



Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2017-2021

Annual Report Summary

1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022

2021/22 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

An additional 40kgs of soft plastics collected from our offices and recycled through REDcycle, totalling nearly 160kg. Additional soft plastic bins in the office has contributed to an increase. Waste management stations and recycling stations continue to reduce office waste by offering additional recycling options. ...

Digital timing devices on hot water systems ensuring they are only heating during business hours, promoting electricity savings. ✓

State government funding to install public use electric vehicle charging station. ...

Staff inductions include waste management and Green Team introduction. New staff starter pack includes reusable and recycled items. Staff participation in Plastic Free July promoted and encouraged as well as plastic free morning tea. ...

Organic bins available for events. ✓

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

Environmental sustainability featured in Council Plan 2021-2025 and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025. ✓

Environmental Working Group continued to discuss environmental sustainability across all Council departments. ...

Sustainability team actively attending Capital Works project meetings, providing and discussing sustainable alternatives for existing and future projects. ...

Concrete and old asphalt is crushed and used as road base under sealed roads and new shed pads. Recycled rubber tyres and rubber asphalt is used in 80% of sealed roads. Recycled concrete and granite also used on unsealed roads. ...

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

Internal staff Green Team continued to be active with educational tip sheets, indoor plant propagation and workshops/webinars. Seasonal internal newsletters and meetings and 'Swap not shop' event held. ...

Moira Shire reusable branded products for staff and community events include metal water bottle, 100% recycled note books, reusable bag and reusable coffee cups. ✓

Old uniforms rehomed or recycled. ✓



Community engagement

120 'Loving Moira's Natives' distributed for children's week as well as images included in colouring in competition. Also promoted in lockdowns for families to download. ✓

Yarrawonga Probus Group, Yarrawonga Inner Wheel and Cobram Gardening Club recycling information sessions held. ✓

Distributed Broken Boosey Catchment Management Network (BBCMN) calendars and various conservation booklets to Moira schools and community groups. ✓

Continue to provide financial support to BBCMN and Goulburn Broken Stormwater Education Project. ...

Active in Nature activity for month of April encouraging the community to get out and get active in our six of our nature reserves. ✓

500 seedlings given to 11 schools to plant on school grounds for Schools Tree Day. ✓

Aussie Backyard Birdcount heavily promoted including social media, library displays and school involvement where bird watching kits were utilised. Threatened species bake-off promoted via schools. ✓

Various education sessions held at Station Street Wetland creating frog hotels, identifying macroinvertebrates and spotting wetland birds. Waste, recycling and renewable energy session held for Nathalia Primary School. ✓

Recycling station made its way around 8 schools and preschools for students, staff and families. ✓

Assisted Yarrawonga Men's Shed in installation of solar system. Assisted two showground sites with energy audits. ✓

Campers waste separation targeted in trail identifying waste and recycling skip bins by adding coloured mesh on temporary fencing and offering campers waste and recycling bags at various locations. ✓

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



Partnerships

DCAV \$50,000 grant DEWLP for installation of EV charger. ✓

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC) met once with a workshop on Moira Shire Councils updated Environmental Sustainability Strategy. ✓

Continue to investigate options for external funding and partnership opportunities. Roadside Weed control program (\$75,000) from the state government. ✓

Nathalia Integrated Water Management plan complete. ✓

Broken Boosey Catchment Management Network (BBCMN), Goulburn Broken Local Government Biodiversity Reference Group (GBLBRG), Municipal Catchment Coordinator (MCC), Wetland Management Group, Goulburn Murray Landcare Network Meetings, Friends of Chinaman's Island Nature Reserve, Yarrowonga Urban Landcare Group, Nathalia District Flora & Fauna Group, Goulburn Valley Environment Group, Friends of Small Reserves, Corellas Numurkah Working Group, Goulburn Region Water Quality Meeting, Barmah Ramsar Coordinating Committee - Development of the Management Plan, Goulburn Broken Partnership Team, Friends of Koonoomoo Reserve, Numurkah Urban Landcare Group, Yarrowonga Mulwala Cricket Club, RWMP Water Quality Working Group, Goulburn Valley Waste Resource Recovery Group. ⋯

Yarrowonga Men's Shed grant approx \$6,000 for solar system installation. Grants from Sustainability Victoria for two energy audits \$5,500. ✓

Signed MOU between Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) and MSC for the BBCMN. ✓

Installation of four additional hydration stations in Wunghnu, Picola, Strathmerton and Yarroweyah in a joint project with Goulburn Valley Water and the local community. This project now has 7 hydration stations across Moira. ✓

Agreements to undertake and manage controlled burns between DELWP, Parks Victoria, FFMV, CFA, RRV and MSC. ⋯

'Thank you' seat and permanent hydration station installed at Chinaman's Island with the help of donations from Yarrowonga Mulwala Rotary Club. ✓

Campers waste trial with Parks Victoria and Campaspe Shire Council. ✓

Managed Kinnairds Wetland in collaboration with Goulburn-Murray Water and GBCMA including the delivery of environmental water. ⋯

Climate change adaptation and mitigation

Council sourcing 100% of its electricity from renewable energy generated from wind farms in Victoria in a joint project with 45 other Victorian councils. Since Council began sourcing 100% of its electricity from renewable sources we have seen a 13% drop in Greenhouse Gas Emissions. This target will be exceeded next financial year. ✓

50kW solar system installed at the Numurkah Indoor Pool. ✓

Scope and funding for EV charging station in Cobram. ✓

12.4% renewable energy produced from solar systems installed on Moira Shire buildings. ✓

Community grants available for solar and energy efficiency projects. ⋯

Conservation of biodiversity

Currently 1,541ha of land is protected by a Conservation Covenant and Biodiversity Management Agreement in Moira. See figure 4. ⋯

Working with Broken Boosey Conservation Management Network, GBCMA, Landcare, Vic Roads and conservation contractors on various biodiversity projects and roadside weeds and pest control. ⋯

Working with Friends of Small Reserves, Goulburn Valley Environment Group, CFA and GBCMA to improve the condition of a grassland community along Three Chain Road, Tungamah. ⋯

Minimised impact on native vegetation by council works and secured offsets when native vegetation loss was unavoidable. ⋯

Provide advice to Council departments including Planning, Economic Development, Assets and Operations to avoid and minimise impacts on native vegetation and wildlife. ⋯

Planted approximately 10,000 native seedlings across the Shire. ✓

Managing Kinnairds Wetland and Yabba, offset sites for council projects that result in the loss of biodiversity. ⋯

Managed 1,498kms of roadside across Moira for weeds and pest animals. ⋯

Sustainable management of water

Actively participate in the Goulburn Broken and North East Integrated Water Management forums. Identified suitable projects in our region to attract external funding. ⋯

Glanmire Park Estate Yarrowonga working with Council to divert stormwater for recreation use. ⋯

Council owned recreation reserve water usage audits completed across the Shire. Recommendations will be implemented as funding becomes available. ✓

Continue to support the Goulburn Broken Stormwater Project. ⋯

Potable water use continually reported. See figure 5. ⋯

Sustainable management of waste

Implementation of the Waste Management and Services Strategy 2018-2027. ⋯

Kerbside waste audit conducted June 2021 to identify key issues and work on educating community. ✓

Working with Murray River Councils and Sustainability Victoria regarding waste education and illegal dumping. ⋯

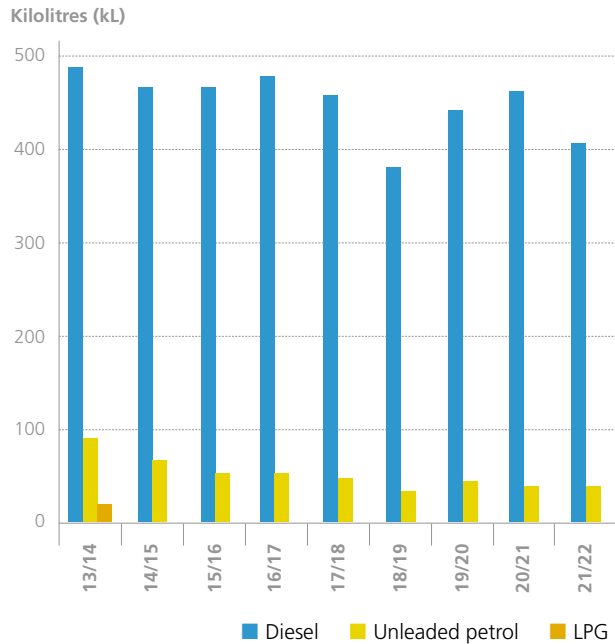
Campers waste addressed with trial at Thompsons Beach Cobram. Coloured fencing to help identify different waste streams. Waste and recycling bags made available to campers through local businesses and Parks Victoria. ⋯

Additional recycling station for school use. ✓

Focus on reducing food waste by holding several Zero Waste cooking webinars during the year – one with the focus on stale bread. ✓

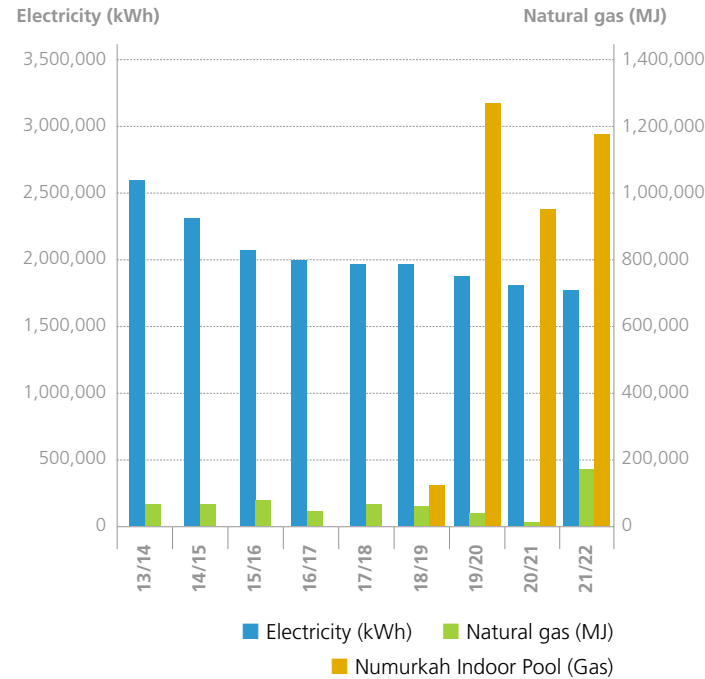
Waste Info App continued promotion. ⋯

Figure 1
Transport energy consumption



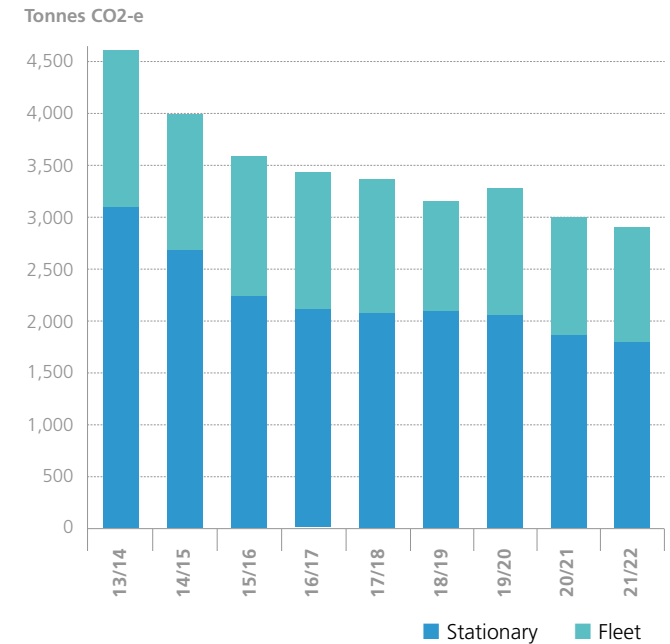
Transport energy is expressed in kilolitres (kL) and includes the consumption of all fuels used in vehicles and plant owned and operated by Council. This includes diesel, petrol and gas. This graph demonstrates that LPG fuelled vehicles are no longer in use while improved efficiencies within the vehicle market has reduced the consumption of unleaded petrol. Councils diesel fuel consumption has decreased by 12% since the previous financial year (465kL to 409kL). Councils unleaded fuel consumption has seen an increase of 4% since the previous financial year (41kL to 43kL). This can be contributed to the increase in Council staff returning to the office for work, following the States lockdown restrictions. Overall, Councils fleet fuel consumption has decreased by 11% from the previous financial year. Decreasing emissions from fleet in the coming years will be a priority.

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 with the Cobram office buildings. The increase in gas consumption is due to the takeover of utilities on Councils YMCA managed buildings, specifically the Numurkah Indoor Pool. Councils electricity consumption has decreased by 2% since the previous financial year (1,769,550kWh to 1,738,764kWh). This has been due to the closure of Council buildings and an increase in staff working from home as a result of the States lockdown restrictions. Councils gas consumption has increased by 48% since the previous financial year. This increase in gas consumption can be contributed to the Numurkah Aquatic Centre returning to normal opening hours following the easing of the States lockdown restrictions.

Figure 3
Corporate greenhouse gas emissions



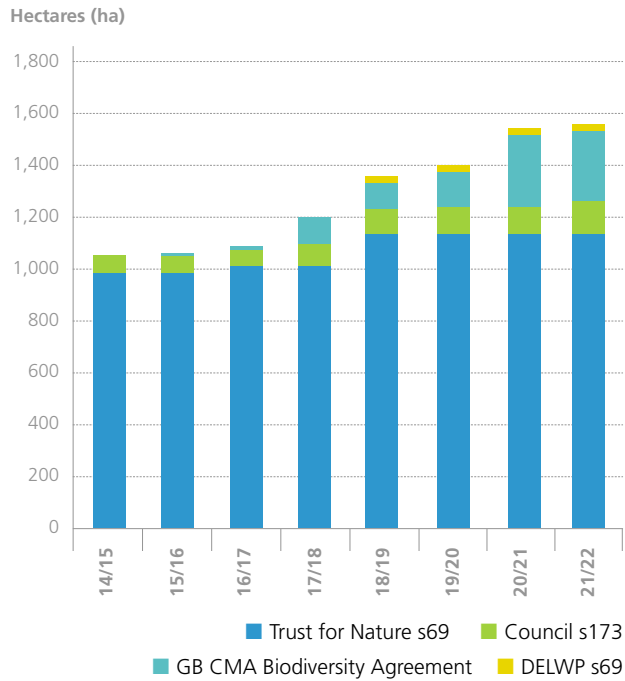
Total corporate greenhouse gas emissions relates to the amount of greenhouse gas emissions released from the operation of a Council's facilities and equipment. This generally includes the emissions from consuming fuel, electricity and water – emissions from burying organics in landfill isn't included as it is currently too difficult to measure. Emissions have been calculated using the Australian Government's National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting framework (NGER). The reduction in emissions can be attributed to the Watts Working Better project that was implemented in the 2014-15 and 2015-16 financial years. You will see fleet emissions have decreased by 11% since last financial year (1,255 tCO2-e to 1,118 tCO2-e).

Station emissions (electricity & gas combined) have decreased by 2% since the previous financial year (1,792 tCO2-e to 1,755 tCO2-e.)

This has resulted in an overall decrease of corporate emissions by 6% from the previous financial year. Reductions in energy use can be contributed to State Government lockdowns (building & facilities not in full operation), combined with energy efficiency/reduction initiatives, such as solar & LED light upgrades.

**The electricity and gas data completeness within this report has been independently verified as being 96% and 90% respectively.*

Figure 4
Conservation Covenants and Biodiversity Management Agreements



Total area of covenanted land includes private property within the local government area that have a 10 year Biodiversity Management Agreements with GB CMA (279.80 ha); s69 Trust For Nature (TFN) conservation covenant (1132.57 ha); s69 DELWP conservation covenant (25.32 ha) and s173 Council conservation covenant (110.52 ha). The s69 and s173 conservation covenants are registered on title providing permanent protect for native vegetation, including habitat for plants and wildlife. The 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 agreement or s69 agreement with TFN or DELWP.

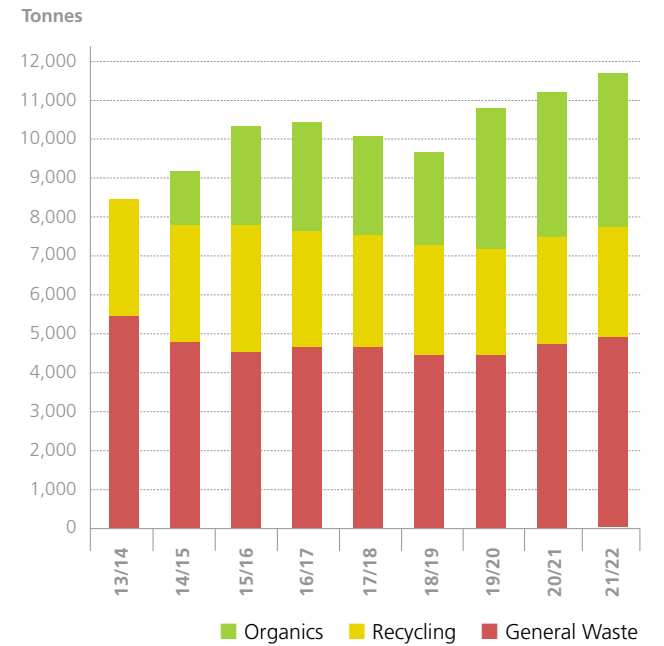
Figure 5
Potable water consumption



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 from 2006-2010 to upgrade infrastructure to more efficient systems – as seen in the graph. Council has added YMCA managed buildings, including pools, also contributing to the increase in water consumption, although this financial year has seen a decreased by 40% since the previous financial year (145,745kL to 87,449kL). The potential reason for this decrease may be due to the above average rainfall experienced in 2021 across the region during winter and spring. Council's aquatic centres and outdoor pools have also been operating with reduced hours due to lockdown restrictions.

**At the time that this data analysis occurred (22nd October 2021), only 85% completeness of the potable water invoices was available. The 2020/21 financial year potable water consumption figure may need to be adjusted next year, due to the reduced data availability at the time of reporting.*

Figure 6
Total kerbside waste



Total kerbside waste breakdown includes the general waste, recycling and organics from kerbside collection within the local government area. Recycling and organics are known as diversions from landfill and are reprocessed into a useable commodity whereas general waste is buried at our Cobram Landfill. This graph demonstrates a small reduction in kerbside waste to landfill as a result of the kerbside organics service that was introduced in December 2014. The increase of organic waste is due to an additional 3000 services being introduced in late 2019 and an increase in rainfall for 2021 and 2022. There has also been an increase in both general waste and recycling, possibly due to more people working and schooling from home during lockdown restrictions and an increase in population.



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