



State of the Environment Snapshot 2017-18

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 Cabonne Local Government Area in 2017-18 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 2017-18 Regional SoE report.

2017-18 Highlights

- ↑ Council's total operational greenhouse gas emissions decreased in 2017-18 in comparison to the previous two years.
- ↓ The average total waste generated per person was at its highest level in the past four years.
- ↑ The area protected in conservation reserves and under voluntary conservation agreements rose dramatically from previous years.
- ↑ The amount of water used by Council for irrigation was significantly less than last year.
- ↑ The annual electricity consumption for Council controlled facilities was at its lowest level in the past four years.

Land

Issue	Indicator	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Trend
Contamination	Contaminated land sites - Contaminated Land Register (number)	2	2	2	2	→
	Contaminated land sites - potentially contaminated sites (number)	8	8	8	2	↑
	Contaminated sites rehabilitated (number)	1	0	0	0	↓
Erosion	Erosion affected land rehabilitated (ha)		0	0	0	→
Land use planning and management	Number of development consents and building approvals	353	219	228	363	↓
	Landuse conflict complaints (number)		2	12		
	Loss of primary agricultural land through rezoning (ha)	25	0	95	30	↑
Minerals & Petroleum	Number of mining and exploration titles	84	88	97	72	↑
	Area covered by mining and exploration titles (ha)		178K	300K	312K	↓



improvement



no or little change



worsening trend

Note - the trend is based on comparing the average of the previous three years of reporting with 2017-18

Biodiversity

Issue	Indicator	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Trend
Habitat Loss	Total Area in the National Parks Estate (ha)	38,854	38,867	38,867	38,867	→
	Total Area of State Forests (ha)	14,576	14,517	14,517	14,517	→
	Total Area Protected in Wildlife Refuges (ha)	8,888	8,888	8,888	9,943	↑
	Area protected in conservation reserves & under voluntary conservation agreements (ha)	450	450	450	1,390	↑
	Extent of Traveling Stock Reserves in LGA (ha)		835	661	661	↓
	Proportion of Council reserves that is bushland/remnant vegetation	0%	0%	0%	0%	→
	Habitat areas revegetated (ha)	5	20	20	20	↑
	Roadside vegetation management plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	→
	Roadside vegetation rehabilitated (ha)	30	1	20	1	↓
Threatened Species	Threatened species actions implemented (e.g. PAS, recovery plans) (number)	0	1	0	1	↑
	Fish restocking activities: native species (number)	21,565	6,306	2,520	4,877	↓
Noxious weeds and feral animals	Fish restocking activities: non-native species (number)	12,000	14,000	16,000	9,500	↑
	Number of declared noxious weeds	126	126	95	95	↑
	Invasive species (listed noxious or WONS) under active management (number)	31	31	31	31	→

Towards Sustainability

Issue	Indicator	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Trend
Waste Generation	Total waste entombed at primary landfill (tonnes)	1,442	1,422	2,029	2,759	↓
	Total waste entombed at other landfills (exc recyclables) (tonnes)	4,024	3,823	3,676	4,294	↓
	Average total waste generated per person (tonnes)	0.4	0.38	0.42	0.52	↓
	Average cost of waste service per residential household	\$312	\$320	\$330	\$356	↓
Hazardous/Liquid Waste	DrumMuster collections (number of drums)	0	1,576	9,687	7,005	↑
	Household Hazardous Wastes collected (kg)	481	1,757	1,372	525	↓
Reduce	Garden organics collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	64	219	248	362	↑
	E-Waste collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	16	0	0	8	↑
Recycle	Volume of material recycled (tonnes)	719	761	1,753	1,392	↑
	Volume of material recycled per person (kg)	52	55	128	103	↑
Littering and illegal dumping	Number of illegal waste disposal complaints to Council	8	8	9	8	↑
Engineering, Infrastructure and Civil Works	New road construction (km)	0	0	0	5	→
	Road upgrades (km)	263	157	148	128	↑
Risk Management	Flood management plans/ flood mapping - increase in area covered (ha)		0	0	0	→
	Hazard reduction burns (number)	0	0	0	0	→
Climate Change Mitigation	Office paper used by Council (A4 & A3 reams)	898	690	713	770	↓
	Council sustainability initiatives (number)	7	7	2		
	Council mitigation initiatives (number)	0	0	3		
Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Annual electricity consumption for Council controlled facilities (MWh)	2,392	2,386	2,108	1,696	↑
	Annual natural gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (Gj)	0	0	0	0	→
	Annual bottled gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (L)	5,307	3,909	2,612		
	Total fuel consumption (KL)	652	729	723	694	↑
	Proportion of Council's electrical energy demand met from council-owned renewable energy infrastructure	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	→
	Council total operational greenhouse gas emissions (tCO ₂ -e/year)	6,526	7,739	7,144	7,083	↑
Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Small scale renewable energy uptake (kW installed)	726	758	494	1,050	↑
	Number of solar water heaters and heat pumps installed	22	18	9	9	↓

Water and Waterways

Issue	Indicator	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Trend
Surface & Ground Water Quality	Average salinity levels in selected streams (EC)	523	558			
	E.coli remote from wastewater treatment plants (per 100ml)	700	800	414	600	↑
	Average Total Nitrogen in selected streams (mg/L)	0.49	0.34			
	Average Total Phosphorus in selected streams (mg/L)	0.03	0.03			
	Average Turbidity in selected streams (NTU)	11	6			
Riparian	Riparian vegetation recovery actions (number)	3	4	4	4	↑
	Riparian vegetation recovery area (ha)	100	130	130	135	↑
Industrial/ Agricultural Pollution	Load Based Licencing Volume (kg)	4,913	4,707	7,519	4,088	↑
	Exceedances of license discharge consent recorded (number)	3	7	3	3	↑
	Erosion & Sediment Control complaints received by Council (number)	7	18	6	18	↓
Stormwater Pollution	Number of gross pollutant traps installed	1	1	1	1	→
	Total catchment area of GPTs (ha)	0	0	0	0	→
	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	0	0	0	0	→
Water extraction	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from surface water sources	394	364	360		
	Volume of surface water permissible for extraction under licences (GL)	37	38	37		
	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from groundwater resources	2,653	2,745	2,785		
	Volume of groundwater permissible for extraction under licences (GL)	23	23	24		
	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)	110	3.9	17	5.5	↑
Town water consumption	Annual metered supply (ML)	206	266	231	235	↓
	Annual consumption (Total from WTP) (ML)	163	224	210	211	↓
	Average annual household mains potable water usage (kL)	163.3	201.9	155.8	184.9	↓
	Average level of water restrictions implemented	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	↑
	Water conservation programs (number)	1	1	1	1	→

People and Communities

Issue	Indicator	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Trend
Active community involvement	Environmental volunteers working on public open space (hrs)	5	5	0	0	↓
	Number of environmental community engagement programs	1	1	0	0	↓
	Number of growers markets/local food retailers specialising in local food	70	70	85	70	↓
Indigenous Heritage	Number of Indigenous sites on AHIMS register	395	397	348	369	↓
	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)	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	↑
	Development approvals on listed Indigenous sites (number)	0	0	0	3	↓
	Number of Indigenous heritage management actions/responses	0	0	2	2	↑
Non-Indigenous Heritage	NSW Heritage Items (number)	5	6	6	6	↑
	Locally listed heritage items (number)	317	317	317	317	→
	Actions to protect non-Indigenous heritage (including management plans) (number)	2	2	2	1	↓
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists demolished/degraded in past year (number)	1	1	0	0	↑
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists renovated/improved in past year (number)	2	2	5	3	→

CASE STUDY: Improving water access and security (Cabonne LGA)

Cabonne Council in association with its Central Tablelands Regional Water Security Partners, Orange City Council and Central Tablelands Water received NSW Government funding under the Restart NSW Water Security for regions program to improve water access and security. The project aims to provide a secure domestic water supply to the towns of Molong, Cumnock and Yeoval.

The Molong Creek Dam yield is inadequate during drought to service the area, and the existing secure yield will not meet the predicted demand. The project is being delivered in two stages, with the initial construction of a 9.8 km raw water pipeline from Orange to the Molong Creek Dam. The project will make use of the Orange City Council water reticulation system by accessing potable water as an emergency water supply.

The second phase of the drought proofing project is the construction of a 49 km length of potable water pipeline from Molong to Cumnock and Yeoval townships. The project will make use of water storage dams located at Molong Creek Dam and Borenore Dam, and the available capacity of the water treatment facility situated at Molong. Ancillary structures including water tanks, break tanks, pump stations, chlorination and telemetry systems will be required to be installed along the proposed route.

Improved water security for the towns of Cumnock and Yeoval would enable potential for sustained long term growth and development. Following completion of the Molong to Cumnock and Yeoval pipeline project these towns will access the Molong Creek Dam supply and benefit from improved water quality and increased water yield.

The design and location of the pipelines within road reserves has taken into account environmental impacts including measures implemented to address aquatic ecology (53 watercourse crossings), flora and fauna assessment, and Indigenous and Non-Indigenous heritage assessment.

Pipe line construction work at Cumnock
(Leon Sutherland, Cabonne Council)



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