

## Shoalhaven City Council State of the Environment Summary Report 2015-2016

### Performance of the Local Government Area (“Community”)

		Aboriginal Heritage
		Air
		Biodiversity
		Land Quality
		Land Use Planning
		Noise
		Non Aboriginal Heritage
		Solid Waste
		Waste Water
		Water Quality
		Water Use

### Performance of Council Operations (“Corporate”)

		Energy
		Fleet
		Greenhouse
		Water Use
		Denotes whether performance has remained the same, improved or worsened since the previous years for the issue.
		Denotes whether target performance has been achieved or otherwise for issues where targets have been set.

*Some issues have not been rated due to lack of trend data.*



This report summarises the state of the environment of Shoalhaven City in a series of one-page 'report cards'. Each report card represents an environmental issue relevant to the community and Council activities. The issues may be presented separately as individual reports, or combined into a summary report such as this where the entire state of the environment for the City can be viewed.

### **Report Inclusions**

Each report card includes the following information:

#### **Part A: State of the Environment Over Time**

Presents information that shows the condition of the environment within the City over time, and against targets set by Council.

#### **Part B: Council Response**

Presents information about the main Council responses to alleviate pressures, or to improve the state of the environment. Many of Council's responses focus on addressing pressures on the environment as this is the only way Council can have a direct influence on the state of an issue.

#### **Part C: How is the Shoalhaven Performing?**

Provides a rating of performance in terms of:

***Trend over time:*** The improvement or otherwise of the state of the issue, as shown in the trend over time of the leading state indicator\*.

***Performance against target:*** The achievement or otherwise of any target set for the issue, as shown in the leading state indicator\*.

***Performance against other local government areas:*** The performance of the City compared to the average performance of other local governments nationally, based on the leading state indicator\*.

\* The leading state indicator is generally shown in the first chart in Part A of the report, with the italicised chart title. Some reports cards rate performance against a pressure indicator, which are shown in Part B of the report, again with the italicised chart title.

#### **Part D: Comments**

Commentary by Council staff to explain the performance results.

### **Indicators Used for Reporting**

The environmental performance of the City is measured across a number of issues, each with its own set of indicators to measure that performance as well as Council's response. There are potentially hundreds of indicators that could be used to summarise the environmental performance for each issue and Council's response. The purpose of these report cards is not capture all these indicators. This would make it impossible to present the performance information succinctly.

Rather, only one or two indicators have been selected for each issue. The indicators that have been included are regarded as 'primary' indicators, each of which on their own provide a thorough assessment of performance from which decisions can be made. These indicators are complemented by a range of 'secondary' indicators which are not shown in the reports, but which may be maintained by respective Council departments and stakeholders as required. Some of these secondary indicators can be accessed online from the same location as these reports.

The various issues and indicators for each issue were selected through a comprehensive research and consultation program. Council's environment team worked with Planet Footprint to develop the issues and indicators list, in consultation with key staff across Council. Processes for the ongoing capture of data to feed into each report card were also developed at this time.

For some reports, historical performance prior to 2009-2010 is not reported. This is due to a lack of data for these earlier years, or data being available which is not in a format to allow for confident reporting. Council has implemented processes to ensure data for most indicators can be collected from 2010-2011 onwards.

### **Comparisons and Benchmarking with other Council areas**

The indicators that have been selected for inclusion in these report cards were also identified as being the most universally acceptable to Australian local government. As a result, Council will be working with Planet Footprint to generate wider interest in this reporting process among other Councils with the objective of encouraging them to report their performance using the same set of indicators. This will bring all Councils to a 'level playing field' in terms of data, enabling comparisons and benchmarking of performance to take place between local government areas.

### **Targets**

Council is seeking to measure its performance against targets for each issue. An initial set of targets has been developed for the primary performance or response based indicator in each report. In the absence of a specific target being set for an issue, a 5 per cent improvement on previous year's performance has been set as the default target.

It is anticipated that Council will produce a refined set of targets in future years as performance trends become obvious and staff are consulted on what can be achieved for each issue.

### **Ongoing Data Collection, Management and Reporting**

Planet Footprint coordinates the ongoing collection and management of data and generates updated report cards for Council on a quarterly basis. These report cards are available to Council on demand via Planet Footprint's website.

### **For more information**

Visit [www.planetfootprint.com](http://www.planetfootprint.com)

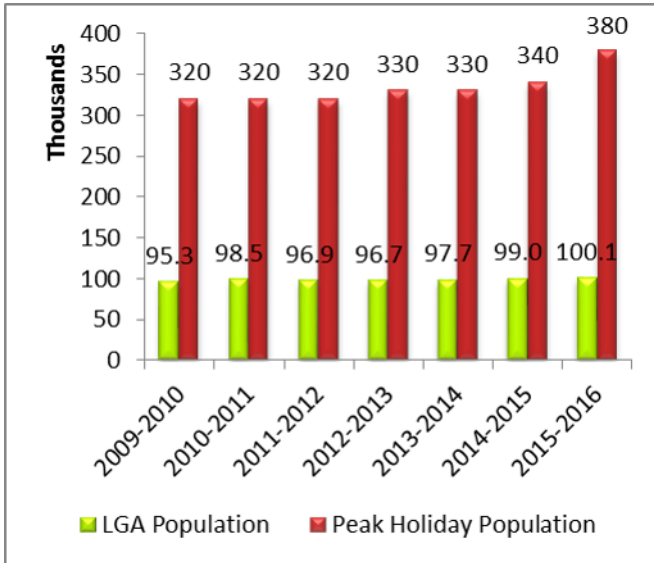
Call Shoalhaven City Council on 02 4429 3111

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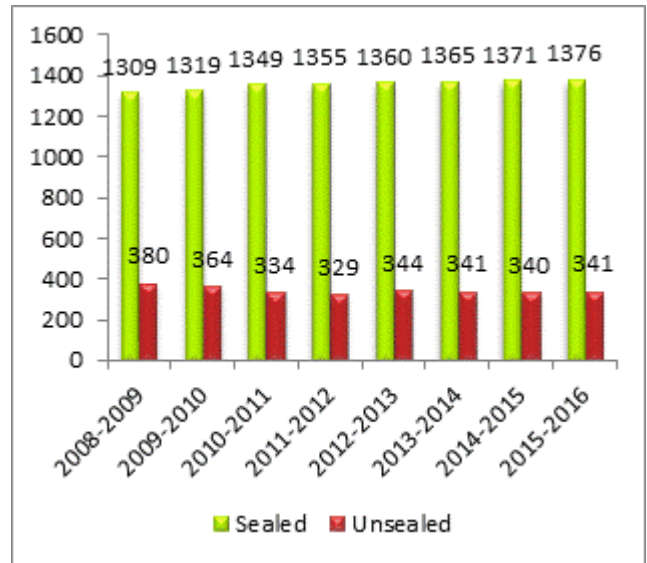




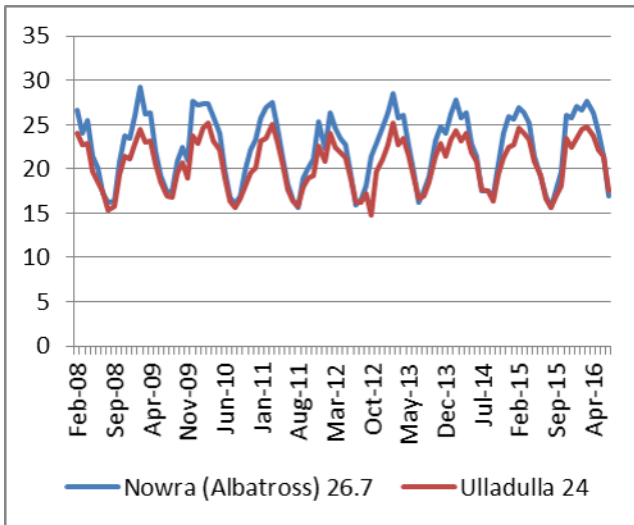
Population of the City



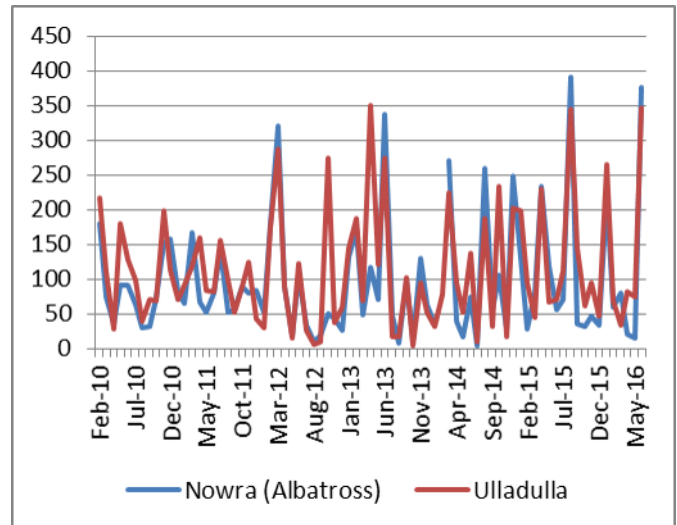
Length of roads in the City (kms)



Average monthly maximum temperature for the City (°C) (Nowra and Ulladulla)



Monthly rainfall for the City (mm) (Nowra and Ulladulla)



Comments

The Shoalhaven Local Government Area is the most visited tourist destination in NSW outside of Sydney. Therefore all Council's infrastructure and services have to be designed to cope with a population that triples during the peak holiday periods. The indicators used in the report are mostly based upon a per capita or per property comparison which does not account for the increase in transient population and affects the overall performance of Council when compared to other Local Government Areas.



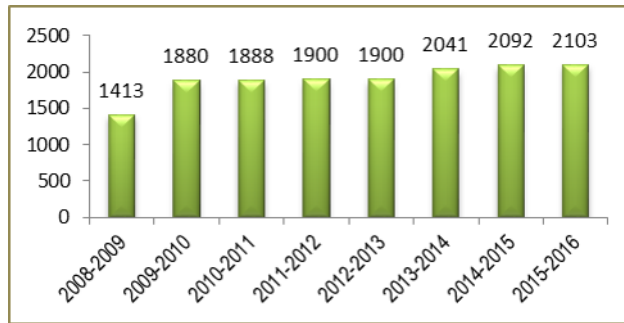
# Aboriginal Heritage

## COMMUNITY FOOTPRINT REPORT

### Part A: State of the Environment over time

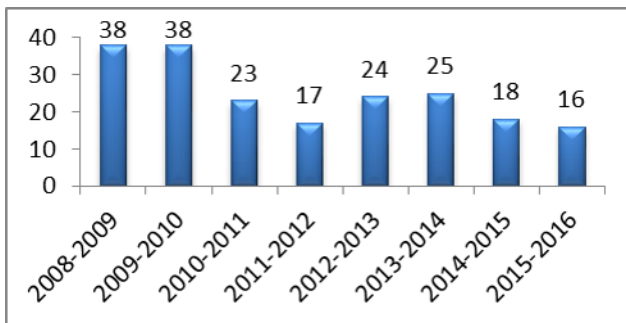
#### Aboriginal heritage sites listed within the LGA

(Data supplied by NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service)

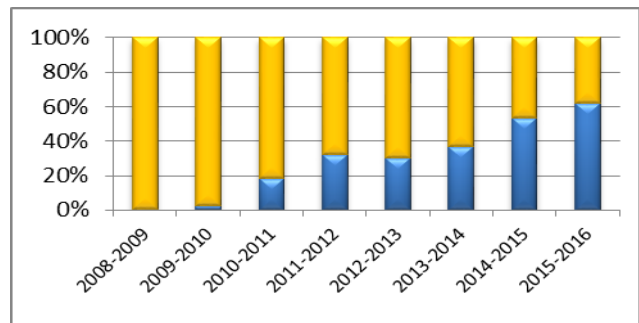


### Part B: Council response

#### Number of indigenous employees at Council



#### Proportion of employees who have completed cultural awareness training



### Part C: Performance Summary (from primary indicator)

#### Trend over time



Improvement—% of Council workforce that is Aboriginal increased from previous

Performance against target  
(1.8% of the Council workforce is Aboriginal)



Performance against other local government areas

*No comparison data available*

### Part D: Comments

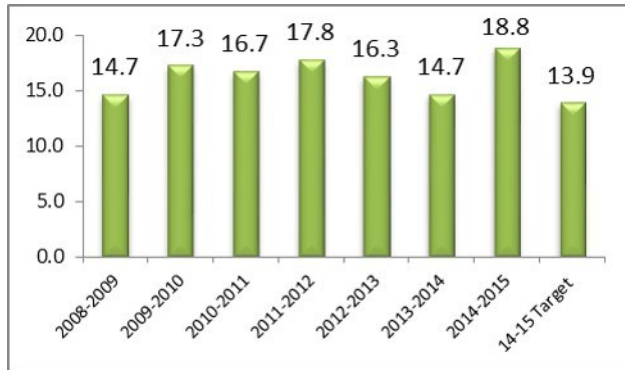
Aboriginal Heritage sites are managed by the state and commonwealth governments. Council employs an Aboriginal Community Development Officer to promote the participation of Aboriginal people in local area decision making and service provisions. Note: The proportion of the Council workforce that is Aboriginal was 1.87% - less than the proportion of the LGA population (4.7%). However as it is not mandatory for employees to disclose their heritage these numbers may not be a true representation of Aboriginal people employed by Council.



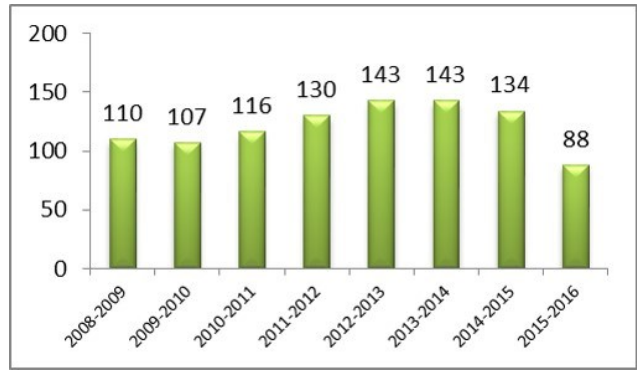
## COMMUNITY FOOTPRINT REPORT

### Part A: State of the Environment over time

**Emissions per capita (kgs)**  
(from National Pollutant Inventory)

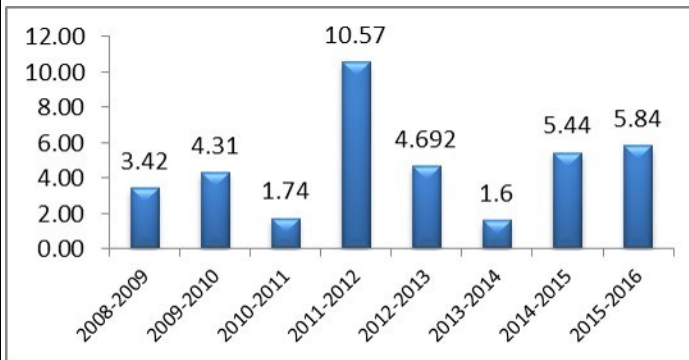


**Air pollution complaints made to Council**  
(odour + air quality + smoke)

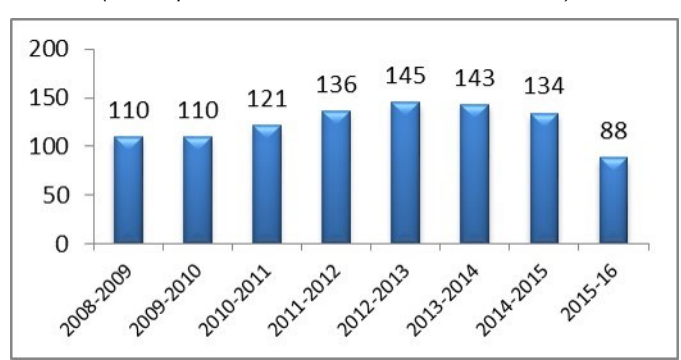


### Part B: Council response

**Length of cycleway & footpaths constructed (kms)**



**Council regulatory responses to air quality concerns**  
(All complaints actioned + notices + orders + fines)



### Part C: Performance Summary (from primary indicator)

Trend over time



Increase in air emissions from previous year

Performance against target  
(5% improvement from previous year)



Performance against other local government areas

*Above National Average*

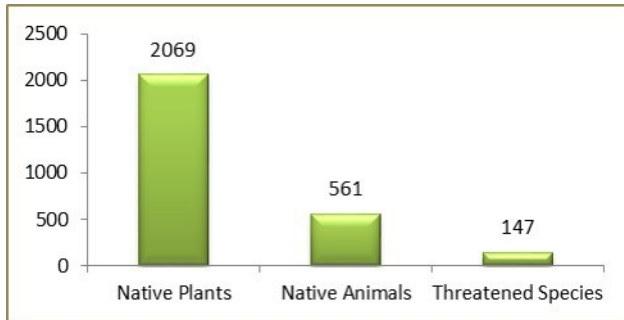
### Part D: Comments

To maintain good air quality the reliance on wood for heating and the use of cars in lieu of public transport needs to be reduced as the population continues to grow. Council also needs to carefully manage air emissions from industry to ensure the region's air quality does not deteriorate into the future.



### Part A: State of the Environment over time

**Number of species in LGA**  
(as at June 2015)



Threatened flora and fauna species in the Shoalhaven compared to other LGAs (as at June 2015)

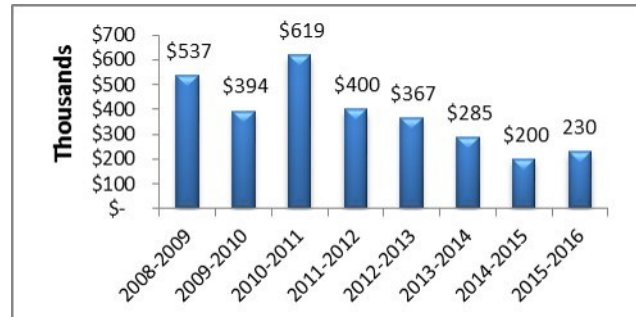


### Part B: Council response

Council funds (including grant funds) invested into threatened species recovery and protection



Council funds (including grant funds) invested into management and implementation of programs for control of pest species in natural areas



### Part C: Performance Summary (from primary indicator)

Trend over time



Performance against target

*Not applicable*

Performance against other local government areas

*Not applicable*

### Part D: Comments

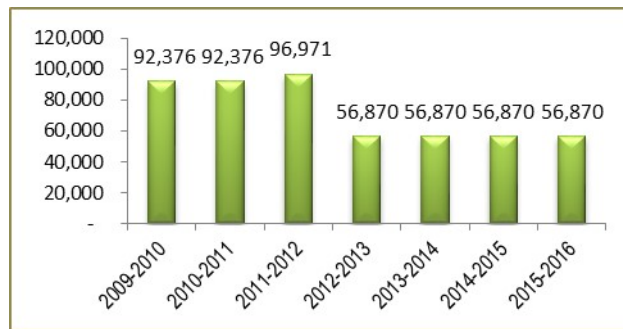
The Shoalhaven has an exceptionally high number of plant & animal species because we sit in the nexus of two bioregions. This means that many species are at the limit of their natural extent. Although our area has a large proportion of vegetation most of the threatened species and communities are on the coastal fringe where we live. The high population growth rate means that there is an increasing pressure to clear native vegetations for housing. Such growth has inevitable impacts on biodiversity and must be planned for carefully.



## COMMUNITY FOOTPRINT REPORT

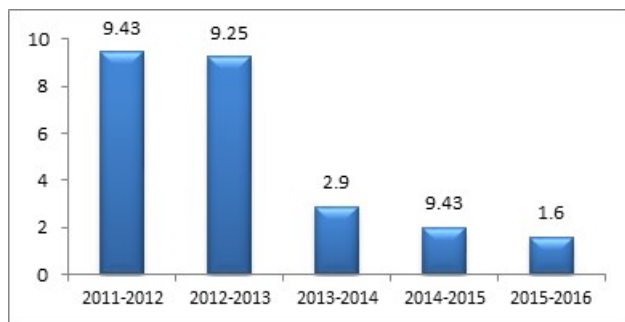
### Part A: State of the Environment over time

Area of constrained land  
(including acid sulphate, flooding, contamination, endangered ecological communities) (ha)



### Part B: Council response

Area of land revegetated/rehabilitated by  
Bushcare program (ha)\*



**Council funds invested into revegetation/  
rehabilitation activities by Bushcare**



### Part C: Performance Summary (from primary indicator)

Trend over time



Increased  
reveg/rehab funding

Performance against target  
(funds invested are equal to or greater  
than funds invested in previous year)



Performance against other local  
government areas

*No comparison  
data available*

### Part D: Comments

Council requires a thorough understanding of the balance between land use constraints and current land use practices for each catchment within the Shoalhaven to sustainably manage the City. The decrease in constrained land in 2012/13 is a result of updated data on endangered ecological communities and from flood studies. Council and the community have rehabilitated degraded land and Council has invested considerable funds into this rehabilitation.



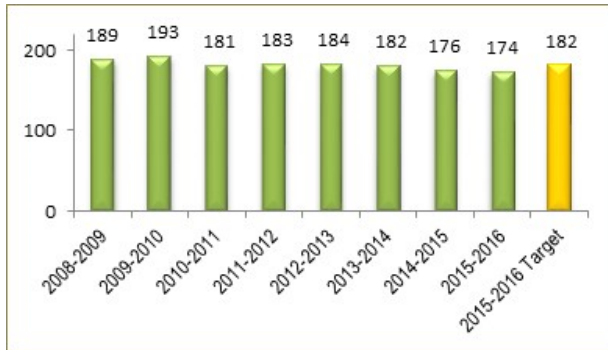


# Land Use Planning

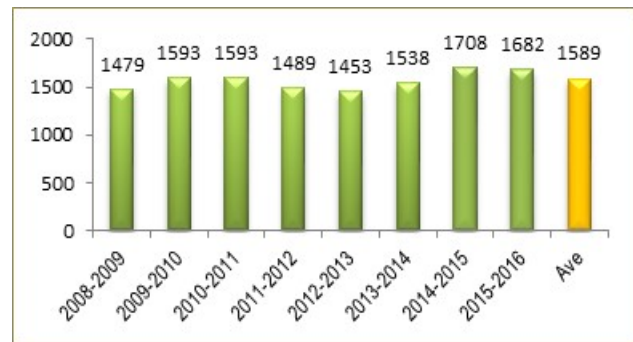
## COMMUNITY FOOTPRINT REPORT

### Part A: State of the Environment over time

**Area of Council managed community land per resident (square metres)**

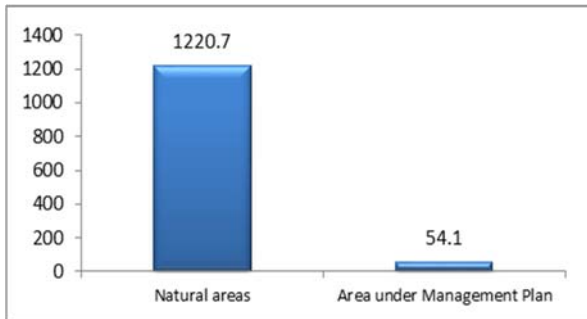


**Construction certificates issued/complying Development**

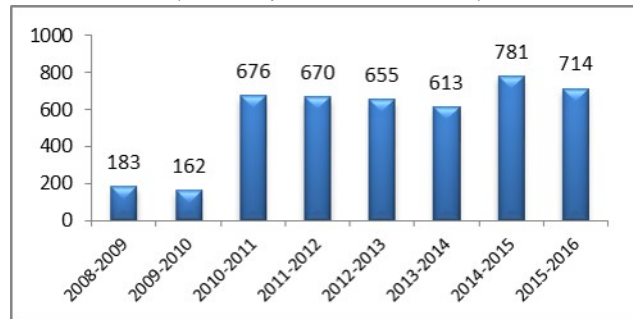


### Part B: Council response

**Natural areas vs. natural areas with site specific management plan (ha)**



**Council regulatory response to Non Complying Developments and Unauthorised Development (action requests, notices, orders)**



### Part C: Performance Summary (from primary indicator)

Trend over time



Performance against target  
(area remains the same as previous year)



Performance against other local government areas

*No comparison data available*

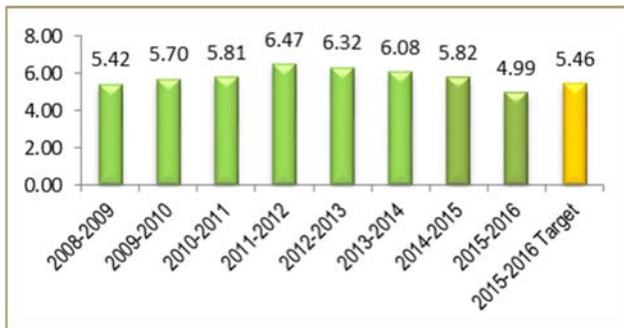
### Part D: Comments

The area of Council managed land per resident has remained fairly constant as the population has increased. The area of land with a site specific management plan has increased by 10 % since 2008-09.

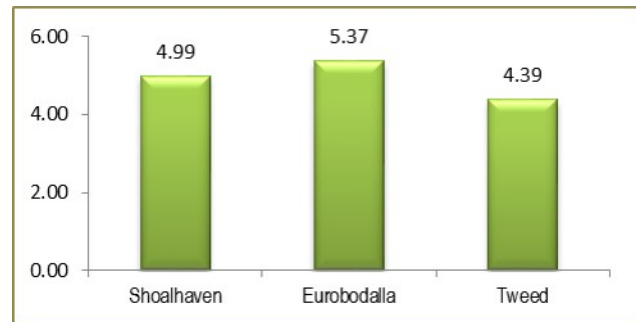


### Part A: State of the Environment over time

**Noise complaints made to Council per thousand residents**

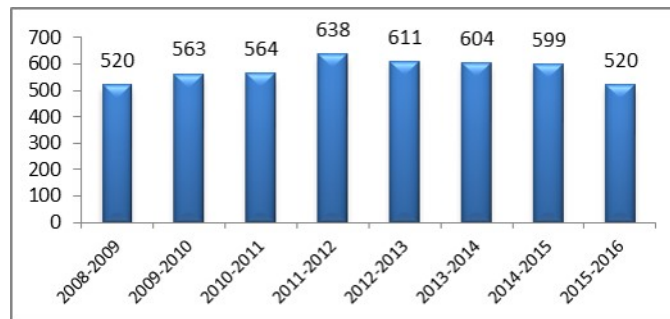


Noise complaints made to other Councils per thousand residents



### Part B: Council response

Council regulatory responses to noise complaints (includes investigations, notices, orders, fines, court action)



### Part C: Performance Summary (from primary indicator)

Trend over time



Performance against target (5% improvement from previous year)



Performance against other local government areas

*Slightly lower than other government areas*

### Part D: Comments

Noise complaints vs. population have been dropping since 2011-12. It continues to be the highest source of environmental health related complaints to Council however. Council's Environmental Health Officers have observed a correlation between the increase in population density, the increase in smaller lot subdivisions and consequently the number of noise complaints received.

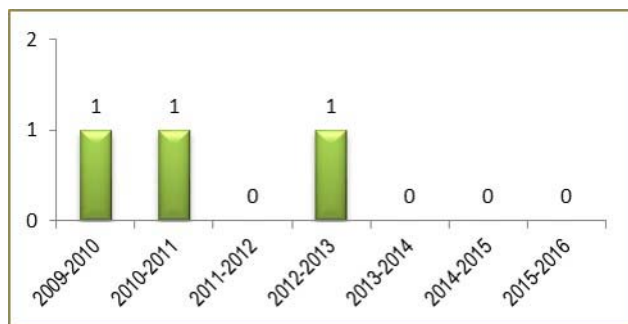


# Non-Aboriginal Heritage

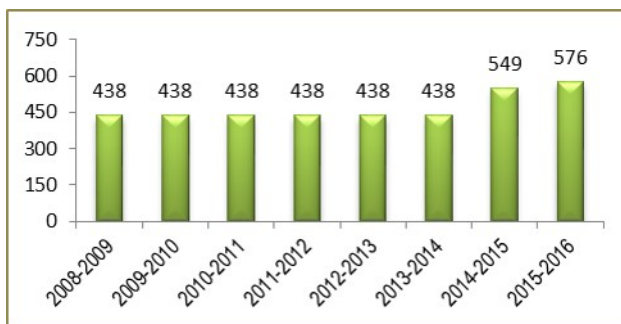
## COMMUNITY FOOTPRINT REPORT

### Part A: State of the Environment over time

**Non-Aboriginal listed heritage items demolished or destroyed**

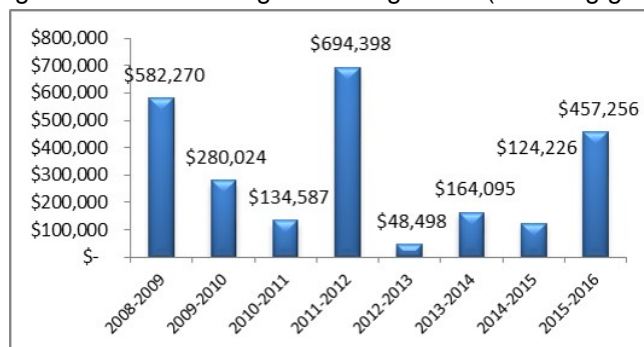


**Non-Aboriginal heritage sites identified or listed for protection in the LEP**



### Part B: Council response

**Council funds invested into the protection, restoration or management of non-Aboriginal heritage sites (including grant money)**



### Part C: Performance Summary (from primary indicator)

Trend over time



Performance against target  
(Zero items destroyed)



Performance against other local government areas

*No comparison data available*

### Part D: Comments

There is an increasing community awareness to protect sites and structures regarded as historically important. Listing may include: evidence of important aspects of the past, items that are aesthetically pleasing or are particularly rare. The introduction of a new Local Environmental Plan in 2014 assisted in identifying more sites to be listed for protection.



## COMMUNITY FOOTPRINT REPORT

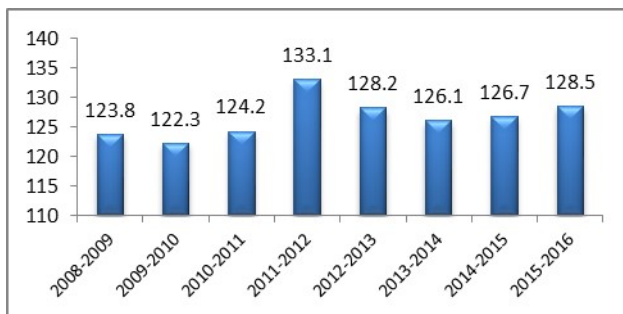
### Part A: State of the Environment over time

**Total waste collected at kerbside (kg/capita)**

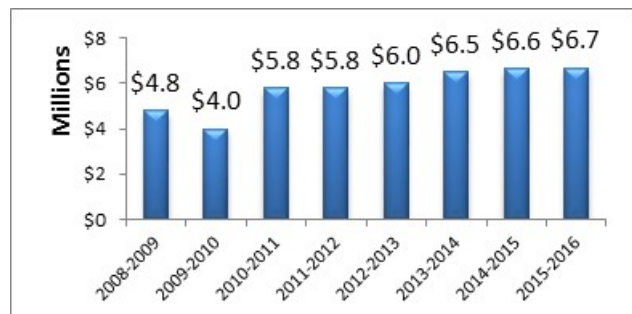


### Part B: Council response

Recycled materials collected at kerbside (kg/capita)



Council funds invested into resource recovery



### Part C: Performance Summary (from primary indicator)

Trend over time



Increase in waste per capita

Performance against target  
(5% improvement on previous year)



Performance against other local  
government areas

*No comparison  
available*

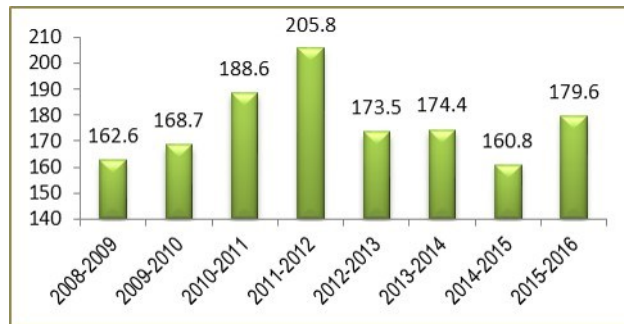
### Part D: Comments

Total kerbside waste collected per person increased by 41kg over the 2008 – 2016 period with 89% of that increase being non-recyclable waste. Waste reduction initiatives such as composting, worm farming and sustainable living workshops were promoted and proved very popular. These workshops involved training residents to become sustainable by reducing waste that may otherwise be directed to landfill.



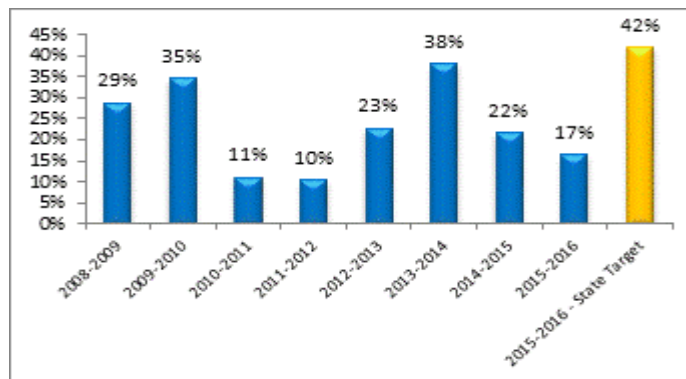
### Part A: State of the Environment over time

Total volume of wastewater collected per connected property (kilolitres)



### Part B: Council response

***Proportion of collected waste water recycled onto land***



### Part C: Performance Summary (from primary indicator)

Trend over time

Performance against target  
(42% of waste water recycled -state target)

Performance against other local  
government areas



Increase in recycling to land



*No comparison  
data available*

### Part D: Comments

The total waste water collected by Council is directly influenced by stormwater infiltration into the sewerage infrastructure. It also means that in wetter periods the quality of reclaimed wastewater that can be irrigated is significantly reduced.

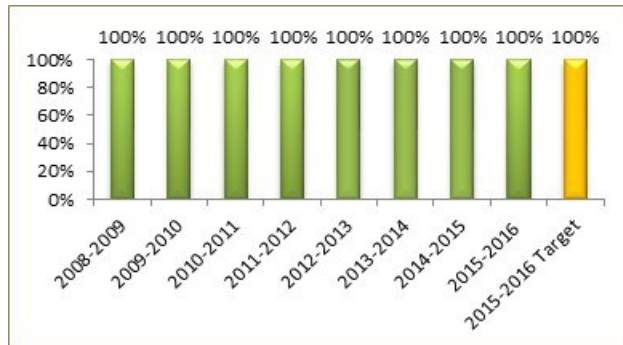


# Water Quality

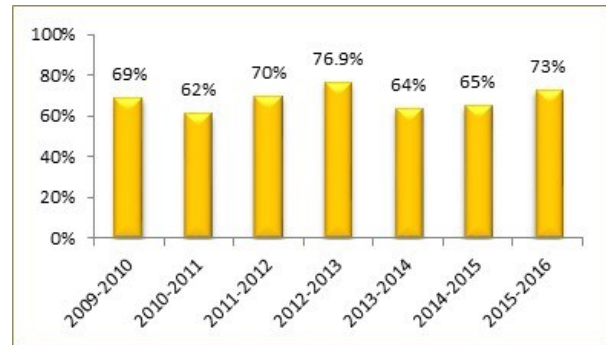
## COMMUNITY FOOTPRINT REPORT

### Part A: State of the Environment over time

#### Shoalhaven Beachwatch sites that meet Water Quality Guidelines

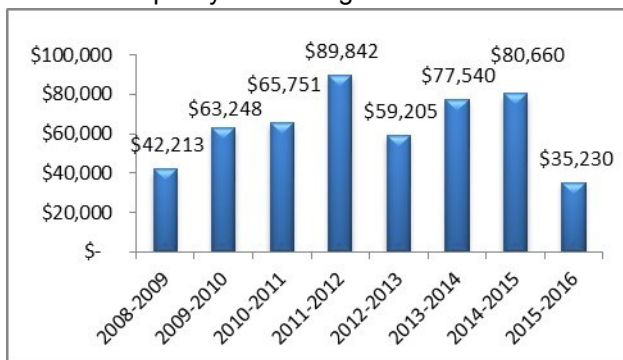


#### Water quality monitoring sites meeting guidelines (Estuaries, lakes, rivers and creeks across 22 catchments)

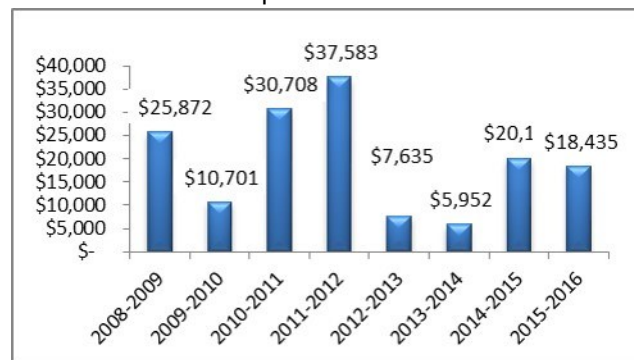


### Part B: Council response

#### Council funds (including grants) invested into surface water quality monitoring and education



#### Council funds (including grants) expended on aquatic weed control



### Part C: Performance Summary (from primary indicator)

Trend over time



Performance against target  
(All beaches meet guidelines)



Performance against other local government areas

*Better than national average*

### Part D: Comments

Council continues to invest in water quality monitoring but a majority of the funding is supplied by grant funds which are not sustainable in the long term. For this monitoring to continue Council will need to allocate resources if it is to continue to monitor the condition of our natural water ways and beaches to identify pollution sources, monitor ecosystem health and monitor recreational water quality.

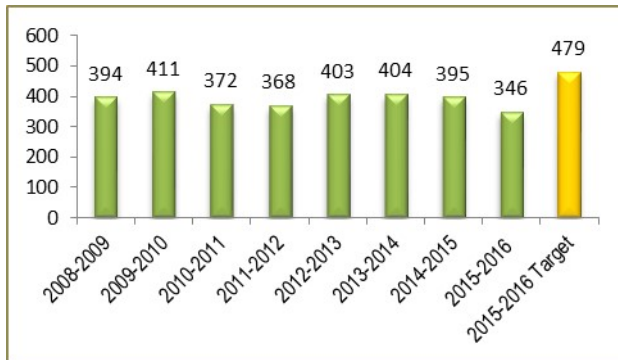


# Water Use

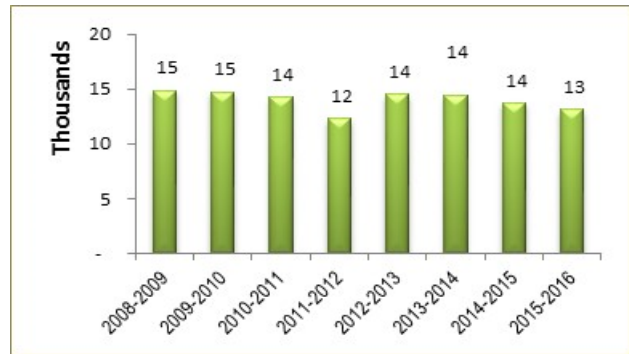
## COMMUNITY FOOTPRINT REPORT

### Part A: State of the Environment over time

**Residential water consumption per residential connection per day (litres)**

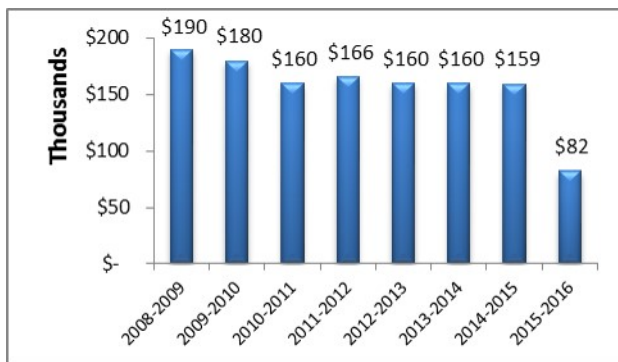


**LGA water sourced (megalitres)**

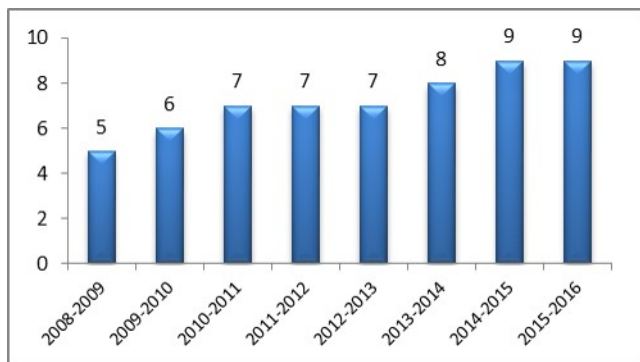


### Part B: Council response

**Council funds invested into Community water reduction initiatives**



**Integrated water cycle initiatives in place (e.g Tapstar, rebates, pricing, household audits)**



### Part C: Performance Summary (from primary indicator)

Trend over time



Improvement - Ongoing decrease in consumption per connection

Performance against target (state average)



Performance against other local government areas

*No comparison data available*

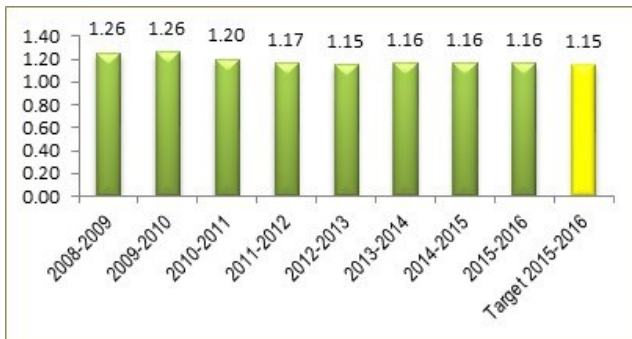
### Part D: Comments

Water consumption per resident and total water use across the city directly reflects the weather conditions for example in dryer times there is a reliance on town water for garden watering and topping up water tanks for those relying on tank water.

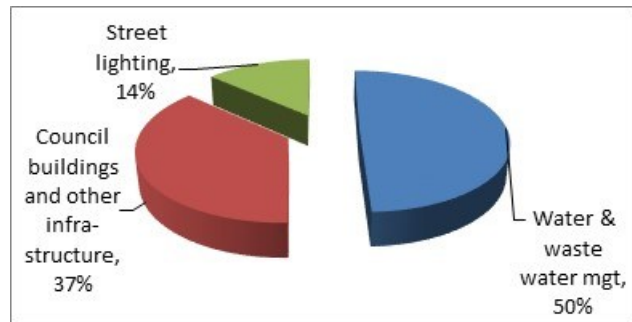


### Part A: State of the Environment over time

**Total Council energy consumption per resident per day (GJ)**

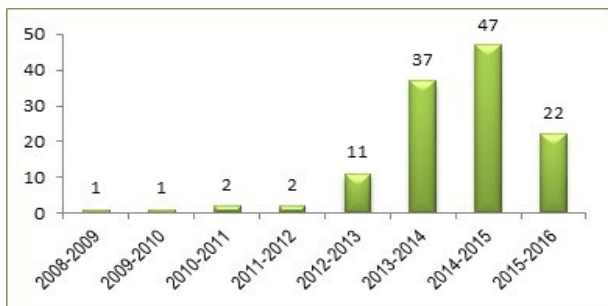


Council energy consumption by source



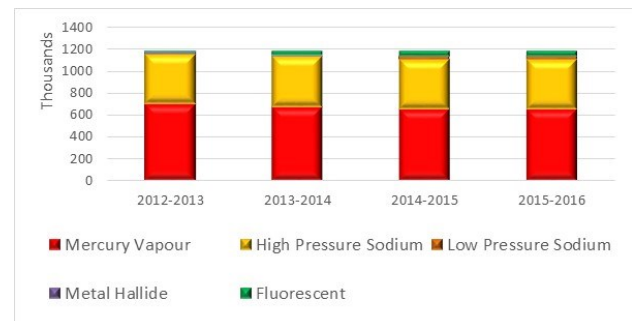
### Part B: Council response

Number of active energy efficiency measures in place\*



\*Represents number of measures implemented with savings realised or expected during the year

Street Lighting—Installed Wattage by technology type



### Part C: Performance Summary (from primary indicator)

Trend over time



Steady—consumption per resident per day has remained the same compared to prev. financial year

Performance against target (Target not achieved)



Performance against other local government areas

*No comparison data available*

### Part D: Comments

Since completing the Council's Energy Saving Action Plan in 2012 Council has not finalised another Energy and Water Management Plan to incorporate the findings of energy and water audits being undertaken of Council's assets. In the interim individual Sections of Council are proactively managing their own energy consumption.

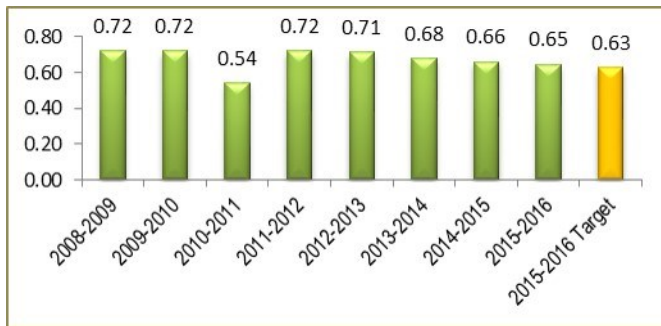




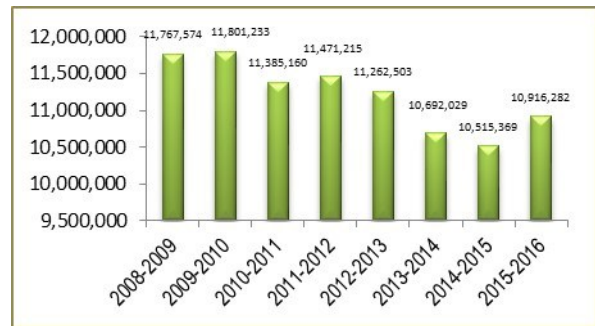
## CORPORATE FOOTPRINT REPORT

### Part A: State of the Environment over time

**Total Council fuel consumption per resident (GJ)**

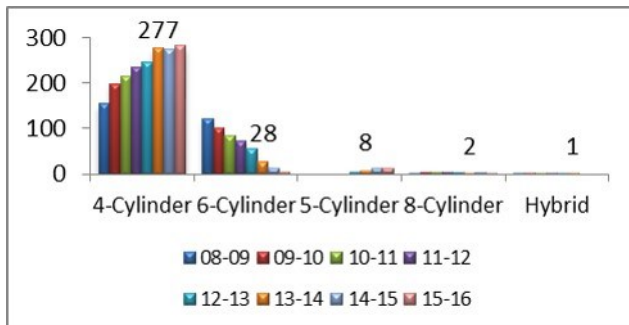


**Vehicle kilometers travelled by Council fleet (includes private travel from leased vehicles)**

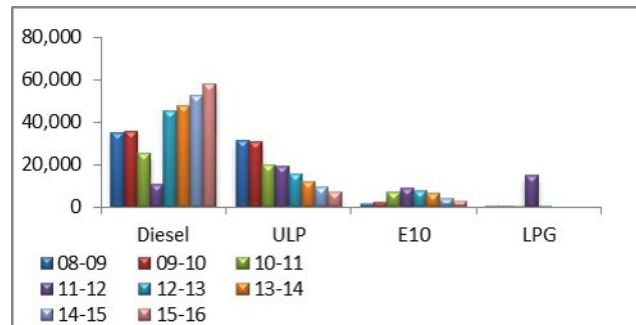


### Part B: Council response

**Number of Council fleet passenger vehicles (as at 30 June 2014)**



**Fuel consumption of Council's entire fleet by fuel type (GJ)**



### Part C: Performance Summary (from primary indicator)

Trend over time



Performance against target



Performance against other local government areas\*

Average

### Part D: Comments

Council has investigated alternatives to the standard option of a 6 cylinder vehicle for its fleet of passenger vehicles and encouraged the use of ESD vehicles by having them as a cheaper option. The use of E10 or ethanol blended fuel is encouraged to reduce reliance on fossil fuels as the primary fuel source.

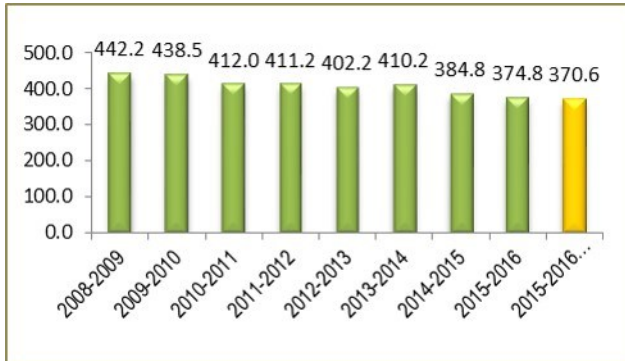


\* Based on figures derived from data collected from 140 local government agencies by Planet Footprint. Average usage is 0.67 GJ per resident in 2013-2014

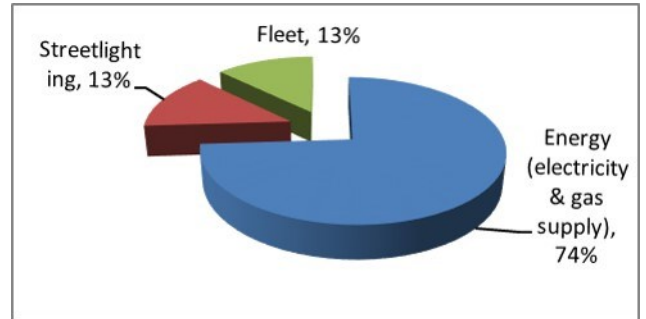
## CORPORATE FOOTPRINT REPORT

### Part A: State of the Environment over time

**Annual Council greenhouse gas emissions per resident (kgs)**

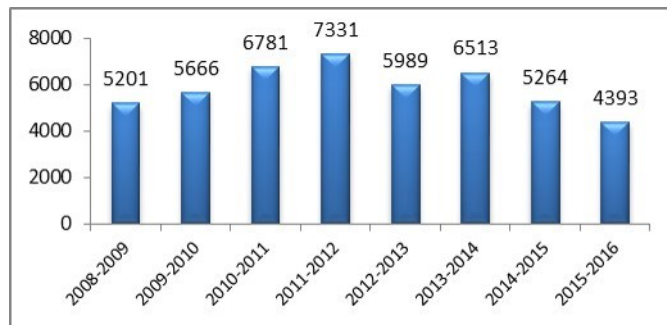


**Greenhouse gas emissions by source**



### Part B: Council response

**Renewable energy generated by Council (MWh)**



### Part C: Performance Summary (from primary indicator)

Trend over time



Performance against target  
(5% improvement from previous year)



Performance against other local government areas\*

*11% below average*

### Part D: Comments

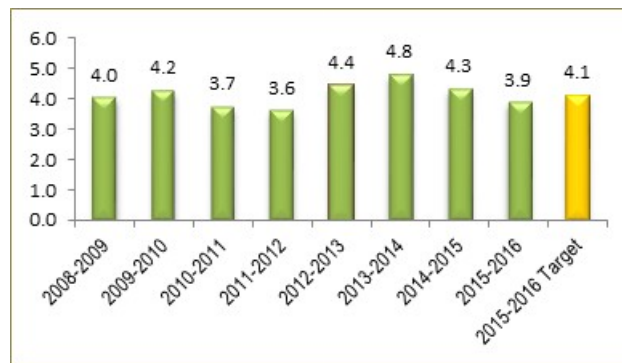
Since completing the Council's Energy Saving Action Plan in 2012 Council has not finalised another Energy and Water Management Plan to incorporate the findings of energy and water audits being undertaken of Council's assets. In the interim individual Sections of Council are proactively managing their own energy consumption.



\* Performance compared against other LGAs that operate Water Infrastructure. Derived from data collected by Planet Footprint across 140 LGAs

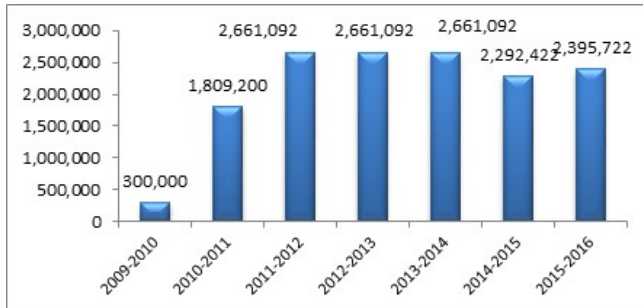
### Part A: State of the Environment over time

**Water consumption from Council assets per resident (KL)**

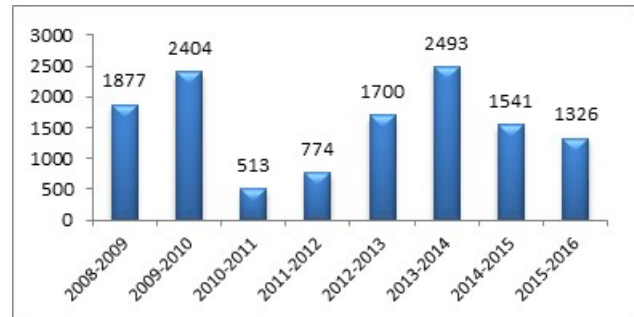


### Part B: Council response

**Storage capacity of rainwater tanks installed on Council facilities (litres)**



**Water use offset by irrigation of recycled effluent on sports fields and parks (megalitres)**



### Part C: Performance Summary (from primary indicator)

Trend over time



Overall trend is that corporate water consumption is decreasing

Performance against target  
(5% improvement from previous year)



Performance against other local government areas

*4% better than national average*

### Part D: Comments

Council adopted an organisational Energy and Water Management Policy in October 2007 to guide Council's efforts in the efficient and effective use of its energy and water resources. Council has to develop a new Energy and Water Management Plan that will incorporate the findings of a range of energy audits of Council activities.

