



2021-22

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 2021-22 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.

2021-22 Highlights

- ↑ The area covered by mining and exploration titles has declined over the past four years.
- ↓ The number of declared priority weeds has increased over the past four years.
- ↑ The volume of organics collected and diverted from landfill has increased significantly.
- ↑ The volume of recycled waste has increased steadily over the past four years.
- ↑ Council's greenhouse gas emissions have declined over the past three years.

Land

Issue	Indicator	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Trend
Contamination	Contaminated land sites - Contaminated Land Register (number)	0	0	0	0	0	→
	Contaminated land sites - potentially contaminated sites (number)	123	123	123	123	123	→
	Contaminated sites rehabilitated (number)	0	0	0	0	0	→
Erosion	Erosion affected land rehabilitated (ha)	0	0	0	0	0	→
Land use planning and management	Number of development consents and building approvals	121	136	115	135	192	↓
	Landuse conflict complaints (number)	2	0	0	0	10	↓
	Loss of primary agricultural land through rezoning (ha)	0	0	0	0	0	→
Minerals & Petroleum	Number of mining and exploration titles			96	45	33	↑
	Area covered by mining and exploration titles (ha)	135,000	136,000	141,000	140,000	118,000	↑

↑ improvement
 → no or little change
 ↓ worsening trend

Note - the trend is based on comparing the average of the four previous years of reporting with 2020-21

Biodiversity



Issue	Indicator	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Trend
Habitat Loss	Total area in the National Parks Estate (ha)	0	0	0	0	0	→
	Total area of State Forests (ha)	1,796	1,796	1,796	1,796	1,792	↓
	Total area protected in Wildlife Refuges (ha)			14,533	12,546	14,533	↑
	Area protected in conservation reserves & under voluntary conservation agreements (ha)	472	126	296	254	284	↓
	Extent of Traveling Stock Reserves in LGA (ha)		237	245	180	179	↓
	Proportion of Council reserves that is bushland/remnant vegetation	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	→
	Habitat areas revegetated (ha)	10	1	1	1	2	↓
	Clearing complaints (number)	0	1	1	1	0	↑
	Roadside vegetation management plan (Yes/No)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	→
	Roadside vegetation rehabilitated (ha)	12	0	0	0	0	↓
Threatened Species	State Threatened species (number)			63	63	63	→
	Threatened species actions implemented (e.g. PAS, recovery plans) (number)	3	3	3	1	2	↓
	Fish restocking activities: native species (number)	15,000	16,000	0	18,000	16,000	↑
Noxious weeds and feral animals	Fish restocking activities: non-native species (number)	36,000	65,000	56,000	56,100	43,000	↑
	Number of declared priority weeds	95	96	98	104	105	↓
	Invasive species (listed priority or WONS) under active management	8	8	8	8	8	→

Towards Sustainability

Issue	Indicator	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Trend
Waste Generation	Total waste entombed at primary landfill (tonnes)	4,690	4,620	5,192	5,514	8,200	↓
	Total waste entombed at other landfills (exc recyclables) (tonnes)	0	0	0	0	0	→
	Average total waste generated per person (tonnes)	0.63	0.63	0.70	0.75	1.09	↓
	Average cost of waste service per residential household	\$412	\$404	\$404	\$370	\$376	↑
Hazardous/Liquid Waste	DrumMuster collections (number of drums)	0	0	0	0	182	→
	Household Hazardous Wastes collected (kg)	3233	3,307	0	5,008	2,772	↓
Reduce	Organics collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	344	224	351	299	694	↑
	E-Waste collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	7	20	8	9	9	↓
Recycle	Volume of material recycled (tonnes)	959	935	570	1,026	1,191	↑
	Volume of material recycled per person (kg)	129	127	77	139	159	↑
Littering and illegal dumping	Number of illegal waste disposal complaints to Council	5	4	5	5	8	↓
Engineering, Infrastructure and Civil Works	New road construction (km)	0	0	0.2	0	0	↑
	Road upgrades (km)	36	36	26	33	26	↑
Risk Management	Flood management plans/ flood mapping - increase in area covered (ha)	0	0	0	0	0	→
	Hazard reduction burns (number)	2	0	0	0	0	↑
Climate Change Mitigation	Office paper used by Council (A4 & A3 reams)	439	464	490	527	397	↑
	Council sustainability initiatives (number)	0	0	0	1	1	↑
	Council mitigation initiatives (number)	0	0	0	1	1	↑
Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Annual electricity consumption for Council controlled facilities (MWh)	702	982	807	1,390	1,126	↓
	Annual natural gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (Gj)	22	40	2,078	2,250	4,390	↓
	Annual bottled gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (L)	7,653	8,206	8,210	7,713	8,379	↓
	Total fuel consumption (KL)	460	685	410	345	329	↑
	Proportion of Council's electrical energy demand met from council-owned renewable energy infrastructure	0.0%	5.0%	5.0%	8.0%	11.0%	↓
	Council total operational greenhouse gas emissions (tCO ₂ -e/year)	5,232	5,804	6,003	6,273	5,785	↑
Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Small scale renewable energy uptake (kW installed)	438	723	704	1,021	1,147	↑
	Number of solar water heaters and heat pumps installed	6	8	4	2	5	↓

Water and Waterways

Issue	Indicator	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Trend
Dam Levels	Average dam levels	76.0%	39.0%	16.0%	29.0%	85.0%	↑
Water extraction	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from surface water sources			60	61	64	↓
	Volume of surface water permissible for extraction under licences (GL)			105	111	115	↓
	Actual volume extracted through surface water licences (GL)				75	24	↑
	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from groundwater resources			832	836	844	↓
	Volume of groundwater permissible for extraction under licences (GL)			2.8	1.6	2.7	→
	Actual volume extracted through groundwater licences (GL)			0.8	0.09	0.01	↑
Council water consumption	Area of irrigated Council managed parks, sportsgrounds, public open space (ha)	24	24	24	27	27	↓
	Water used by council for irrigation (including treated and untreated) (ML)	40	36		35		↑
Town water consumption	Annual metered supply (ML)	740	691	661	540	576	↑
	Annual consumption (Total from WTP) (ML)	740	691	661	540	576	↑
	Average annual household mains potable water usage (kL)	156.1	170.5	165.5	143.0	4.3	↑
	Average level of water restrictions implemented	0.0	2.0	5.0	4.0	1.0	↑
	Water conservation programs (number)	0	0	0	0	0	→
Surface & Ground Water Quality	E.coli remote from wastewater treatment plants (per 100ml)	0	440	112	47	552	↓
Riparian	Riparian vegetation recovery actions (number)	3	3	3	1	1	↓
	Riparian vegetation recovery area (ha)	15	5	5	6	8	↑
Industrial/ Agricultural Pollution	Load Based Licencing Volume (kg)	0	46	7,631	5,232	11,909	↓
	Exceedances of license discharge consent recorded (number)	0	0	0	0	0	→
	Erosion & Sediment Control complaints received by Council (number)	0	0	1	2	2	↓
Stormwater Pollution	Number of gross pollutant traps installed	2	2	2	2	2	→
	Total catchment area of GPTs (ha)	253	253	253	253	253	→
	Water pollution complaints (number)	0	0	0	0	0	→
Town Water Quality	Number of instances drinking water guidelines not met	0	0	0	0	0	→
	Number of drinking water complaints	17	12	22	28	55	↓

People and Communities

Issue	Indicator	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Trend
Active community involvement	Environmental volunteers working on public open space (Hours)	115	154	100	20	15	↓
	Number of environmental community engagement programs	3	3	3	0	1	↓
	Number of growers' markets/local food retailers specialising in local food	14	14	5	1	1	↓
Indigenous Heritage	Number of Indigenous sites on AHIMS register	76	77	79	85	85	↑
	Inclusion in DCPs & rural strategies (Yes/No)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	→
	Extent of liaison with Indigenous communities (self-assessed from 0 = none to 3 = High)	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	↓
	Development approvals on listed Indigenous sites (number)	0	0	0	0	0	→
	Number of Indigenous heritage management actions/responses	0	0	2	0	0	↓
Non-Indigenous Heritage	NSW Heritage Items (number)	15	15	15	13	12	↓
	Locally listed heritage items (number)	345	345	345	345	345	→
	Actions to protect non-Indigenous heritage (including management plans) (number)	6	12	10	10	10	↑
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists demolished/degraded in past year (number)	0	0	0	0	0	→
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists renovated/improved in past year (number)	6	1	1	1	1	↓

CASE STUDY: Blayney CentrePoint Stage 2 – Sustainability Project (Blayney LGA)

CentrePoint Sport and Leisure Centre is a year-round, aquatic and leisure facility in the heart of Blayney. CentrePoint is a modern facility catering for people of all ages and abilities thanks to the most recent \$1.8 Million Stage 2 Sustainability Project.

The objectives of CentrePoint Stage 2 project were to not only complete the necessary renewal of the twenty-year-old building, but to also focus on creating utility efficiencies which will not only ensure downward pressure on operational costs but also ensure user fees and charges remain affordable to patrons and the wider community whilst also providing significant positive environmental outcomes.

Works undertaken include the replacement of the roof where existing roof sheeting was removed and replaced with 3,000 m² of commercial grade thermally insulated panel with thermally efficient skylights installed above the pool hall. This new roofing and insulation are projected to reduce gas consumption by 194,173 MJ per annum.

Renewable energy works as part of the project focussed on the plant room and creating greater efficiencies. A 70kW PV solar system was installed to offset electricity consumption. This system will produce approximately 96,533 kWh per annum and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 83,984 kg CO₂ per annum.

Centrepoint Stage 2 has also seen changes made to the management of the three pools where the pools are now pre-heated by 1 degree prior to 4pm daily to reduce peak electricity charges and all plant room heat pumps are switched off until 10pm.

Rainwater harvesting was also an important part of this project where works saw the installation of new downpipes, stormwater pipes, new tanks capable of storing 100,000 L of water and the connection of these tanks to the plant room and nearby Carrington Park irrigation system. These rainwater harvesting works will save 35% of potable water used in the precinct.

Significant upgrades have been made to the building and precinct which will assist in ensuring that the building remains sustainable and available to the community for years to come.



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