

State of the Environment Report

2018 - 2019

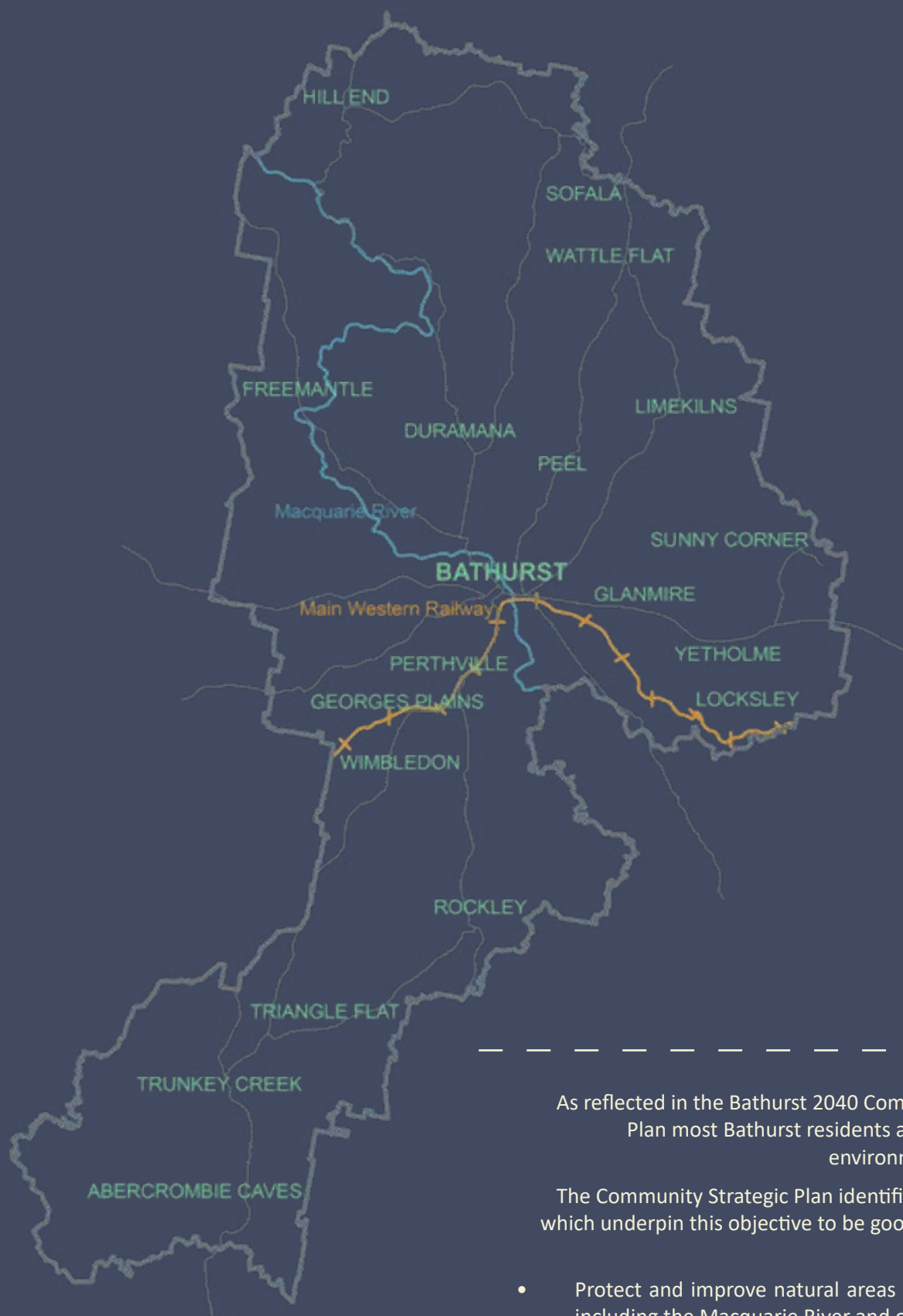


BATHURST
REGIONAL
COUNCIL



Photo by Caroline Forest - Koala on Yarris Lane

Bathurst LGA



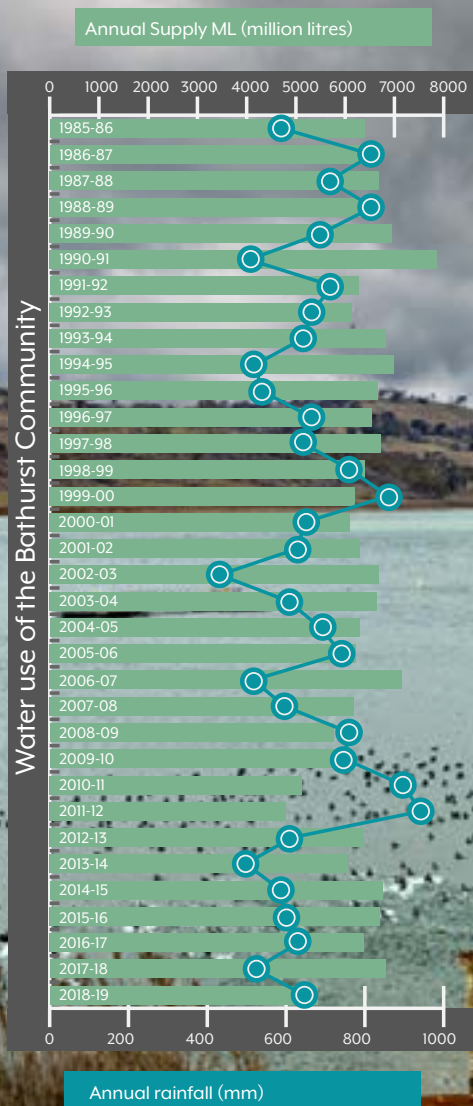
As reflected in the Bathurst 2040 Community Strategic Plan most Bathurst residents aspire to be good environmental stewards.

The Community Strategic Plan identifies five strategies which underpin this objective to be good environmental stewards:

- Protect and improve natural areas and ecosystems, including the Macquarie River and other waterways
- Protect the City's water supply
- Minimise the City's environmental footprint, live more sustainably and use resources more wisely
- Protect and improve the region's biodiversity
- Increase resilience to natural hazards and climate change

Council is tracking our progress towards achieving this objective through this State of the Environment Report.

Water



While annual rainfall was near average, very low autumn and winter rainfall affected storage levels in Chifley Dam

Bathurst town water supply comes from Chifley Dam.

At the end of the reporting period Chifley Dam was at approximately

41%

Level 3 (High level)
water restrictions commenced on 26 November 2018.

229,350 litres of water used per household in 2018-19, down by 23% on last year

The **Waterwise Bathurst** campaign focuses on what residents can do in order to conserve water in their homes and gardens, businesses, schools and on holidays.

20% of kerbside collected material and waste delivered to the Waste Management and Transfer stations was diverted from landfill

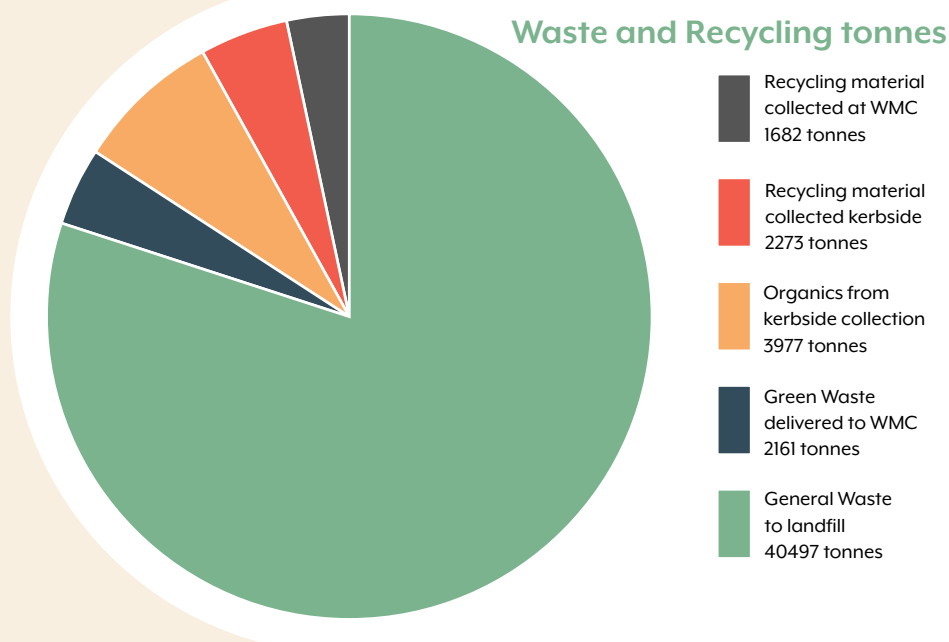
Illegal dumping is a **costly issue** for Bathurst ratepayers

148 illegal dumping matters investigated by Council Officer's with several penalty infringements issued



Waste

Modern **camera** technology installed by Council at dumping **hotspots** is helping Council identify **dumpers**



14

Council facilities with Solar Panels

444

kWh

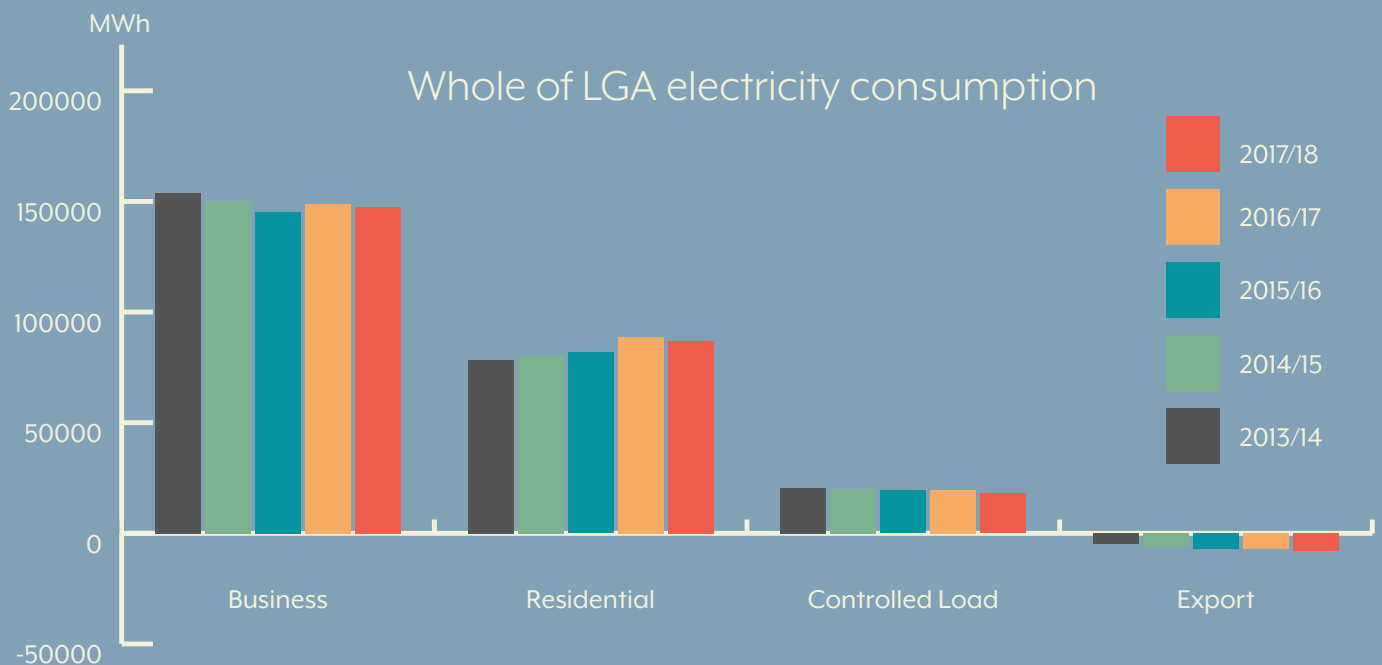
665

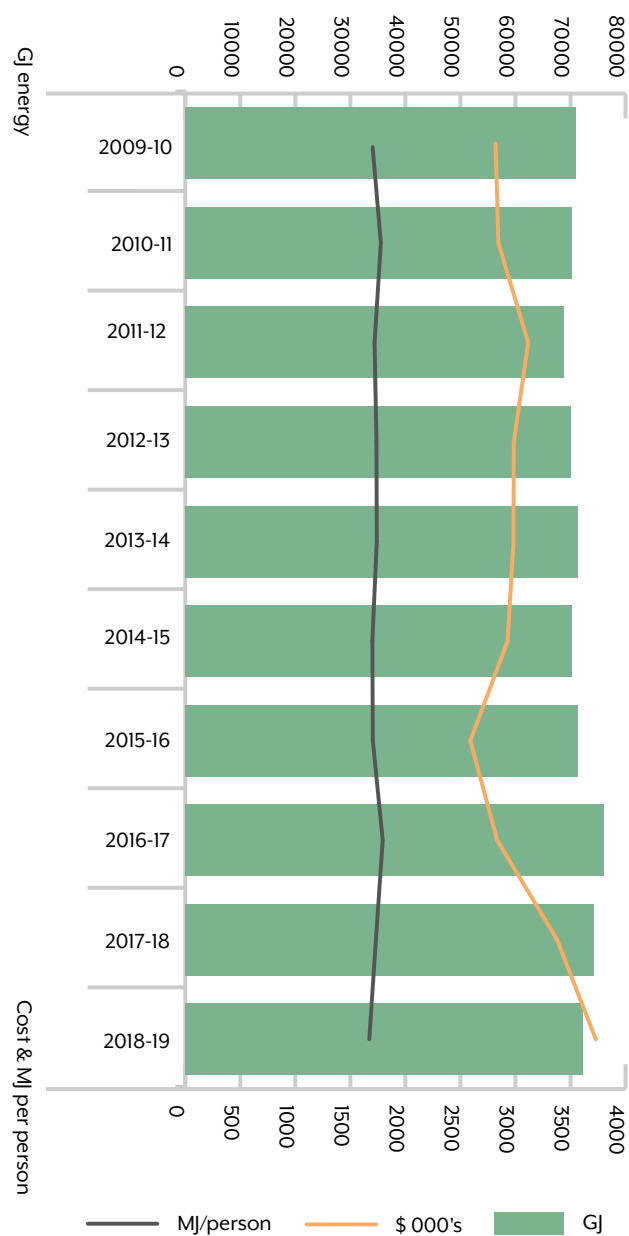
tonnes CO₂e in avoided greenhouse gas emissions

4.15%

of Council's electricity consumption derived from its own renewable energy infrastructure

Council's Renewable Energy Space





Electricity **consumption** for the whole of the Bathurst Regional Council **Local** Government Area has been relatively **static** over the five years to 2017/2018 with **declines** in business consumption being **offset** by increases in residential consumption. Energy **exported** to the grid from small scale solar gradually **increased** over the same **period**.

Solar uptake by the Bathurst Community @ June 2019 is 3369 solar systems = 17.1MW

Energy use at Council facilities per resident is declining. This year it was 1671 MJ per resident. Council spend on electricity and gas was \$4.2 million.

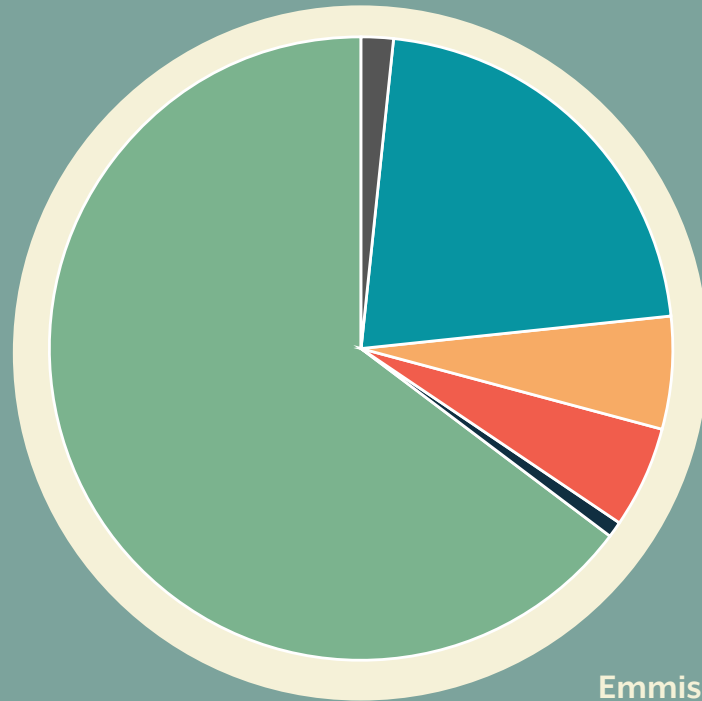
83% of community want more energy generated from renewable sources over the next five years (OEH 2018).

Council emissions = 1.02 tonnes CO2e per resident

Weather conditions influence energy use of Council operations through its influence on the energy needed to pump the town water supply and heat and cool Council facilities.

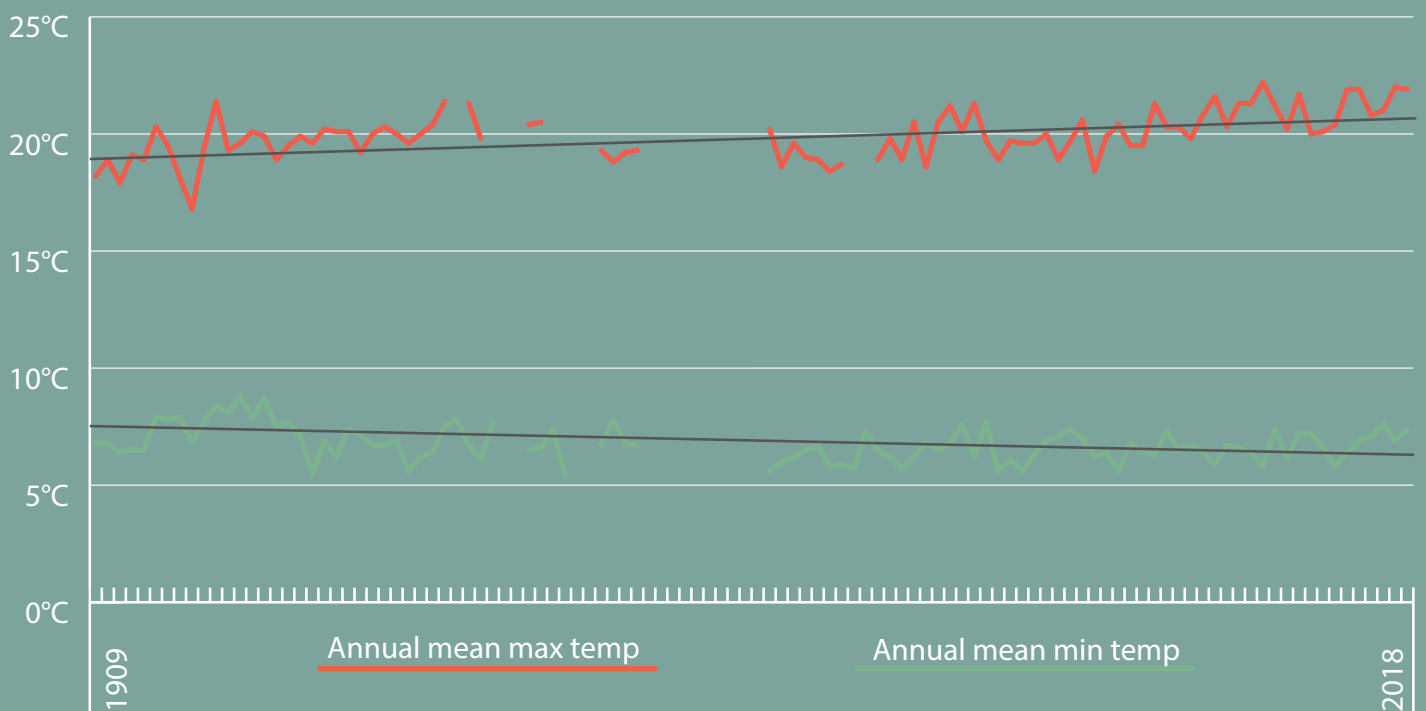
Council supported the installation of new electric vehicle charging infrastructure in Bathurst. Council constructed new car parking for Tesla to install six Supercharger points and NRMA one universal charge station adjacent to the Bathurst Visitor Information Centre. Council also installed two destination chargers in Courthouse Lane to facilitate electric vehicles in Council's fleet. The Tesla site was opened by Bathurst Mayor Graham Hanger and attended by the Tesla Owner's Club of Australia.

Climate



Emmissions - Council Operations
(tCO₂e)

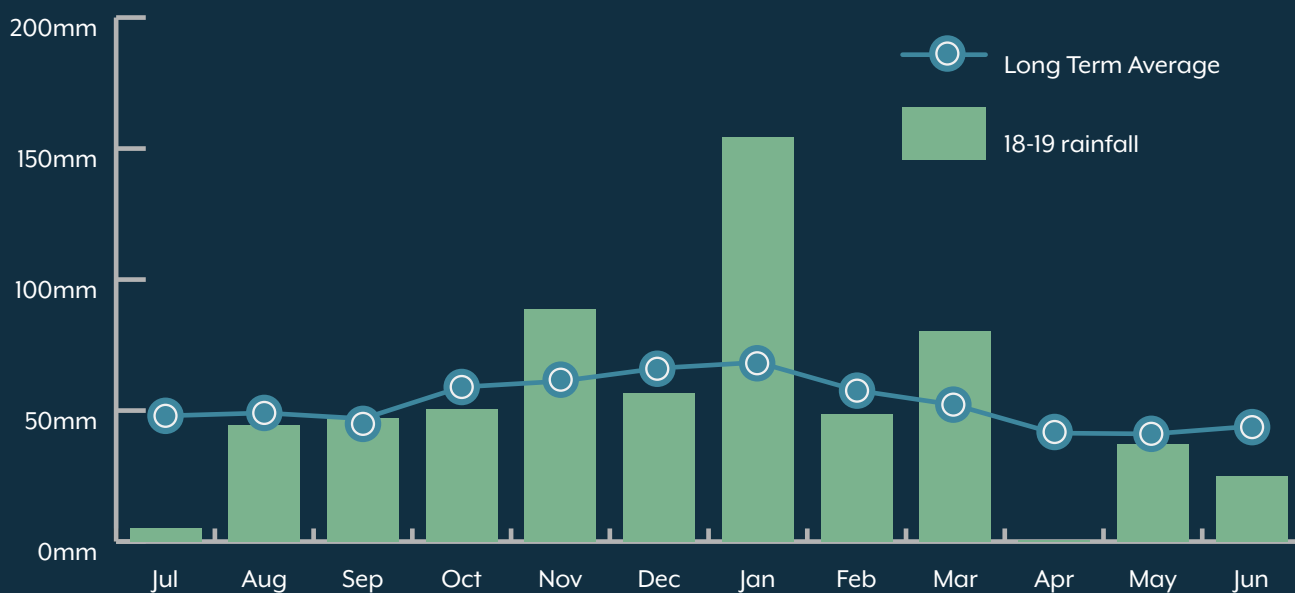
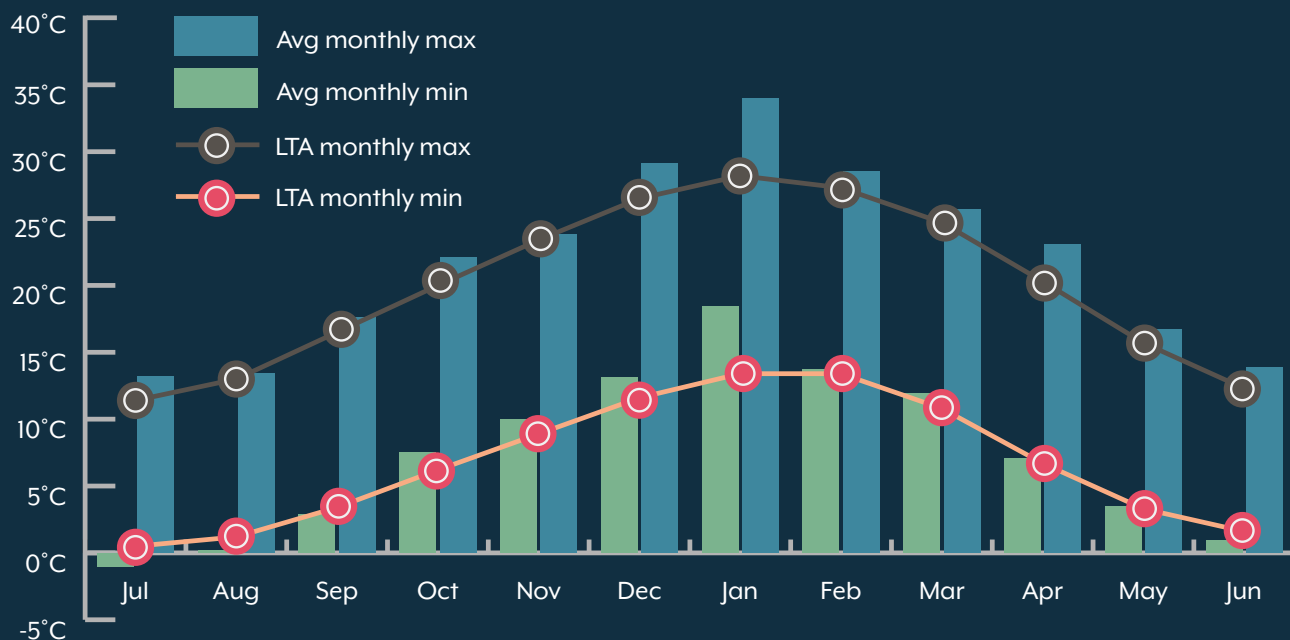
The long term trend in Bathurst is for **hotter days** and **colder overnight temperatures**



The Bureau of
Meteorology issued
a special climate
statement for
**widespread
heatwaves**
in December 2018
and January 2019

Bathurst experienced significantly
hotter conditions than average
during 2018-19. The average daily maximum
temperature in January 2019 was
5.8°C above average.

Weather





Biodiversity

Aussie Backyard Bird Count

Held from 22 to 28 October 2018, in the Bathurst LGA 254 observers recorded 162 different bird species in 372 surveys.

Introduced species accounted for 9% of the species recorded.

Seven threatened woodland bird species were detected during the survey – the Black-chinned Honeyeater, Painted Honeyeater, Dusky Woodswallow, Brown Treecreeper, Scarlet Robin, Diamond Firetail and Hooded Robin.

Other threatened species recorded were the Little Lorikeet, Turquoise Parrot, Glossy Black-Cockatoo, Superb Parrot and Black Falcon.

Roadside Vegetation

Council received grant funding from Local Land Services to assist with training its rural works crews in best practice roadside vegetation management. The project also included control of woody weeds in a high conservation value Box Gum Woodland roadside vegetation in sections of Limekilns Road.

Protecting our Waterways

Council commenced a NSW Environmental Trust funded project to rehabilitate the Macquarie River Riparian Corridor. The project will improve riparian vegetation condition along 1km of the Macquarie River to connect previously completed riparian rehabilitation projects and existing habitat areas. By connecting these areas, the extent of habitat along the river for a wide range of species will be increased. In doing so, the project will assist in addressing key threats to the recovery of listed endangered species, populations and communities, such as the Boorolong Frog and Murray Cod.