



State of the Environment Snapshot 2015-16

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

This is a brief snapshot of data for the Cabonne Local Government Area in 2015-16 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 2015-16 Regional SoE report.

2015-16 Highlights

- ↑ Riparian land being rehabilitated has increased significantly over previous years.
- ↓ The number of native fish restocked in local streams fell significantly from the previous three years.
- ↓ Annual electricity consumption for Council controlled facilities increased in comparison with the previous three years as did greenhouse gas emissions from Council operations.
- ↑ The volume of household hazardous wastes collected and diverted from landfill increased significantly from last year.
- ↑ Office paper used by Council has reduced dramatically over the past four years.

Land

Issue	Indicator	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Trend
Contamination	Contaminated land sites - Contaminated Land Register (Number)	2	2	2	2	→
	Contaminated land sites - potentially contaminated sites (Number)	8	8	8	8	→
	Contaminated sites rehabilitated (Number)	0	0	1	0	↓
Erosion	Erosion affected land rehabilitated (ha)		0.5		0	↓
Land use planning and management	Number of development consents and building approvals	279	370	353	219	↑
	Landuse conflict complaints (Number)		4		2	↑
	Loss of primary agricultural land through rezoning (ha)	0	0	25	0	↑
Minerals & Petroleum	Number of mining and exploration titles	68	84	84	88	↓
	Area covered by mining and exploration titles (ha)	220K	204K		178K	↑

↑ improvement → no or little change ↓ worsening trend

Note - the trend is based on comparing the average of the previous three years of reporting with 2015-16

Biodiversity

Issue	Indicator	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Trend
Habitat Loss	Total Area in the National Parks Estate (ha)			38,726	38,678	→
	Total Area of State Forests (ha)			14,450	14,431	→
	Total Area Protected in Wildlife Refuges (ha)	8,888	8,888	8,888	8,888	→
	Total Area protected in conservation reserves & under voluntary conservation agreements (ha)	340	450	450	450	↑
	Proportion of Council reserves that is bushland/remnant vegetation	0%	0%	0%	0%	→
	Habitat areas revegetated (ha)	40	40	5	20	↓
	Roadside vegetation management plan	1	1	1	1	→
	Roadside vegetation rehabilitated (ha)			30	1	↓
Threatened Species	Threatened species actions implemented (e.g. PAS, recovery plans) (Number)	0	0	0	1	↑
	Fish restocking activities: native species (Number)	24,513	21,591	21,565	6,306	↓
Noxious weeds and feral animals	Fish restocking activities: non-native species (Number)	19,000	17,000	12,000	14,000	↑
	Number of declared noxious weeds	108	113	126	126	↓
	Invasive species (listed noxious or WONS) under active management (Number)	31	31	31	31	→

Towards Sustainability

Issue	Indicator	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Trend
Waste Generation	Total waste entombed at primary landfill (tonnes)	1,424	1,174	1,442	1,422	↓
	Total waste entombed at other landfills (exc recyclables) (tonnes)	3,256	3,867	4,024	3,823	↓
	Average total waste generated per person (tonnes)	0.35	0.37	0.40	0.38	↓
	Average cost of waste service per residential household			\$312	\$320	↓
Hazardous/Liquid Waste	DrumMuster collections (number of drums)	851	5,828	0	1,576	↓
	Household Hazardous Wastes collected (kg)	63	746	481	1,757	↑
Reduce	Garden organics collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	694	867	64	219	↓
	E-Waste collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	0	0	16	0	↓
Recycle	Volume of material recycled (tonnes)	659	263	719	761	↑
	Volume of material recycled per person (kg)	49	19	52	55	↑
Littering and illegal dumping	Number of illegal waste disposal complaints to Council			8	8	→
Engineering, Infrastructure and Civil Works	New road construction (km)	17	0	0	0	↑
	Road upgrades (km)	57	93	263	157	↓
Risk Management	Flood management plans/ flood mapping - increase in area covered (ha)		0		0	→
	Hazard reduction burns (Number)	0	0	0	0	→
Climate Change Mitigation	Office paper used by Council (A4 and A3 reams)	1,637	1,071	898	690	↓
	Council sustainability initiatives (Number)	7	6	7	7	↑
	Council mitigation initiatives (Number)			0	0	→
Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Annual electricity consumption for Council controlled facilities (MWh)	1,676	2,239	2,392	2,386	↓
	Annual natural gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (GJ)	0	0	0	0	→
	Annual bottled gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (L)	5,144	8,216	5,307	3,909	↑
	Total fuel consumption (L)	746	653	652	729	↓
	Council total operational greenhouse gas emissions (tCO ₂ -e/year)	9,562	7,080	6,526	7,739	↓
Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Small scale renewable energy uptake (kW installed)	564	706	726	758	↑
	Number of solar water heaters and heat pumps installed	40	17	22	18	↓

Water and Waterways

Issue	Indicator	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Trend
Surface & Ground Water Quality	Average salinity levels in selected streams (EC)		461	523	558	↓
	E.coli remote from wastewater treatment plants (per 100ml)			700	800	↓
	Average Total Nitrogen in selected streams (mg/L)		0.71	0.49	0.34	↑
	Average Total Phosphorus in selected streams (mg/L)		0.03	0.03	0.03	→
	Average Turbidity in selected streams (NTU)		13	11	6	↑
Riparian	Riparian vegetation recovery actions (Number)	4	3	3	4	↑
	Riparian vegetation recovery area (ha)	100	86	100	130	↑
Industrial/ Agricultural Pollution	Load Based Licencing Volume (kg)		4,591	4,913	4,707	→
	Exceedances of license discharge consent recorded	0	3	3	7	↓
	Erosion & Sediment Control complaints received by Council (Number)	37	40	7	18	↑
Stormwater Pollution	Number of gross pollutant traps installed	2	1	1	1	↓
	Total catchment area of GPTs (ha)	0	0	0	0	→
	Water pollution complaints (Number)	0	0	0	0	→
Water extraction	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from surface water sources		394	394	364	↑
	Volume of surface water permissible for extraction under licences (GL)		38	37	38	→
	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from groundwater resources	2,800	2,732	2,653	2,745	→
	Volume of groundwater permissible for extraction under licences (GL)	25	23	23	23	↑
	Actual volume extracted through groundwater licences (GL)			2.2	3.1	↓
Council water consumption	Area of irrigated Council managed parks, sportsgrounds, public open space (ha)	40	40	40	40	→
	Water used by council for irrigation (including treated and untreated) (ML)	1	2	110	3.9	↑
Town water consumption	Annual metered supply (ML)	215	218	206	266	↓
	Annual consumption (Total from WTP) (ML)	199	231	163	224	↓
	Average annual household mains potable water usage (kL)	264.8	171.0	163.3	201.9	↓
	Average level of water restrictions implemented	0.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	↓
	Water conservation programs (Number)	1	1	1	1	→
Town Water Quality	Number of instances drinking water guidelines not met	0	0	0	0	→
	Number of drinking water complaints	2	0	0	0	↑

People and Communities

Issue	Indicator	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Trend
Active community involvement	Environmental volunteers working on public open space (hrs)	25	25	5	5	↓
	Number of environmental community engagement programs	1	1	1	1	→
	Number of growers markets/local food retailers specialising in local food	50	50	70	70	↑
Indigenous Heritage	Number of Indigenous sites on AHIMS register		325	395	397	↑
	Inclusion in DCPs & rural strategies (Yes or No)	No	No	No	No	→
	Extent of liaison with Indigenous communities (self-assessed from 0 = none to 3 = High)	2.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	→
	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)	6	6	5	6	↑
	Locally listed heritage items (Number)	317	317	317	317	→
	Actions to protect non-Indigenous heritage (including management plans) (Number)	2	6	2	2	↓
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists demolished/degraded in past year (Number)	0	0	1	1	↓
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists renovated/improved in past year (Number)	5	6	2	2	↓

CASE STUDY: Saving Platypus and Fish Habitat in the Bell River (Former Wellington Council and Cabonne Council)

Dubbo Regional Council (former Wellington Council) and Cabonne Council are currently undertaking a project aimed at protecting and improving platypus and fish habitat in the Bell River by removing noxious and environmental weeds from the riparian zone. The Project is primarily focused on the control of willows, a declared noxious weed and weed of National Significance.

The dominance of willow in the River has crowded out a lot of the native plants and reduced habitat for local Platypus and native fish. The Project will include revegetation with indigenous riparian understory species as part of an integrated weed control technique, which will complement the natural regeneration of River She oaks.

The Project Site is situated along Cameron Park in Wellington, an area regularly visited by local residents and visitors to the town. Platypus are regularly seen along this stretch of the River.

The control work will be carried out on thick infestations of willow and other noxious weeds. Once the noxious plants have been treated the Project Site will be planted out with support from the Mid-Macquarie Landcare Group using 100 River Bottle Brush.

This Project is supported DPI – Department of Fisheries, Central West Councils Environment & Waterways Alliance, Central West LLS, Mid-Macquarie Landcare Group, Wellington Fishing Club and the Local Aboriginal Lands Council.



Project Site, Cameron Park Wellington



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