



Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2022-2026

Annual Report Summary

1 JULY 2022 – 30 JUNE 2023



2022/23 Achievements



Complete



Good progress/
ongoing



Needs attention

Vision:

To support and encourage an environmentally sustainable community today and for future generations.

1. Environmentally accountable council



- ... Introduction of container deposit collection points in staff kitchen areas where proceeds are donated to local wildlife rescue. Waste management stations and recycling stations continue to reduce office waste by offering additional recycling options. Blister pack recycling introduced in the office.
- ✓ Digital timing devices on hot water systems and timing devices on air conditioners in lunch rooms utilised to reduce energy consumption.
- ✓ Public use electric vehicle (EV) charging station installed at Federation Park, Cobram.
- ... Staff inductions include waste reduction and recycling and a Green Team introduction. New Green Team members get a plant for their desks. The new staff starter pack includes reusable and recycled items. Plastic Free July promoted and encouraged including a plastic-free morning tea.
- ... Organic bins made available for events.
- ... Environmental sustainability is 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.
- ... The sustainability team actively attends Capital Works project meetings, providing and discussing sustainable alternatives for existing and future projects.
- ... Recycled products sourced for parks and gardens where possible including seats, tables, bollards, boardwalks, signage frames, and mulch.

- ... 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 are also used on unsealed roads.
- ... Internal staff Green Team continued to be active with educational tip sheets, indoor plant propagation, and workshops/webinars. Seasonal internal newsletters and courtyard herb and vegetable garden are underway.
- ... Moira Shire reusable branded products for staff and community events include insulated metal water bottles, 100% recycled notebooks, and reusable coffee cups.
- ... Old uniforms are rehomed or recycled.

2. Community engagement



- ✓ 'Loving Moira's Natives' colouring book distributed for tree planting days, wetland events, childcare centres and Naidoc week.
- ✓ Recycling sessions with Nathalia Probus Group, St Joseph's Italian Ladies Club, Cobram U3A, and Garden Club, including organic recycling tour.
- ✓ Distributed Goulburn Broken Catchment calendars and various conservation booklets to Moira schools and community groups.
- ... Continue to provide financial support to Goulburn Broken Catchment and Goulburn Broken Stormwater Education Project.
- ✓ Active in Nature activity for the month of April encouraging the community to get out and get active in five of Moira's nature reserves.
- ✓ School tree planting day at Nathalia Recreation Reserve.
- ✓ Aussie backyard bird count was encouraged via social media and school involvement where bird-watching kits were utilised. Threatened species bake-off promoted via schools.
- ✓ Clean Up Australia Day events supported and attended.
- ✓ Various waste and sustainable education sessions were held for schools.
- ✓ The recycling station made its way around 7 schools and preschools for students, staff, and families. Moira Ways to Recycle brochure was created.
- ✓ Zero waste cooking session held online, including a session aimed at children during school holidays.
- ... Regular use of social media, intranet, Council website, community newsletters, and print media to increase awareness of environmental achievements, ideas, and issues.
- ✓ Supply of unwanted bikes to Cobram Secondary College for their award-winning Pedal Program.
- ✓ Event Recycling Trailer utilised for 13 events across the Moira Shire.
- ✓ Kinnairds Wetland signage renewed.

3. Partnerships



- ✓ Roadside Weed control program (\$75,000) from the state government.

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

... Goulburn Broken Local Government Biodiversity Reference Group (GBLRG), 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, Goulburn Broken IWM Forum, Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance, Parks Victoria working group.

✓ Installation of three additional hydration stations in Barmah, Numurkah, and Katunga in a joint project with Goulburn Valley Water and the local community. This project now has 11 hydration stations across Moira.

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

... Campers waste improvement with Parks Victoria and Campaspe Shire Council.

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

4. Climate change adaptation and mitigation



... Council sourcing 100% of its electricity from renewable energy generated from wind farms in Victoria.

... Public EV charging station installed in Cobram.

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

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

5. Conservation of biodiversity



... Currently 1,548ha of land is protected by a Conservation Covenant and Biodiversity Management Agreement in Moira. See Figure 4.

... Working with GBCMA, Landcare, VicRoads and conservation contractors, and other NRM agencies on various biodiversity projects and roadside weed and pest control.

... 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.

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

... Managed and mapped 750kms of roadsides across Moira for weeds and pest animals. Flooding across the region prevented spray works.

✓ The Rural Tree Scheme was successfully implemented, giving rural ratepayers access to subsidised indigenous plants. A total of 4830 trees were planted across the Moira Shire.

✓ Work in partnerships to implement native species plantings including the Strathmerton and Yarrowonga Recreation Reserves.

6. 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.

✓ Council-owned recreation reserve water usage audits completed across the Shire. Working with Recreation on the Integrated Water Management Program for Victoria Park in Yarrowonga.

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

... Potable water use is continually reported. See Figure 5.

7. Sustainable management of waste



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

✓ Kerbside General Waste bin name was changed to Kerbside Landfill bin to help the community understand where their waste ends up.

✓ The Waste Info App was revamped to include additional information such as Recycling Near Me and calendar linked on Council website and internal mapping.

... Campers' waste trial continued at Thompsons Beach Cobram and Ulupna Island. Coloured fencing to help identify different waste streams. Waste and recycling bags were made available to campers through local businesses and Parks Victoria.

✓ A permanent recycling station was introduced to the Cobram Library.

✓ Focus on reducing food waste by holding several Zero Waste cooking webinars during the year, including a school holiday activity for kids.

✓ Coloured stickers to help identify event bins.

✓ Glass and Organic drop-off point funding for all 9 resource recovery centres.

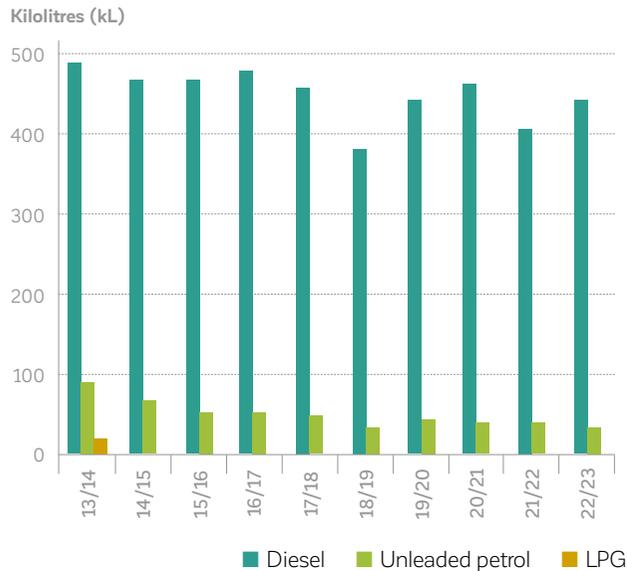
✓ Introduction of printer cartridge drop-off points at our main Resource Recovery Centres.

✓ Update of public place bins in Yarrowonga.

✓ Parks and gardens improved bin identification by coloured stencils and stickers on public place bins.

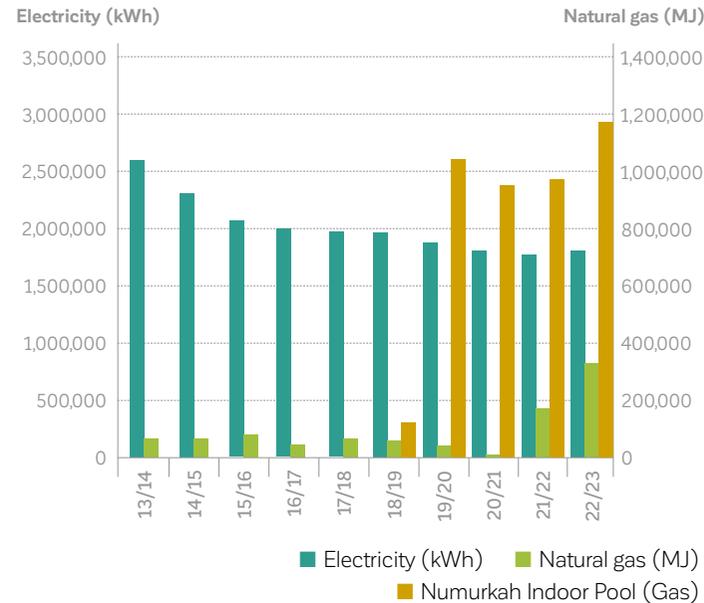
✓ Circular Economy Household Education Funding sourced \$68k.

Figure 1
Transport energy consumption



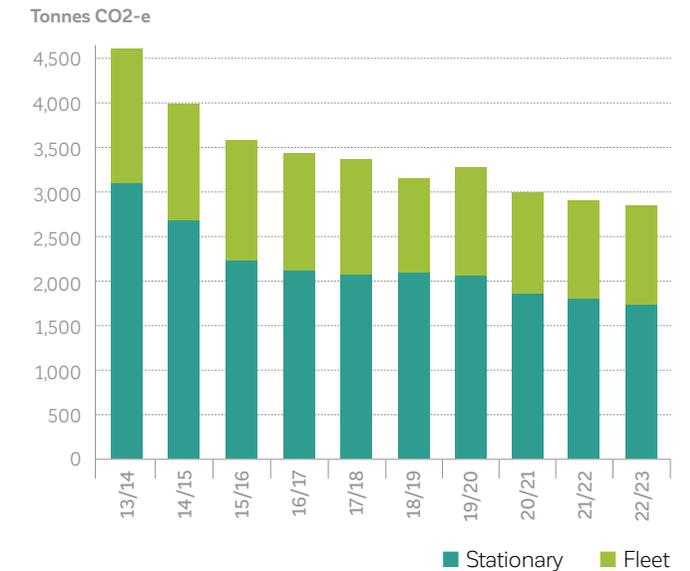
Transport energy is expressed in kilolitres (kL) and includes the consumption of all fuels used in vehicles and plant owned and operated by Council. This includes diesel, petrol and gas. This graph demonstrates that LPG fuelled vehicles are no longer in use, while improved efficiencies within the vehicle market has reduced the consumption of unleaded petrol. Council's diesel fuel consumption has seen an increase of 9% since the previous financial year (409 kL to 448 kL). Council's unleaded fuel consumption has seen a reduction of 11% since the previous financial year (43 kL to 38 kL). Unfortunately, Council's fleet fuel consumption has increased by 7% from the previous financial year, with emissions also increasing by 7.9%. 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 Council's YMCA managed buildings, specifically the Numurkah Indoor Pool. Council's electricity consumption has increased by 2% since the previous financial year (1,738,76 kWh to 1,780,649 kWh). Council's gas consumption has increased by 18% since the previous financial year.

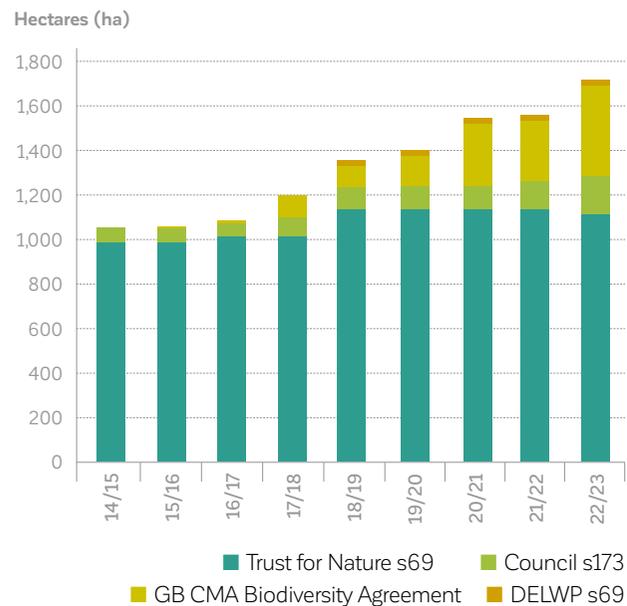
Figure 3
Corporate greenhouse gas emissions



Total corporate greenhouse gas emissions relate 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 the last financial year (1,255 tCO2-e to 1,118 tCO2-e). Station emissions (electricity & gas combined) have decreased by 8% since the previous financial year (1,755 tCO2-e to 1,626 tCO2-e.) This has resulted in an overall increase of corporate emissions by 2.4% from the previous financial year. An increase in energy use compared to last financial year can be attributed to staff and buildings being in full operation with no State Government lockdowns.

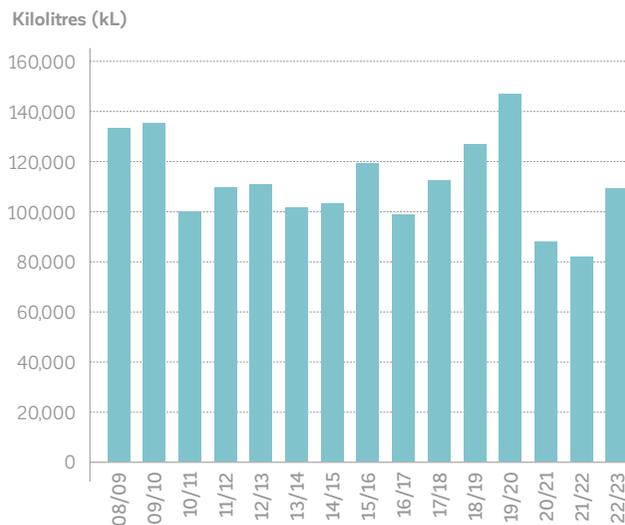
*The electricity and gas data completeness within this report has been independently verified as being 96% and 90% respectively.

Figure 4
Conservation Covenants and Biodiversity Management Agreements



The total area of covenanted land includes private property within the local government area that has a 10-year Biodiversity Management Agreement 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 the title providing permanent protection 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. At the conclusion of the 10-year management agreement, landholders are encouraged to enter into another 10 agreements or s69 agreements 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. This financial year has seen an increase of 25% (87,449 kL to 109,476 kL), potentially due to the community getting back to normal after State Government lockdowns, seeing our aquatic centres and outdoor pools with increased hours., although this financial year has seen a decrease of 40% since the previous financial year (145,745 kL to 87,449 kL). 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.

Figure 6
Total kerbside waste



Total kerbside waste breakdown includes the landfill, 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 usable commodity whereas landfill waste is buried at 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 2013. The increase in organic waste is due to an additional 3000 services being introduced in late 2019 and an increase in rainfall for 2021 and 2022.

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