	350	350	345	342	↓
	Actions to protect non-Indigenous heritage (including management plans) (Number)	1	2	2	2	↑
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists demolished/degraded in past year (Number)	0	1	0	0	↑
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists renovated/improved in past year (Number)	19	12	9	8	↓

CASE STUDY: Closure of the Neville Landfill Site (Blayney LGA)

On 20 June 2016, Council resolved to close the Neville Landfill after approximately thirty years of operation. Prior to the resolution to close the Neville landfill site, significant community engagement was undertaken which included 170 direct letters to properties within seven kilometres of the landfill. Nine written submissions were received by Council in response to the correspondence.

The landfill site ceased receiving waste on 3 July 2016 preventing the need for the excavation of a new trench and the expansion of the waste footprint. By August 2016, all surface waste had been removed with six test holes confirming that a majority of the waste footprint already had the required amount of capping cover. On 28 September 2016, Council received EPA endorsement of the proposed closure plan.

As a result of the closure, Council established a Community Recycling Station (CRS) comprising six 240 litre recycling bins collected fortnightly as part of the Domestic Waste Collection Contract. The CRS was established in response to the community highlighting the need to retain recycling options for the Neville region. This recycling station has ensured that the Neville community and wider region have access to recycling facilities at any time whilst also preventing recyclable materials from being deposited at the Blayney Waste Facility.

The initial closure plan proposed that a cap of 300mm of shredded green waste be used to cover the final capping. However, on 26 May 2017 the EPA endorsed a modified closure plan where the final capping soil would be sown with grass seed to establish grass cover. The project was completed on 21 June 2017 and was delivered 30% under budget.



Caption



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