



Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2017-2021

# Annual Report Summary 2018/19

# 2018/19 Achievements



Complete



Good progress/ongoing



Needs attention

## Vision:

Community working together for an environmentally sustainable future.

## Role of Council in environmental sustainability:

For Council to lead by example and support the community in transitioning to environmental sustainability.



## Environmentally accountable council

Waste management stations have been introduced in our Cobram office buildings resulting in a reduction of nearly 50% (over 600kg) of general waste in 6 months. 50kgs of soft plastics has been collected from our offices and recycled through REDcycle. ✔

A 'Better practices guide' for events has been developed and implementation is underway. This guide recommends a range of options to avoid single use plastics and reduce waste. ✔

Staff inductions now include waste management, an introduction to the internal staff Green Team and a reusable coffee cup. ✔

Installed an additional 102kW of solar on Council buildings, as well as a number of LED light upgrades within Council offices and an upgrade of the air conditioning system. ✔

Environmental sustainability has been embedded in Council's procurement policy and guidelines. ...

Continue to use the Environmental Working Group to discuss environmental sustainability across Council departments. ...

Environmental Services team working with Operations, Planning and Assets to consider environmental sustainability in project design including the Cobram Soccer Pavilion and Yarrawonga Library. ...

Concrete and old asphalt is crushed and used as road base under sealed roads. Recycled rubber tyres and rubber asphalt is used in 90% of sealed roads. Recycled concrete and granite is also used on unsealed roads. ...

Environmental sustainability considered in the Economic Development Strategy 2019-2023. ...

Recycled products are sourced for parks and gardens where possible including seats, tables, bollards, board walks and mulch. ...

Internal staff Green Team continued to be active including seasonal food swap/markets, educational information on toilet doors, indoor plant propagation and adoption program and participation in Plastic Free July. ...

Moira Shire branded products for new staff, careers expo and community events now include metal water bottle rather than plastic, 100% recycled note books and reusable glass coffee cups. ✔

Recruitment process and permit processes are now online, reducing paper use significantly. ✔

Environmentally friendly disposal of old uniforms. ✔



## Community engagement

48% of schools in Moira have been involved in environmental sustainability. ...

An environmental sustainability expo was held at St Joseph's School, Numurkah, involving around 160 students. ✔

Distributed around 1000 Broken Boosey catchment Management Network Calendars, 200 Broken Boosey and Goldfield's Birds Booklets, and 300 Broken Boosey and Whroo Goldfield's Reptiles and Frogs booklets. ...

G.R.A.I.N Store workshops and exhibition held using ceramic art, focusing on the importance of ground leaves and litter. ...

Continued to offer Environmental Upgrade Agreements to local businesses. ...

Responsible Cafes program is being rolled out, beginning in Cobram and Yarrawonga. This program provides an incentive for customers to BYO reusable items. A successful trial was also run in a café using a larger recycling bin to reduce general waste. !

Updated the environment section of our new website to improve community access to information on a range of environmental issues. ✔

Moira Business Excellence awards included an Environmental Sustainability category. ✔

Regular use of social media, intranet, staff and councillor newsletters and print media to increase awareness of environmental issues. ...



## Partnerships

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC) continues to meet quarterly to provide advice, input and support in developing and implementing Councils' Environmental Sustainability Strategy. ...

Actively participated in numerous partnerships including Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance, Goulburn Valley Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Group, Our Catchments Our Communities Broken Boosey Conservation Management Network, Goulburn Murray Landcare Network, Local Government Agricultural Floodplains Reference Group, Linking Lower Goulburn Partnership project, Integrated Water Management forums (Goulburn Broken & North East), Goulburn Broken Stormwater Management Project, Goulburn Broken Local Government Biodiversity Reference Group, Northern Regional Water Monitoring Partnership, Friends of Kinnairds Wetland, Wetland Management Group, Grassy Woodland Reserves Management Program, and the Goulburn Broken Water Quality Committee. ✔

Received funding from Victorian Government for the Roadside Weed control program (\$75,000) and the Australian Government for 'Communities combating weeds and pest animals during drought program' (\$30,000), a partnership project with Benalla Rural City and Goulburn Murray Landcare Network. ✓

Participated in the Integrated Water Management forum and received funding from DELWP for two projects (\$58,500). ⋮

Installation of a hydration station (drinking water, filling bottles and pet bowl) in Nathalia as a joint project with Goulburn Valley Water and the local community. ✓

Managed Kinnaird's wetland in collaboration with Goulburn-Murray Water and Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority including the delivery of environmental water, managing saplings encroaching on grasslands, clearing fallen timber from tracks, repair of tracks and removal of wasps from bird hides. The plaque, which commemorated the opening of the first stage of the Muckatah Surface Water Management Scheme was replaced. ✓

### Climate change adaptation and mitigation

Implementation of the Corporate Emissions Reduction plan is well underway. ⋮

A further 102kW of solar installations included Murray Building, Cobram Civic Centre, Cobram Depot, Barmah Heritage Centre and Yarrawonga Maternal and Child Health Centre. Total renewable energy production from Council solar installations is 296.55MWh. This has reduced Councils greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 307 tonnes, which is equivalent to planting 7,854 trees, since 2017. See figure 3. ✓

Energy audits were undertaken on two priority buildings. ✓

Participated in a Local Government partnership project investigating options and a business case for the joint purchase of renewable energy. ✓

Currently 11% of electricity sourced from roof top solar and green energy, up from 8% in 2018/19 (target is 25% by 2021). ⋮

Community grants available for solar and energy efficiency projects. ⋮

Installed LED lighting in Waaia Recreation Reserve clubrooms, Cobram and Nathalia stadiums. ✓

Assisted with solar installations at Yarrawonga pre-school and Cobram Cricket Club. ✓

Permits granted for four large scale solar farm developments consisting of around 250MW. ✓

### Conservation of biodiversity

Currently around 956ha of land is protected by a Conservation Covenant or Biodiversity Management Agreement. 96.5ha of freehold land was entered into a conservation covenant (s69 and s173). See figure 4. ⋮

Continued to support the Broken Boosey Conservation Management Network, including development of a Fallen timber booklet, the annual Calendar, and the installation of Grey-Headed Flying Fox informative signage at Numurkah. ⋮

Council departments are continuing to minimise the impact on native vegetation and secure offsets when native vegetation loss is unavoidable. Council has established an offset site at Yabba for the purpose of unavoidable native vegetation losses. ⋮

Implementing the Yabba offset site management plan including fencing, weed and pest control, and preparation of the site for planting of around 4,000 native trees and shrubs. ⋮

Started a review of Councils roadside management plan including updating mapping of high conservation value roadsides. !

Weed control activities on 1100kms of roadsides (2700kms total to date). ⋮

Traded 10ML of water to Yarrawonga Eastern foreshore s86 committee as a trial to manage problem weeds and improve the wetlands biodiversity. ⋮

Most landholders and contractors are conscientious when it comes to dealing with native vegetation. However, there were still incidents of illegal native vegetation clearance where enforcement action was required. !

Supported the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority projects 'Linking Landscapes and Communities' providing grants to landholders and the 'year of the paddock tree' aimed at increasing knowledge of the values of scattered paddock trees. ⋮

### Sustainable management of water

A review of all Council's rural water assets was undertaken leading to a comprehensive understanding of this valuable asset and recommendations for future management. !

Participated in the Goulburn Broken and North East Integrated Water Management forums. ⋮

Improved the management of water being discharged from JC Lowe Oval Yarrawonga by creating a series of ponds. ✓

Upgraded the irrigation system at Victoria Park, Yarrawonga to enable recycled water to be used instead of potable water. ✓

Continued to support the Goulburn Broken Stormwater Education Project. ⋮

Potable water is currently reported. See figure 5. ⋮

### Sustainable management of waste

Implementation of the Waste Management Business Plan is underway. ⋮

Working with Murray River Councils regarding waste education. Signage erected along access areas of the Murray River with a 'Carry in, carry out' message. ⋮

Recycling stations introduced at Cobram and Yarrawonga service centres to provide recycling options to the community that are unavailable through kerbside recycling. ✓

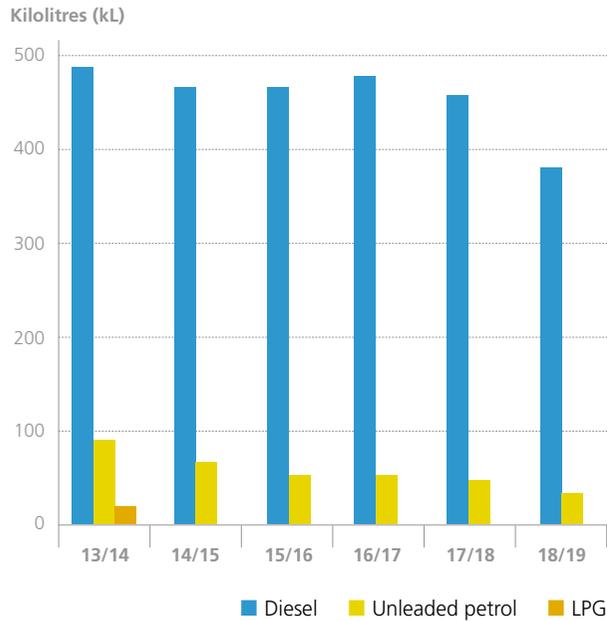
New Kerbside Waste, recycling and organic collection policy adopted by Council. See figure 6 for kerbside data. ✓

Commercial industrial recycling facility planning approved at final design. ✓

Facilitated clean-up of a 6,000 tonne tyre stockpile in Numurkah. Tyres were recycled where possible. ✓

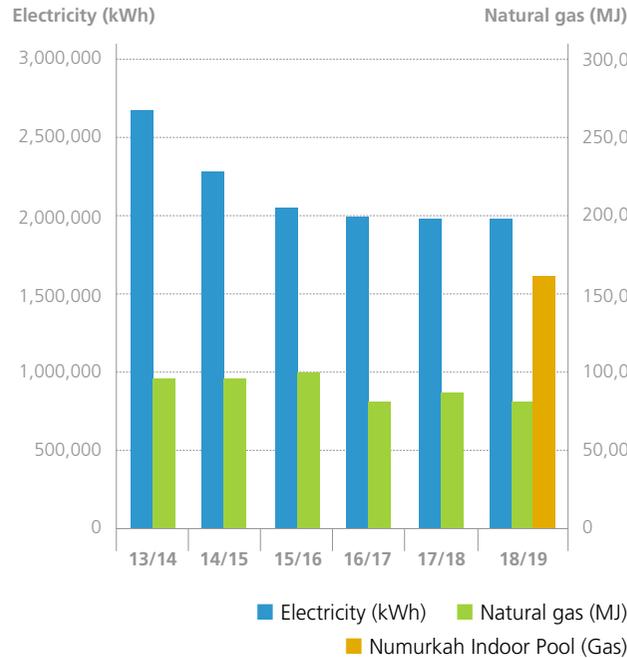
Planning for the construction of e-waste sheds at our four major transfer stations to adjust to the e-waste in landfill ban. ✓

**Figure 1**  
Transport energy consumption



Transport energy is expressed in kilolitres (kL) and includes the consumption of all fuels used in vehicles and plant owned and operated by Council. This includes diesel, petrol, LPG and electricity. This graph demonstrates that LPG fuelled vehicles are no longer in use while improved efficiencies within the vehicle market has reduced the consumption of unleaded petrol.

**Figure 2**  
Stationary energy consumption



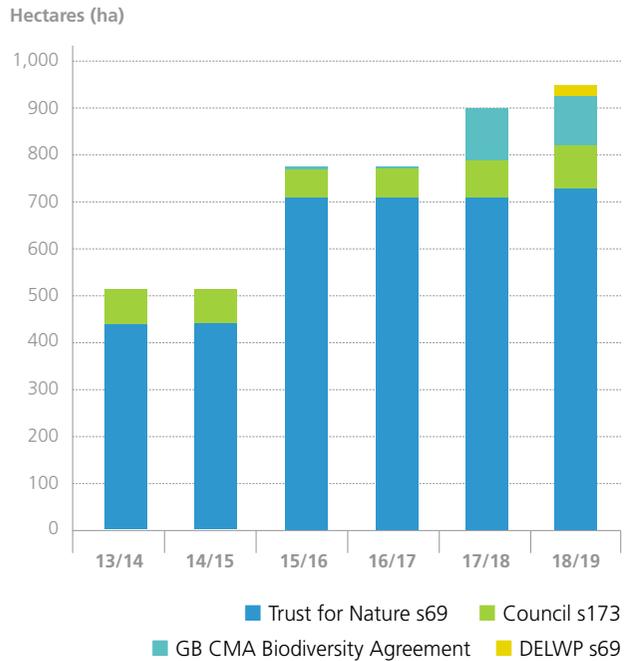
Stationary energy is expressed in kilo Watt hours (kWh) and Mega Joules (MJ) and includes the consumption of electricity (kWh) and natural gas (MJ) from all facilities that are paid for by Council. This excludes Committees of Management and some leased facilities. The significant reduction in electricity consumption from 2013-14 to 2018-19 can be attributed to the Watts Working Better project, Solar system installations (totalling 178.3 kW) and LED Light upgrades. The increase in gas consumption seen in the 2018-19 financial year is attributed to Council now paying the utilities associated with Councils YMCA managed buildings as of 1st September 2018. The Numurkah Indoor pool is a major contributor to the increase in gas consumption.

**Figure 3**  
Corporate greenhouse gas emissions



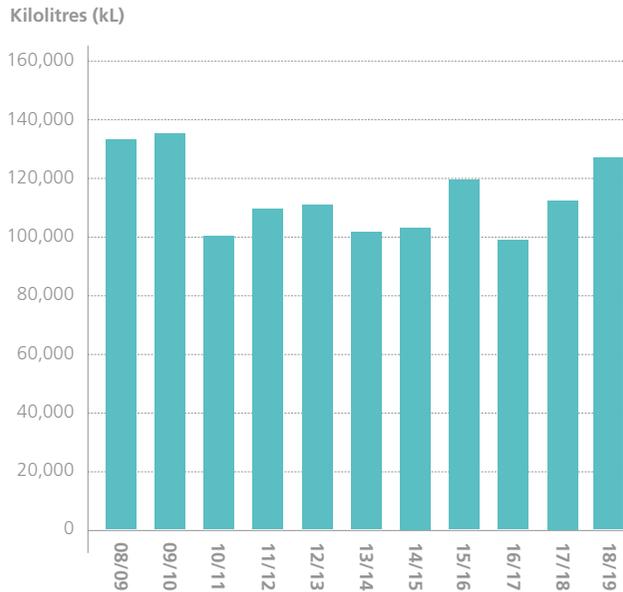
Total corporate greenhouse gas emissions relates to the amount of greenhouse gas emissions released from the operation of a Council's facilities and equipment. This generally includes the emissions from consuming fuel, electricity and water – emissions from burying organics in landfill isn't included as it is too difficult to measure. Emissions have been calculated using the Australian Government's National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting framework (NGER).

**Figure 4**  
Conservation Covenants and Biodiversity Management Agreements



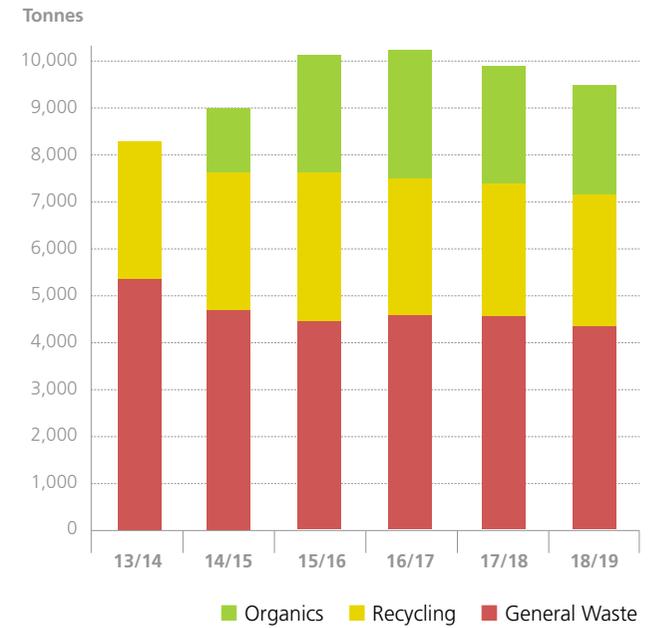
Total area of land includes private property within the local government area that have a 10 year Biodiversity Management Agreements with GB CMA (101.60 ha); s69 Trust For Nature (TFN) conservation covenant (733.5 ha); s69 DELWP conservation covenant (25.32 ha) and s173 Council conservation covenant (95.40 ha). The s69 and s173 conservation covenants are registered on title providing permanent protection for native vegetation. 10 year management agreements with GB CMA provide temporary protection and enhance the quality of native vegetation. On the conclusion of the 10 year management agreement landholders are encouraged to enter into another 10 year agreement or s69 agreement with TFN or DELWP.

**Figure 5**  
Potable water consumption



Potable water is expressed in kilolitres (kL) and includes all water consumed at a Council facility (excluding raw water). A Sustainable Water Use Plan was adopted in 2006 and then significant works were undertaken to upgrade infrastructure to more efficient systems – as seen in the graph.

**Figure 6**  
Total kerbside waste



Total kerbside waste breakdown includes the general waste, recycling and organics collected from the kerbsides within the local government area. Recycling and organics are known as diversions and will be reprocessed into a useable commodity whereas general waste will be buried in landfill. This graph demonstrates a reduction in kerbside waste to landfill as a result of the kerbside organics service that was introduced in December 2014.



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