

# State of the Environment Report

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.

NSW legislation means that Councils are not required to produce SoE reports each year, but 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 SoE report that covers trends in the intervening years.

The 2020 Council elections were postponed until 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Being the year of the Council election, this SoE report responds to the requirement in the *Local Government Act 1993* that Councils measure and report on the progress of the environmental objectives or goals in their Community Strategic Plan (CSP).

This report lists Council's environmental actions, identifies appropriate indicators to measure them and briefly reports on trends in these indicators since the last Council election (2016). It also discusses any major environmental impacts on the environmental actions between 2016 and 2021.

## Environmental Actions

In the Narromine Shire CSP, there are three relevant environmental actions under Guiding Principle 3 - Protecting and enhancing our environment:

- 3.1 Manage our natural environments for current and future generations
- 3.2 We are a sustainable, environmental community with a great appreciation of our natural assets
- 3.3 A community that values the efficient use of utilities, natural resources and energy.

## Environmental Indicators

Over 100 indicators have been identified and used to measure the state of the environment across the Greater Central West region using data compiled over the past five years. The indicators are categorised into five themes:

1. Land
2. Biodiversity
3. Water and Waterways
4. People and Communities
5. Towards Sustainability

The table below shows how Council's Environmental Actions are measured by the Environmental Indicators detailed in the remainder of the report.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS	ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS
3.1 Manage our natural environments for current and future generations	Land, Biodiversity, Water and Waterways, Towards Sustainability
3.2 We are a sustainable, environmental community with a great appreciation of our natural assets	Water and Waterways, People and Communities, Towards Sustainability
3.3 A community that values the efficient use of utilities, natural resources and energy	Water and Waterways, Towards Sustainability

## Trends/Environmental Impacts

**Land** The number of development consents and building approvals declined in the last five years. The extent of mining and exploration increase steadily across the LGA.

**Biodiversity** The area of private land protected under voluntary conservation agreements rose in the last five years. There was also an increase in the restocking of native fish into local waterways. The number of priority weeds identified across the LGA steadily increased.

**Water and Waterways** The volume of water that can be extracted for irrigation increased over the last five years. The amount of town water consumed in 2020-21 was more than 2019-20 but less than previous years. Council's water use for irrigation of sports fields declined reflecting drought conditions.

**People and Communities** Council increased the number of environmental community engagement programs over the last five years. There was a steady increase in the number of indigenous sites identified on the AHIMS register and a large increase in the number of local-listed heritage items in 2020-21.

**Towards Sustainability** There was an increase in the amount of waste transferred to landfill. Council reduced its use of paper over the last five years. Council's greenhouse gas emissions remained relatively stable over that period, however there was a steady rise in the uptake of small-scale renewable energy across the LGA.



# Land

Issue	Indicator	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Trend
Contamination	Contaminated land sites - Contaminated Land Register (number)	0	0	0	0	0	→
	Contaminated land sites - potentially contaminated sites (number)	49	49	74	74	49	↑
	Contaminated sites rehabilitated (number)	0	0	0	0	1	↑
Erosion	Erosion affected land rehabilitated (ha)	0	0	0	0		→
Land use planning and management	Number of development consents and building approvals	57	73	82	62	61	↑
	Landuse conflict complaints (number)	2	1	3	2	0	↑
	Loss of primary agricultural land through rezoning (ha)	0				0	→
Minerals & Petroleum	Number of mining and exploration titles	23			28	26	↓
	Area covered by mining and exploration titles (ha)	75,835	137,000	223,000	299,000	341,000	↓

↑ 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	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Trend
Habitat Loss	Total area in the National Parks Estate (ha)	4,401	4,401	4,401	4,401	4,401	→
	Total area of State Forests (ha)	1,056	1,056	1,056	1,056	1,056	→
	Total area protected in Wildlife Refuges (ha)	0			413	413	↑
	Area protected in conservation reserves & under voluntary conservation agreements (ha)	140	253	140	268	430	↑
	Extent of Traveling Stock Reserves in LGA (ha)	6,815		6,880	6,722	6,677	→
	Proportion of Council reserves that is bushland/remnant vegetation					30%	→
	Habitat areas revegetated (ha)	0	0	0	0	0	→
	Clearing complaints (number)		5	6	2	5	↓
	Roadside vegetation management plan (Yes/No)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	→
	Roadside vegetation rehabilitated (ha)	0	0	0	0	0	→
Threatened Species	Threatened species actions implemented (e.g. PAS, recovery plans) (number)	0			73	71	↓
	Threatened species actions implemented (e.g. PAS, recovery plans) (number)	0				0	→
	Fish restocking activities: native species (number)	11,736	4,132	6,000	12,000	41,000	↑
Priority weeds and feral animals	Fish restocking activities: non-native species (number)	0	0	0	0	0	→
	Number of declared priority weeds	91	91	92	94	99	↓
	Invasive species (listed priority or WONS) under active management	12		11	11	11	↓



# Water and Waterways

Issue	Indicator	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Trend
Riparian	<i>E.coli</i> remote from wastewater treatment plants (per 100ml)		0	0	0	0	→
	Riparian vegetation recovery actions (number)	0	0	0	0	0	→
	Riparian vegetation recovery area (ha)	0	0	0	0	0	→
Industrial/ Agricultural Pollution	Load Based Licencing Volume (kg)				0	8,307	↓
	Exceedances of license discharge consent recorded (number)	0	0	0	0	0	→
	Erosion & Sediment Control complaints received by Council (number)	0	0	0	6	1	↑
Stormwater Pollution	Number of gross pollutant traps installed	1	1	1	1	0	↓
	Total catchment area of GPTs (ha)			0		0	→
	Water pollution complaints (number)	0	0	0	1	1	↓
Town Water Quality	Number of instances drinking water guidelines not met	0	0	0	0	0	→
	Number of drinking water complaints	0	0	0	0	1	↓
Water extraction	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from surface water sources	129			120	119	↑
	Volume of surface water permissible for extraction under licences (GL)	196			175	234	↓
	Actual volume extracted through surface water licences (GL)					26	→
	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from groundwater resources	984			1,029	1,063	↓
	Volume of groundwater permissible for extraction under licences (GL)	77			82	88	↓
	Actual volume extracted through groundwater licences (GL)				67	31	↑
Council water consumption	Area of irrigated Council managed parks, sportsgrounds, public open space (ha)	118	118	118	118	118	→
	Water used by council for irrigation (including treated and untreated) (ML)	53	59	45	43	43	↑
Town water consumption	Annual metered supply (ML)	1,141	1,376	1,376	570	2,282	↓
	Annual consumption (Total from WTP) (ML)			1,145	570	476	↑
	Average annual household mains potable water usage (kL)			34	34.1		→
	Average level of water restrictions implemented	0	2	3	3	0	↑
	Water conservation programs (number)	0	1	1	1	0	↓

# People and Communities

Issue	Indicator	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Trend
Active community involvement	Environmental volunteers working on public open space (hours)	0	0	0	11	0	↓
	Number of environmental community engagement programs	0	1	1	2	3	↑
	Number of growers' markets/local food retailers specialising in local food	1	1	1	3	4	↑
Indigenous Heritage	Number of Indigenous sites on AHIMS register	279	293	363	373	422	↑
	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	3.0	0.0	1.0	3.0	↑
	Development approvals on listed Indigenous sites (number)	0		0		0	→
	Number of indigenous heritage management actions/responses	0		0		0	→
Non-Indigenous Heritage	NSW Heritage Items (number)	0	0	0	0	0	→
	Locally listed heritage items (number)	11	11	11	11	31	↑
	Actions to protect non-Indigenous heritage (including management plans) (number)	0	1	1	1	0	↓
	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)	0	0	0	0	0	→

# Towards Sustainability

Issue	Indicator	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Trend
Waste Generation	Total waste entombed at primary landfill (tonnes)				1,192	1,774	↓
	Total waste entombed at other landfills (exc recyclables) (tonnes)			0	0	387	→
	Average total waste generated per person (tonnes)				0.18	0.33	↓
	Average cost of waste service per residential household					\$427	→
Hazardous/Liquid Waste	DrumMuster collections (number of drums)	19,749	22,321	0	15,728	7,661	↓
	Household Hazardous Wastes collected (kg)	3351	3,769	2,454	3,481	0	↓
Reduce	Organics collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)		1,413	577	590	0	↓
	E-Waste collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)			10	0	2	↓
Recycle	Volume of material recycled (tonnes)	591		328		44	↓
	Volume of material recycled per person (kg)	90				7	↓
Littering and illegal dumping	Number of illegal waste disposal complaints to Council	3	5	43	23	37	↓
Engineering, Infrastructure and Civil Works	New road construction (km)	6	0	0	1	0	↑
	Road upgrades (km)	644	682	500	426	59	↑
Risk Management	Flood management plans/ flood mapping - increase in area covered (ha)	0	0	0	0	0	→
	Hazard reduction burns (number)	0	0	0	0	0	→
Climate Change Mitigation	Office paper used by Council (A4 & A3 reams)	836	945	933	682	656	↑
	Council sustainability initiatives (number)	0	0	0	0		→
	Council mitigation initiatives (number)		0		0		→
Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Annual electricity consumption for Council controlled facilities (MWh)	1,596	1,820	1,906	1,945	2,784	↓
	Annual natural gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (Gj)	0	0	0	0	0	→
	Annual bottled gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (L)	0	0	0	30	111	↓
	Total fuel consumption (KL)	297	294	289	290	666	↓
	Proportion of Council's electrical energy demand met from council-owned renewable energy infrastructure	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	→
	Council total operational greenhouse gas emissions* (tCO2-e/year)	6,076	6,348	6,412	4,915	6,322	↓
Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Small scale renewable energy uptake (kW installed)	742	917	768	942	1,045	↑
	Number of solar water heaters and heat pumps installed	5	6	5	4	5	↑

## CASE STUDY: Narromine Wetlands Extension Project (Narromine LGA)

The Narromine Common Wetland Reserve) is a large open space on the outskirts of Narromine, approximately 28 hectares in size. This area of land is owned by and is under the management of Narromine Shire Council. The reserve features three large ponds complemented by areas of extensively revegetated Eucalypt grassland and open recreational space.

The ponds are utilised in several ways: they are primarily designed to treat stormwater from the southern parts of Narromine, however the wetlands and regenerated

areas also provide vital habitat to native and exotic flora and fauna as well as an important community amenity. These amenity features include walking tracks, car parks and picnic areas.

A number of meandering pathways make their way through the Eucalypt grasslands and wetland complex, crossing two pedestrian bridges.

The design plans for the wetlands include interconnection by channels to each new pond.

Each new pond has deep basins or dwells that provide thermal temperature difference and diversify the habitat values of the wetlands, several islands of trees and low indigenous vegetation will provide habitat regardless of water levels. Gravel paths will surround each of the three new ponds with several extensive feature mounds created from soil excavated from the three ponds.

These will be developed as viewing mounds to incorporate path interconnections, seating, and provision of shade and shelter structures. Bus parking has been provided to the existing picnic facilities to the northern corner of the reserve.

The project will include the installation of new fencing to eliminate the potential for feral animal incursions, and a new irrigation system to irrigate the new vegetative areas.



Narromine Shire Council  
124 Dandaloo St  
Narromine NSW 2821  
Phone: (02) 6889 9999  
[www.narromine.nsw.gov.au](http://www.narromine.nsw.gov.au)  
Mailing Address

General Manager  
Narromine Shire Council  
PO Box 115  
Narromine NSW 2821