



Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2017-2021

# Annual Report Summary 2017/18

# 2017/18 Achievements



Complete



Good progress



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

Main Cobram office building lights were changed over to energy efficient LEDs. ✔

Participation in a Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance project investigating the feasibility of using electric vehicles in Council's small vehicle fleet. See figures 1 and 2 for transport and stationary energy consumption. ✔

Environmental sustainability featured prominently in the Council Plan and the revised Municipal Wellbeing For All Ages Strategy 2017-2021. ✔

Office trial involving new central waste and recycling stations to reduce waste to landfill and increase staff awareness. ✔

Staff Green Team activities included seasonal food swap/markets, educational information around the office, indoor plant propagation and adoption program, reusable coffee cups. ⋮

Reducing paper use eg rate notices are now offered electronically and those paying rates by 10 monthly direct debit only receive an annual notice; TenderSearch now used for contracts and continuing to increase use of electronic filing system. ✔

Environmental Sustainability category added to Community Strengthening grants. ✔

Environmental Working Group meetings held to encourage across-departmental discussion about environmental sustainability. ✔



## Community engagement

Environmental Upgrade Agreements now offered in Moira. Booth Transport signed two - 391kW of solar and battery storage ~\$900,000 and Biofiltro waste water processing system ~\$4 million. ✔

28% of schools in Moira have been involved in environmental sustainability activities in 2017-18. ✔

Moira Business Week included presentations by Nick Katsanevakis from Sustainability Victoria and Kevin Joyce regarding energy efficiency. ✔

Increased use of Facebook, intranet and staff and councillor newsletters to increase awareness of environmental issues. ⋮

Environment section of the new website has been completely updated. ✔

Quarterly Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC) meetings providing input, advice and support in implementing Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy. ⋮



## Partnerships

Investigated options for external funding and partnership opportunities. ⋮

Actively participated in numerous partnerships including: Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance, Goulburn Valley Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Group, Broken Boosey Conservation Management Network, Goulburn Murray Landcare Network, Municipal Catchment Coordinator Steering Committee, Linking Lower Goulburn Partnership Project, Integrated Water Management forums (GB & NE), Goulburn Broken Stormwater Management Project, GB Local Government Biodiversity Reference Group, Northern Regional Water Monitoring Partnership, Collaborative Climate Change Reporting Project, Electric Vehicle project, Friends of Kinnairds Wetland and Goulburn Broken Water Quality Committee. ⋮

Led the Collaborative Climate Change Reporting Project including five other councils, which led to the development of key indicators for environmental sustainability reporting. ⋮



## Climate change adaptation & mitigation

- Currently 8% of electricity sourced from roof top solar and green power. 
- Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan adopted by Council June 2018. See figure 3 for corporate greenhouse gas emissions. 
- Cobram Service Centre 77kW solar installation complete (\$25,000 and 100 tonnes of CO2-e saved per year) and LED lighting upgrade (\$2000 and 11 tonnes of CO2-e per year). 
- New electricity contract for 2018-2020 included some green power. 



## Conservation of biodiversity

- Weed control activities on 860km of roadsides (1,600km total to date). 
- Currently 1,074ha under conservation covenant. See figure 4. 
- Establishment of our first registered native vegetation offset site - 25.32ha at Yabba Transfer Station. 
- Continued to support Broken Boosey Conservation Management Network. 
- Provided advice to Council departments including Planning, Assets and Operations, particularly road improvement programs, to minimise impacts on native vegetation. 
- Purchased 2.7ha adjacent to Kinnairds Wetland to facilitate improved management of the site. 
- Landscape Plan Guide for developments now available to develop consistent standards for the preparation of landscape plans, implementation of landscape works and ongoing maintenance for new developments. 



## Sustainable management of water

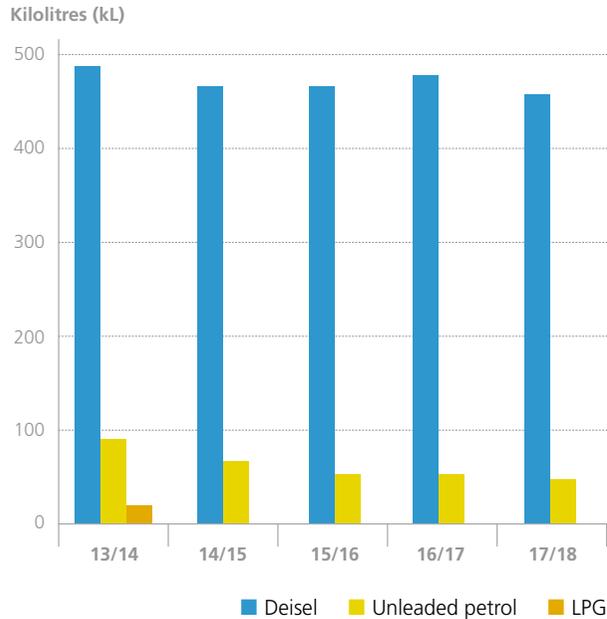
- Continued to support Goulburn Broken Stormwater Education Project. 
- Stocktake completed of rural water allocations. 
- Successful internal funding bid to review current water use and needs in 2018/19. 
- Potable water use is currently reported. See figure 5 for potable water use. 
- Water tanks being used at all depots. 
- Continuing to invest in water efficiencies for irrigation - subsurface vs sprinklers (30-40% water efficient irrigation). 
- Participation in the newly formed GB and NE Integrated Water Management forums. 
- New developments have 'Drain is for Rain' stencilling. 
- Successful internal funding bid for 2018/19 to undertake a review of the urban stormwater management plan and relevant assets. 
- Continued to monitor gross pollutant traps. 



## Sustainable management of waste

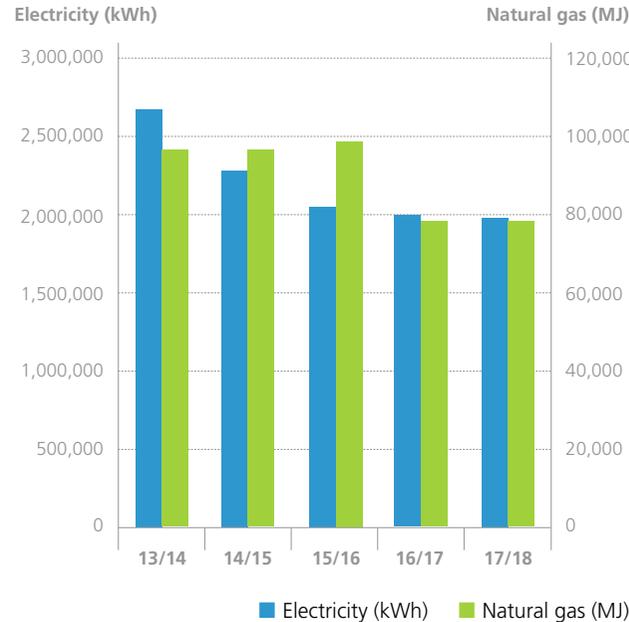
- Waste Management Business Plan adopted by Council. 
- Applied for a grant to increase diversion from landfill by improving facilities. 
- Method for calculating emissions from waste still being investigated. See figure 6 for a kerbside waste breakdown. 

**Figure 1**  
Transport energy consumption



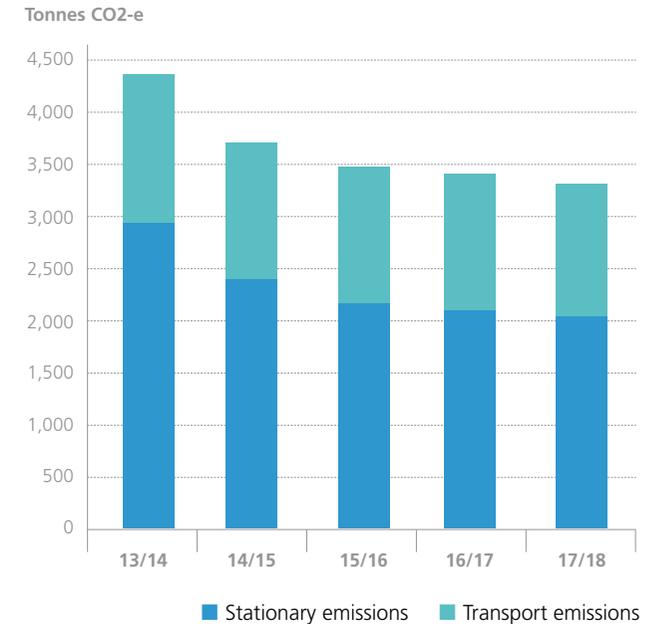
Transport energy is expressed in kilolitres (kL) and includes the consumption of all fuels used in vehicles and plant owned and operated by Council. This includes diesel, petrol, LPG and electricity (for future electric vehicle use). This graph demonstrates that LPG fuelled vehicles are no longer in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

**Figure 2**  
Stationary energy consumption



The significant reduction in electricity consumption from 2013-14 to 2017-18 can be attributed to the Watts Working Better project which involved the replacement of over 1,700 inefficient street lights with highly efficient LEDs. 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 (buildings, pumps etc) that are paid for by Council. This excludes Committees of Management and some leased assets.

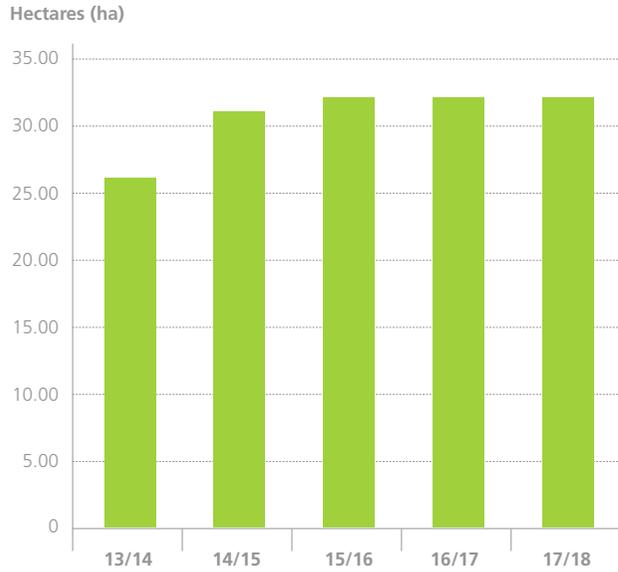
**Figure 3**  
Total corporate greenhouse gas emissions



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. 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**

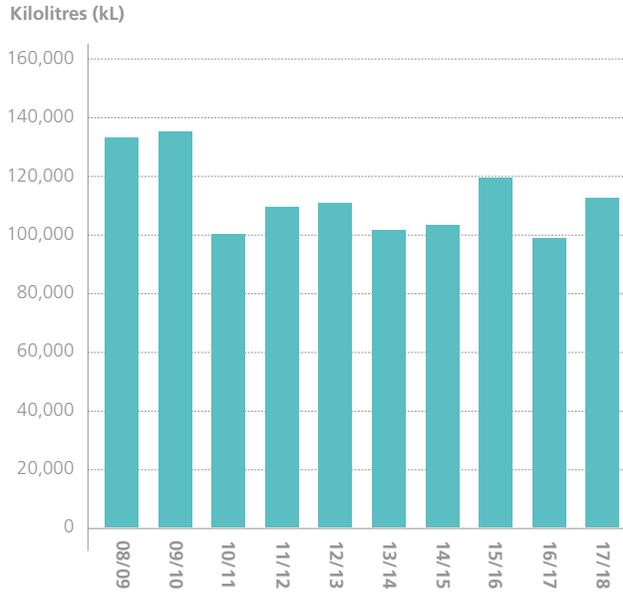
Area of private land under Trust for Nature Conservation Covenants



Moira Shire Council offers a rate rebate for land under Trust for Nature conservation covenant. The covenant is registered on title and allows landholders to permanently protect precious pockets of habitat remaining in a largely cleared landscape.

**Figure 5**

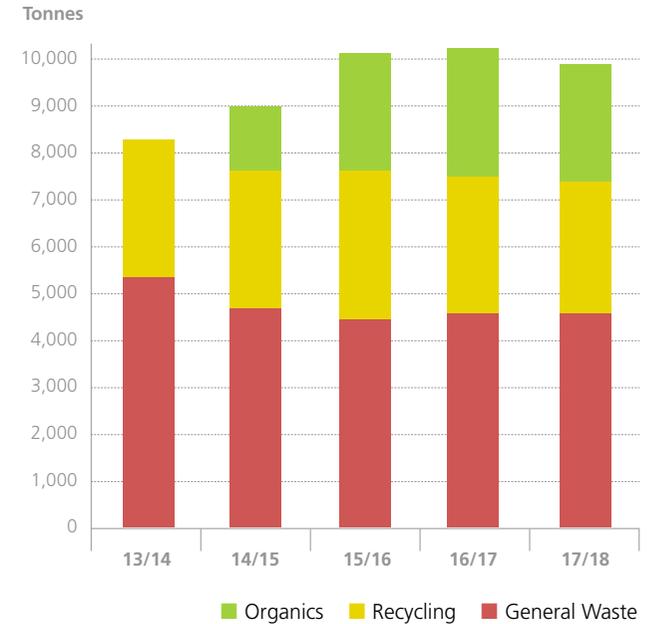
Potable water consumption



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 is expressed in kilolitres (kL) and includes all water consumed at a Council facility (excluding raw water).

**Figure 6**

Total kerbside waste breakdown



Kerbside waste going to landfill has been reduced as a result of the kerbside organics service that was introduced in 2014. 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.



**Phone** (03) 5871 9222 **NRS** 133 677

**Fax** (03) 5872 1567

**Email** [info@moira.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@moira.vic.gov.au)

**Mail** PO Box 578, Cobram Vic 3643

**Main Administration Centre**

44 Station Street, Cobram

**Service Centre**

100 Belmore Street, Yarrawonga

**[www.moira.vic.gov.au](http://www.moira.vic.gov.au)**

find us on **facebook**