

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 Warren Local Government Area in 2021-22 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.

2021-22 Highlights

- ↑ The area covered by mining and exploration titles has increased over the past four years.
- ↑ The stocking of native fish into local waterways continues to be high.
- ↓ The average total waste generated per person has increased.
- ↓ Council's greenhouse gas emissions have increased.
- ↑ There has been an increase in small-scale energy usage.

Land

Issue	Indicator	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Trend
Contamination	Contaminated land sites - Contaminated Land Register (number)	1	1	1	1	1	→
	Contaminated land sites - potentially contaminated sites (number)	9	9	9	9	9	→
	Contaminated sites rehabilitated (number)	0	0	0	0	0	→
Erosion	Erosion affected land rehabilitated (ha)	0	0	0	0	0	→
	Number of development consents and building approvals	17	23	10	34	25	↓
Land use planning and management	Landuse conflict complaints (ha)	0	0	0	0	0	→
	Loss of primary agricultural land through rezoning (ha)	0	0	0	0	0	→
Minerals & Petroleum	Number of mining and exploration titles			17	21	25	↓
	Area covered by mining and exploration titles (ha)	207,000	224,000	227,000	393,000	451,000	↓

↑ improvement → no or little change ↓ worsening trend

Note - the trend is based on comparing the average of the four previous years of reporting with 2021-22

Biodiversity

Issue	Indicator	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Trend
Habitat Loss	Total area in the National Parks Estate (ha)	17,612	17,614	18,488	18,488	18,378	→
	Total area of State Forests (ha)	733	733	733	733	730	→
	Total area protected in Wildlife Refuges (ha)	34,680		33,620	33,620	33,620	→
	Area protected in conservation reserves & under voluntary conservation agreements (ha)	2,068	333	2,077	3,428	3,424	↑
	Extent of Traveling Stock Reserves in LGA (ha)		21,300	21,706	18,041	17,939	↓
	Proportion of Council reserves that is bushland/remnant vegetation	0%	0%	0%			→
	Habitat areas revegetated (ha)	0		0	0	0	→
	Clearing complaints (number)	6	6	4	3	1	↑
	Roadside vegetation management plan (Yes/No)	No			No	No	→
	Roadside vegetation rehabilitated (ha)	2			6	6	↑
Threatened Species	Threatened species listed (number)			98	96	97	→
	Threatened species actions implemented (e.g. PAS, recovery plans) (number)	0		0	0	0	→
	Fish restocking activities: native species (number)	9,091	0	0	69,500	47,000	↑
Noxious weeds and feral animals	Fish restocking activities: non-native species (number)	0	0	0	0	0	→
	Number of declared priority weeds	91	92	94	99	100	↓
	Invasive species (listed priority or WONS) under active management (number)	0			0	0	→

Water and Waterways

Issue	Indicator	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Trend
Surface & Ground Water Quality	Average salinity levels in selected streams (EC)	574	549	499	514	437	↑
	<i>E.coli</i> remote from wastewater treatment plants (per 100ml)	0	0	0	0	0	→
Riparian	Riparian vegetation recovery actions (number)	1	0	0	0	0	↓
	Riparian vegetation recovery area (ha)	20	0	0	0		↓
Industrial/ Agricultural Pollution	Load Based Licencing Volume (kg)		98		103	103	↓
	Exceedances of license discharge consent recorded (number)	1	0	0	1		↑
	Erosion & Sediment Control complaints received by Council (number)		0		0		→
Stormwater Pollution	Number of gross pollutant traps installed		1		1	1	→
	Total catchment area of GPTs (ha)		1		1	1	→
	Water pollution complaints (number)	0	0	0	0	0	→
Town Water Quality	Number of instances drinking water guidelines not met	1	0		1	1	↓
	Number of drinking water complaints	11	0	5	1	0	↑
Water extraction	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from surface water sources			221	229	221	↑
	Volume of surface water permissible for extraction under licences (GL)			263	303	303	↓
	Actual volume extracted through surface water licences (GL)				44	88	↓
	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from groundwater resources			704	718	719	↓
	Volume of groundwater permissible for extraction under licences (GL)			7.8	9.9	9.5	↓
Council water consumption	Actual volume extracted through groundwater licences (GL)			2	1.1	0.47	↑
	Area of irrigated Council managed parks, sportsgrounds, public open space (ha)	20	57	57	57	57	↓
	Water used by council for irrigation (including treated and untreated) (ML)	94	900	900	900	900	↓
Town water consumption	Annual metered supply (ML)	498			481	481	↑
	Annual consumption (Total from WTP) (ML)	0				0	→
	Average annual household mains potable water usage (kl)	85	82	84	91	91	↓
	Average level of water restrictions implemented	0	3	3	1	1	↑
	Water conservation programs (number)	0		0	1	1	↑

Towards Sustainability

Issue	Indicator	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Trend
Waste Generation	Total waste entombed at primary landfill (tonnes)	1,800	2,541	2,541	2,673	2,673	↓
	Total waste entombed at other landfills (exc recyclables) (tonnes)	0	0	0	0	0	↔
	Average total waste generated per person (tonnes)	0.65	0.93	0.94	0.98	1.03	↓
Hazardous/Liquid Waste	Average cost of waste service per residential household	\$265	\$278	\$278	\$307	\$307	↓
	DrumMuster collections (number of drums)	9,673	14,253	4,740	9,990	5,941	↓
Reduce	Household Hazardous Wastes collected (kg)	0	0	0	0	0	↔
	Organics collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	425	400	400	10	10	↓
Recycle	E-Waste collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	1	0	0	0.2	0.02	↓
	Volume of material recycled (tonnes)	188	433	422	0	0	↓
Littering and illegal dumping	Volume of material recycled per person (kg)	68	158	156	0	0	↓
	Number of illegal waste disposal complaints to Council	5	2	5	4	2	↑
Engineering, Infrastructure and Civil Works	New road construction (km)	1			0	0	↑
	Road upgrades (km)	2			221	27	↑
Risk Management	Flood management plans/ flood mapping - increase in area covered (ha)	0	0	0	0		↔
	Hazard reduction burns (number)	0		0	0		↔
Climate Change Mitigation	Office paper used by Council (A4 & A3 reams)	814			0		↔
	Council sustainability initiatives (number)	1			0		↓
	Council mitigation initiatives (number)	0			0		↔
Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Annual electricity consumption for Council controlled facilities (MWh)	1,071					↔
	Annual natural gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (Gj)	0	0	0	0		↔
	Annual bottled gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (L)	0			0		↔
	Total fuel consumption (KL)	430			0		↔
	Proportion of Council's electrical energy demand met from council-owned renewable energy infrastructure	0			0		↔
Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Council total operational greenhouse gas emissions (tCO ₂ -e/year)	2,891			3,359	3,606	↓
	Small scale renewable energy uptake (kW installed)	556	436	332	297	484	↑
	Number of solar water heaters and heat pumps installed	0.46	0.33	1	1	0.15	↓

People and Communities

Issue	Indicator	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Trend
Active community involvement	Environmental volunteers working on public open space (hours)	0	0	0	0	0	↔
	Number of environmental community engagement programs	0	1	0	1	1	↑
	Number of growers' markets/local food retailers specialising in local food	0	2	3	3	3	↑
Indigenous Heritage	Number of Indigenous sites on AHIMS register	513	545	546	546	577	↑
	Inclusion in DCPs & rural strategies (Yes/No)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	↔
	Extent of liaison with Indigenous communities (self-assessed from 0 = none to 3 = High)	3.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	↓
	Development approvals on listed Indigenous sites	0	1	0	0	0	↑
	Number of indigenous heritage management actions/responses	0	0	0	0	0	↔
Non-Indigenous Heritage	NSW Heritage Items	0	0	0	0	0	↔
	Locally listed heritage items	0	0	0	0	0	↔
	Actions to protect non-Indigenous heritage (including management plans)	0	0	0	0	0	↔
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists demolished/degraded in past year	0	0	0	0	0	↔
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists renovated/improved in past year	0	0	0	0	0	↔



Tiger Bay Wetlands on the outskirts of Warren.



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