

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.

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 Warrumbungle Local Government Area in 2021-22 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.

2021-22 Highlights

- ↑ There was a decline in the number of mining and exploration titles.
- ↑ There was a decline in the annual town water consumption.
- ↑ The volume of organics collected increased from previous years.
- ↑ Council's greenhouse gas emissions declined.
- ↑ Council's use of office paper has also declined.



Land

Issue	Indicator	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Trend
Contamination	Contaminated land sites - Contaminated Land Register (number)	0	0	0	0	0	→
	Contaminated land sites - potentially contaminated sites (number)	131	132	133	133	134	↓
	Contaminated sites rehabilitated (number)	0	1	0	0	0	↓
Erosion	Erosion affected land rehabilitated (ha)	0.05	0	0	0	0	↓
Land use planning and management	Number of development consents and building approvals	21	64	58	38	57	↓
	Landuse conflict complaints (number)	3	1	0	0	0	↑
	Loss of primary agricultural land through rezoning (ha)	0	0	0	0	0	→
Minerals & Petroleum	Number of mining and exploration titles			43	39	17	↑
	Area covered by mining and exploration titles (ha)	1.45M	1.41M	1.32M	1.22M	224K	↑

↑ improvement → no or little change ↓ worsening trend

Note - the trend is based on comparing the average of the four previous years of reporting with 2021-22

Biodiversity

Issue	Indicator	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Trend
Habitat Loss	Total area in the National Parks Estate (ha)	130K	130K	130K	130K	130K	→
	Total area of State Forests (ha)	50,870	50,870	50,870	50,869	50,737	→
	Total area protected in Wildlife Refuges (ha)	13,157		13,156	11,501	10,926	↓
	Area protected in conservation reserves & under voluntary conservation agreements (ha)	6,594	4,092	7,396	7,537	7,396	↑
	Extent of Traveling Stock Reserves in LGA (ha)		6,194	6,158	5,766	5,754	↓
	Proportion of Council reserves that is bushland/remnant vegetation	15%	15%	15%		15%	↑
	Habitat areas revegetated (ha)	0	0	0	0	0	→
	Clearing complaints (number)	1	4	0	2	1	↑
	Roadside vegetation management plan (Yes/No)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	→
	Roadside vegetation rehabilitated (ha)	0	0	0	0	0	→
Threatened Species	Threatened species listed (number)			102	102	103	↓
	Threatened species actions implemented (e.g. PAS, recovery plans) (number)	1	0	0	0	0	↓
	Fish restocking activities: native species (number)	0	0	0	12,120	0	↓
Noxious weeds and feral animals	Fish restocking activities: non-native species (number)	0	0	0	0	0	→
	Number of declared priority weeds	91	92	94	99	100	↓
	Invasive species (listed priority or WONS) under active management	22	22	15	9	9	↓

Water and Waterways

Issue	Indicator	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Trend
Surface & Ground Water Quality	<i>E.coli</i> remote from wastewater treatment plants (per 100ml)	0	0	0	0	11,000	↓
Riparian	Riparian vegetation recovery actions (number)	0	2		0		↓
	Riparian vegetation recovery area (ha)	0				0	→
Industrial/ Agricultural Pollution	Load Based Licencing Volume (kg)	4,084	3,559	4,566	5,780	6,161	↓
	Exceedances of license discharge consent recorded (number)	40	32	0	42	81	↓
	Erosion & Sediment Control complaints received by Council (number)	1		10		0	
Stormwater Pollution	Number of gross pollutant traps installed	1	1	1	1	1	→
	Total catchment area of GPTs (ha)	4	4	4	4	4	↓
	Water pollution complaints (number)	0	0	1		0	↑
Town Water Quality	Number of instances drinking water guidelines not met	11	6	34	24	34	↓
	Number of drinking water complaints	5	7	8	4	1	↑
Water extraction	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from surface water sources			46	97	97	↓
	Volume of surface water permissible for extraction under licences (GL)			6.4	13	11	↓
	Actual volume extracted through surface water licences (GL)				0.19	0.12	↑
	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from groundwater resources			2,720	2,706	2,703	↑
	Volume of groundwater permissible for extraction under licences (GL)			7.5	9.3	8.5	↓
	Actual volume extracted through groundwater licences (GL)			4.6	1.4	0.95	↑
Council water consumption	Area of irrigated Council managed parks, sportsgrounds, public open space (ha)	21	21	17	17	17	↑
	Water used by council for irrigation (including treated and untreated) (ML)	8	15		0		↑
Town water consumption	Annual metered supply (ML)	718	612	631	601		↑
	Annual consumption (Total from WTP) (ML)	1,228	974	1,061	845	785	↑
	Average annual household mains potable water usage (kL)	195	139	161	129		↑
	Average level of water restrictions implemented	6	6	6	0	0	↑
	Water conservation programs (number)	0	0	0	0	0	→

Towards Sustainability

Issue	Indicator	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Trend
Waste Generation	Total waste entombed at primary landfill (tonnes)	3,900	3,073	4,080	3,967	3,935	↓
	Total waste entombed at other landfills (exc recyclables) (tonnes)	0	0	0	0	0	→
	Average total waste generated per person (tonnes)	0.41	0.33	0.44	0.43	0.43	↓
	Average cost of waste service per residential household		\$380	\$362	\$372	\$392	↓
Hazardous/Liquid Waste	DrumMuster collections (number of drums)	5,133	7,449	3,190	7,035	10,430	↑
	Household Hazardous Wastes collected (kg)	0	0	0	0	0	→
Reduce	Organics collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	0	0	0	112	432	↑
	E-Waste collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	2	3	4	0	2	↓
Recycle	Volume of material recycled (tonnes)	800	926	1,480	290	442	↓
	Volume of material recycled per person (kg)	85	99	160	32	48	↓
Littering and illegal dumping	Number of illegal waste disposal complaints to Council	10	10	20		10	↑
Engineering, Infrastructure and Civil Works	New road construction (km)	2	0	0	0	0	↑
	Road upgrades (km)	71	77	77		75	↓
Risk Management	Flood management plans/ flood mapping - increase in area covered (ha)	0	0	0			→
	Hazard reduction burns (number)	0	0	0	0	1	→
Climate Change Mitigation	Office paper used by Council (A4 & A3 reams)	2,105	1,670	1,444	1,360	1,352	↑
	Council sustainability initiatives (number)	0	1			0	↓
	Council mitigation initiatives (number)	1	1			0	↓
Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Annual electricity consumption for Council controlled facilities (MWh)	2,427	2,427	2,686	2,550	1,927	↑
	Annual natural gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (Gj)	0	0	0		0	→
	Annual bottled gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (L)	0	575	575	411		↑
	Total fuel consumption (KL)	849	781	874	570	825	↓
	Proportion of Council's electrical energy demand met from council-owned renewable energy infrastructure	10.0%	10.0%		10.0%	10.0%	→
	Council total operational greenhouse gas emissions (tCO ₂ -e/year)	6,972	6,907	7,612	6,792	6,784	↑
Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Small scale renewable energy uptake (kW installed)	1,000	1,008	1,429	1,555	1,512	↑
	Number of solar water heaters and heat pumps installed	11	4	3	2	0.98	↓

People and Communities

Issue	Indicator	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Trend
Active community involvement	Environmental volunteers working on public open space (hours)	25	25	364	20	20	↓
	Number of environmental community engagement programs	2	2	14	0	0	↓
	Number of growers' markets/local food retailers specialising in local food	8	7	20	12	12	↑
Indigenous Heritage	Number of Indigenous sites on AHIMS register	890	912	941	947	977	↑
	Inclusion in DCPs & rural strategies (Yes/No)	1	1	1	1	1	→
	Extent of liaison with Indigenous communities (self-assessed from 0 = none to 3 = High)	3	2	2	0	0	↓
	Development approvals on listed Indigenous sites (number)	0	2	2	0	0	↑
	Number of indigenous heritage management actions/responses	2	1	1		0	↓
Non-Indigenous Heritage	NSW Heritage Items (number)	4	4	4	4	4	→
	Locally listed heritage items (number)	30	30	30	30	30	→
	Actions to protect non-Indigenous heritage (including management plans) (number)	2	3	3	0	5	↑
	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	→

CASE STUDY: Timor Dam Access Track (Warrumbungle LGA)

An access track is to be completed at Timor Dam. The objective of the track is to enable safe access to the downstream area of the dam wall to restore the dams scour valve which will facilitate water environmental releases which will enhance fish and riparian habitats.

A habitat assessment in line with Part 5 of the EP&A Act has been completed by an ecologist to determine if the proposed activity will have any impact on identified flora and fauna in the area. No significant impact on threatened species or ecological communities has been identified.

An Aboriginal Heritage and Information Management System (AHIMS) search was conducted by an ecologist to identify Aboriginal Heritage in the area which revealed no known sites.



Timor Dam Spilling



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