



# 2018-19

# 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 2018-19 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.

## 2018-19 Highlights

- ↑ Landuse conflict complaints were at their lowest level in the past four years.
- ↑ Restocking of native fish species into local streams was at its highest level in the past three years.
- ↓ Water consumption in 2018-19 was lower than last year but greater than the average for the past three years.
- ↑ The volume of material recycled in 2018-19 was significantly higher than the previous three years.
- ↓ Council's total greenhouse emissions were at their highest level in the past four years.

## Land

Issue	Indicator	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Trend
Contamination	Contaminated land sites - Contaminated Land Register (number)	0	0	0	0	→
	Contaminated land sites - potentially contaminated sites (number)	24	123	123	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	166	110	121	136	↓
	Landuse conflict complaints (number)	5	10	2	0	↑
	Loss of primary agricultural land through rezoning (ha)	0	0	0	0	→
Minerals & Petroleum	Number of mining and exploration titles	47	47	47	61	→
	Area covered by mining and exploration titles (ha)	132,000	133,000	135,000	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 2018-19

# Biodiversity



Issue	Indicator	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Trend
Habitat Loss	Total Area in the National Parks Estate (ha)	0	0	0	0	→
	Total Area of State Forests (ha)	1,796	1,796	1,796	1,796	→
	Total Area Protected in Wildlife Refuges (ha)	12,608	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)		216		237	↑
	Proportion of Council reserves that is bushland/remnant vegetation	0%	0%	0%	0%	→
	Habitat areas revegetated (ha)	20	20	10	1	↓
	Roadside vegetation management plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	→
	Roadside vegetation rehabilitated (ha)	12	8	12	0	↓
Threatened Species	Threatened species actions implemented (e.g. PAS, recovery plans) (number)	1	0	3	3	↑
	Fish restocking activities: native species (number)	8,000	10,000	15,000	16,000	↑
Noxious weeds and feral animals	Fish restocking activities: non-native species (number)	64,000	66,100	36,000	65,000	↓
	Number of declared priority weeds	125	95	95	96	↑
	Invasive species (listed priority or WONS) under active management (number)	8	8	8	8	→

# Towards Sustainability

Issue	Indicator	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Trend
Waste Generation	Total waste entombed at primary landfill (tonnes)	6,090	5,830	4,690	4,620	↑
	Total waste entombed at other landfills (exc recyclables) (tonnes)	0	0	0	0	→
	Average total waste generated per person (tonnes)	0.83	0.79	0.63	0.63	↑
	Average cost of waste service per residential household	\$370	\$400	\$412	\$404	↓
Hazardous/Liquid Waste	DrumMuster collections (number of drums)	0	0	0	0	→
	Household Hazardous Wastes collected (kg)	2,308	3,442	2,593	3,233	↑
Reduce	Organics collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	129	98	0	224	↑
	E-Waste collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	4	10	7	20	↑
Recycle	Volume of material recycled (tonnes)	1,015	720	959	1,440	↑
	Volume of material recycled per person (kg)	138	98	129	196	↑
Littering and illegal dumping	Number of illegal waste disposal complaints to Council	1	6	5	4	→
Engineering, Infrastructure and Civil Works	New road construction (km)		1	0	0	↑
	Road upgrades (km)		41	36	36	↑
Risk Management	Flood management plans/ flood mapping - increase in area covered (ha)			0	0	→
	Hazard reduction burns (number)	0	2	2	0	↑
Climate Change Mitigation	Office paper used by Council (A4 & A3 reams)	417	522	439	464	↓
	Council sustainability initiatives (number)		0	0	0	→
	Council mitigation initiatives (number)		0	0	0	→
Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Annual electricity consumption for Council controlled facilities (MWh)	687	770	702	982	↓
	Annual natural gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (GJ)	27	1,293	22	40	↑
	Annual bottled gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (L)	0	0	7,653	8,206	↓
	Total fuel consumption (KL)	344	401	460	685	↓
	Proportion of Council's electrical energy demand met from council-owned renewable energy infrastructure	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.0%	→
	Council total operational greenhouse gas emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> -e/year)	4,654	5,123	5,232	5,804	↓
Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Small scale renewable energy uptake (kw installed) (kW)	311	230	438	723	↑
	Number of solar water heaters and heat pumps installed	8	4	6	8	↑

# Water and Waterways

Issue	Indicator	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Trend
	<i>E.coli</i> remote from wastewater treatment plants (per 100ml)	0	194	0	440	↓
Riparian	Riparian vegetation recovery actions (number)	3	3	3	3	→
	Riparian vegetation recovery area (ha)	10	10	15	5	↓
Industrial/ Agricultural Pollution	Load Based Licencing Volume (kg)	0	78	0	46	↓
	Exceedances of license discharge consent recorded (number)	0	2	0	0	↑
	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	21	5	17	12	↑
Water extraction	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from surface water sources	46	50			
	Volume of surface water permissible for extraction under licences (GL)	108	114			
	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from groundwater resources	722	737			
	Volume of groundwater permissible for extraction under licences (GL)	1.8	2.8			
	Actual volume extracted through groundwater licences (GL)	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)	23	23	27	40	↓
Town water consumption	Annual metered supply (ML)			740	691	↑
	Annual consumption (Total from WTP) (ML)	574	625	740	691	↓
	Average annual household mains potable water usage (kL)	177.7	170.2	156.1	170.5	↓
	Average level of water restrictions implemented	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	
	Water conservation programs (number)	0	0	0	0	→

# People and Communities

Issue	Indicator	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Trend
Active community involvement	Environmental volunteers working on public open space (hrs)	350	450	115	154	↓
	Number of environmental community engagement programs	1	3	3	3	↑
	Number of growers markets/local food retailers specialising in local food	14	14	14	14	→
Indigenous Heritage	Number of Indigenous sites on AHIMS register	40	41	76	77	↑
	Inclusion in DCPs & rural strategies (Yes or No)	No	No	Yes	Yes	↑
	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	15	15	15	↑
	Locally listed heritage items (number)	345	342	345	345	↑
	Actions to protect non-Indigenous heritage (including management plans) (number)	2	2	6	12	↑
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists demolished/degraded in past year (number)	0	0	0	0	→
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists renovated/improved in past year (number)	9	8	6	1	↓

## CASE STUDY: Solar and lighting upgrades (Blayney LGA)

Blayney Shire Council was successful in obtaining funding through the NSW Office of Local Government Innovations Fund program, to bring renewable energy to Blayney Shire. Council focused on delivering solar and lighting upgrades at various high energy usage sites, including its offices, CentrePoint Sport and Leisure Centre, depot and the sewage treatment plant. Delivering energy saving projects at these facilities of high electricity demand is set to reduce impacts on the environment whilst also providing cost savings to the community.

The lighting project included the replacement of existing lights at Council's depot and CentrePoint Sport and Leisure Centre, with new high efficiency LED lighting in compliance with all relevant regulations and standards. The lighting project design incorporated sensors to switch selected areas on/off based on light and/or movement, providing safer environments for staff and users.

The Solar PV project delivered under the same program at the sewage treatment plant, Council office, Council depot and CentrePoint Sport and Leisure Centre has assisted in the reduction of the financial impacts of the new electricity supply contract. The on-site solar generation directly offsets consumption at the installed sites, resulting in decreased costs of purchased electricity.

To date a total of 105kW of solar equipment has been installed across the four sites with an anticipated reduction in consumption of approximately 120MWh of grid power annually.



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