



Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2017-2021

Annual Report Summary

1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020

2019/20 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

90kgs of soft plastics has been collected from our offices and recycled through REDcycle. Waste management stations continue to reduce office waste. Service centre water stations now have compostable cups with an organics bin. ✓

Hand dryer trial approval to assist in reducing paper towel waste in office bathrooms. Paper towel waste composted where possible. ✓

Our 'Better practices guide' for events to assist in reducing waste implemented and included in event applications. Portable hydration stations purchased for Council events. ✓

Staff inductions include waste management and Green Team introduction. Staff starter pack includes reusable and recycled items. Staff participation in Plastic Free July promoted and encouraged. ...

Additional LED lighting, sensor LED lights and air conditioner upgrades within Council offices. ✓

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

Environmental Working Group continue to discuss environmental sustainability across Council departments. ...

Environmental Services team working with Operations, Planning and Assets to improve plans from an energy efficiency perspective and minimise harm to wildlife and vegetation. ...

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 is also used on unsealed roads. ...

E-notices encouraged for residents. Recruitment process and permit processes are online. ✓

Internal staff Green Team continue to be active including seasonal food swap, educational tip sheets, indoor plant propagation and participation in Plastic Free July. ...

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

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

Old uniforms rehomed or recycled. ✓



Community engagement

70% of schools in Moira have been involved in environmental sustainability. ...

Library school holiday sessions with 'Loving Moira's Natives' colouring in book and vegetable seed planting. ✓

Community screening of the film '2040' held in Numurkah. ✓

Yarrowonga CWA and Landcare groups recycling information sessions held. ✓

Katamatite Kite Festival activities included reusable bag art and vegetable seed planting. ✓

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. ✓

'Loving Moira's Natives' colouring in book created in collaboration with the G.R.A.I.N store used to educate the community on our local flora and fauna, including a competition for National Reconciliation Week. ✓

9 schools included in additional kerbside organic rollout. ✓

Environmental Upgrade Agreements uptake by local businesses has increased, including a large water reticulation upgrade. ...

Responsible Cafes program continued to be rolled out and is well received. This program provides an incentive for customers to BYO reusable items. ...

School tree day celebrated at Colgan Park, Cobram with 80 students planting around 200 trees, shrubs and grasses. ✓

Promotion of new Management Plan and achievements to date for Roadside Weed and Pest Animal. ✓

Free mulch offered to residents biannually using green waste deposited at transfer stations. ...

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. ...

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. ✓

Development of Memorandum of Understanding with relevant stakeholders with Nathalia Integrated Water Management Plan and Moira Murray Riverconnect project. ...

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

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. ...

Installation of two additional hydration stations in Cobram and Katamatite as a joint project with Goulburn Valley Water and the local community. ✓

Controlled burn agreement between DELWP, CFA and Moira Shire Council. ...

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. ...

Climate change adaptation and mitigation

Council have committed to sourcing 100% of its electricity from renewable energy by July 2021. This will ensure our greenhouse gas emissions will drop by 47%, exceeding our 2020-21 target of a 35% reduction since 2008/09. ...

Assisted Nathalia Angling Club with grant application for solar installation. Assisted Waaia Recreation Reserve with energy efficiency audit. Assisted Strathmerton Recreation Reserve, Katunga Recreation Reserve and Yarrawonga Men's Shed in the application for State Government grants for solar installation. ✓

LED light upgrades at the Numurkah Aquatic Centre, Cobram Service Centre and the Numurkah Senior Citizens. Air conditioners upgraded in the Cobram Service Centres lunchroom. Total renewable energy production from Council solar installations is 574 MWh's. This has reduced Councils greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 548 tonnes since 2017, which is equivalent to planting 14,038 trees. See figure 3. ✓

Community grants available for solar and energy efficiency projects. ...

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

Conservation of biodiversity

Currently around 996 ha of land is protected by a Conservation Covenant or Biodiversity Management Agreement. 6.5 ha of freehold land was entered into a Conservation Covenant (s69 and s173) and 33 ha was protected under a 10 year management plan with the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority. See figure 4. ...

Continued to support the Broken Boosey Conservation Management Network, including quarterly meetings, development of The Ground Storey booklet and the annual calendar. ...

Roadside Weed and Pest Control Management Plan 2020-2027 developed. ✓

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

Managed Councils Yabba offset site. Management activities included fencing, weed and pest control, and planting of around 4,000 native trees and shrubs. 2019/2020 was hot and dry and the plants required regular watering. ✓

8 planning permits were granted for the removal of 3.6 ha of native vegetation. ✓

Councils high conservation value roadsides reassessed to determine current extent and improve their management. ...

Working with Goulburn Valley Environment Group, CFA, Goulburn Broken CMA and DELWP to improve grassland community along Three Chain Road, Tungamah. Invading juvenile River Red Gums have been removed by Woka Walla Crews and fence line reinstated. ✓

Managed 1,670 kms of roadsides across Moira for weeds and pest animals (3,620kms of roadsides managed to date). ✓

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 undertaken. ✓

Sustainable management of water

Stormwater Management Plan completed. ✓

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

Development of preliminary plans to convert Cobram's Gemmill Street basin into a wetland. ✓

JC Lowe Oval, Yarrawonga ponds created and revegetated. ✓

Continued to support the Goulburn Broken Stormwater Project. ...

Potable water is continually reported. See figure 5. ...

Yarrawonga Drainage Strategy developed. ✓

Audit commenced on Councils rural water pumps and motors. ...

Sustainable management of waste

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

Acquisition of new waste data collection system. ✓

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

Recycling stations introduced at Numurkah Information Centre and Barmah Heritage Centre to provide recycling options to additional community members that are unavailable through kerbside recycling. ...

Updated Kerbside collection guide. See figure 6 for kerbside data. ✓

Waste Info App continued promotion. ...

Improvements on Resource Recovery Shop, Cobram underway. ...

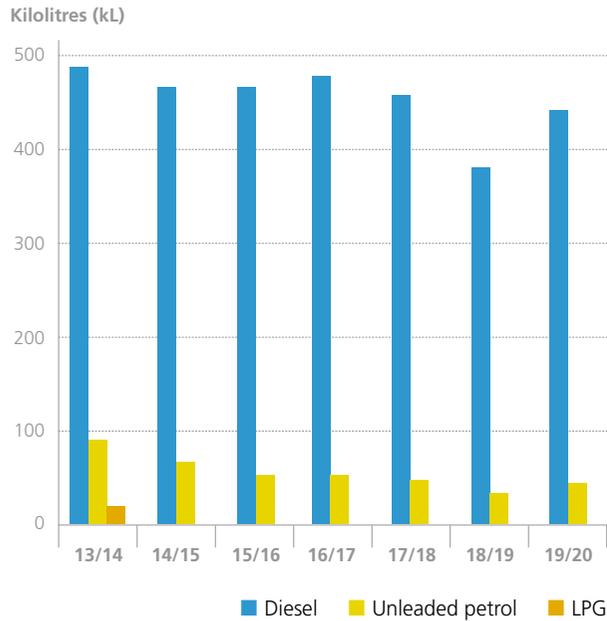
Construction of commercial industrial recycling facility has commenced. ✓

79% of properties with a kerbside service now have an additional organics service, an increase of nearly 3000 services. ✓

E-waste banned from landfill. ✓

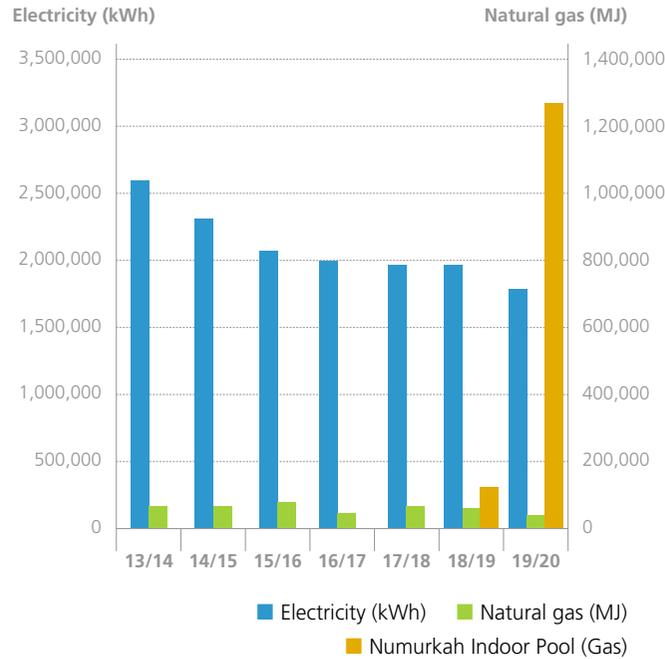
Four e-waste sheds at our major transfer stations have been constructed and are all now in use. ✓

Figure 1
Transport energy consumption



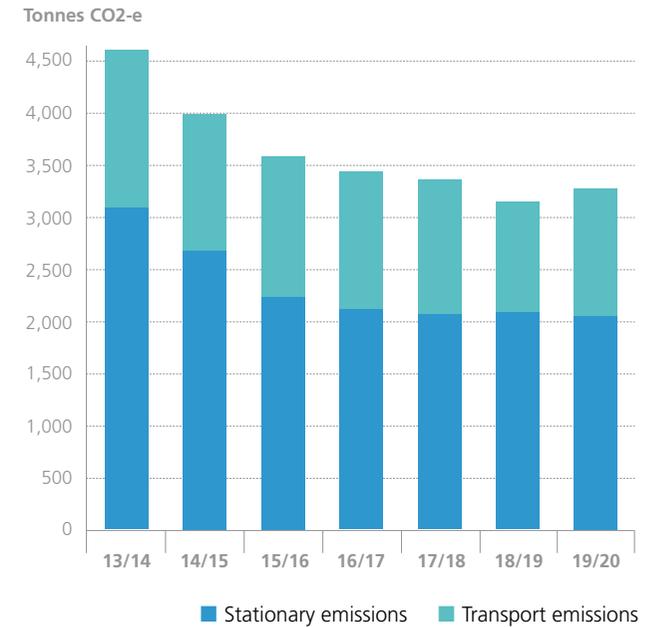
Transport energy is expressed in kilolitres (kL) and includes the consumption of all fuels used in vehicles and plant owned and operated by Council. This includes diesel, petrol and gas. This graph demonstrates that LPG fuelled vehicles are no longer in use while improved efficiencies within the vehicle market has reduced the consumption of unleaded petrol. An increase of 17% in diesel and 28% in unleaded can be due to an increase in capital projects in the recent financial year. Decreasing emissions from fleet in the coming years should be a priority.

Figure 2
Stationary energy consumption



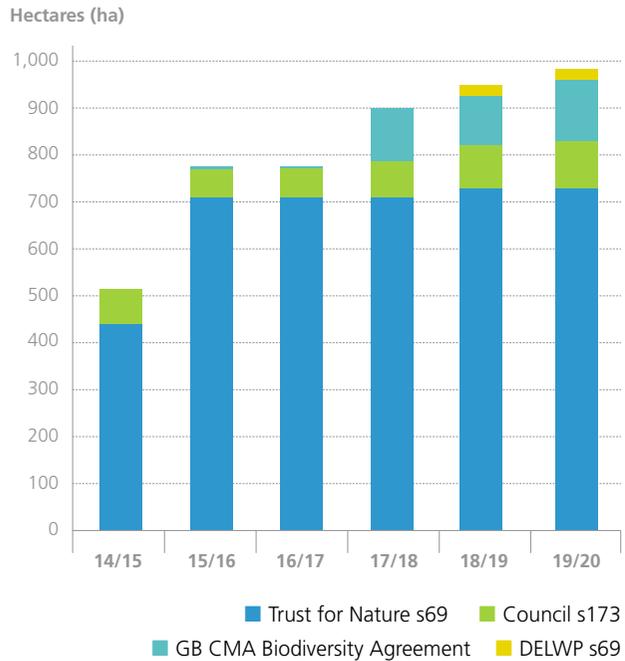
Stationary energy is expressed in kilo Watt hours (kWh) and Mega Joules (MJ) and includes the consumption of electricity (kWh) and natural gas (MJ) from all facilities that are paid for by Council. This excludes Committees of Management and some leased facilities. The significant reduction in electricity 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.

Figure 3
Corporate greenhouse gas emissions



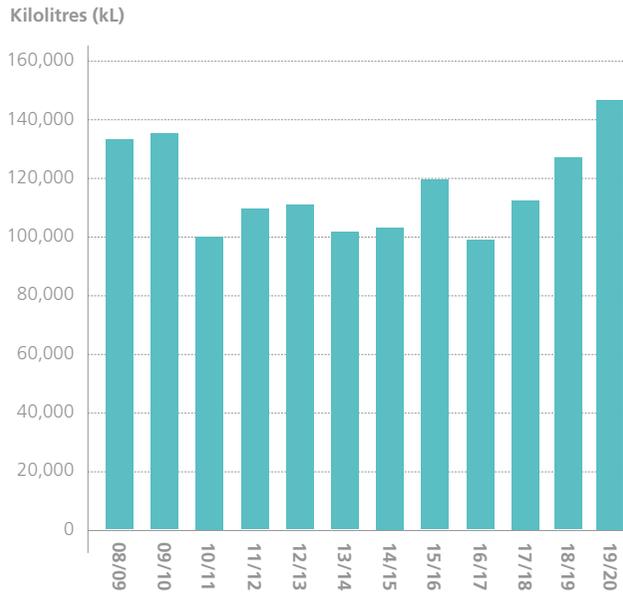
Total corporate greenhouse gas emissions relates to the amount of greenhouse gas emissions released from the operation of a Council's facilities and equipment. This generally includes the emissions from consuming fuel, electricity and water – emissions from burying organics in landfill isn't included as it is too difficult to measure. Emissions have been calculated using the Australian Government's National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting framework (NGER). 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. We also see a reduction from the previous financial year due to Council building closures and an increase of staff working from home as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The increase in gas consumption is due to the YMCA managed buildings from September 2018 with the Numurkah Indoor Pool being a major contributor.

Figure 4
Conservation Covenants and Biodiversity Management Agreements



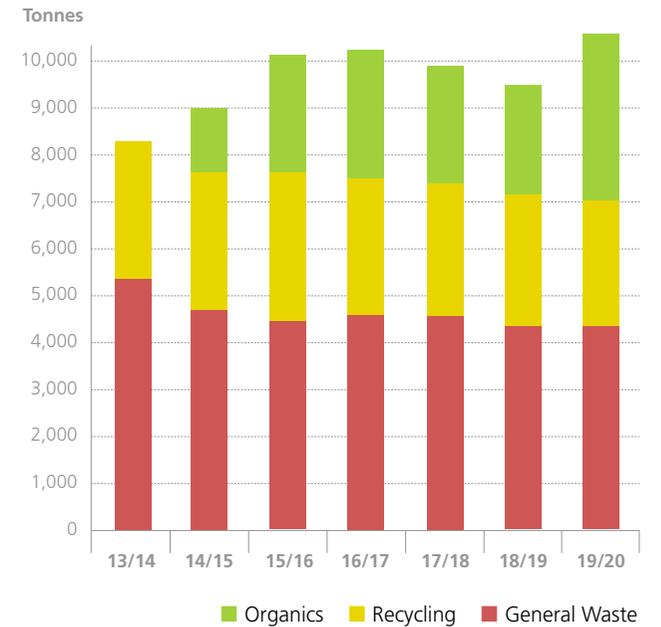
Total area of covenanted land includes private property within the local government area that have a 10 year Biodiversity Management Agreements with GB CMA (135.00 ha); s69 Trust For Nature (TFN) conservation covenant (733.5 ha); s69 DELWP conservation covenant (25.32 ha) and s173 Council conservation covenant (101.87 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. Potable water has increased 14% since the previous financial year potentially due to the dry weather conditions experienced during Autumn and early Spring 2019. Council has also added YMCA managed buildings, including pools, also contributing to the increase in water consumption.

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 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.



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