

# 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.

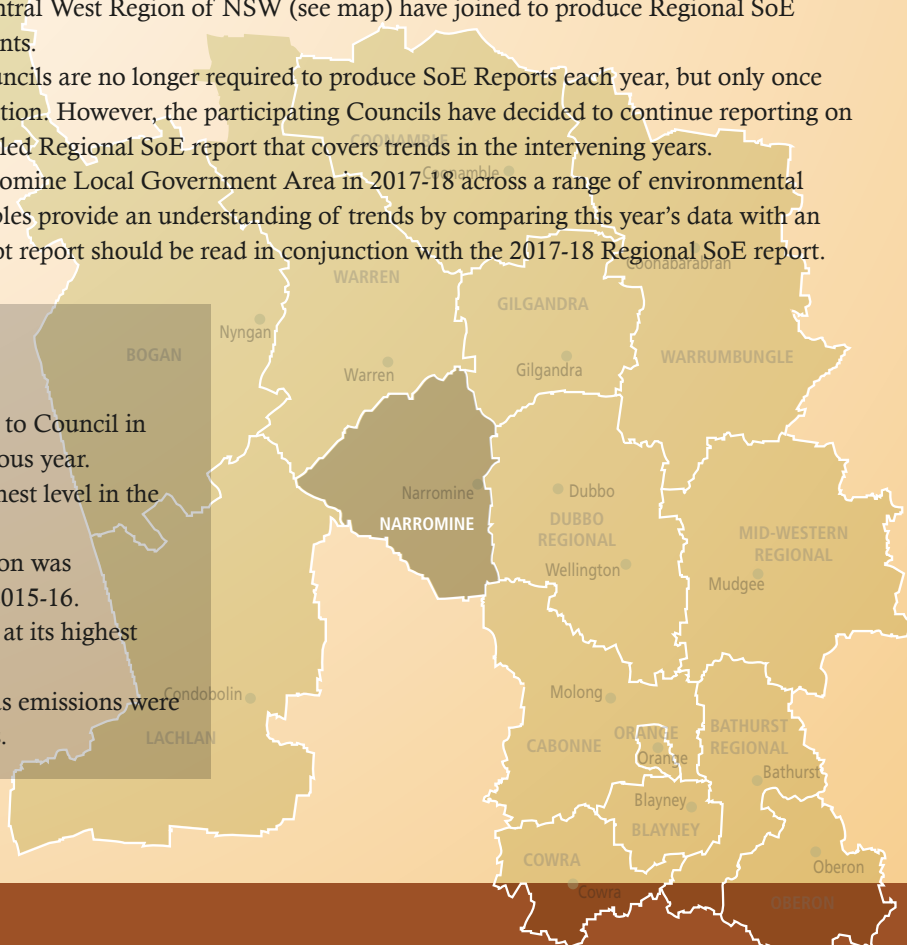
Since 2007, the Councils of the Greater Central West Region of NSW (see map) have joined to produce Regional SoE Reports as part of Council reporting requirements.

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 Narromine 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

- ↑ There were no drinking water complaints to Council in 2017-18 continuing the trend of the previous year.
- ↓ The annual metered supply was at its highest level in the past four years.
- ↑ The volume of material recycled per person was comparable to last year and higher than 2015-16.
- ↑ Small scale renewable energy uptake was at its highest level in the past four years.
- ↓ Council's total operational greenhouse gas emissions were at their highest level in the past four 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)	49	49	49	49	→
	Contaminated sites rehabilitated (number)	0	0	0	0	→
Erosion	Erosion affected land rehabilitated (ha)	0	0	0	0	→
Land use planning and management	Number of development consents and building approvals	93	115	57	73	↑
	Landuse conflict complaints (number)	0	0	2	1	↓
	Loss of primary agricultural land through rezoning (ha)	0	0	0	0	→
Minerals & Petroleum	Number of mining and exploration titles	23	23	23	12	↑
	Area covered by mining and exploration titles (ha)		90K	76K	137K	↓

↑ 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)	4,401	4,401	4,401	4,401	→
	Total Area of State Forests (ha)	1,057	1,056	1,056	1,056	→
	Total Area Protected in Wildlife Refuges (ha)	0	0	0	413	↑
	Area protected in conservation reserves & under voluntary conservation agreements (ha)	140	140	140	253	↑
	Extent of Traveling Stock Reserves in LGA (ha)		5,566	6,815	6,815	↑
	Habitat areas revegetated (ha)	0	0	0	0	→
	Roadside vegetation management plan	No	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	0	→
	Fish restocking activities: native species (number)	11,362	10,714	11,736	4,132	↓
Noxious weeds and feral animals	Fish restocking activities: non-native species (number)	0	0	0	0	→
	Number of declared noxious weeds	116	116	91	91	↑
	Invasive species (listed noxious or WONS) under active management (number)	12	12	12	12	→

# Water and Waterways

Issue	Indicator	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Trend
Riparian	E.coli remote from wastewater treatment plants (per 100 ml)				0	
	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)	0	0	0	0	→
Stormwater Pollution	Number of gross pollutant traps installed	1	0	1	1	↑
	Total catchment area of GPTs (ha)	0	0	0	0	→
	Water pollution complaints (number)	0	0	0	0	→
Town Water Quality	Number of instances drinking water guidelines not met	2	6	0	0	↑
	Number of drinking water complaints	2	6	0	0	↑
Water extraction	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from surface water sources	126	122	129		
	Volume of surface water permissible for extraction under licences (GL)	200	195	196		
	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from groundwater resources	1,015	977	984		
	Volume of groundwater permissible for extraction under licences (GL)	82	77	77		
	Actual volume extracted through groundwater licences (GL)	49	49			
Council water consumption	Area of irrigated Council managed parks, sportsgrounds, public open space (ha)	118	118	118	118	→
	Water used by council for irrigation (including treated and untreated) (ML)	49	45	53	59	↓
Town water consumption	Annual metered supply (ML)	925	1,039	1,141	1,376	↓
	Average level of water restrictions implemented	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	↓
	Water conservation programs (number)	0	0	0	1	↑

# Towards Sustainability

Issue	Indicator	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Trend
Waste Generation	Total waste entombed at primary landfill (tonnes)					
	Total waste entombed at other landfills (exc recyclables) (tonnes)					
	Average total waste generated per person (tonnes)					
Hazardous/Liquid Waste	DrumMuster collections (number of drums)	4,783	0	19,749	22,321	↑
	Household Hazardous Wastes collected (kg)	1804	2,888	3,351	3,769	↑
Reduce	Organics collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	1,027	1,027	2,121	1,413	↑
	E-Waste collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)		0			
Recycle	Volume of material recycled (tonnes)		540	591	575	↑
	Volume of material recycled per person (kg)		79	90	88	↑
Littering and illegal dumping	Number of illegal waste disposal complaints to Council	6	6	3	5	→
Engineering, Infrastructure and Civil Works	New road construction (km)	2	0	6	0	↑
	Road upgrades (km)	685	75	644	682	↓
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)	1,176	1,225	836	945	↑
	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)	1,782	1,644	1,596	1,820	↓
	Annual natural gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (Gj)	0	0	0	0	→
	Annual bottled gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (L)	0	0	0	0	→
	Total fuel consumption (KL)	297	309	297	294	↑
	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)	4,953	6,157	6,076	6,348	↓
Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Small scale renewable energy uptake (kW installed)	308	664	742	917	↑
	Number of solar water heaters and heat pumps installed	6	4	5	6	↑

# 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)	0	0	0	0	→
	Number of environmental community engagement programs	0	0	0	1	↑
	Number of growers markets/local food retailers specialising in local food	1	0	1	1	↑
Indigenous Heritage	Number of Indigenous sites on AHIMS register	267	272	279	293	↑
	Inclusion in DCPs & rural strategies (Yes or No)			1.0	1.0	→
	Extent of liaison with Indigenous communities (self-assessed from 0 = none to 3 = High)	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	↑
	Development approvals on listed Indigenous sites (number)	0	0	0	0	→
	Number of Indigenous heritage management actions/responses	0	0	0	0	→
Non-Indigenous Heritage	NSW Heritage Items (number)	0	0	0	0	→
	Locally listed heritage items (number)	11	11	11	11	→
	Actions to protect non-Indigenous heritage (including management plans) (number)	0	0	0	1	↑
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists demolished/degraded in past year (number)	0	0	0	0	→
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists renovated/improved in past year (number)	0	1	0	0	↓

## CASE STUDY: Release of native fingerlings (Narromine LGA)

Around 4,000 Murray Cod fingerlings were released into the Macquarie River at Narromine in early February 2018 to help restore the native fish population in natural waterways. A further 8,000 Golden Perch fingerlings were also due to be released later in the year, however due to poor breeding conditions this year, the additional fingerlings were not available for release.

The release is part of a 'dollar for dollar native fish stocking' program between the Department of Primary Industries, Recreational Fishing Trust, Narromine Shire Council and the Macquarie Cotton Growers Association.

The program aims to:

- Enhance recreational freshwater fishing opportunities;
- Support local communities in the stocking of high value native fish species;
- Assist in the development of regional aquaculture industries; and,
- Increase community and industry involvement in, and awareness of responsible stocking.

The release in February marks the twentieth year that Narromine Shire Council has participated in the program with an estimated 160,000-200,000 fingerlings being released over that period.

At the time of the release, the fingerlings are around five centimetres long and it is estimated that they take three to four years to reach maturity.

Fish stocking is recognised for its importance to the community in terms of providing quality recreational fishing, conservation outcomes and employment opportunities, as well as assisting in reversing the impacts of introduced species to the natural waterways.



Murray cod fingerling release.



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