

2016–21 Greater Central West Region State of the Environment Report

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.

NSW legislation means that Councils are not required to produce SoE reports each year, but 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 SoE report that covers trends in the intervening years.

The 2020 Council elections were postponed until 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Being the year of the Council election, this SoE report responds to the requirement in the *Local Government Act 1993* that Councils measure and report on the progress of the environmental objectives in their Community Strategic Plan.

This report provides a regional summary of trends (2016-2021) in selected environmental indicators across the 15 Local Councils in the Greater Central West Region. It was prepared in conjunction with reports on each Council's environmental strategies, appropriate indicators to measure them and trends in these indicators since the last Council election (2016).

Environmental Indicators

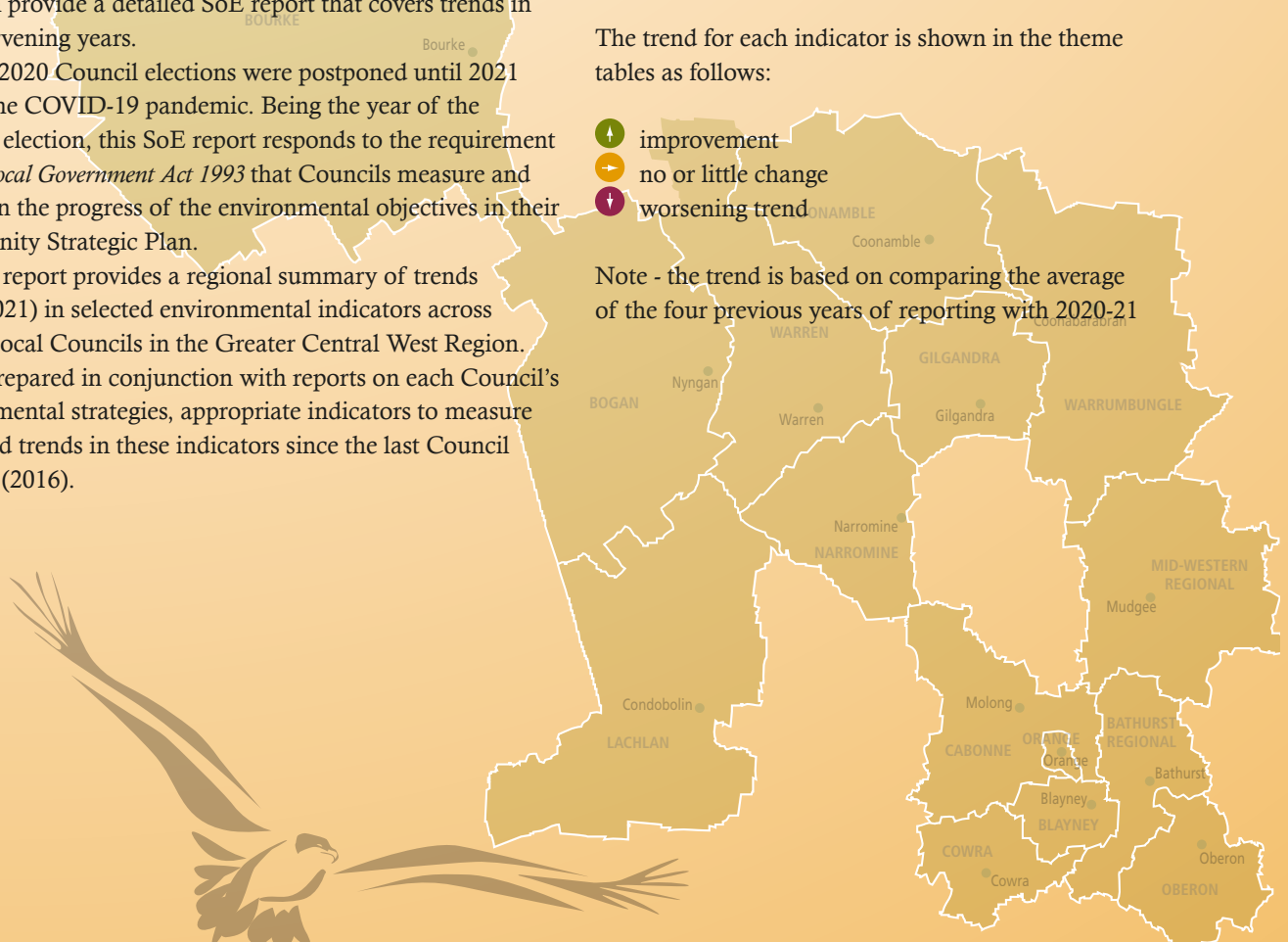
Over 100 indicators have been identified and used to measure the state of the environment across the Greater Central West Region using data compiled over the past five years. The indicators are categorised into five themes:

- Land
- Biodiversity
- Water and Waterways
- People and Communities
- Towards Sustainability

The trend for each indicator is shown in the theme tables as follows:

- ↑ improvement
- no or little change
- ↓ worsening trend

Note - the trend is based on comparing the average of the four previous years of reporting with 2020-21



Land

Issue	Indicator	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Trend
Contamination	Contaminated land sites - Contaminated Land Register (number)	7	7	8	7	7	→
	Contaminated land sites - potentially contaminated sites (number)	1,275	1,410	1,581	1,572	1,585	↓
	Contaminated sites rehabilitated (number)	10	6	6	16	6	↓
Erosion	Erosion affected land rehabilitated (ha)	2,266	1,798	248	0	1,002	↑
Land use planning and management	Number of development consents and building approvals	2,562	2,673	2,855	2,657	3,637	↓
	Landuse conflict complaints (number)	90	80	61	81	72	↑
	Loss of primary agricultural land through rezoning (ha)	124	40	41	257	150	↓
Minerals & Petroleum	Number of mining and exploration titles				1,408	765	↑
	Area covered by mining and exploration titles (ha)	5.3M	5.3M	5.1M	5.9M	6.2M	↓

Water and Waterways

Issue	Indicator	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Trend
Surface & Ground Water Quality	Average salinity levels in selected streams (EC)	431	551	547	518	444	↑
	E.coli remote from wastewater treatment plants (per 100ml)	201	240	266	244	69	↑
Riparian	Riparian vegetation recovery actions (number)	21	22	20	26	26	↑
	Riparian vegetation recovery area (ha)	200	220	213	95	59	↓
Industrial/ Agricultural Pollution	Load Based Licencing Volume (kg)	261,088	130,691	128,607	158,013	238,108	↓
	Exceedances of license discharge consent recorded (number)	17	12	11	6	11	↑
	Erosion & Sediment Control complaints received by Council (number)	47	49	82	64	58	↑
Stormwater Pollution	Number of gross pollutant traps installed	32	33	32	31	30	→
	Total catchment area of GPTs (ha)	4,181	4,177	4,177	4,177	4,177	→
	Water pollution complaints (number)	19	26	17	23	20	→
Town Water Quality	Number of instances drinking water guidelines not met	98	59	76	61	98	↓
	Number of drinking water complaints	244	283	175	260	225	↑
Dam Levels	Average dam levels	87.4%	70.8%	48.2%	31.6%	44.4%	↓
Water extraction	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from surface water sources				2,257	2,512	↓
	Volume of surface water permissible for extraction under licences (GL)				870K	1M	↓
	Actual volume extracted through surface water licences (GL)					307,061	→
	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from groundwater resources				19,273	19,468	↓
	Volume of groundwater permissible for extraction under licences (GL)				229	259K	↓
	Actual volume extracted through groundwater licences (GL)				125	60,439	↓
Council water consumption	Area of irrigated Council managed parks, sportsgrounds, public open space (ha)	973	913	892	959	984	↓
	Water used by council for irrigation (including treated and untreated) (ML)	767	1,135	1,157	970	975	↑
Town water consumption	Annual metered supply (ML)	17,987	19,687	17,604	14,032	14,070	↑
	Annual consumption (Total from WTP) (ML)	16,791	17,714	15,249	12,549	11,408	↑
	Average annual household mains potable water usage (kL)	201	214	189	168	157	↑
	Average level of water restrictions implemented	0.5	1.2	2.6	3.0	1.9	↓
	Water conservation programs (number)	6	11	13	17	13	↑

Biodiversity

Issue	Indicator	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Trend
ClearHabitat Loss	Total area in the National Parks Estate (ha)	753,560	753,560	753,948	755,528	763,421	↑
	Total area of State Forests (ha)	239,000	239,000	239,000	239,000	239,000	→
	Total area protected in Wildlife Refuges (ha)				304,397	240,617	↓
	Area protected in conservation reserves & under voluntary conservation agreements (ha)	12,535	39,425	15,324	34,552	37,890	↑
	Extent of Traveling Stock Reserves in LGA (ha)			309,373	328,653	320,240	→
	Proportion of Council reserves that is bushland/remnant vegetation	38%	35%	34%	35%	35%	→
	Habitat areas revegetated (ha)	140	20	9	11	15	↓
	Clearing complaints (number)	39	41	41	40	19	↑
	Roadside vegetation management plan (number)	12	12	11	12	12	→
	Roadside vegetation rehabilitated (ha)	8	28	5	9	8	↓
Threatened Species	State Threatened species (number)				1,462	1,452	→
	Threatened species actions implemented (e.g. PAS, recovery plans) (number)	7	12	10	13	9	↓
	Fish restocking activities: native species (number)	380,705	188,210	184,270	198,322	511,196	↑
Priority weeds and feral animals	Fish restocking activities: non-native species (number)	315,568	171,634	257,675	249,500	249,400	↓
	Number of declared priority weeds	102	102	103		113	↓
	Invasive species (listed priority or WONS) under active management	185	180	166	157	148	↓

People and Communities

Issue	Indicator	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Trend
Active community involvement	Environmental volunteers working on public open space (Hours)	5,464	5,671	4,670	4,122	3,351	↓
	Number of environmental community engagement programs	37	43	42	48	49	↑
	Number of growers' markets/local food retailers specialising in local food	65	70	68	75	80	↑
Community impacts	Number of days that air pollution maximum goals for particulate matter were exceeded			17	169	4	↑
Indigenous Heritage	Number of Indigenous sites on AHIMS register	9,783	10,187	10,969	11,322	11,649	↑
	Inclusion in DCPs & rural strategies (number)	9	10	11	11	12	↑
	Extent of liaison with Indigenous communities (self-assessed from 0 = none to 3 = High)	1.7	2.0	1.4	2.0	1.6	↓
	Development approvals on listed Indigenous sites (number)	3	4	3	3	2	↑
	Number of Indigenous heritage management actions/responses	6	5	11	17	12	↑
Non-Indigenous Heritage	NSW Heritage Items (number)	99	100	106	105	104	↑
	Locally listed heritage items (number)	2,195	2,199	2,198	2,156	2,190	↑
	Actions to protect non-Indigenous heritage (including management plans) (number)	20	34	46	34	41	↑
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists demolished/degraded in past year (number)	1	4	0	7	4	↓
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists renovated/improved in past year (number)	88	66	120	190	70	↓

Towards Sustainability

Issue	Indicator	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Trend
Waste Generation	Total waste entombed at primary landfill (tonnes)	90,164	95,560	83,686	83,466	104,183	↓
	Total waste entombed at other landfills (exc recyclables) (tonnes)	31,909	30,803	30,754	30,581	35,261	↓
	Average total waste generated per person (tonnes)	0.76	0.80	0.72	0.72	0.87	↓
	Average cost of waste service per residential household	\$355	\$372	\$415	\$400	\$440	↓
Hazardous/Liquid Waste	DrumMuster collections (number of drums)	59,221	84,478	67,742	63,464	70,900	↑
	Household Hazardous Wastes collected (kg)	44,365	31,539	86,068	15,076	98,394	↑
Reduce	Organics collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	35,545	28,800	18,807	21,672	30,974	↑
	E-Waste collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	69	97	119	113	172	↑
Recycle	Volume of material recycled (tonnes)	17,871	22,235	20,776	22,727	19,890	↓
	Volume of material recycled per person (kg)	98	123	115	125	109	↓
Littering and illegal dumping	Number of illegal waste disposal complaints to Council	301	327	316	289	196	↑
Engineering, Infrastructure and Civil Works	New road construction (km)	15	14	15	60	36	↓
	Road upgrades (km)	1,246	1,236	1,143	932	660	↑
Risk Management	Flood management plans/ flood mapping - increase in area covered (ha)	2,513	303	100	100	7,229	↑
	Hazard reduction burns (number)	13	14	12	4	11	↑
Climate Change Mitigation	Office paper used by Council (A4 & A3 reams)	13,955	13,912	12,604	12,530	10,584	↓
	Council sustainability initiatives (number)	34	38	42	42	59	→
	Council mitigation initiatives (number)	12	17	20	12	31	→
Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Annual electricity consumption for Council controlled facilities (MWh)	33,354	33,611	33,820	32,546	31,979	↑
	Annual natural gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (Gj)	33,106	31,373	32,285	33,085	37,268	↓
	Annual bottled gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (L)	14,200	13,433	14,773	13,330	12,424	↑
	Total fuel consumption (KL)	5,769	6,533	6,748	6,772	6,548	↓
	Average proportion of Council's electrical energy demand met from council-owned renewable energy infrastructure	11.2%	15.1%	19.1%	26.2%	32.3%	↑
	Council total operational greenhouse gas emissions (tCO ₂ -e/year)	173,443	160,971	244,330	174,869	148,877	↑
Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Small scale renewable energy uptake (kW installed)	8,427	14,562	20,245	24,685	33,591	↑
	Number of solar water heaters and heat pumps installed	132	135	104	62	59	↓

