

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 Warrumbungle 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 annual metered water supply increased significantly from last year.
- ⬆️ The area protected in conservation reserves and under voluntary conservation agreements increased significantly from last year.
- ⬆️ The number of drinking water complaints declined significantly from last year.
- ⬆️ The actions to protect non-Indigenous heritage increased from last year.
- ⬇️ The total waste generated per person has steadily increased over the past four years.

Land

Issue	Indicator	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Trend
Contamination	Contaminated land sites - Contaminated Land Register	0	0	0	0	➡️
	Contaminated land sites - potentially contaminated sites	43	18	21	20	⬆️
	Contaminated sites rehabilitated		0	0	1	⬆️
Land use planning and management	Number of development consents and building approvals	155	92	91	80	⬆️
	Landuse conflict complaints	0	0	5	0	⬆️
Minerals & Petroleum	Number of mining and exploration titles		15		19	⬇️
	Area covered by mining and exploration titles (ha)		1M		2M	⬇️

- ⬆️ improvement
- ➡️ no or little change
- ⬇️ worsening trend

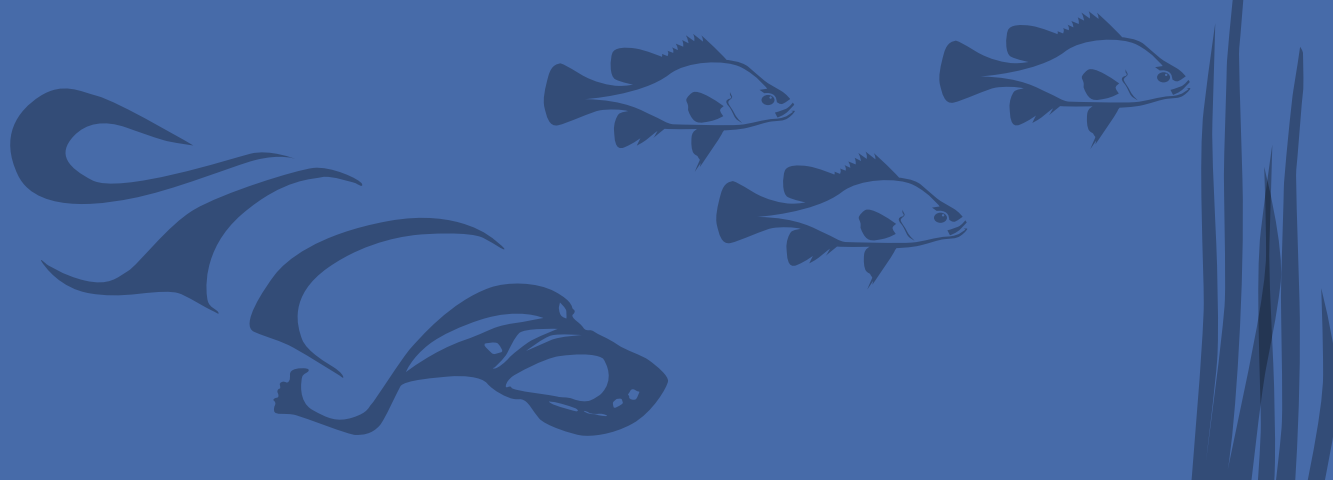
Note - the trend is based on comparing the average of the previous years of reporting with 2012-13

Biodiversity

Issue	Indicator	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Trend
Habitat Loss	Area protected in Wildlife Refuges (ha)	14,134	13,071	13,071	13,071	↓
	Area protected in conservation reserves & under voluntary conservation agreements (ha)	289	289	289	2,955	↑
	Habitat areas revegetated (ha)			0	0	→
	Roadside vegetation management plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	↑
Threatened Species	Fish restocking activities: native species	0	10,000	18,182	0	↓
Noxious weeds and feral animals	Fish restocking activities: non-native species	0	0	0	0	→
	Number of declared noxious weeds	94	92	97	97	↓
	Invasive species (listed noxious or WONS) under active management			10	22	↑

Water and Waterways

Issue	Indicator	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Trend
Riparian	Riparian vegetation recovery actions	1	1	1	0	↓
	Riparian vegetation recovery area (ha)	10	2	3	0	↓
Industrial/ Agricultural Pollution	Load Based Licencing Volume (kg)			0	4,529	↓
	Exceedances of license discharge consent recorded		0	0	9	↓
	Erosion & Sediment Control complaints received by Council			0	0	→
Stormwater Pollution	Number of gross pollutant traps installed		1	1	1	→
Water extraction	Number of irrigation licences from surface water sources	187	190	266	135	↑
	Volume of surface water permissible for extraction under licences (GL)	12	12	15	13	↑
	Number of bore licences from groundwater resources	2,737	2,960	5,575	2,536	↑
	Volume of groundwater permissible for extraction under licences (GL)	13	55	22	10	↑
Council water consumption	Area of irrigated Council managed parks, sportsgrounds, public open space (ha)		47	20	20	↑
Town water consumption	Annual metered supply (ML)		611	434	831	↓
	Household mains potable water usage (kL/household)	225.3	154.2	56.4	220.6	↓
	Average level of water restrictions implemented	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	↑
Town Water Quality	Number of instances drinking water guidelines not met	46	22	12	15	↑
	Number of drinking water complaints	0	30	38	11	↑



Towards Sustainability

Issue	Indicator	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Trend
Waste Generation	Total waste entombed at primary landfill (t)	3,067	4,366	4,300	4,800	↓
	Total waste entombed at other landfills (exc recyclables) (t)	665	0	0	0	↑
	Average total waste generated per person (t)	0.31	0.42	0.43	0.49	↓
	Average cost of waste service per residential household	\$136	\$383	\$348	\$400	↓
	Emissions from landfill (kt CO2e-)			2	3	↓
Hazardous/Liquid Waste	Farm chemical drums collected through DrumMuster collections (number of drums)	6,474	10,976	11,506	20,676	↑
Recycle	Amount of material recycled (t)		1,129	1,137	583	↓
	Quantity of material recycled per person (kg)		109	115	59	↓
Littering and illegal dumping	Number of illegal waste disposal complaints to Council	30	15	100	5	↑
Engineering, Infrastructure and Civil Works	New road construction (km)	0	0	0	2	↓
	Road upgrades (km)	9	28	36	44	↓
Risk Management	Hazard reduction burns		4	1	0	↓
Climate Change Mitigation	Office paper used by Council (A4 reams)	3286	1,656	2,846	2,190	↑
Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Annual electricity consumption for Council controlled facilities (MWh)		1,801		2,232	↓
	Annual bottled gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (L)		729	1,000	1,440	↓
	Total fuel consumption (KL)	244	674	875	719	↓
Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Small scale renewable energy uptake (kw installed)		0	0	0	→

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	0	→
Indigenous Heritage	Extent of liaison with Indigenous communities (self-assessed from 0 = none to 3 = High)		3.0	2.0	0.0	↓
	Development approvals on listed Indigenous sites	0	0	0	0	→
Non-Indigenous Heritage	NSW Heritage Items	3	4	4	4	↑
	Locally listed heritage items	26	26	35	25	↓
	Actions to protect non-Indigenous heritage (including management plans)	0	1	8	9	↑
	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		0	8	1	↓

CASE STUDY: Illegal Dumping Action Program (Warrumbungle LGA)

In 2013, Warrumbungle Shire Council implemented a strategy to tackle illegal dumping within the local area. A number of hotspots have been known to Council but preventing incidences has proven difficult in the past. Since targeting illegal dumping, Council has also identified a number of dumping hotspots previously unknown to Council staff.

To combat the problem Council has engaged the use of wildlife monitoring cameras to catch illegal dumpers in the act. These cameras are activated by motion, and via a sim card and the GSM network, are able to send photos to the email of designated Council staff. This technology insures the cameras against theft, and reduces the need to physically visit spots and retrieve data from the cameras manually.

One spot of serious concern has been the Ulamambri tip site. When it is closed, people have either broken into the site, damaged fences, or dumped rubbish around its perimeter.

Already Council's illegal dumping program has helped to capture some dumpers at the tip, and word-of-mouth has hopefully deterred some would-be dumpers.

Pictures taken from the cameras have also identified some interesting activity from local wildlife.



Photograph taken at one of the illegal dumping sites



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