

# 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. It should be noted that the planned 2020 NSW Council elections were postponed until 2021.

This is a brief snapshot of data for the Bathurst Local Government Area in 2019-20 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.

## 2019-20 Highlights

- ↑ Water consumption in 2019-20 was significantly lower than the three previous years in response to the ongoing drought.
- ↓ The number of hours that environmental volunteers worked on open space projects fell to its lowest level in the past four years.
- ↑ Council's electricity consumption in 2019-20 was lower than each of the three previous years.
- ↑ The average amount of waste generated per person in 2019-20 was lower than each of the three previous years.
- ↓ Due mainly to bushfires, there was a large increase in the number of days that air pollution maximum goals for particulate matter were exceeded.

## Land

Issue	Indicator	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Trend
Contamination	Contaminated land sites - Contaminated Land Register (number)	0	0	0	0	→
	Contaminated land sites - potentially contaminated sites (number)	398	500	635	642	↓
	Contaminated sites rehabilitated (number)	4	3	2	3	→
Erosion	Erosion affected land rehabilitated (ha)	0	0	0	0	→
Land use planning and management	Number of development consents and building approvals	662	675	661	599	↑
	Landuse conflict complaints (number)	5	1	0	8	↓
	Loss of primary agricultural land through rezoning (ha)	29	0	0	0	↑
Minerals & Petroleum	Number of mining and exploration titles		11		163	↓
	Area covered by mining and exploration titles (ha)	110,000	106,000	93,955	140,000	↓

↑ improvement   → no or little change   ↓ worsening trend

Note - the trend is based on comparing the average of the three previous years of reporting with 2019-20

# People and Communities

Issue	Indicator	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Trend
Active community involvement	Environmental volunteers working on public open space (hours)	3,224	2,734	2,260	2,116	↓
	Number of environmental community engagement programs	12	12	12	11	↓
	Number of growers markets/local food retailers specialising in local food	5	5	5	6	↑
Community Impacts	Number of days that air pollution maximum goals for particulate matter were exceeded*	0	3	12	84	↓
Indigenous Heritage	Number of Indigenous sites on AHIMS register	275	300	328	341	↑
	Inclusion in DCPs & rural strategies (Yes/No)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	→
	Extent of liaison with Indigenous communities (self-assessed from 0 = none to 3 = High)	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	→
	Development approvals on listed Indigenous sites (number)	1	1	1	1	→
	Number of Indigenous heritage management actions/responses	0	0	0	8	→
Non-Indigenous Heritage	NSW Heritage Items (number)	34	34	34	34	→
	Locally listed heritage items (number)	341	342	342	344	↑
	Actions to protect non-indigenous heritage (including management plans) (number)	6	6	8	8	↑
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists demolished/degraded in past year (number)	0	1	0	2	↓
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists renovated/improved in past year (number)	10	6	22	11	↓

# Water and Waterways

Issue	Indicator	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Trend
	<i>E.coli</i> remote from wastewater treatment plants (per 100ml)	810	1,200	890	1,106	↓
Riparian	Riparian vegetation recovery actions (number)	10	9	8	15	↑
	Riparian vegetation recovery area (ha)	10	2	3	12	↑
Industrial/ Agricultural Pollution	Load Based Licencing Volume (kg)	62,439	47,068	46,197	45,930	↑
	Exceedances of license discharge consent recorded (number)	0	2	2	0	↑
	Erosion & Sediment Control complaints received by Council (number)	16	20	44	15	↑
Stormwater Pollution	Number of gross pollutant traps installed	7	7	7	7	→
	Total catchment area of GPTs (ha)	863	863	863	863	→
	Water pollution complaints (number)	14	20	12	17	↓
Town Water Quality	Number of instances drinking water guidelines not met	0	0	0	0	→
	Number of drinking water complaints	84	87	41	42	↑
Water extraction	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from surface water sources	235			243	↓
	Volume of surface water permissible for extraction under licences (GL)	30			27	↑
	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from groundwater resources	1,533			1,681	↓
	Volume of groundwater permissible for extraction under licences (GL)	2.3			1.9	↑
	Actual volume extracted through groundwater licences (GL)	0.01			0.01	→
Council water consumption	Area of irrigated Council managed parks, sportsgrounds, public open space (ha)	132	134	134	138	↓
	Water used by council for irrigation (including treated and untreated) (ML)	246	434	337	293	↑
Town water consumption	Annual metered supply (ML)	5,720	6,042	4,875	3,934	↑
	Annual consumption (Total from WTP) (ML)	6,578	6,819	5,441	3,917	↑
	Average annual household mains potable water usage (kL)	272.6	297.2	229.4	169.6	↑
	Average level of water restrictions implemented	0.0	0.0	3.0	5.0	↓
	Water conservation programs (number)	2	3	5	5	↑

# Towards Sustainability

Issue	Indicator	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Trend
Waste Generation	Total waste entombed at primary landfill (tonnes)	43,608	42,874	40,497	40,392	↑
	Total waste entombed at other landfills (exc recyclables) (tonnes)	150	150	155	155	↓
	Average total waste generated per person (tonnes)	1	1.00	0.94	0.93	↑
	Average cost of waste service per residential household	\$368	\$377	\$394	\$413	↓
Hazardous/Liquid Waste	DrumMuster collections (number of drums)	1,514	2,164	1,879	2,109	↑
	Household Hazardous Wastes collected (kg)	8,258	5,090	15,437	2,359	↓
Reduce	Organics collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	6,429	5,780	6,138	5,358	↓
	E-Waste collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	8	19	29	16	↓
Recycle	Volume of material recycled (tonnes)	2,951	3,684	3,903	3,012	↓
	Volume of material recycled per person (kg)	70	86	90	69	↓
Littering and illegal dumping	Number of illegal waste disposal complaints to Council	108	129	147	135	↓
Engineering, Infrastructure and Civil Works	New road construction (km)	4	6	5	0.93	↑
	Road upgrades (km)	55	53	80	42	↑
Risk Management	Flood management plans/ flood mapping - increase in area covered (ha)	0	0	0	0	→
	Hazard reduction burns (number)	0	1	1	0	→
Climate Change Mitigation	Office paper used by Council (A4 & A3 reams)	3,539	2,641	2,288	2,724	↑
	Council sustainability initiatives (number)	26	27	28	33	↑
	Council mitigation initiatives (number)	5	6	8	9	↑
Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Annual electricity consumption for Council controlled facilities (MWh)	15,289	15,289	14,746	13,220	↑
	Annual natural gas consumption for Council controlled facilities Gij	15,107	14,958	15,845	14,545	↑
	Annual bottled gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (L)	1,686	2,205	3,065	1,693	↑
	Total fuel consumption (KL)	857	858	876	915	↓
	Proportion of Council's electrical energy demand met from council-owned renewable energy infrastructure	3.0%	4.1%	4.4%	5.3%	↑
	Council total operational greenhouse gas emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> -e/year)	38,492	29,636	30,798	35,111	↓
Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Small scale renewable energy uptake (kW installed)	1,071	2,176	3,837	5,165	↑
	Number of solar water heaters and heat pumps installed	19	19	10	10	↓

# Biodiversity

Issue	Indicator	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Trend
Habitat Loss	Total area in the National Parks Estate (ha)	16,677	16,677	16,676	16,676	→
	Total area of State Forests (ha)	12,276	12,276	12,276	12,276	→
	Total area protected in Wildlife Refuges (ha)		8,262		8,262	→
	Area protected in conservation reserves & under voluntary conservation agreements (ha)	1,937	1,996	2,050	1,861	↓
	Extent of Traveling Stock Reserves in LGA (ha)			324	340	→
	Proportion of Council reserves that is bushland/remnant vegetation	50%	50%	45%	45%	↓
	Habitat areas revegetated (Ha)	15	2	2	4	↓
	Roadside vegetation management plan (Yes/No)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	→
	Roadside vegetation rehabilitated (ha)	0	1	4	9	↑
Threatened Species	State Threatened species listed (number)				102	
	Threatened species actions implemented (e.g. PAS, recovery plans) (number)	4	5	5	7	↑
	Fish restocking activities: native species (number)	77,612	22,755	38,000	7,000	↓
Priority weeds and feral animals	Fish restocking activities: non-native species (number)	67,334	26,667	20,825	28,000	↑
	Number of declared priority weeds	95	95	96	98	↓
	Invasive species under active management (number)	13	13	14	15	↑

## CASE STUDY: 'Water – Let's Make It Last' (Bathurst LGA)

'Water – Let's Make It Last' is Bathurst Regional Council's highly coordinated, engagement and compliance program that was able to secure exceptional community participation in reducing the per capita, daily water consumption rate.

The program was developed to extend the life of the Bathurst water supply and simultaneously meet a range of other objectives with social, environmental and economic considerations. In addition to ensuring water for human needs and enabling residents to protect their valued assets, consideration was also given to agriculture, manufacturing and small business to ensure those businesses could access water therefore ensuring the continued employment of many local people and generating important economic revenue for the region. Water for the environment was also prioritised, ensuring flows in local waterways has helped to protect ecosystems, ground water supplies, river health and biodiversity. Water for culture and the preservation of heritage assets were considered as part of the program, as were water quality issues and protecting vulnerable members of the community.

The program has helped build the capacity and resilience of the community in the face of drought and key achievements include:

- Substantial and sustained decrease in water consumption at the residential household level – from 353 litres per person per day in Jan 2019, to 130 litres per person per day in May 2020.
- Increased awareness and uptake of temporary grey water by residents.
- Residents and businesses engaged in the permit and exemption processes with over 320 exemptions processed for residents, 104 business exemptions and 147 pool permits.
- Alternative water sources inspected and certified for use.
- Installation of smart water meters which helped identify water leakages and confirmed breaches of restrictions.
- Community assets including sports and recreation green spaces underwent water efficiency reviews, with more efficient water use practices introduced.
- A new bulk water metered filling station was installed, with innovative payment technology enabling rural residents improved access to water for stock and domestic use.

These significant achievements will ensure that Council can defer even stricter water restrictions and at the same time undertake important water supply projects to improve the future water security of the region.

### Water Restrictions for Home Gardens

APPLY FROM 24 FEBRUARY 2020

<p>SUNDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS ONLY</p>	<p>USING BUCKETS OR WATERING CANS ONLY (NO HOSES)</p>
<p>MAXIMUM 30 MINUTES WATER RUNNING TIME (ONE TAP)</p>	<p>BEFORE 10.00AM OR AFTER 4.00PM</p>

**AEST** Australian Eastern Standard Time. **AEDST** Australian Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

**Special Circumstances for Home Gardens** Please contact Council if you are unable to meet the water restrictions for home gardens. Exemptions may apply.

**Greywater** Greywater can harbour harmful bacteria. Contact Council for information on safe greywater use.

**Cars** Washing of cars not permitted at home. Washing of windscreens, lights, windows, mirrors and number plates permitted at service stations.

**For more information:**  
Phone 6333 1683  
Email: [waterrestrictions@bathurst.nsw.gov.au](mailto:waterrestrictions@bathurst.nsw.gov.au)  
Visit: 158 Russell Street

BATHURST REGIONAL COUNCIL