

Shoalhaven City Council State of the Environment Summary Report 2017-2018

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

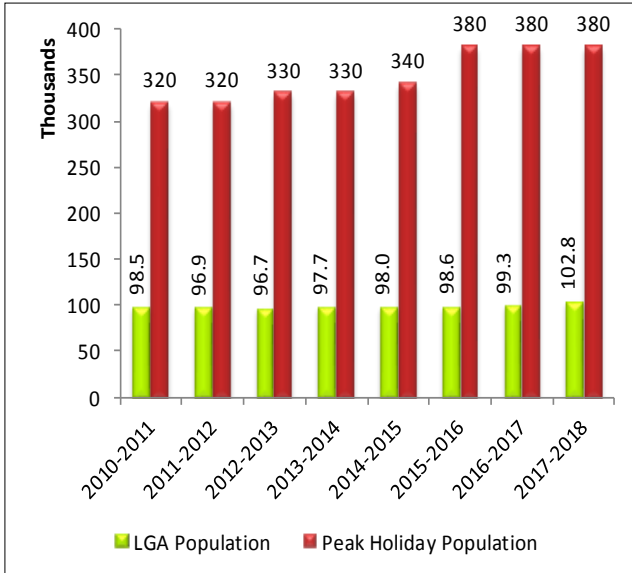
Call Shoalhaven City Council on 02 4429 3111

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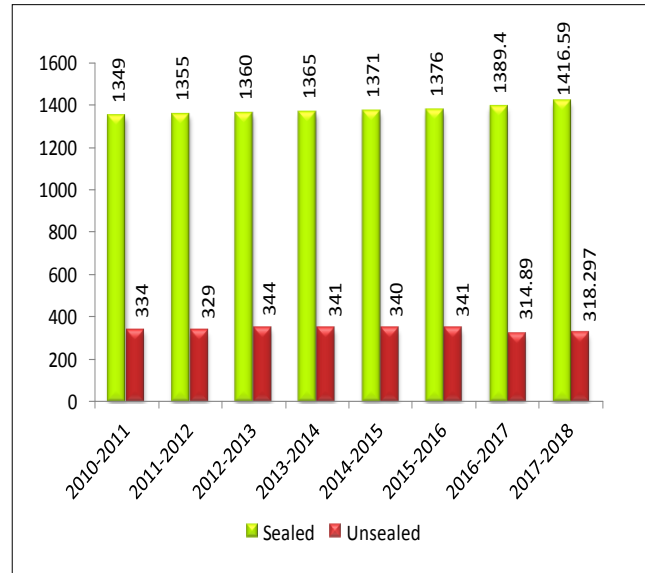




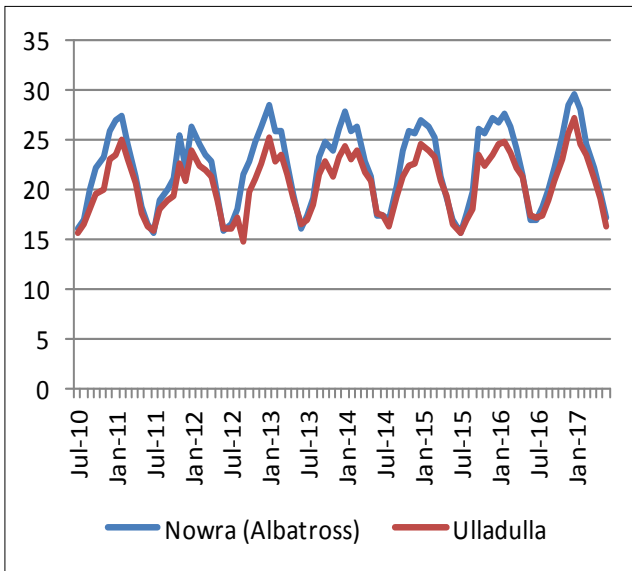
Population of the City



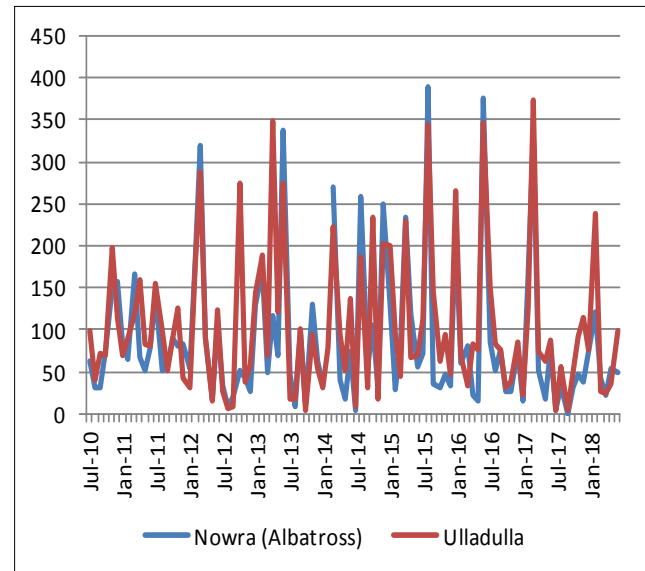
Length of roads in the City (kms)



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.



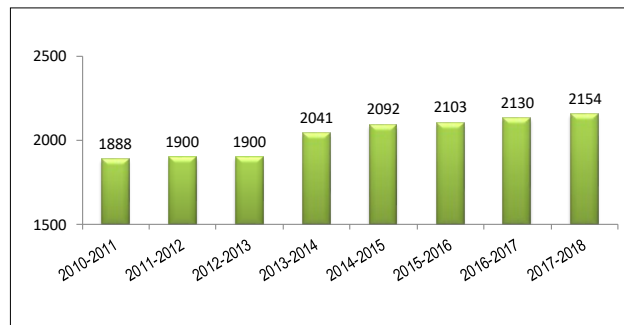
Aboriginal Heritage

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)

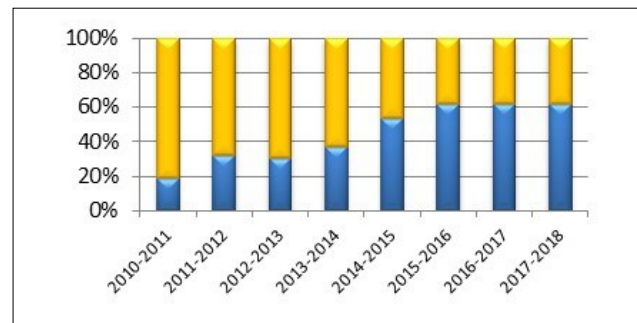


Part B: Council response

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



—% of Council workforce that is Aboriginal decrease from previous year

Performance against target

(1.3% of the Council workforce is Aboriginal)



Performance against other local government areas

No comparison data available

Part D: Comments

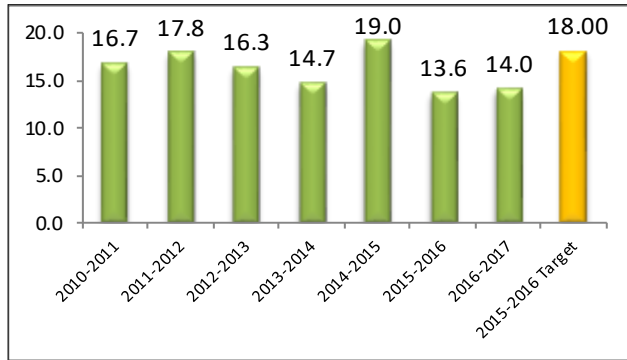
Aboriginal Heritage sites are managed by the state and commonwealth governments. Council employs an Aboriginal Community Development Officer to promote the participation of Aboriginal people in local area decision making and service provisions. Note: The proportion of the Council workforce that is Aboriginal was 1.3% - less than the proportion of the LGA population (5.5%). 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.



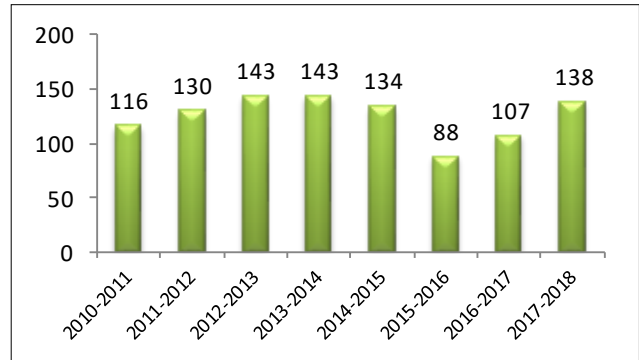
COMMUNITY FOOTPRINT REPORT

Part A: State of the Environment over time

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

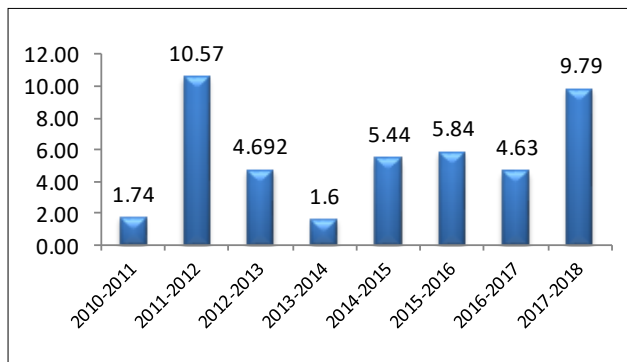


Air pollution complaints made to Council
(odour + air quality + smoke)

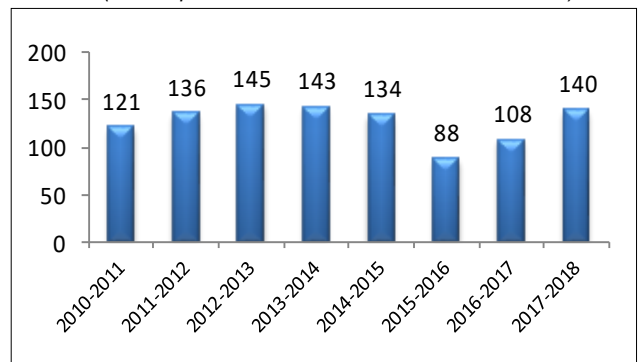


Part B: Council response

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



Slight increase in air emissions from previous year

Performance against target
(2.94% decrease from previous year)



Performance against other local government areas

Above National Average

Part D: Comments

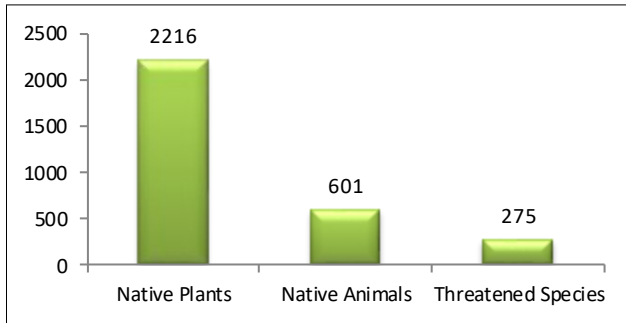
To maintain good air quality the reliance on wood for heating and the use of cars in lieu of public transport needs to be reduced as the population continues to grow. Council also needs to carefully manage air emissions from industry to ensure the region's air quality does not deteriorate into the future.

Emissions data was sourced from The National Pollutant Inventory at <http://www.npi.gov.au/index.html> (Latest emissions data up to 2016-2017) Emissions data used in calculations includes only emissions to air. Emissions to land and water were not included in this analysis.

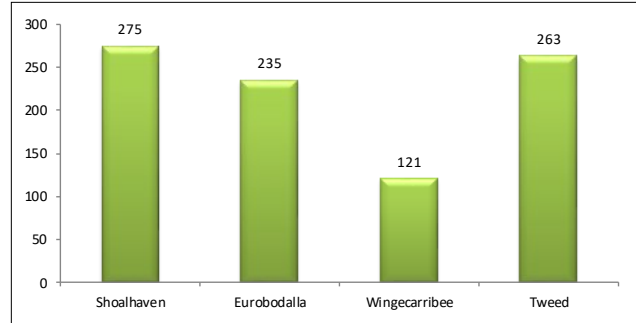


Part A: State of the Environment over time

Number of species in LGA
(as at June 2018)

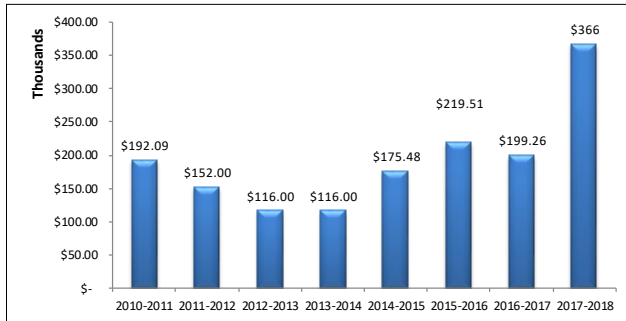


Threatened flora and fauna species in the Shoalhaven compared to other LGAs (as at June 2018)

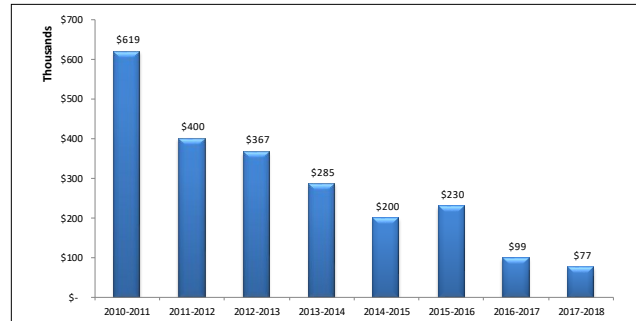


Part B: Council response

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

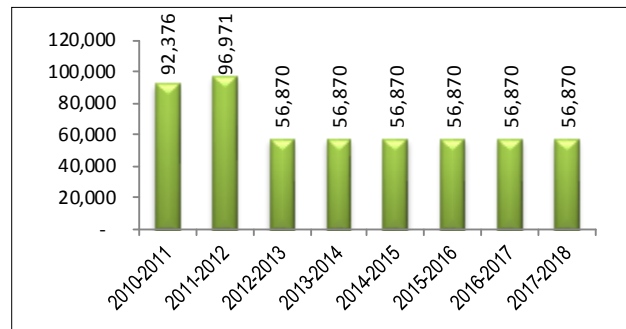
Part D: Comments

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.



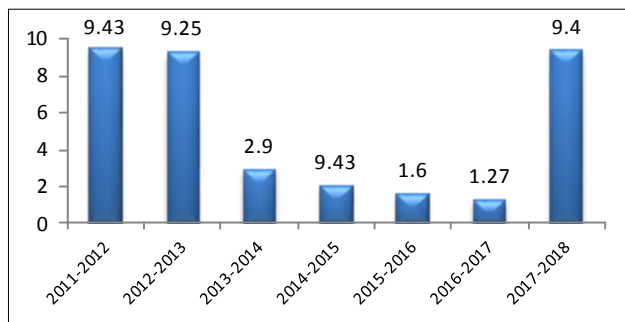
Part A: State of the Environment over time

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

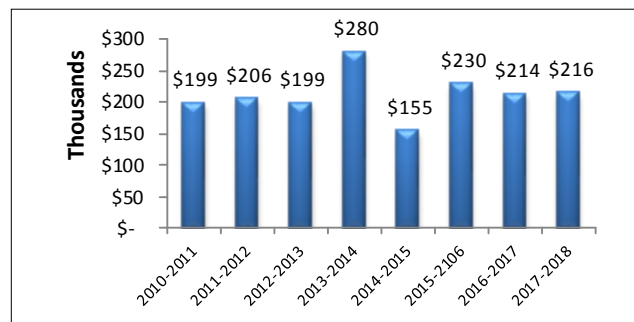


Part B: Council response

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.

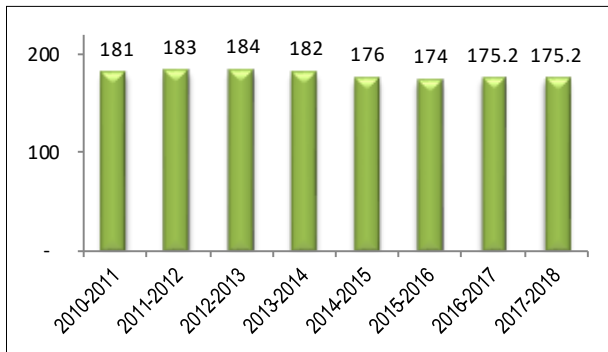


Land Use Planning

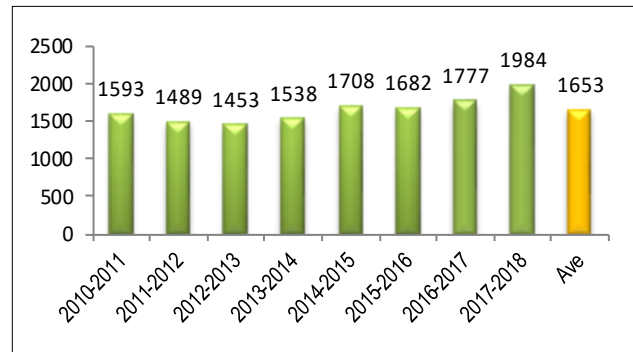
COMMUNITY FOOTPRINT REPORT

Part A: State of the Environment over time

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

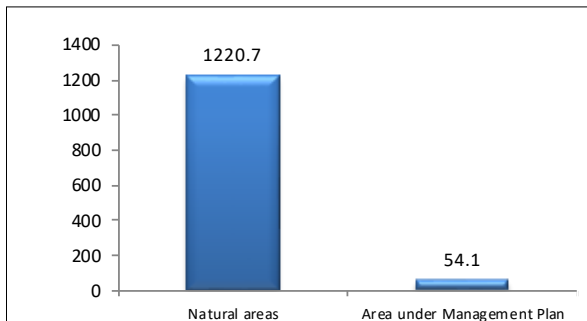


Construction certificates issued/complying Development

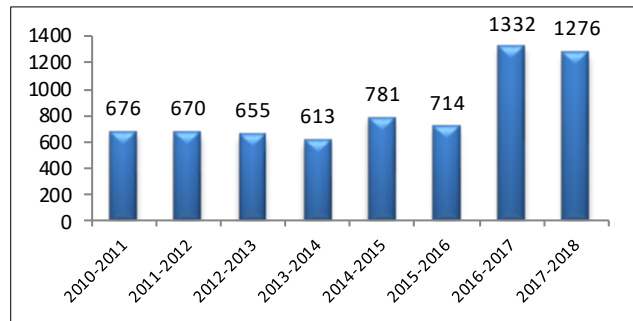


Part B: Council response

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

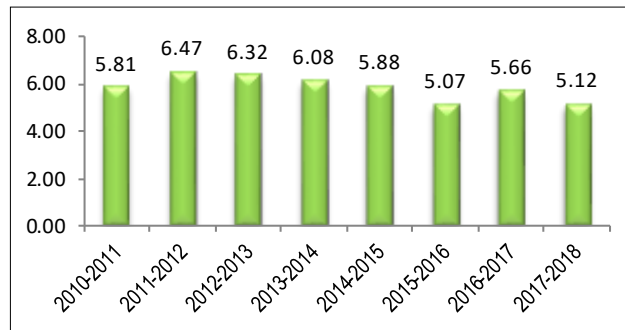
Part D: Comments

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 13 % since 2010-11.



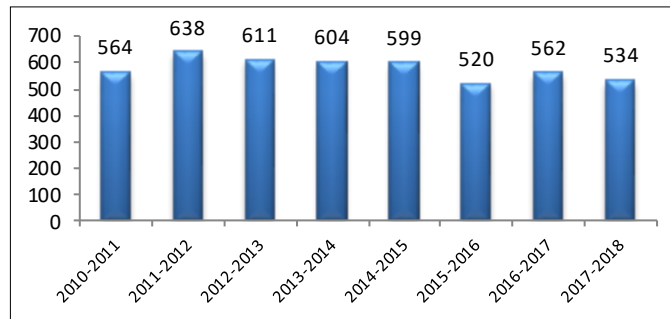
Part A: State of the Environment over time

Noise complaints made to Council 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
(9.5% improvement from previous year)



Performance against other local government areas

No comparison data available

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.

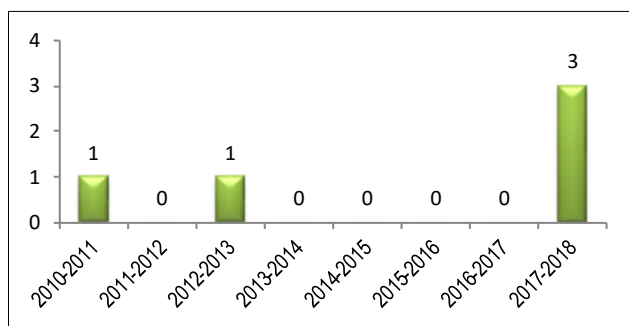


Non-Aboriginal Heritage

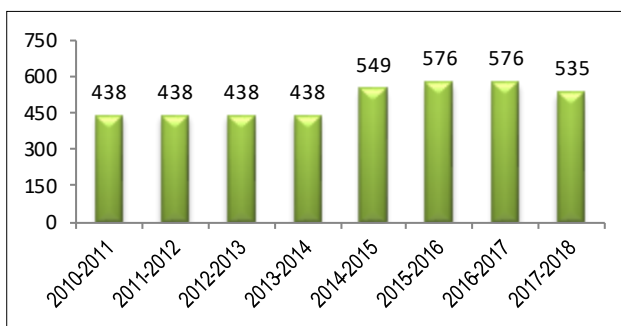
COMMUNITY FOOTPRINT REPORT

Part A: State of the Environment over time

Non-Aboriginal listed heritage items demolished or destroyed

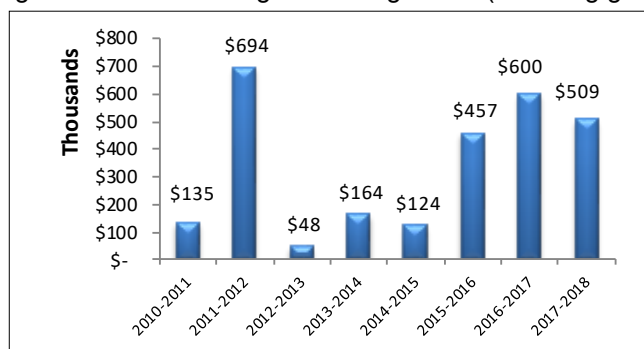


Non-Aboriginal heritage sites identified or listed for protection in the LEP



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
(3 items destroyed)



Performance against other local government areas

No comparison data available

Part D: Comments

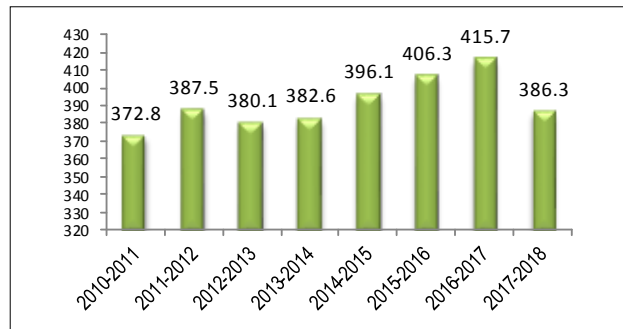
There is an increasing community awareness to protect sites and structures regarded as historically important. Listing may include: evidence of important aspects of the past, items that are aesthetically pleasing or are particularly rare. The introduction of a new Local Environmental Plan in 2014 assisted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



COMMUNITY FOOTPRINT REPORT

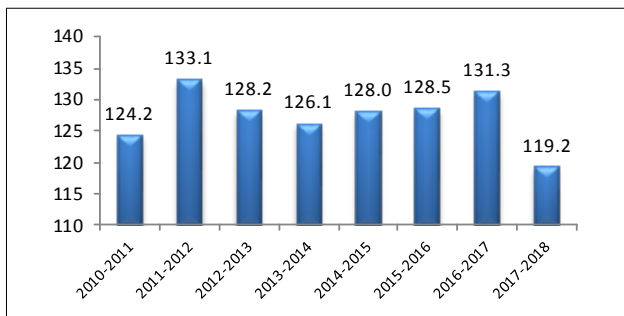
Part A: State of the Environment over time

Total waste collected at kerbside (kg/capita)

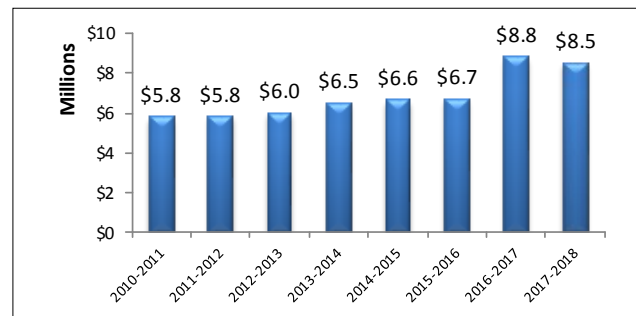


Part B: Council response

Recycled materials collected at kerbside (kg/capita)



Council funds invested into resource recovery



Part C: Performance Summary (from primary indicator)

Trend over time



Decrease in waste per capita

Performance against target
(7% improvement on previous year)



Performance against other local
government areas

*No comparison
available*

Part D: Comments

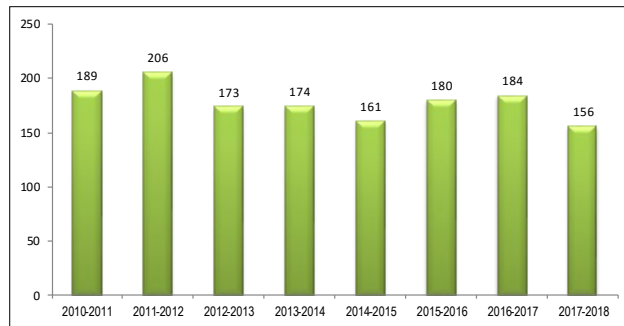
Total kerbside waste collected per person increased by 13.5kg over the 2010 – 2018 period. Waste reduction initiatives such as composting, worm farming and sustainable living workshops were promoted and proved very popular. These workshops involved training residents to become sustainable by reducing waste that may otherwise be directed to landfill.

The significant drop in recyclables collected at the kerb is a result of the introduction of the NSW EPA's container buy-back program in the last 12 months.



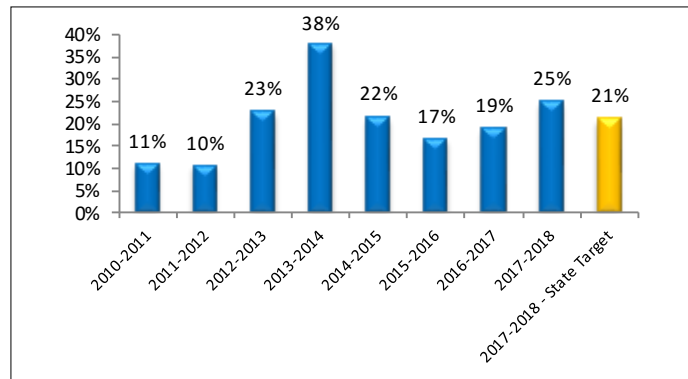
Part A: State of the Environment over time

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



Increase in recycling to land

Performance against target
(21% of waste water recycled -state target)



Performance against other local government areas

No comparison data available

Part D: Comments

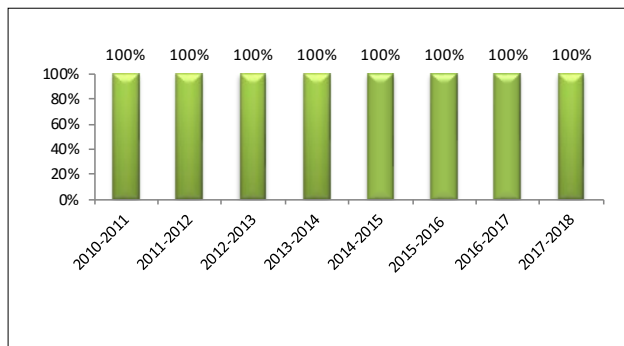
The total waste water collected by Council is directly influenced by stormwater infiltration into the sewerage infrastructure.

The dryer weather over the last 12 months has enabled the irrigation of more reclaimed water.

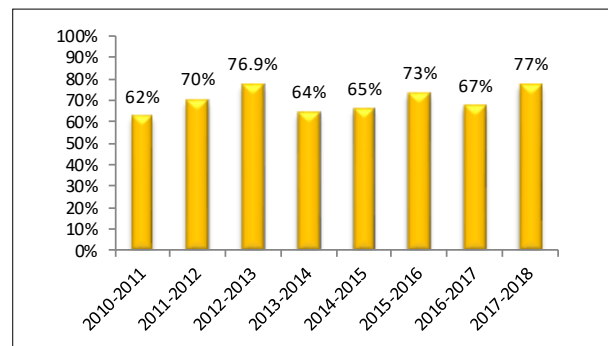


Part A: State of the Environment over time

Shoalhaven Beachwatch sites that meet Water Quality Guidelines

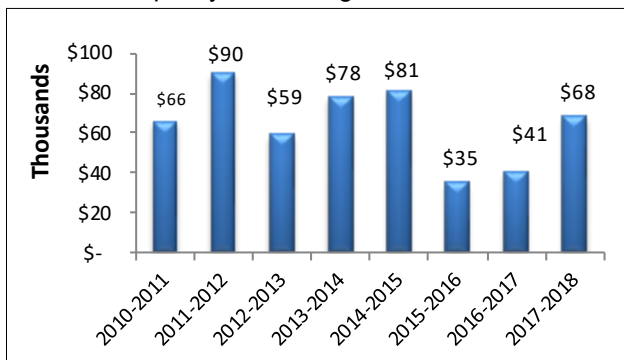


Water quality monitoring sites meeting guidelines (Estuaries, lakes, rivers and creeks across 22 catchments)

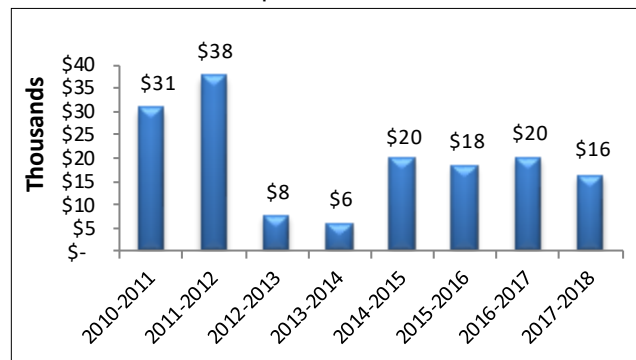


Part B: Council response

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.

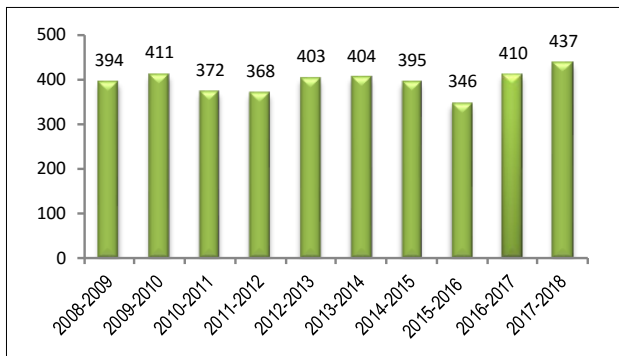


Water Use

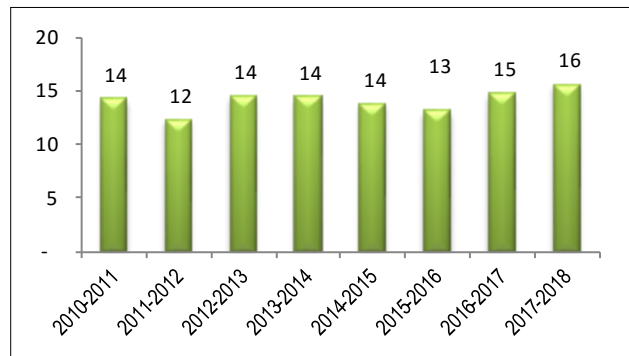
COMMUNITY FOOTPRINT REPORT

Part A: State of the Environment over time

Residential water consumption per residential connection per day (litres)

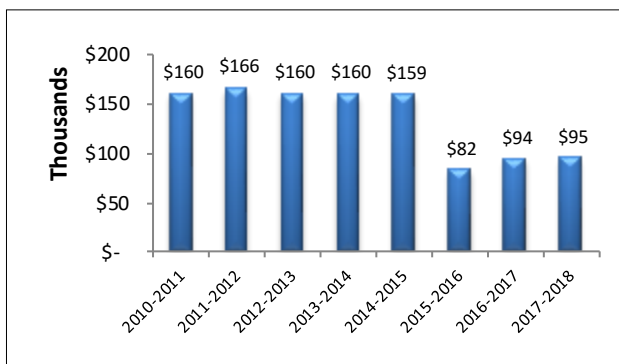


LGA water sourced (megalitres)

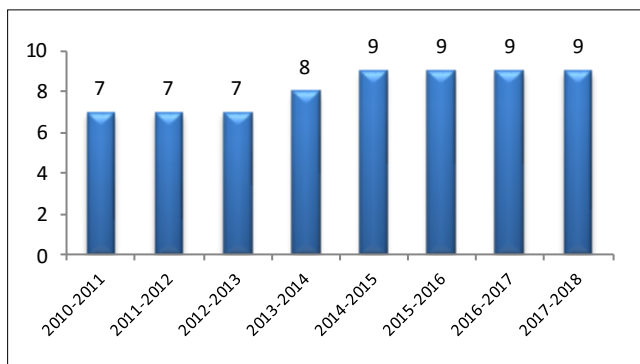


Part B: Council response

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

Performance against target

Performance against other local government areas



Increase in consumption per connection

Not applicable

No comparison data available

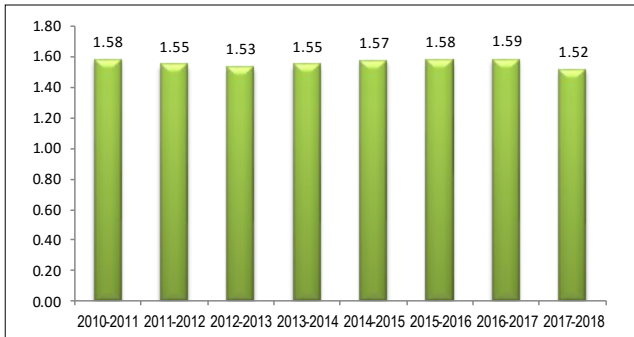
Part D: Comments

Water consumption has increased as a consequence of the continued dry weather conditions across the city and NSW

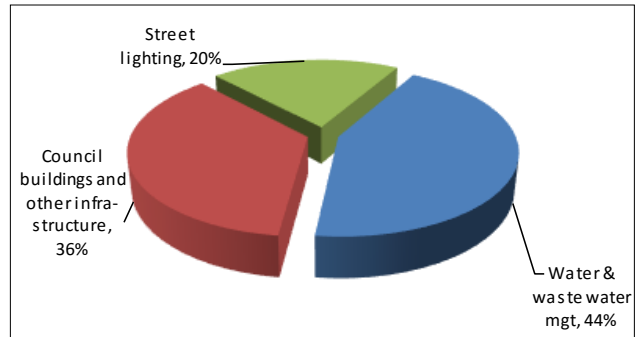


Part A: State of the Environment over time

Total Council energy consumption per resident per day (GJ)

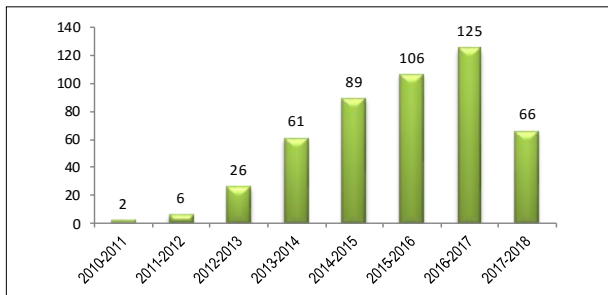


Council energy consumption by source



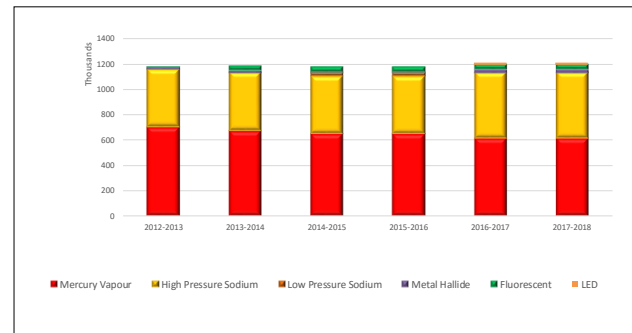
Part B: Council response

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 (4.4% improvement compared with previous year)



Performance against other local government areas

No comparison data available

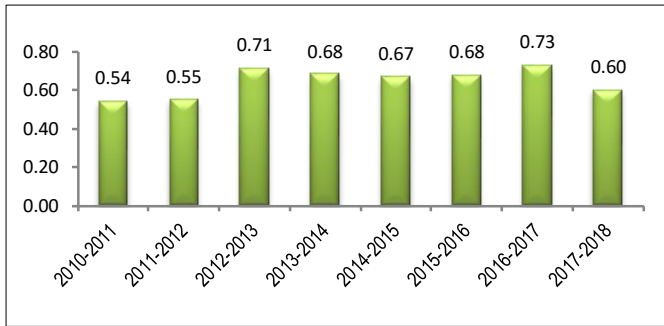
Part D: Comments

Since completing the Councils 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

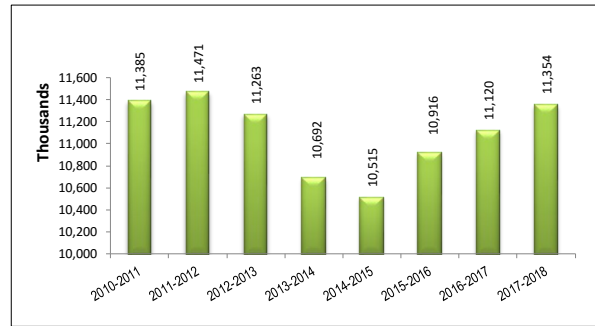


Part A: State of the Environment over time

Total Council fuel consumption per resident (GJ)

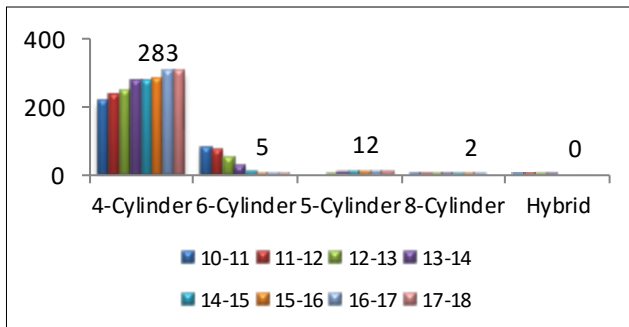


Vehicle kilometers travelled by Council fleet (includes private travel from leased vehicles)

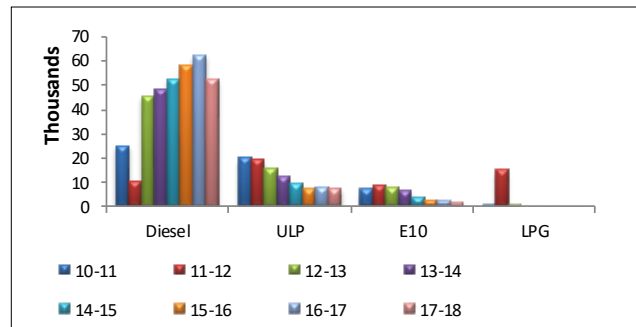


Part B: Council response

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*

Above Average

Part D: Comments

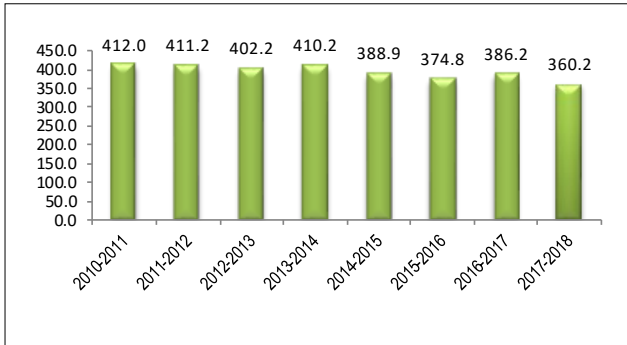
Council has investigated alternatives to the standard option of a 6 cylinder vehicle for its fleet of passenger vehicles and encouraged the use of ESD vehicles by having them as a cheaper option. The use of E10 or ethanol blended fuel is encouraged to reduce reliance on fossil fuels as the primary fuel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

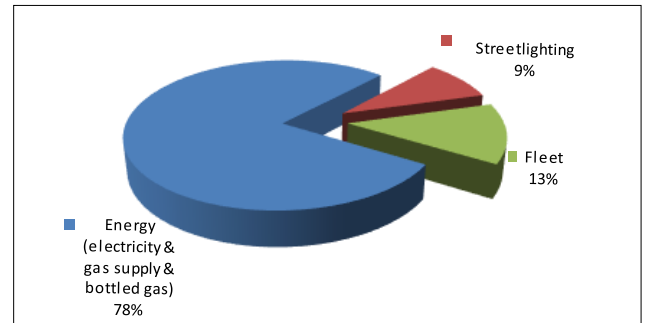


Part A: State of the Environment over time

Annual Council greenhouse gas emissions per resident (kgs)

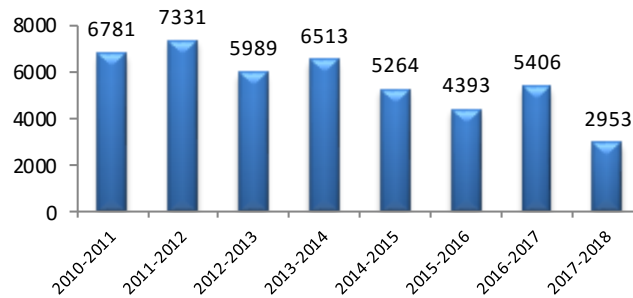


Greenhouse gas emissions by source



Part B: Council response

Renewable energy generated by Council (MWh)



Part C: Performance Summary (from primary indicator)

Trend over time



Performance against target
(6.7% improvement from previous year)



Performance against other local government areas

NA

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.

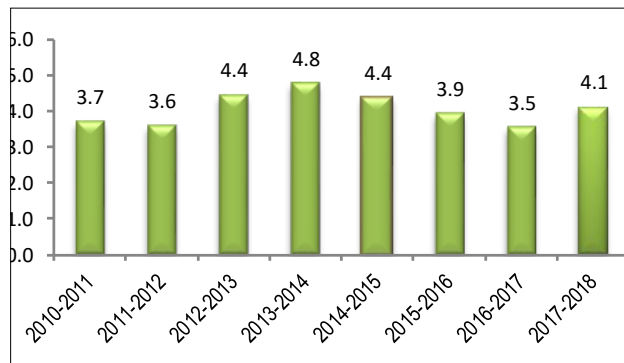


Water Use

CORPORATE FOOTPRINT REPORT

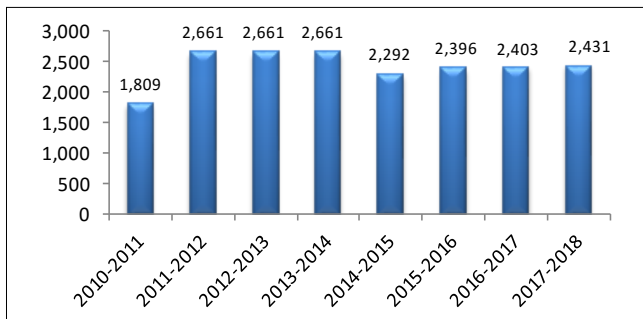
Part A: State of the Environment over time

Water consumption from Council assets per resident (KL)

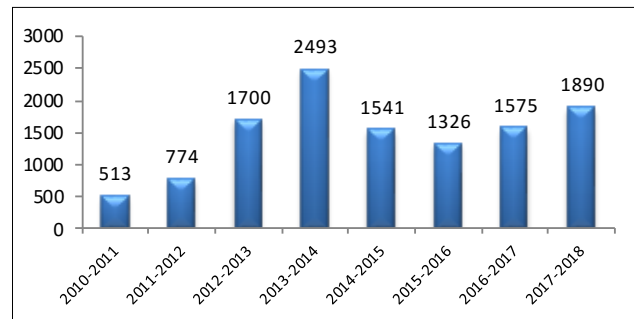


Part B: Council response

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



Consumption has increased since previous year

Performance against target
(17% increase from previous year)



Performance against other local government areas

No data available for comparison

Part D: Comments

The water consumption from Council assets has increased consistent with the residential average which is related to the dry weather conditions experienced over the last 12 months.

