

*Coonamble Shire Council*

**Section 6 Annual Report 2017-2018**

**STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT SNAPSHOT**

## 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 Coonamble Local Government Area in 2017-18 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. The Council snapshot report should be read in conjunction with the 2017-18 Regional SoE report.

### 2017-18 Highlights

- ↑ The number of Erosion & Sediment Control complaints received by Council decreased from last year.
- ↓ The annual consumption of water from the metered supply was at its highest level in the past four years.
- ↑ There was a significant decrease in the amount of waste entombed at primary landfill in comparison with past three years.
- ↓ The volume of material recycled in the Coonamble Local Government Area decreased from last year but was greater than the previous two years.
- ↑ Council's use of office paper dramatically declined from the three previous years.

### Land

Issue	Indicator	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Trend
Contamination	Contaminated land sites - Contaminated Land Register (number)	0	0	0	0	→
	Contaminated land sites - potentially contaminated sites (number)	11	15	15	15	↓
	Contaminated sites rehabilitated (number)		0		0	→
Erosion	Erosion affected land rehabilitated (ha)		0		0	→
Land use planning and management	Number of development consents and building approvals	46	29		41	↓
	Landuse conflict complaints (number)		0		0	→
	Loss of primary agricultural land through rezoning (ha)		0		0	→
Minerals & Petroleum	Number of mining and exploration titles	12	12	12	5	↑
	Area covered by mining and exploration titles (ha)		465K	459K	456K	↑

↑ improvement

→ no or little change

↓ worsening trend

Note - the trend is based on comparing the average of the previous three years of reporting with 2017-18

# Biodiversity

Issue	Indicator	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Trend
Habitat Loss	Total Area in the National Parks Estate (ha)	31,429	31,429	31,429	31,429	→
	Total Area of State Forests (ha)	17,846	17,849	17,861	17,861	→
	Total Area Protected in Wildlife Refuges (ha)	0	0	0	0	→
	Area protected in conservation reserves & under voluntary conservation agreements (ha)	184	184	184	184	→
	Extent of Traveling Stock Reserves in LGA (ha)		14,824	15,489	15,489	→
	Proportion of Council reserves that is bushland/remnant vegetation	0%	0%	0%	0%	→
	Habitat areas revegetated (ha)	0	0	0		
	Roadside vegetation management plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	→
	Roadside vegetation rehabilitated (ha)	0	0	0	0	→
Threatened Species	Threatened species actions implemented (e.g. PAS, recovery plans) (number)	0	0	0		
	Fish restocking activities: native species (number)	0	5,000	0	0	↓
Noxious weeds and feral animals	Fish restocking activities: non-native species (number)	0	0	0	0	→
	Number of declared noxious weeds	98	112	91	91	↑
	Invasive species (listed noxious or WONS) under active management (number)	0	0	0	0	→

# Water and Waterways

Issue	Indicator	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Trend
Surface & Ground Water Quality	Average salinity levels in selected streams (EC)	267	331	187		
	E.coli remote from wastewater treatment plants (per 100ml)		170	168	168	↑
Riparian	Riparian vegetation recovery actions (number)	0	0	0	0	→
	Riparian vegetation recovery area (ha)	0	0	0	0	→
Industrial/ Agricultural Pollution	Load Based Licencing Volume (kg)	0	0	0	0	→
	Exceedances of license discharge consent recorded (number)	0	0	0	0	→
	Erosion & Sediment Control complaints received by Council (number)	3	11	11	4	↑
Stormwater Pollution	Number of gross pollutant traps installed	1	1	1	1	→
	Total catchment area of GPTs (ha)	2	2	3	3	↑
	Water pollution complaints (number)	3	0	0	0	↑
Town Water Quality	Number of instances drinking water guidelines not met	2	34	30	23	↓
	Number of drinking water complaints	10	8	8	5	↑
Water extraction	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from surface water sources	68	61	64		
	Volume of surface water permissible for extraction under licences (GL)	4.8	4.9	5.2		
	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from groundwater resources	672	676	676		
	Volume of groundwater permissible for extraction under licences (GL)	2	2	2		
	Actual volume extracted through groundwater licences (GL)	1.2	1.3			
Council water consumption	Area of irrigated Council managed parks, sportsgrounds, public open space (ha)	18	18	18	18	→
	Water used by council for irrigation (including treated and untreated) (ML)	12	14	13	13	→
Town water consumption	Annual metered supply (ML)	820	920	919	924	↓
	Annual consumption (Total from WTP) (ML)	780	1,162	1,158		
	Average annual household mains potable water usage (kL)	79.1	92.9	94.5		
	Average level of water restrictions implemented	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	→
	Water conservation programs (number)	0	0	0	0	→

# Towards Sustainability

Issue	Indicator	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Trend
Waste Generation	Total waste entombed at primary landfill (tonnes)	4,200	4,800	4,803	1,600	↑
	Total waste entombed at other landfills (exc recyclables) (tonnes)	550	236	233	0	↑
	Average total waste generated per person (tonnes)	1	1.18	1.20	0.39	↑
	Average cost of waste service per residential household	\$315	\$320	\$325	\$287	↑
Hazardous/Liquid Waste	DrumMuster collections (number of drums)	1,343	2,347	2,006	1,316	↓
	Household Hazardous Wastes collected (kg)	0	0	607	0	↓
Reduce	Garden organics collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	1,777	1,877	1,305	0	↓
	E-Waste collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	0	0	0	0	→
Recycle	Volume of material recycled (tonnes)	230	189	605	301	↓
	Volume of material recycled per person (kg)	54	44	144	74	↓
Littering and illegal dumping	Number of illegal waste disposal complaints to Council	12	6	7	9	↓
Engineering, Infrastructure and Civil Works	New road construction (km)	0	0	0	0	→
	Road upgrades (km)	25	30	23	18	↑
Risk Management	Flood management plans/ flood mapping - increase in area covered (ha)	0	0	0	0	→
	Hazard reduction burns (number)	0	0	0	0	→
Climate Change Mitigation	Office paper used by Council (A4 & A3 reams)	2,190	2,300	2,308	670	↑
	Council sustainability initiatives (number)	0	0	0	0	→
	Council mitigation initiatives (number)	0	0	0	0	→
Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Annual electricity consumption for Council controlled facilities (MWh)				1,735	
	Annual natural gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (Gj)	0	0	0	0	→
	Annual bottled gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (L)	200	200	203	280	↓
	Total fuel consumption (KL)	640	850	225	259	↑
	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)	4,584	4,653	5,291	5,256	↓
Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Small scale renewable energy uptake (kw installed) (KW)	226	371	426	567	↑
	Number of solar water heaters and heat pumps installed	9	2	2	4	↓

# People and Communities

Issue	Indicator	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Trend
Active community involvement	Environmental volunteers working on public open space (hrs)	50	50	35	18	↓
	Number of environmental community engagement programs	0	0	0	0	→
	Number of growers markets/local food retailers specialising in local food	0	0	0	1	↑
Indigenous Heritage	Number of Indigenous sites on AHIMS register	198	208	208	212	↑
	Inclusion in DCPs & rural strategies	0	1	1	1	↑
	Extent of liaison with Indigenous communities (self-assessed from 0 = none to 3 = High)	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	↓
	Development approvals on listed Indigenous sites	0	0	0	0	→
	Number of Indigenous heritage management actions/responses	0	0	0	0	→
Non-Indigenous Heritage	NSW Heritage Items	1	1	1	1	→
	Locally listed heritage items	45	45	45	45	→
	Actions to protect non-Indigenous heritage (including management plans)	0	0	0	0	→
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists demolished/degraded in past year	0	0	0	0	→
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists renovated/improved in past year	3	0	0	0	↓

## CASE STUDY: Dealing with illegal dumping (Coonamble LGA)

Coonamble Shire Council operates a waste management facility on the western side of Coonamble on the Quambone Road. This is where the refuse for the towns of Coonamble, Gulargambone and Quambone is deposited after weekly collection.

However, as is the case in many shires, illegal dumping is an ongoing problem. In Coonamble this is of particular concern in an area known as the "Back Stock Route" which is situated very close to the township on the eastern side, just over the levee bank and between the levee bank and the Council Common. The overflow from the Warrena Weir flows under a bridge into a creek and the stock route along the creek bed. Water in this creek varies from non-existent in times of drought to very large volumes in times of flood.

The close proximity to town whilst being hidden from view by the levee bank and tree tops makes this site ideal for illegal dumping. Council spent 24 hours with a back hoe and tip truck collecting rubbish which included household rubbish, dead animals and old fencing.

A scrap metal buyer was also engaged who removed more than ten abandoned vehicles of various ages and stages of decay. This has cleared the watercourse.

Council has placed fallen trees in the watercourse to slow the flow of water when the weir overflows to make for a more prolonged access for wildlife. This ponding or pooling effect is also assisting in the growth of trees which have been planted to help stabilise the banks of the creek.

Council in conjunction with the Castlereagh Macquarie County Council, has sprayed for priority weeds including African Boxthorn, Bathurst burr, Noogoora burr and Prickly pear.

Council is pleased to have removed the dumped rubbish and made the area more habitable for aquatic species and other wildlife.



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