

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 Mid-Western 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 number of potentially contaminated land sites has declined.
- ↑ The area in conservation reserves and under voluntary conservation agreements has increased over the past four years.
- ↓ The annual consumption of town water has steadily increased over the past four years.
- ↑ The number of hours that environmental volunteers worked on public open space increased significantly this year.
- ↑ The amount of material recycled by each person increased significantly this year.

Land

Issue	Indicator	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Trend
Contamination	Contaminated land sites - Contaminated Land Register		1	1	1	→
	Contaminated land sites - potentially contaminated sites	47	47	47	29	↑
	Contaminated sites rehabilitated	2	1	1	2	↑
Erosion	Erosion affected land rehabilitated (ha)	14	2	1	0	↓
Land use planning and management	Number of development consents and building approvals	340	458	649	456	↑
	Landuse conflict complaints	1	5	7	11	↓
Minerals & Petroleum	Number of mining and exploration titles		162		158	↑
	Area covered by mining and exploration titles (ha)		819,000		974,000	↓

- ↑ 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)	7,652	7,652	7,652	7,652	→
	Area protected in conservation reserves & under voluntary conservation agreements (ha)	291	1,139	1,277	1,349	↑
	Proportion of Council reserves that is bushland/remnant vegetation	13%	13%	32%	32%	↑
	Habitat areas revegetated (ha)	35	30	10	10	↓
	Roadside vegetation management plan	No	No	Yes	Yes	↑
Threatened Species	Fish restocking activities: native species	135K	80,613	25,911	92,213	↑
Noxious weeds and feral animals	Fish restocking activities: non-native species	30,000	46,000	20,000	41,000	↓
	Number of declared noxious weeds	105	105	112	112	↓
	Invasive species (listed noxious or WONS) under active management	22	8	21	24	↑

Water and Waterways

Issue	Indicator	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Trend
Surface & Ground Water Quality	Average salinity levels in selected streams (EC)	616	445	468	515	↓
Riparian	Riparian vegetation recovery actions	3	7	4	3	↓
	Riparian vegetation recovery area (ha)	65	10	8	6	↓
Industrial/ Agricultural Pollution	Load Based Licencing Volume (kg)		68,938	69,352	78,467	↓
	Exceedances of license discharge consent recorded	0	3	3	11	↓
	Erosion & Sediment Control complaints received by Council	14	2	1	3	↑
Stormwater Pollution	Number of gross pollutant traps installed	4	4	4	4	→
	Total catchment area of GPTs (ha)	118	118	118	118	→
	Water pollution complaints		2		2	→
Dam Levels	Average dam levels	20.2%	33.7%	51.6%	58.0%	↑
Water extraction	Number of irrigation licences from surface water sources	513	519	548	404	↑
	Volume of surface water permissible for extraction under licences (GL)	47	47	48	43	↑
	Number of bore licences from groundwater resources	3,169	2,281	6,383	3,247	↑
	Volume of groundwater permissible for extraction under licences (GL)	53	207	81	33	↑
Council water consumption	Area of irrigated Council managed parks, sportsgrounds, public open space (ha)	78	63	69	69	↑
	Water used by council for irrigation (including treated and untreated) (ML)		0.2	51	215	↓
Town water consumption	Annual metered supply (ML)	1,838	1,492	1,493	1,828	↓
	Annual consumption (Total from WTP) (ML)	1,896	2,017	2,023	2,362	↓
	Household mains potable water usage (kL/household)	222.0	178.9	169.6	202.7	↓
	Average level of water restrictions implemented	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	→
Town Water Quality	Number of instances drinking water guidelines not met	42	38	29	112	↓
	Number of drinking water complaints	1	0	18	32	↓

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)	160	180	110	400	↑
Indigenous Heritage	Extent of liaison with Indigenous communities (self-assessed from 0 = none to 3 = High)	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	↑
	Development approvals on listed Indigenous sites	1	2	3	3	↓
Non-Indigenous Heritage	NSW Heritage Items	13	13	13	13	→
	Locally listed heritage items	478	526	526	526	↑
	Actions to protect non-Indigenous heritage (including management plans)	0	0	3	1	→
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists demolished/ degraded in past year	1	0	0	0	↑
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists renovated/ improved in past year			1	3	↑

Towards Sustainability

Issue	Indicator	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Trend
Waste Generation	Total waste entombed at primary landfill (t)	17,887	20,283	17,054	26,394	↓
	Total waste entombed at other landfills (exc recyclables) (t)	3,584	0	0	0	↑
	Average total waste generated per person (t)	0.99	0.89	0.74	1.12	↓
	Average cost of waste service per residential household	\$130	\$321	\$332	\$343	↓
	Emissions from landfill (kt CO _{2e})			14	16	↓
Hazardous/ Liquid Waste	Farm chemical drums collected through DrumMuster collections (number of drums)	1,272	2,751	3,057	1,599	↓
	Household Hazardous Wastes collected (kg)		161	2,079	2,471	↑
Reduce	Garden organics collected (diverted from landfill) (t)	3,303	567	2,068	2,480	↑
	E-Waste collected (diverted from landfill)		6.2	5.7	5.7	↓
Recycle	Amount of material recycled (t)	2,893	2,955	3,661	4,288	↑
	Quantity of material recycled per person (kg)	128	129	159	183	↑
Littering and illegal dumping	Number of illegal waste disposal complaints to Council	9	7	3	6	↑
Engineering, Infrastructure and Civil Works	New road construction (km)	0	0.5	0.5	0	↑
	Road upgrades (km)	88	15	30	32	↑
Risk Management	Hazard reduction burns	0	0	0	14	↑
Climate Change Mitigation	Office paper used by Council (A4 reams)	242	1,057	2,136	2,282	↓
Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Annual electricity consumption for Council controlled facilities (MWh)	4,763	4,342	3,814	4,083	↑
	Annual bottled gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (L)		11,027	5,665	15,563	↓
	Total fuel consumption (KL)	898	920	990	1,516	↓
Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Small scale renewable energy uptake (kw installed)		0	0	0	→



Sunset over Mid-Western LGA



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