



Critically Endangered Grassy Box-gum Woodland at Peel

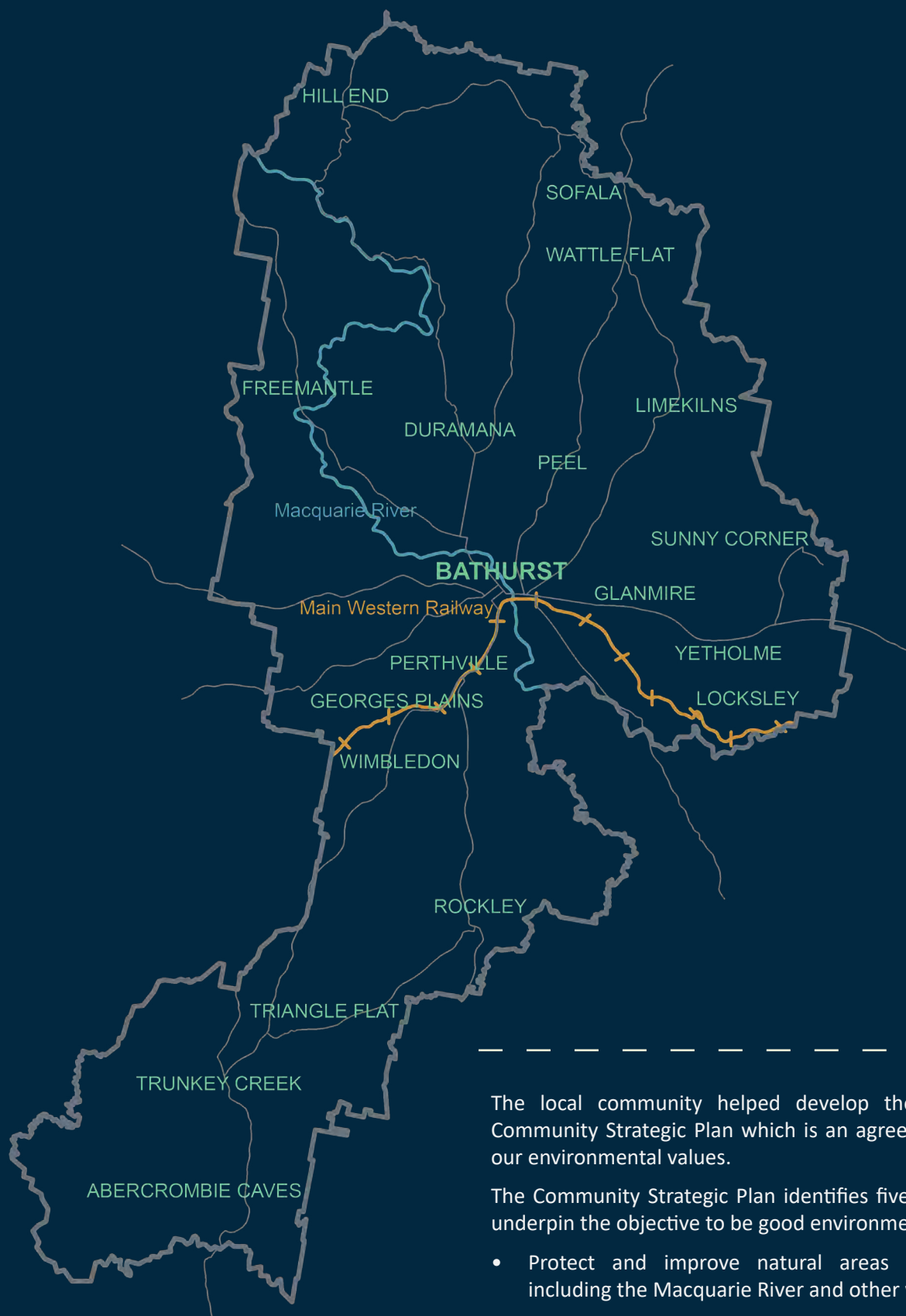


BATHURST
REGIONAL
COUNCIL

State of the Environment Snapshot

2019-20

Bathurst LGA



The local community helped develop the Bathurst 2040 Community Strategic Plan which is an agreed plan to protect our environmental values.

The Community Strategic Plan identifies five strategies which underpin the 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

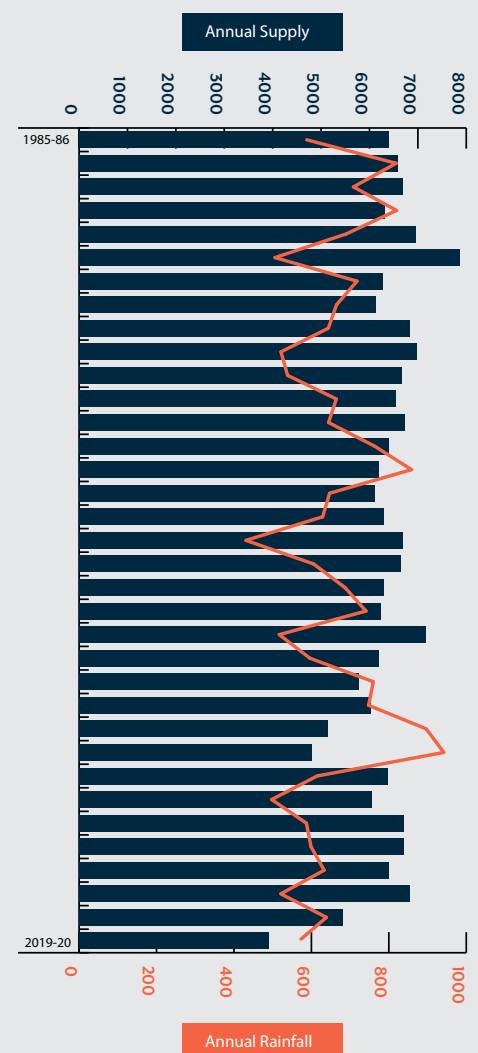
The 2019/20 State of the Environment Report helps us track our progress towards this objective.

Water

Water use by households is strongly correlated to rainfall.

Bathurst town water supply comes from Chifley Dam. At the end of the reporting period Chifley Dam was at approximately 38.7%

The 'Let's Make it Last' education campaign focused on helping residents and businesses achieve a major reduction in water use during the drought.



4/5
extreme level water
restrictions
commenced 14
October 2019

130
average litres
per person per
day

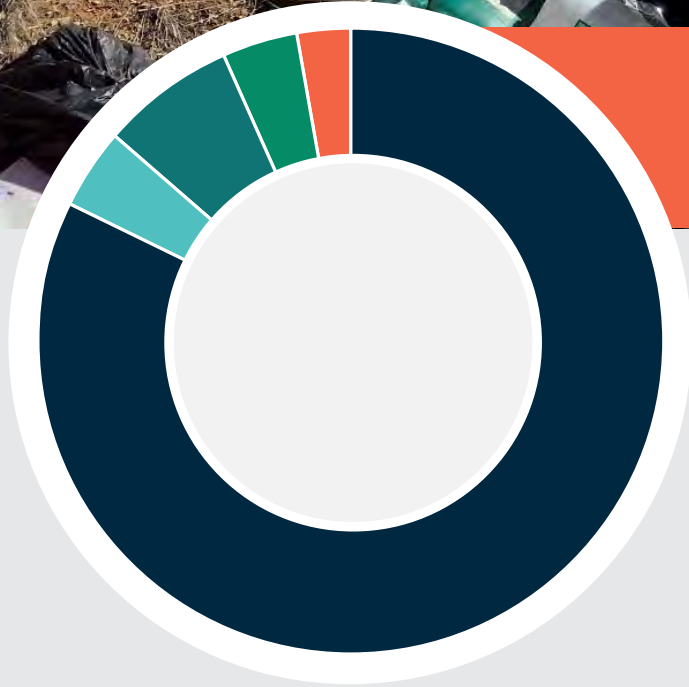
26%
less domestic water
used than previous
year

63%
less water use
per resident

169
thousand
litres of water used
per household



Waste



- 1326 tonnes of recycled material at WMC
- 1980 tonnes of Green Waste delivered to WMC
- 3378 tonnes Organics kerbside collection
- 1917 tonnes of material collected kerbside for recycling
- 40392 tonnes General Waste to Landfill (kerbside and delivered to WMC)

A trailer load of rubbish dumping by the numbers

\$20	Take to the Waste Management Centre
\$250-\$1500	Fine for dumping
\$150-\$500	Cost to ratepayers to clean up

17%

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

Council works with other agencies including the NSW Environment Protection Authority, Forestry Corporation and NSW Police and the local community to **monitor** activity, and to **identify** and **penalise** illegal dumpers.

Illegal dumping is a **costly issue** for Bathurst ratepayers. In **2019/20** Council Officers investigated **135 illegal dumping matters** and issued **several** penalty infringements.

17

Council facilities
with Solar Panels

481

kW installed

609

tonnes CO₂e in
avoided greenhouse
gas emissions

28

kW
average system
size

5.3%

of Council's electricity
consumption derived
from its own solar

Council's Renewable Energy profile



Energy

RENEWABLE ENERGY ACTION PLAN

Adopted June 2020

- Target of 15% improved electricity efficiency 2018/19 to 2023 with a 9.7% improvement achieved by 2019/20
- 25% of Council operations powered by Renewable Energy by 2023 and 50% by 2025

Council continues to support the transition to sustainable vehicles with electric vehicle charging infrastructure in Bathurst. Council installed two new charge stations at the new Bathurst Rail Museum: A Tesla Destination charger and a universal charger, as well as installing two chargers in the Civic Centre parking area. Council continues its trial of a Mitsubishi Outlander plug-in hybrid electric vehicle for staff use.

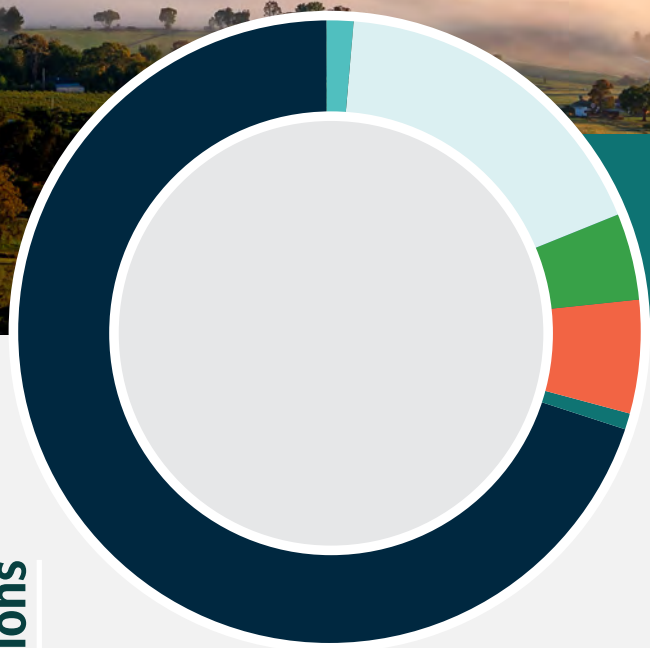
Total electricity use for the whole of the Bathurst Regional Council Local Government Area has been relatively stable 2019/20 to 2018/19. Business use has declined but this has been offset by higher energy use in homes. Energy exported to the grid from small scale solar continues to increase.

1.11 tonnes
carbon dioxide
(equivalent)
emissions per
resident

Helpful hint:

1.1 tonnes of carbon dioxide gas would fill the average Australian home

BRC Co₂ emissions



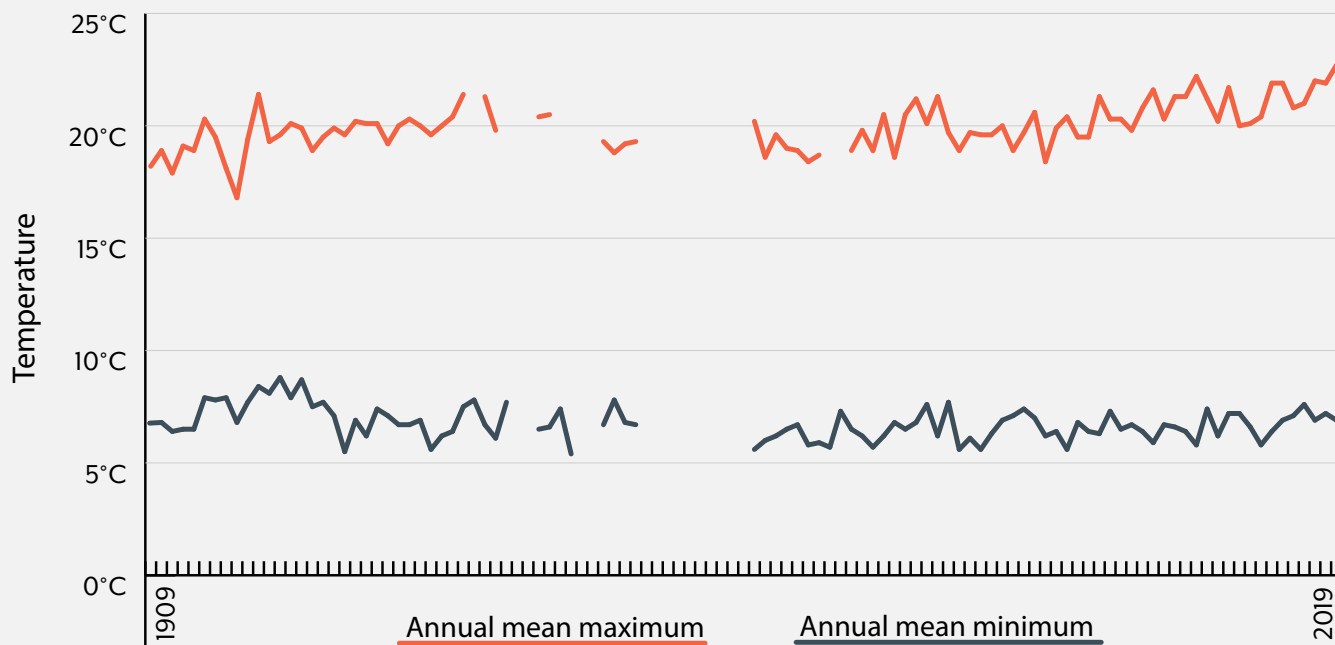
Net WMC Landfill Emissions 33894	Fleet 2732
Wastewater Treatment Plant 394	Gas 757
Street Lighting 2201	Electricity 8484

Climate

Did you know?

Weather is the daily temperature, wind, rain that we experience.

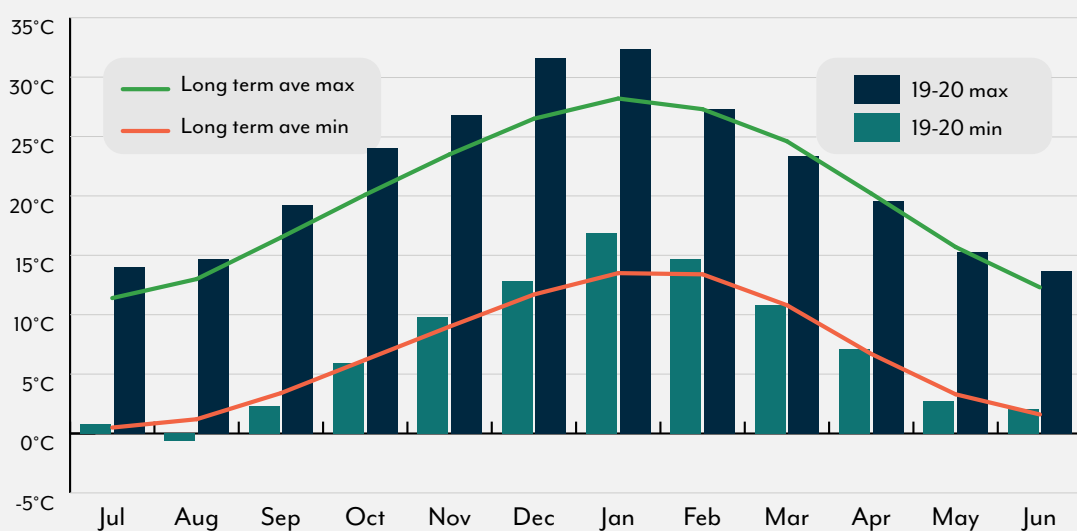
Climate is the trend or average over a long period of time.



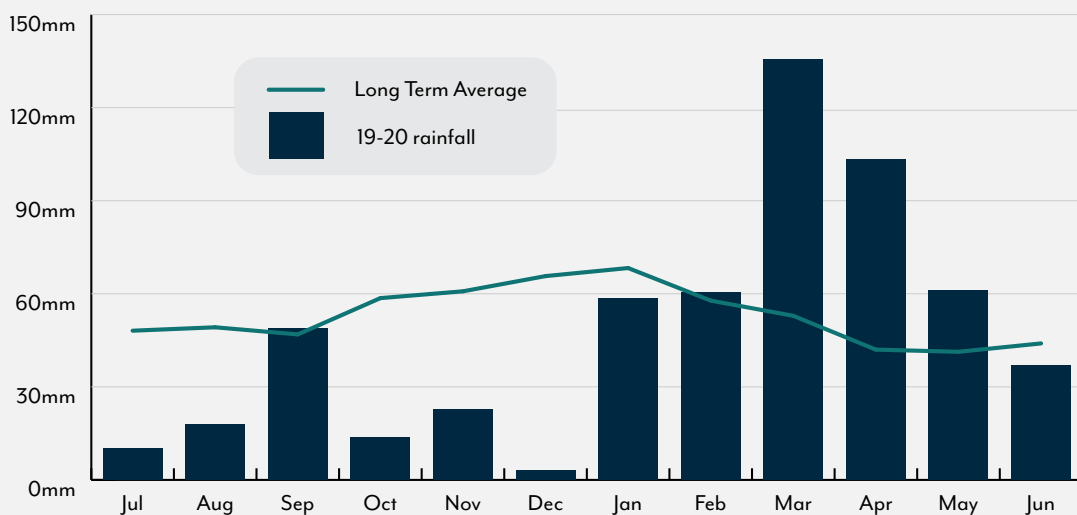
Conditions were significantly **hotter** than average during 2019/20. The average daily maximum temperature in December 2019 – January 2020 was at least **4°C above** average and the year was **1.9°C above** average.

Bathurst experienced the **hottest average maximum** day-time temperature on record for 2019/20 and **continues to be hotter** on average.

Weather



Maximum and Minimum Temperatures compared to long-term average1



The first half of the reporting period experienced significantly less rainfall than the average whilst storms in March – May resulted in higher monthly totals later in the year.



Biodiversity

Protecting our Waterways

Council continued a NSW Environmental Trust funded project to rehabilitate 1km of Macquarie River Riparian Corridor. Tree planting programs were also conducted along other creeks and rivers in the Region. These projects improve riparian (riverside) vegetation and connect to other rehabilitation projects and existing habitat areas. Increasing riparian habitat addresses key threats to the recovery of listed endangered species, populations and communities, such as the Booroolong Frog and Murray Cod.

Roadside Vegetation

Council implemented woody weedy control along 7km of Box-Gum Woodland on Duramana Road and The Bridle Track through grant funding from the Central Tablelands Local Land Services.

Did you know?

Feral bird species are more likely to live in a garden with exotic plants and native birds are more likely to live in a garden with mostly native plants.

198
participants

150
bird species

7
threatened bird
species identified

3
feral bird species
in the top 6 most
commonly seen

11,690
birds counted