

# 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.

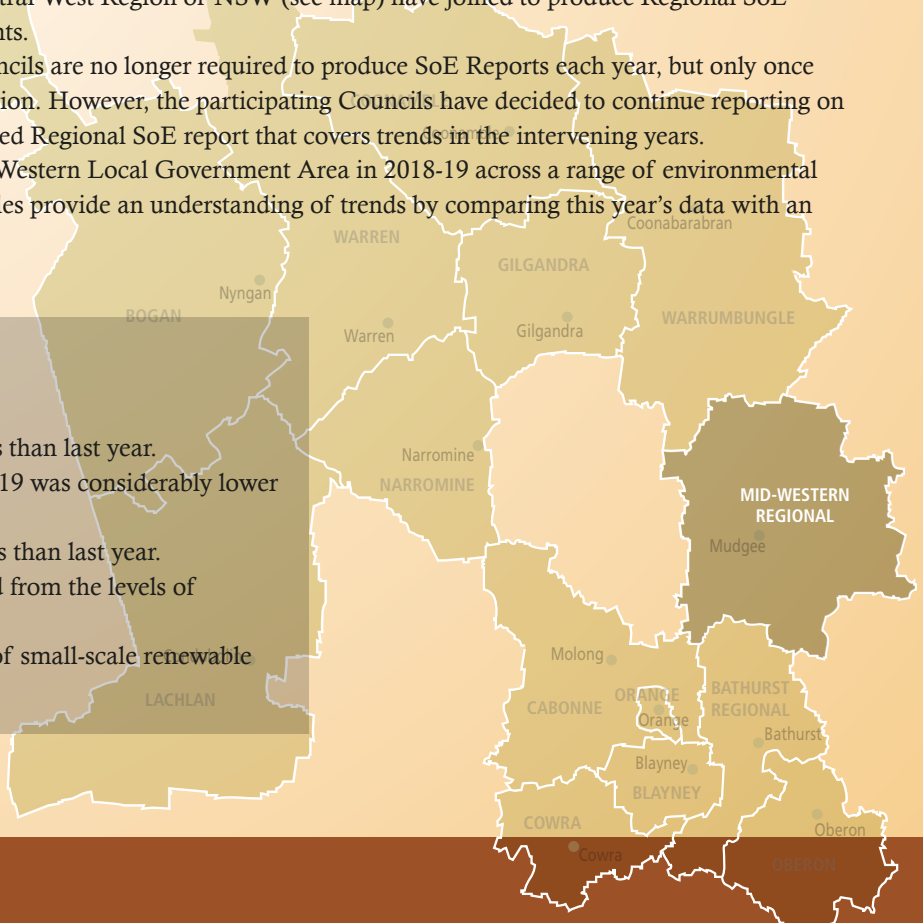
Since 2007, the Councils of the Greater Central West Region of NSW (see map) have joined to produce Regional SoE Reports as part of Council reporting requirements.

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 Mid-Western Local Government Area in 2018-19 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.

## 2018-19 Highlights

-  The average household water use was less than last year.
-  The volume of material recycled in 2018-19 was considerably lower than last year.
-  Council's electricity consumption was less than last year.
-  Total waste generated per person declined from the levels of previous two years.
-  There was a large increase in the uptake of small-scale renewable energy compared to last year.



## Land

Issue	Indicator	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Trend
Contamination	Contaminated land sites - Contaminated Land Register (number)	1	1	1	1	
	Contaminated land sites - potentially contaminated sites (number)	31	31	0	0	
	Contaminated sites rehabilitated (number)	0	0	0	0	
Erosion	Erosion affected land rehabilitated (ha)	0	0	0	0	
Land use planning and management	Number of development consents and building approvals	319	281	266	439	
	Landuse conflict complaints (number)	20	36	30	39	
	Loss of primary agricultural land through rezoning (ha)	0	0	0		
Minerals & Petroleum	Number of mining and exploration titles	152	149	133	198	
	Area covered by mining and exploration titles (ha)	480,000	682,000	650,000	680,000	

 improvement     no or little change     worsening trend

Note - the trend is based on comparing the average of the previous three years of reporting with 2018-19

# Biodiversity

Issue	Indicator	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Trend
Habitat Loss	Total Area in the National Parks Estate (ha)	100K	100K	100K	101K	↑
	Total Area of State Forests (ha)	16,827	16,841	16,841	16,841	→
	Total Area Protected in Wildlife Refuges (ha)	5,689	5,689	5,689	5,689	→
	Area protected in conservation reserves & under voluntary conservation agreements (ha)	1,384	1,657	2,204	2,294	↑
	Extent of Traveling Stock Reserves in LGA (ha)	1,449	1,301	1,301	1,378	→
	Proportion of Council reserves that is bushland/remnant vegetation	75%	75%	75%	76%	→
	Habitat areas revegetated (ha)	1	100	2	1	↓
	Roadside vegetation management plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	→
	Roadside vegetation rehabilitated (ha)	0	0	15	0	↓
Threatened Species	Threatened species actions implemented (e.g. PAS, recovery plans) (number)	1	2	1	1	↑
	Fish restocking activities: native species (number)	125K	124K	55,005	39,750	↓
Noxious weeds and feral animals	Fish restocking activities: non-native species (number)	42,332	38,334	27,667	29,000	↑
	Number of declared priority weeds	132	95	95	96	↑
	Invasive species (listed priority or WONS) under active management (number)	30	24	19	21	↓

# Water and Waterways

Issue	Indicator	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Trend
Surface & Ground Water Quality	Average salinity levels in selected streams (EC)	559	486	585	614	↓
	<i>E.coli</i> remote from wastewater treatment plants (per 100ml)	0	0	0	0	→
	Average Total Nitrogen in selected streams (mg/L)	0.55				
	Average Total Phosphorus in selected streams (mg/L)	0.04				
	Average Turbidity in selected streams (NTU)	15				
Riparian	Riparian vegetation recovery actions (number)	0	1	2	2	↑
	Riparian vegetation recovery area (ha)	0	50	4	5	↓
Industrial/ Agricultural Pollution	Load Based Licencing Volume (kg)	11,130	14,567	12,012	10,605	↑
	Exceedances of license discharge consent recorded (number)	1	4	0	0	↑
	Erosion & Sediment Control complaints received by Council (number)	3	20	5	7	↑
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 (number)	3	0	1		
Town Water Quality	Number of instances drinking water guidelines not met	149	77	34	26	↑
	Number of drinking water complaints	48	67	94	48	↑
Water extraction	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from surface water sources	304	335			
	Volume of surface water permissible for extraction under licences (GL)	38	38			
	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from groundwater resources	2,279	2,307			
	Volume of groundwater permissible for extraction under licences (GL)	32	35			
	Actual volume extracted through groundwater licences (GL)	2.8				
Council water consumption	Area of irrigated Council managed parks, sportsgrounds, public open space (ha)	70	70	71	72	↓
	Water used by council for irrigation (including treated and untreated) (ML)	146	175	236	192	↓
Town water consumption	Annual metered supply (ML)	1,949	1,931	2,190	2,019	↑
	Annual consumption (Total from WTP) (ML)	2,320	2,280	2,554	2,484	↓
	Average annual household mains potable water usage (kL)	200	192	214	198	↑
	Average level of water restrictions implemented	0	0	0	0	
	Water conservation programs (Number)	0	0	0	0	→

# Towards Sustainability

Issue	Indicator	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Trend
Waste Generation	Total waste entombed at primary landfill (tonnes)	28,568	22,639	21,783	19,789	↑
	Total waste entombed at other landfills (exc recyclables) (tonnes)	0	0	0	0	→
	Average total waste generated per person (tonnes)	1.18	0.92	0.88	0.79	↑
	Average cost of waste service per residential household	\$364	\$375	\$383	\$500	↓
Hazardous/Liquid Waste	DrumMuster collections (number of drums)	0	1,732	1,705	3,009	↑
	Household Hazardous Wastes collected (kg)	4,333	6,284	4,948	13,288	↑
Reduce	Garden organics collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	2,484	3,363	2,277	3,330	↑
	E-Waste collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	14	39	35	58	↑
Recycle	Volume of material recycled (tonnes)	2,518	3,113	4,222	1,680	↓
	Volume of material recycled per person (kg)	104	127	170	67	↓
Littering and illegal dumping	Number of illegal waste disposal complaints to Council	11	25	48	8	↑
Engineering, Infrastructure and Civil Works	New road construction (km)	2	1	0.25	0.55	↑
	Road upgrades (km)	95	83	71	55	↑
Risk Management	Flood management plans/ flood mapping - increase in area covered (ha)	0	710	0	0	↓
	Hazard reduction burns (number)	19	11	11	11	↑
Climate Change Mitigation	Office paper used by Council (A4 & A3 reams)	2,176	1,956	1,817	1,980	↑
	Council sustainability initiatives (number)	1	0	1	3	↑
	Council mitigation initiatives (number)	1	1	0	0	↓
Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Annual electricity consumption for Council controlled facilities (MWh)	6,156	5,867	6,315	6,100	↑
	Annual natural gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (GJ)	0	0	0	0	→
	Annual bottled gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (L)	5,313	7,863		9,003	↓
	Total fuel consumption (KL)	975	708	971	1,022	↓
	Proportion of Council's electrical energy demand met from council-owned renewable energy infrastructure	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	→
	Council total operational greenhouse gas emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> -e/year)	21,803	24,215	24,401	25,978	↓
Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Small scale renewable energy uptake (kw installed) (kW)	1,264	1,216	1,889	3,219	↑
	Number of solar water heaters and heat pumps installed	49	15	18	36	↑

# People and Communities

Issue	Indicator	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Trend
Active community involvement	Environmental volunteers working on public open space (hrs)	70	186	272	141	↓
	Number of environmental community engagement programs	5	6	4	4	↓
	Number of growers markets/local food retailers specialising in local food	3	3	3	3	→
Indigenous Heritage	Number of Indigenous sites on AHIMS register	4,302	4,328	4,566	4,856	↑
	Inclusion in DCPs & rural strategies (Yes or No)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	→
	Extent of liaison with Indigenous communities (self-assessed from 0 = none to 3 = High)	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	→
	Development approvals on listed Indigenous sites (number)	4	1	0	0	↑
	Number of Indigenous heritage management actions/responses	1	0	0	1	↑
Non-Indigenous Heritage	NSW Heritage Items (number)	13	14	14	15	↑
	Locally listed heritage items (number)	526	526	526	526	→
	Actions to protect non-Indigenous heritage (including management plans) (number)	1	1	0	1	↑
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists demolished/degraded in past year (number)	0	1	2	0	↑
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists renovated/improved in past year (number)	6	41	9	29	↑

## CASE STUDY: Putta Bucca Wetlands Extension Project (Mid-Western LGA)

Putta Bucca Wetlands is a vital recreational area located on the western edge of Mudgee, used widely by the community for walking, birdwatching, fishing, picnics etc. It is easily accessible from town being within walking distance of the CBD.

A total of seven threatened birds have been recorded within the boundaries of the reserve. The reserve also contains known breeding habitat for two EPBC-listed migratory birds and foraging habitat for other EPBC-listed migratory birds. It is home to populations of two culturally significant Australian aquatic mammals which are uncommon in the Mid-Western region - the Platypus and Water Rat - as well as two native mammals, the Common Brush-tail Possum and Swamp Wallaby.

Putta Bucca Wetlands is located at the site of an old gravel quarry and has been progressively remediated since 2010. Council has undertaken massive rubbish and weed removal works, revegetation, and installation of infrastructure including two bird hides, 2.5km of tracks, a car park and multiple seating and picnic areas.

Mid-Western Regional Council began the Putta Bucca Wetlands Extension Project in 2018. The project was partly funded by the NSW Environmental Trust Restoration and Rehabilitation Grant.

The project involved the rehabilitation of a decommissioned sewerage treatment plant outlet pond to extend Putta Bucca Wetlands Reserve. Major earthworks were undertaken to remediate the outlet pond and the site revegetated with wetland and Endangered Ecological Community vegetation. The project also involved weed control, construction of a further 1km of walking track and installation of interpretative signage.

Council developed and enhanced partnerships with a number of local organisations such as the Friends of Putta Bucca Group, Landcare, local schools and pre-schools, and Scouts by working closely with them to implement and maintain the project.



New shelter and signage at Putta Bucca Wetlands



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