



**Annexure Two**  
**State of the Environment**  
**Report**

**Annual Report**  
**2014/2015**

# 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 Narromine 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

- ↓ There was a decrease in landuse complaints to Council.
- ↓ There was a decrease in the number of native fish species restocked in local waterways.
- ↓ There was a decreasing the annual metered water supply compared with last year.
- ↑ Council's total operational greenhouse gas emissions increased from last year.
- ↑ There was an increase in the household hazardous wastes collected.
- ↓ There was a significant decrease in the number of drinking water guidelines not met.

## 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	65	49	49	49	↓
	Contaminated sites rehabilitated	0	0	0	0	↔
Erosion	Erosion affected land rehabilitated (ha)		0		0	↔
Land use planning and management	Number of development consents and building approvals	96	41	113	93	↓
	Landuse conflict complaints	0	4	4	0	↓
	Loss of primary agricultural land through rezoning (ha)		0	0	0	↔
Minerals & Petroleum	Number of mining and exploration titles		15	26	23	↓
	Area covered by mining and petroleum exploration titles (ha)		5,296	21,245	88,932	↓

↑ improvement   ↔ no or little change   ↓ worsening trend

Note - the trend is based on comparing the average of the previous three 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)	122	140	140	140	↑
	Total area protected in Wildlife Refuges (ha)	0	0	0	0	↔
	Roadside vegetation management plans	0	0	0	0	↔
Threatened Species	Threatened species actions implemented (e.g. PAS, recovery plans)		0	0	0	↔
	Fish restocking activities: native species	14,584	13,541	26,258	11,362	↓
Noxious weeds and feral animals	Invasive species (listed noxious or WONS) under active management	12	12	12	12	↔
	Number of declared noxious weeds	95	95	106	116	↓
	Fish restocking activities: non-native species	0	0	0	0	↔

# Water and Waterways

Issue	Indicator	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Trend
Riparian	Riparian vegetation recovery actions	0	0	0	0	↔
	Riparian vegetation recovery area (ha)	0	0	0	0	↔
Industrial/ Agricultural Pollution	Erosion & Sediment Control complaints received by Council	0	0	0	0	↔
Stormwater Pollution	Number of gross pollutant traps installed	1	1	1	1	↔
	Water pollution complaints	0	0	1	0	↑
Water extraction	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from surface water sources			123	126	↓
	Volume of surface water permissible for extraction under licences (GL)			220	200	↑
	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from groundwater resources	2,683	1,141	1,089	1,015	↑
	Volume of groundwater permissible for extraction under licences (GL)		81	81	82	↓
Council water consumption	Area of irrigated council managed parks, sportsgrounds, public open space (ha)	0	118	118	118	↓
	Water used by council for irrigation (including treated and untreated) (ML)		55	58	49	↑
Town water consumption	Annual metered supply (ML)		1,404	1,405	925	↑
	Level of water restrictions implemented	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	↔
	Number of water conservation programs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	↔
Town Water Quality	Number of instances drinking water guidelines not met	18	26	21	2	↑
	Number of drinking water complaints	0	17	5	2	↑

# Towards Sustainability

Issue	Indicator	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Trend
Hazardous/ Liquid Waste	Farm chemical drums collected through DrumMuster collections	31,306	4,899	7,936	4,783	↓
	Household Hazardous Wastes collected (kg)	527	322	589	1,804	↓
Reduce	Garden organics collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	634	1,227	729	1,027	↓
	E-Waste collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)		0	0		-
Recycle	Volume of material recycled (tonnes)	372	382	1,047		-
	Volume of material recycled per person (kg)	54	56	152		-
Littering and illegal dumping	Number of illegal waste disposal complaints to Council	3	15	5	6	↓
Engineering, Infrastructure and Civil Works	New road construction (km)	0	0	0	2	↓
	Road upgrades (km)	0	23	665	685	↓
Risk Management	Increase in area covered by flood management plans/ flood mapping		0	0	0	↔
	Hazard reduction burns			0	0	↔
Climate Change Mitigation	Office paper used by Council (reams)		1,080	1,137	1,176	↓
	Council sustainability initiatives	0	0	0	0	↔
	Council mitigation initiatives			0	0	↔
Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Annual natural gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (Gj)	0	0	0	0	↔
	Annual bottled gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (L)			0	0	↔
	Total fuel consumption (KL)	309	289	29	297	↓
	Council total operational greenhouse gas emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> -e/year)		3,916	2,646	4,953	↓
Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Small scale renewable energy uptake (kW)	366	460	351	308	↓
	Number of solar water heaters and heat pumps installed	29	8	14	6	↓

# People and Communities

Issue	Indicator	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Trend
Active community involvement	Environmental volunteers working on public open space			0	0	↔
	Number of environmental community engagement programs		0	0	0	↔
	Number of growers markets/local food retailers specialising in local food operating within LGA		1	1	1	↔
Indigenous Heritage	Number of Indigenous sites on AHIMS register			265	267	↓
	Inclusion in DCPs & rural strategies	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	↔
	Extent of liaison with Indigenous communities (self-assessed from 0 = none to 3 = High)	1	0	0	0	↓
	Development on listed Indigenous sites		0	0	0	↔
	Actions to protect Indigenous heritage (including management plans)	0	0	0	0	↔
Non-Indigenous Heritage	NSW Heritage Inventory items	0	0	0	0	↔
	Locally listed heritage items	25	11	11	11	↓
	Actions to protect non-Indigenous heritage (including management plans)		0		0	↔
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists demolished/degraded in last year		0	0	0	↔
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists renovated/improved in last year	0	0	0	0	↔

## **CASE STUDY: Trial use of mulching excavator to control large weeds (Narromine LGA)**

In April 2015, Narromine Shire Council commenced a trial to determine the practicalities and effectiveness of the use of a mulching excavator in the initial removal of larger weeds such as Cestrum, Castor Oil plant, White Cedar and Boxthorn.

The trial was undertaken at two sites throughout the shire, one concentrating on the removal of Boxthorn on a site east of Tomingley and the other on the removal of a large infestation of Cestrum, Castor Oil plant and White Cedar trees at Gin Gin reserve located in the north-west of the shire, along the banks of the Macquarie river.

The trial:

- Involved the use of a “mulcher” attached to a large excavator.
- Proved to be effective in removing the immediate presence of the weeds.
- Significantly improved the visual amenity of the Gin Gin reserve site, with immediate results being seen.
- Allowed for full access to be gained over the sites for Council’s Noxious Weeds Control Officers to undertake further chemical control measures.
- Provided access at Gin Gin Reserve to the RiverSmart’s NatureLinks project, which was funded by the Federal Government, to undertake a replanting program



Narromine - looking towards bridge before works.



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