



2012-13

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 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 the Blayney Local Government Area in 2012-13 across a range of environmental indicators as shown in the tables below. The tables provide an understanding of recent trends, by comparing this year's data with an average of previous years. The Council snapshot report should be read in conjunction with the 2012-13 Regional SoE snapshot report.

2012-13 Highlights

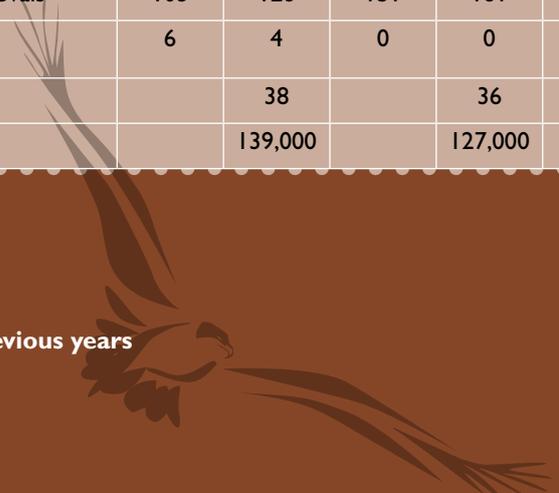
- ↑ The number of landuse conflict complaints has declined over the past four years.
- ↓ The number of declared noxious weeds has generally increased over the past four years.
- ↑ The number of drinking water complaints has declined.
- ↑ The number of heritage buildings that have been renovated or improved has increased.
- ↑ The average total waste generated per person has declined over the past two years..

Land

Issue	Indicator	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Trend
Contamination	Contaminated land sites - Contaminated Land Register		0	0	0	→
	Contaminated land sites - potentially contaminated sites	14	14	14	15	↓
	Contaminated sites rehabilitated	1	0	0	0	↓
Land use planning and management	Number of development consents and building approvals	103	126	151	161	↓
	Landuse conflict complaints	6	4	0	0	↑
Minerals & Petroleum	Number of mining and exploration titles		38		36	↑
	Area covered by mining and exploration titles (ha)		139,000		127,000	↑

- ↑ improvement
- no or little change
- ↓ worsening trend

Note - the trend is based on comparing the average of the previous years of reporting with 2012-13



Biodiversity

Issue	Indicator	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Trend
Habitat Loss	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	→
	Roadside vegetation management plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	↑
Threatened Species	Fish restocking activities: native species	20,000	30,000	17,000	10,000	↓
Noxious weeds and feral animals	Fish restocking activities: non-native species	60,000	58,000	62,000	62,000	↓
	Number of declared noxious weeds	102	100	107	107	↓
	Invasive species (listed noxious or WONS) under active management		0	0	0	→

Water and Waterways

Issue	Indicator	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Trend
Riparian	Riparian vegetation recovery actions	0	0	0	0	→
	Riparian vegetation recovery area (ha)	0	0	0	0	→
Industrial/ Agricultural Pollution	Erosion & Sediment Control complaints received by Council	1	0	2	8	↓
Stormwater Pollution	Number of gross pollutant traps installed	2	2	2	2	→
	Total catchment area of GPTs (ha)	253	253	253	253	→
Dam Levels	Average dam levels	7.0%	44.1%	89.1%	83.2%	↑
Water extraction	Number of irrigation licences from surface water sources	85	85	70	89	↓
	Volume of surface water permissible for extraction under licences (GL)	21	32	31	37	↓
	Number of bore licences from groundwater resources	802	578	1,688	735	↑
	Volume of groundwater permissible for extraction under licences (GL)	3	10	5	3	↑
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	↑
Town Water Quality	Number of drinking water complaints	24	20	6	0	↑



Towards Sustainability

Issue	Indicator	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Trend
Waste Generation	Total waste entombed at primary landfill (t)	6,286	5,380	5,120	4,503	↑
	Total waste entombed at other landfills (exc recyclables) (t)	100	102	80	0	↑
	Average total waste generated per person (t)	1.02	0.76	0.72	0.62	↑
	Average cost of waste service per residential household	\$200	\$240	\$280	\$300	↓
	Emissions from landfill (kt CO _{2e})			5	3	↑
Hazardous/Liquid Waste	Household Hazardous Wastes collected (kg)			429	1,065	↑
Reduce	Garden organics collected (diverted from landfill) (t)		711	473	587	↑
	E-Waste collected (diverted from landfill)	0.1	2.8	3.0	2.0	↑
Recycle	Amount of material recycled (t)	916	864	552	1,133	↑
	Quantity of material recycled per person (kg)	128	119	77	156	↑
Engineering, Infrastructure and Civil Works	New road construction (km)	0	0	0	8	↓
	Road upgrades (km)	122	17	28	6	↑
Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Annual electricity consumption for Council controlled facilities (MWh)	1,271	938	682	692	↑

People and Communities

Issue	Indicator	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Trend
Active community involvement	Environmental volunteers working on public open space (hrs)	0	85	0	0	↓
Indigenous Heritage	Extent of liaison with Indigenous communities (self-assessed from 0 = none to 3 = High)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	→
	Development approvals on listed Indigenous sites	1	1	0	0	↑
Non-Indigenous Heritage	NSW Heritage Items	12	14	13	14	↑
	Locally listed heritage items	126	126	355	322	↑
	Actions to protect non-Indigenous 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	8	6	11	15	↑

CASE STUDY: Re-opening of the Junction Reefs Reserve (Blayney LGA)

Junction Reefs Reserve, located near the small rural village of Mandurama, is a Crown Reserve which was once a very popular passive recreational area within the Blayney Shire. The Reserve offers a range of recreational, environmental and historical items of interest including the nationally significant Belubula Dam, Australia's first hydroelectric scheme, and the spectacular Junction Reefs waterfalls.

The Junction Reefs Reserve also includes the Sheahan-Grants Gold Mine with sporadic mining occurring within the reserve since 1870. The most recent mining activity was undertaken by Climax Mining Limited in 1987-1995 which prevented the area from being accessed by the public. Whilst the gold mine was formally decommissioned in 1995, the lease presently remains under the management of Oceana Gold.

The Junction Reefs Reserve Trust (JRRT) was established in August 2011 to provide management of the Junction Reefs Reserve after formal relinquishment of the mining lease was granted by the relevant government authorities. Currently, formal negotiations are being undertaken and the handover is expected to occur within the coming months.

The mine-disturbed areas of the Junction Reefs Reserve were subject to a range of large-scale vegetation rehabilitation trials. A significant riparian restoration project was also undertaken during the 1990s which removed dense Willow infestations from along the banks of the Belubula River, improving the riparian habitat and ecological function of the river, as well as protecting the historic Belubula Dam wall. These restoration projects were formally recognised by winning Rivercare awards in 1998, 1999 and 2000. The area now supports 350ha of Grassy Box Gum woodland, which is listed as an Endangered Ecological Community under State and Federal legislation.

The JRRT will explore opportunities for the economic viability and environmental sustainability of the Reserve in consultation with the local community and key stakeholders. The JRRT also aims to engage the support of other groups and organisations and develop long-term partnerships in the interest of the wider community.



A view of the Junction Reefs Reserve including the spectacular Junction Reefs waterfall (photo Donna Johnston)



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