



2014-15

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 2014-15 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 2014-15 Regional SoE snapshot report.

2014-15 Highlights

- ↑ The area covered by mining and exploration titles declined significantly from last year.
- ↓ The number of native species restocked into local waterways declined from last year.
- ↑ The annual consumption of water declined slightly from last year.
- ↑ There was a large increase in the hours spent by environmental volunteers working on public open space
- ↑ The amount of material recycled by local communities rose significantly from last year.

Land

Issue	Indicator	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Trend
Contamination	Contaminated land sites - Contaminated Land Register	0	0	0	0	→
	Contaminated land sites - potentially contaminated sites	14	15	24	24	↓
	Contaminated sites rehabilitated	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	151	161	130	100	↑
	Landuse conflict complaints	0	0	0	0	→
	Loss of primary agricultural land through rezoning (ha)		0	0	0	→
Minerals & Petroleum	Number of mining and exploration titles		36	45	46	↓
	Area covered by mining and petroleum exploration titles (ha)		127,000	131,000	119,000	↑

↑ improvement → no or little change ↓ worsening trend

Note - the trend is based on comparing the average of the three previous years of reporting with 2014-15

Biodiversity

Issue	Indicator	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Trend
Habitat Loss	Total area protected under voluntary conservation agreements and property agreements (ha)	126	126	126	126	→
	Total area protected in Wildlife Refuges (ha)	12,608	12,608	12,608	0	↓
	Habitat areas revegetated			0	20	↑
	Roadside vegetation management plan	1	1	1	1	→
Threatened Species	Threatened species actions implemented (e.g. PAS, recovery plans)	0	0	0	2	↑
	Fish restocking activities: native species	17,000	10,000	15,000	11,000	↓
Noxious weeds and feral animals	Invasive species (listed noxious or WONS) under active management	0	0	0	8	↑
	Number of declared noxious weeds	107	107	66	125	↓
	Fish restocking activities: non-native species	62,000	62,000	54,000	64,000	↓

Towards Sustainability

Issue	Indicator	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Trend
Waste Generation	Total waste entombed at primary landfill (tonnes)	5,120	4,503	4,500	4,002	↑
	Total waste entombed at other landfills (exc recyclables) (tonnes)	80	0	200	0	↑
	Average total waste generated per person (tonnes)	0.72	0.62	0.64	0.54	↑
	Average cost of waste service per residential household	\$280	\$300	\$310	\$310	↓
Hazardous/ Liquid Waste	Farm chemical drums collected through DrumMuster collections	0	0	0	0	→
	Household Hazardous Wastes collected (kg)	429	1,065	1,203	921	↑
Reduce	Garden organics collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	473	587	1,026	140	↓
	E-Waste collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	3	2	20	0	↓
Recycle	Amount of material recycled (tonnes)	552	1,133	370	1,239	↑
	Amount of material recycled per person (kg)	77	156	50	167	↑
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	8	0	0	↑
	Road upgrades (km)	28	6	19	29	↓
Risk Management	Increase in area covered by flood management plans/ flood mapping (km ²)		0	0	1	↑
	Hazard reduction burns			0	0	→
Climate Change Mitigation	Office paper used by Council (reams)			730	648	↑
	Council sustainability initiatives			1	1	→
	Council mitigation initiatives			1	1	→
Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Annual electricity consumption for Council controlled facilities (MWh)	682	692	599	599	↑
	Annual natural gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (Gj)			408	40	↑
	Annual bottled gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (L)			40	3	↑
	Total fuel consumption (KL)			272	305	↓
	Council total operational greenhouse gas emissions (tCO ₂ -e/year)		3,480	4,917	4,672	↓
Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Small scale renewable energy uptake (kW)	124	217	365	241	↑
	Number of solar water heaters and heat pumps installed	12	10	9	9	↓

Water and Waterways

Issue	Indicator	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Trend
Riparian	Riparian vegetation recovery actions	0	0	2	3	↑
	Riparian vegetation recovery area (ha)	0	0	1	10	↑
Industrial/ Agricultural Pollution	Load Based Licencing volume (kg)			0	0	→
	Exceedances of license discharge consent recorded			0	0	→
	Erosion & Sediment Control complaints received by Council	2	8	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			0	0	→
Dam Levels	Dam levels	89.1%	83.2%	47.1%	22.1%	↓
Water extraction	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from surface water sources			61	62	↓
	Volume of surface water permissible for extraction under licences (GL)			102	108	↓
	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from groundwater resources	1,688	735	688	702	↑
	Volume of groundwater permissible for extraction under licences (GL)		3	0.9	2	↓
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	4	5	↓
Town water consumption	Annual metered supply (ML)			536	532	↑
	Annual consumption (Total from WTP) (ML)			536	532	↑
	Level of water restrictions implemented			0.0	0.0	→
	Number of water conservation programs			0.0	0.0	→
Town Water Quality	Number of instances drinking water guidelines not met			0	0	→
	Number of drinking water complaints	6	0	9	40	↓

People and Communities

Issue	Indicator	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Trend
Active community involvement	Environmental volunteers working on public open space (hrs)	0	0	0	2,880	↑
	Number of environmental community engagement programs		0	0	1	↑
	Number of growers markets/local food retailers specialising in local food operating within LGA		2	2	14	↑
Indigenous Heritage	Number of Indigenous sites on AHIMS register			37	39	↑
	Inclusion in DCPs & rural strategies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	→
	Extent of liaison with Indigenous communities (self-assessed from 0 = none to 3 = High)	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	↓
	Development on listed Indigenous sites	0	0	0	0	→
	Actions to protect Indigenous heritage (including management plans)			0	0	→
Non-Indigenous Heritage	NSW Heritage Inventory items	13	14	14	13	↓
	Locally listed heritage items	355	322	350	350	↑
	Actions to protect non-Indigenous heritage (including management plans)	1	1	1	2	↑
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists demolished/degraded in past year	0	0	0	1	↓
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists renovated/improved in past year	11	15	19	12	↓

CASE STUDY: Ogilvy Street Project (Blayney LGA)

The Belubula River is an important and popular watercourse for recreation in the Blayney Shire. The river starts in the high country between Bathurst and Orange and runs past the eastern side of Blayney through Carcoar Dam - a prevalent water sport and recreation spot in the region – and then into the Lachlan River.

In May 2014, Blayney Shire Council, through collaboration with the Central Tablelands Local Land Services, completed the Ogilvy Street Wetlands project to filter urban run-off water prior to entering the Belubula River. Aged and damaged section of kerb was removed to create a natural filter in the form of a riparian garden.

The project mainly used repurposed materials to minimise the environmental impact and costs. Plants were transplanted from another wetland within Blayney, logs were reclaimed as part of the replacement of the bridge at the end of Ogilvy Street, and the rocks provided from overburden at Council's quarry.

“Urbanisation has resulted in large impervious areas which dramatically increase the run off quantity, and frequency, following rain events. These increases are detrimental to stream health, and in recent years it has become desirable to undertake works such as the installation of these wetlands to capture runoff and allow it to absorb into the ground, rather than run off to the streams,” said Council's Operations Manager, Mr Nathan Skelly

“In addition to the reduction in stormwater velocity, the plantings in wetlands also assist with the removal of contaminants that tend to be carried by stormwater that would traditionally end up in streams.”

The project continues to provide additional benefits both for the environment and community being closely linked with other rehabilitation projects on the Belubula River including the Heritage Park Wetlands and the proposed Pound Flat rehabilitation in Carcoar. The streetscape and entrance to Dakers Oval recreational ground has been improved and the project provides continuing environmental education opportunities for local schools. Future walkways are also planned to make the area more inviting and encourage community use of the space.



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