



City of Wagga Wagga Supplementary  
State of the Environment  
Report 2010/11

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## *Community values*

Together Wagga Wagga will:  
'Live and lead with courage,  
compassion and commitment.  
Think and act with respect, beyond  
ourselves, beyond today'



## *Community vision*

'A thriving, innovative, connected  
community, on the Murrumbidgee,  
rich in opportunity, choice, learning  
and environment, where paths cross,  
where people meet'

## Purpose of State of the Environment Reporting

The 2010/2011 Supplementary State of the Environment (SoE) Report covers the reporting requirements outlined in Section 428 of the Local Government Act 1993. SoE Reports are either supplementary or comprehensive. Comprehensive reports must be completed for the year after each Council election and supplementary reports are prepared in the remaining years to provide a brief overview.

Under Section 403 of the Local Government Act 1993, the SoE Report should be used to guide the development of the following year's Delivery Plan. In particular, the Council Delivery Plan must contain "a statement of the principal activities that the Council proposes to conduct" and that the statement must include:

"Activities to properly manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance and conserve the environment in a manner that is consistent with and promotes the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD requires the effective integration of economic and environmental considerations in Council's decision-making processes)."

To help achieve these goals Council has developed and endorsed the 'Wagga Wagga Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2009/2013' (ESS). The ESS's aims and objectives have been developed to incorporate the outcomes of research and community engagement during its development and are integrated with a number of key documents including the SoE Report and The Community Strategic Plan.

The ESS aims to improve the sustainability of the local environment, balance the needs of the built and natural environments and ensure development strengthens the connection between the community and the natural environment to create a sense of place and enhance community well-being. Importantly, the objectives also reflect the integration of environmental sustainability with Social, Economic and Governance considerations.

The Strategy highlights the important role environmental sustainability plays in place making and the objectives are aligned with the State of the Environment themes of Land, Biodiversity, Water, Waste, Climate Air & Energy, Heritage, and Sustainability (Sustainable Wagga Wagga).

For each of these environmental themes the 'Pressure; State; Response' model is used throughout the report in the following format:

### Key Objective

→ This is extracted from the Wagga Wagga Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2009/2013 (ESS).

### Key Pressures

→ This indicates the common activities or influences that adversely impact the environment.

### Key Indicators

→ These are used to provide an overview of the current state or condition of the environment at a particular point in time, and to help determine changes and trends.

### Key Actions

→ This outlines Council's response to the identified pressures on the environment; and only covers the particular initiatives from the Wagga Wagga Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS) that have been completed or initiated during the reporting period 2010/2011.

**Note: The Environmental Sustainability Strategy has 181 initiatives outlined in it. Some initiatives have already been reported on in previous years, and some may not have commenced yet, so these will not show up in the Key Actions for 2010/2011.**

**All of the 181 initiatives from the ESS will be reported on in the 2011/2012 Comprehensive SoE Report.**

## Principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development

Wagga Wagga City Council is committed to the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD). The Local Government Act of 1993 defines ESD as the effective integration of environmental, economic and social considerations in the decision-making process.

ESD can be achieved through implementing the following principles:

1. The precautionary principle - where there are threats to serious or irreversible environmental damage, a lack of scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation.

In the application of the precautionary principle, public and private decisions should be guided by:

- careful evaluation to avoid, wherever practical, serious or irreversible damage to the environment, and
- an assessment of the risk weighted consequences of various options.

The precautionary principle requires decision making to give the environment the benefit of the doubt.

2. Intergenerational equity - the present generation should ensure the health, diversity and productivity of the environment are maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations (that is all generations may use or expect to benefit from the nation's resources).

3. Conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity should be a fundamental consideration.

4. Improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms - environmental factors should be included in the valuation of assets and services, particularly for the following:

- polluter pays (those who generate pollution and waste should bear the cost of containment, avoidance or abatement);
- the users of goods and services should pay prices based on the full cycle costs of providing the goods and services, including the use of natural resources and assets and the ultimate disposal of waste; and
- environmental goals should be pursued in the most cost effective way by establishing incentive structures, including market mechanisms which maximise benefits or minimise costs in the development of local solutions and responses to environmental problems.

## Strategic Environmental Directions

The Wagga Wagga City Council's Community Strategic Plan 2011/2021 states the following strategic outcomes for the environment are:

6. A Sustainable Environment	
Community Outcome: We live lightly on our environment and we continuously improve systems and practices to become a leader in sustainable environmental management. We lead the way in approaches to water use and conservation	
6.1	Effectively manage the natural environment
6.2	Develop and promote agricultural practices which are leading edge and environmentally responsible
6.3	Integrate management strategies to encourage water conservation and enhance and protect water quality
6.4	Develop sustainable built and natural environments for current and future generations through effective land-use management and planning
6.5	Minimise the ecological footprint by reducing resource consumption and implementing effective waste management strategies
6.6	Improve ambient air quality and reduce both energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions across the Local Government area
6.7	Lead sustainable environmental practices

## Strategic Environmental Directions Continued

The following Environmental Performance Targets were adopted at the Wagga Wagga City Council's April 2011 meeting and set medium and long term term goals for Council to measure its performance in environmental sustainability for 2011/12 onwards

Environmental Performance Targets			
Resource	Performance Targets	Baseline	Measurement/KPI
<b>Energy</b>	10% reduction of emissions by 2015 20% reduction of emissions by 2020	Based on 2005 levels	Tonnes of CO2e for electricity & gas FTE as a benchmark
<b>Potable Water</b>	25% reduction in water use by 2015 30% reduction in water use by 2020	Based on 2010 levels	KL / capita KL / ha irrigated area
<b>Fleet/Transport</b>	5% reduction of emissions by 2015 15% reduction of emissions by 2020	Based on 2010 levels	Flights: tonnes of CO2e Fleet: tonnes of CO2e
<b>Waste (community)</b>	60% increase in resource recovery by 2015 75% increase in resource recovery by 2020	Based on 2010 levels	Reduction in the amount of recoverable materials to landfill. Tonnes of CO2e / capita
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Enhance the biodiversity value of 200 ha of Council managed land by 2015 Enhance the biodiversity value of 300 Ha of Council managed by 2020	Based on 2010 levels	Increase in ha of Council managed land with enhanced biodiversity Number of trees planted / year
<b>Paper</b>	50% reduction in paper use by 2011 60% reduction in paper use by 2020	Based on 2009 levels	Pages printed / FTE Number of reams purchased

### Community Measures for a Sustainable Environment

- Healthy community and environment
- Increased biodiversity
- Reduction in waste to landfill
- Reduction in carbon emissions from landfill
- Improved air quality
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduced energy consumption
- Water quality is maintained
- Reduced potable water consumption

- Water Sensitive Urban Design Principles implemented
- Wagga Wagga demonstrates sustainable principles
- Increase in environmentally sustainable buildings
- Reduced land degradation
- Improved agricultural technology
- Improved productivity
- Sustainable community

## Key Pressures

- Urban development
- Urban and dryland salinity
- Floodplain management
- Agricultural practices
- Climate change impacts
- Contaminated land
- Sedimentation and erosion

## Key Objective

**“Develop sustainable built environments for current and future generations through effective land management and planning.”**

**Wagga Wagga Environmental Sustainability Strategy**

## Key Indicators

**Population statistics for the Wagga Wagga LGA** have shown a steady increase in growth over the past few years.

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Population	57,950	59,908	60,857	61,656	62,580	62,904	63,500
No. increase	550	1,958	949	799	924	324	596

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics data.

**Development applications and construction certificates issued for the Wagga Wagga LGA** show a steady rate of development in line with the population increase.

Year	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
No. of approved Develop. Applications	1,316	1,138	1,204	908	845	919	604
No. of Construction Certificates issued	1,131	949	1,001	773	678	643	408

Note: Amended development applications excluded.

Source: WWCC records.

**Standing Water Level (SWL) changes for groundwater in the Wagga Wagga LGA** show that the water table is generally rising, which is concurrent with recent increases in rainfall.

Year	SWL increased	SWL decreased	SWL stable	Piezometer dry	Total piezometers
2007/2008	34	63	10	62	169
2008/2009	40	67	7	65	179
2009/2010	60	47	11	60	178
2010/2011	101	27	1	49	178

Source: WWCC monitoring records.



## Key Actions

The following are actions taken in 2010/11 to help achieve the LAND objective from the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

### **LAN2 Through the DCP, ensure appropriate environmental risk assessments are undertaken for new developments**

The guiding principles of the Development Control Plan 2010 are to protect and enhance the natural environment. To ensure these principles are met a 'Statement of Environmental Effects' addressing the environmental impacts of the proposed development is required to be submitted with a Development Application.

### **LAN4 Through the relevant EPI's, establish vegetation screening between rural and urban areas**

The draft Bomen Urban Release Area Development Control Plan includes specific requirements for private developer created landscape buffer zones between Bomen and all eastern land and between private development and the Olympic Highway.

### **LAN7 Continue to control erosion and sedimentation on Council worksites**

Council has developed a Risk Assessment Matrix to assess activities which may cause environmental harm such as erosion. These activities are assessed and appropriate mitigation measures are implemented to prevent soil transporation from the work sites. Council is also working with the NSW Soil Conservation Service to combat sediment into natural water courses including Lake Albert, Crooked Creek and Marshalls Creek.

### **LAN8 Continue to implement and enforce the control of erosion and sedimentation on building and development sites**

Council continually and proactively encourages the implementation of sediment and erosion control measures for development/building sites through conditions of development consent and ongoing education. Enforcement action is undertaken as appropriate.

### **LAN9 Continue to update and maintain the contaminated land register**

Council maintains a register of potentially contaminated lands. This register identifies property that has been subject to land use activities that may cause contamination as indicated in State Environmental Planning Policy 55. This information is then identified on section 149 certificates.

### **LAN10 Continue to develop initiatives to ensure contaminated land is rehabilitated**

The adoption of the requirement for a 'Statement of Environmental Effects' with the Development Application lodgement identifies any possible contamination which may be present so it can be assessed with the proposed development in accordance with the State Environmental Planning Policy No. 55. Council is also planning for remediation of the former Tarcutta Street Gasworks site during 2012.

### **LAN11 Continue to implement the rear of block drainage program in the Wagga Wagga urban area**

Council has a rolling program budget for the removal of rubble pits and the installation of rear of block drainage. Council has a proposed program to complete rear of block drainage works in Mount Austin and then continue in Koorringal to reduce groundwater infiltration from stormwater discharge.

### **LAN12 Continue to develop and implement salinity community education initiatives**

Council staff actively work with members of the community and schools to educate and raise the awareness of the causes, problems and management strategies for urban salinity. Council staff also run educational salinity tours with school children and have produced a salinity tour booklet.

### **LAN13 Develop and implement sustainable gardening community education initiatives**

Council staff have supported and participated in events promoting sustainable gardening such as the Wagga Wagga Garden and Leisure Show and Sustainable House day. Council also provides support to the 'Sir Joseph Banks Medal' for sustainable gardening run by Elders.

### **LAN14 Develop and implement community gardens in local neighbourhoods across the WWLGA**

Council has adopted a Community Garden Policy to support the establishment of community gardens in the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area.

Council is also working with the Murrumbidgee Medicare Local on the 'Caring whilst Nurturing Growth' Project at the Men's Shed in Best Reserve.

### **LAN15 Continue to improve management systems at public open spaces**

Council staff are continually striving to improve the management strategies for Open Public Spaces. Council is investigating strategies to reduce water usage and improve energy efficiency at recreational grounds. In the natural areas there are ongoing strategies to improve both the aesthetic and biodiversity values within these land parcels. Council staff have developed a general Plan of Management for these open space areas.

### **LAN16 Form partnerships with key stakeholders to develop and implement land management and planning research initiatives**

Through partnerships and working groups with the CMA, OEH/DECCW and REROC, and the revision of the LEP and DCP Council staff are actively developing and implementing strategies to improve the quality of land, water and biodiversity in our Local Government Area.

## Key Pressures

- Urban development
- Clearing of native vegetation
- Degradation of remnant vegetation
- Direct and diffuse water pollution
- Climate change impacts
- Exotic flora and fauna species

## Key Objective

“Effectively manage the natural environment so that biodiversity is understood, enhanced and protected.”

Wagga Wagga Environmental Sustainability Strategy

## Key Indicators

**Tree Management Applications submitted in the Wagga Wagga LGA** indicate there is a slight downwards trend in the number of people wanting to remove trees in the City of Wagga Wagga.

Year	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
No.	417	414	380	289	286	306	244

Source: WWCC records.

**Property Vegetation Plans (PVPs) for the Wagga Wagga LGA** show that small numbers of landholders are entering into PVPs meaning that some additional land is being managed for biodiversity each year.

Year	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
No. PVPs	32	88	23	3	7
Area (ha)	17,045	43,207	11,728	1,426	3,345
% LGA	3.49	8.84	2.40	0.29	0.68

Source: Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority records.

Note: The PVP area shown in the table represents the area of cadastre lots on which the PVPs reside and does not represent the actual area that is revegetated under these PVP agreements.

**Number of threatened species newly detected/ reported in the Wagga Wagga LGA** shows that there were two new sightings of threatened species in 2010/11 that were not recorded last year.

Year	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
No. Species	7	7	6	11	6	8	2

Source: NSW Office of Environment & Heritage database records.

Note: Records between years are subject to differences in the number and types of surveys being conducted in the LGA and differences between years may not reflect real differences in the actual abundances of species.

## Key Actions

The following are actions taken in 2010/11 to help achieve the BIODIVERSITY objective from the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

### **BIO1 Map identified threatened and endangered species across the WWLGA using GIS**

Council maintains the GIS database and map of 'Threatened Species and Endangered Ecological Communities' within the LGA and adds additional records as they become available. There are now 51 Threatened Species and five Endangered Ecological Communities recorded in the LGA.

### **BIO2 Continue to map revegetation across the WWLGA using GIS**

Land revegetated under various projects is being recorded on the GIS. Land associated with Property Vegetation Plans (PVP) is also recorded. In 2010/2011 seven PVPs were recorded in the LGA. Council keeps records of all land parcels that have a PVP and this information is passed on to prospective buyers of the land. However, specific details of the PVP are only available from the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority.

### **BIO3 Develop a Biodiversity Plan for the WWLGA incorporating wetland and wildlife corridor management**

The foundations for this Biodiversity Plan have been laid with previous studies dating from 1999, 2002, 2004, 2008, and provisions in the LEP 2010. In 2011 Council staff obtained a grant to map potential biodiversity habitat corridors across the LGA. This project is scheduled for completion in 2012.

### **BIO4 Develop Conservation Management Plans for land zoned for conservation**

A Conservation Management Plan has been prepared for the areas of land under Council management in the Lloyd Urban Release Area and the developers have signed Voluntary Planning Agreements for these areas. Generic Plans of Management have also been prepared for the overall management and biodiversity conservation of Council owned land.

### **BIO5 Continue to lobby for increased funding for the management of conservation areas**

Council staff have received funding to implement conservation and management projects on Council managed lands. Projects being implemented include: Malhangilanna Green Team (MCMA funded); Restoration of Habitat for the Glossy Black-cockatoo (Environmental Trust funded); Biodiversity Habitat Corridors Across the LGA (Environmental Trust funded) and Murrumbidgee River Willow Removal (MCMA funded). Other applications for funds have been submitted and are waiting for assessment.

### **BIO6 Increase the area of native vegetation managed for biodiversity conservation across the WWLGA**

In January 2011 the Berry Jerry State Forest, west of Collingullie, was dedicated as part of the Murrumbidgee Valley National Park.

The Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2010 and the Development Control Plan (DCP) 2010 contain provisions that increase the area of native vegetation that is managed for biodiversity preservation, e.g. the requirement for minimum native vegetation cover on land in certain zones.

### **BIO7 Continue to implement the Companion Animals Management Plan**

Council continues to implement the Companion Animals Management Plan to encourage responsible pet ownership and minimise the impact on the environment.

### **BIO9 Develop and implement a Pest Management Plan**

Pests on Council managed lands are controlled in line with the recommendations of the Livestock Health and Pest Authority. A Conservation Management Plan has been prepared for the Lloyd Urban Release Area. This plan includes specific activities for pest control in the conservation area under Council management.

### **BIO10 Continue to implement the Regional Weed Management Strategy**

Council is an active member of the Eastern Riverina Noxious Weeds Advisory Group and all activities undertaken are in accordance with the outcomes of the Regional Weed Action Plan (RWAP). The RWAP focus on the four goals of the NSW Invasive Species Plan 2008/2015.

### **BIO11 Strengthen partnerships to coordinate roadside weed management schedules with the RTA and landholders**

Council works with other land managers on a regular basis to achieve a more consistent approach across the region. State agencies such as Forestry NSW, National Parks and Wildlife, ARTC and the RTA work in conjunction with Council to reduce the impacts of priority species in the Riverina. One example of this are the red guide post marking system in place on the Sturt Highway to prevent the spread of Chilean Needle Grass (*Nassella neesiana*).

### **BIO12 Develop and implement initiatives to reduce weed invasion and restore native habitat at public open spaces**

Council inspects high risk pathways on a regular basis. These include creeks and waterways, the Murrumbidgee River and all highways and main roads in the LGA. Projects include the 'Willan's Hill Native Vegetation Enhancement' Project aiming to protect the remnant vegetation from woody weeds species. Weed removal and control has also been a major objective of the 'Malhangilanna Shared Values' project.

## Key Actions Continued

The following are actions taken in 2010/11 to help achieve the BIODIVERSITY objective from the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

### **BIO13 Continue to develop and implement noxious weed education initiatives**

Council staff attend various field days to promote the impacts of invasive weed species on urban and agricultural areas and on our environment. Talks and presentations are also undertaken by request from year 10 school level through to undergraduate university level. Council staff are also actively involved in the local awareness of weeds, attending initiatives such as the Henty Machinery Field Days, the Small Farm Field Day and WWCC's 'Little Big Day Out' at a more local level.

### **BIO14 Review guidelines in relation to grazing significant vegetation areas**

A review of the grazing management of roadsides is to be included with the review of the draft Roadside Management Plan. Property owners who wish to graze livestock along roadsides must apply to Council for a permit. These permits contain specific conditions for grazing that reflect the status of the roadside vegetation and the intensity of the grazing.

### **BIO15 Review the Roadside Management Plan**

A draft Roadside Management Plan has been prepared and in conjunction with this plan, Council staff have prepared the document 'Bushfire Hazard Reduction Protocols' to protect Endangered Species and Ecological Communities in the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area'. These and other documents are to be integrated into a single policy: 'Activities in Public Road Reserves'.

### **BIO16 Develop partnerships with key stakeholders to propagate more endemic and native species**

Council staff are cooperating with TAFE staff in the propagation of 'Drooping She-oak' and other local tree and shrub species. Council already works with several local partners where possible, to grow indigenous species.

### **BIO17 Develop and implement initiatives to promote the planting of more endemic and native species across the WWLGA**

Council staff are participating in the 'Communities in Landscapes' project managed by Landcare NSW. This project is working with individual farmers and rural communities to provide better ways to maintain their agricultural productivity and still preserve the natural resources, especially biodiversity, for future generations.

The 'Biodiversity Habitat Corridors' project will provide landholders with information that will enable them to more effectively integrate their individual conservation work with adjacent landholders. This will improve the overall effectiveness of the preservation works on individual holdings.

### **BIO18 Continue to increase endemic and native plantings in Council gardens, parks and open spaces**

In June 2011 Council adopted a Street Tree Strategy which recommends a number of native species and requires that all buffer zone plantings utilise indigenous species.

### **BIO20 Continue to implement the National Tree Day initiative annually**

National Tree Day was held in August 2010 with approximately 60 community volunteers assisting to plant over 1,000 native seedlings, with an additional 1,900 seedlings planted by 26 local schools.

### **BIO21 Continue to implement the Wagga Wagga City Council Tree Preservation Order**

Council employs one full time officer to implement the Tree Management Policy and Preservation Order. Applications made to remove trees are assessed against the Tree Management Policy and the Native Vegetation Act 2003. Outside of urban residential areas landowners who want to remove native trees must also obtain approval from the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority that administer the Act.

### **BIO23 Form partnerships with key stakeholders to develop and implement biodiversity research initiatives**

Council staff actively seek involvement of students from Charles Sturt University on research and monitoring projects relating to native flora and fauna. The scope of research projects includes: monitoring of wildlife conservation projects; the effectiveness of mitigation measures applied to urban developments; and the redevelopment of the old Narrung Street Sewerage Treatment Works as a wetland for threatened species and passive community use.

### **BIO24 Form partnerships with key stakeholders to protect threatened and endangered fauna and flora species**

Several community groups and government agencies are involved in the development of concept designs for the old Narrung Street Sewerage Treatment Works as a wetland for aquatic and terrestrial conservation of local native flora and fauna.

It is planned to involve the Indigenous Community in this redevelopment so they can use the site to teach and practice ecological aspects of Wiradjuri culture.

### **BIO25 Develop and implement biodiversity community education initiatives**

In celebration of Threatened Species Day and Biodiversity Month 2010, Wagga Wagga City Council coordinated a free native shrub giveaway for residents and conducted a free Spotlighting Walk on North Wagga Flats for the community.

## Key Actions Continued

The following are actions taken in 2010/11 to help achieve the BIODIVERSITY objective from the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

### **BIO27 Develop and implement initiatives to enhance native bird populations**

The project to restore and enhance habitat for the Glossy Black cockatoo on Pomingalarna Reserve has continued throughout the past year. Council staff have also applied for funds to restore parts of the Humula Recreation Reserve as habitat for the Bush Stone-curlew.

### **BIO28 Continue to actively manage fire risk on Council land**

Council has a delegate on the local Bushfire Committee which meets twice a year and outlines the annual hazard reduction program which is carried out each year.

Council staff liaise on a fortnightly basis with Rural Fire Service staff and identify fire risk situations throughout the LGA with a particular focus on Willans Hill this year.

This is an on-going management with maintenance of fire breaks by grading or slashing. Fire breaks are incorporated in the Conservation Management Plan for the new Lloyd subdivision.

### **BIO29 Research the feasibility of developing ecotourism opportunities across the WWLGA**

In September 2010 the Riverina and South West Slopes Nature Based Tourism Group launched the 'Bird Trails of the Riverina & South West Slopes' booklet at the Leeton Bird Fair. These bird trails cover 13 Local Government Areas, including Wagga Wagga.



Glossy Black Cockatoo male and female.  
Source: Eleanor Sobey.

## Key Pressures

- Urban development
- Industrial and rural activities
- Direct and diffuse pollution
- Groundwater extraction
- Climate change impacts
- Ageing infrastructure
- Water management issues

## Key Objective

“Integrate management strategies to encourage water conservation and enhance and protect water quality.”

Wagga Wagga Environmental  
Sustainability Strategy

## Key Indicators

**Water consumption statistics for the Wagga Wagga LGA** show that every sector has used less potable water in 2010/11 which is largely due to the extra rainfall during the period decreasing the need to irrigate lawns.

Consumption (ML)	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Residential	10,252	8,202	9,710	8,678	6,012
Commercial	1,901	1,689	2,429	2,376	1,788
Industrial	1,122	1,044	1,110	1,021	878
Rural	1,187	1,007	1,134	1,035	666
Institutional	907	678	806	595	393
Public parks	504	399	495	434	250
Other	2,018	1,574	697	863	761
<b>Total ML</b>	<b>17,891</b>	<b>14,593</b>	<b>16,381</b>	<b>15,002</b>	<b>10,748</b>

Source: Riverina Water County Council data.

**Average Annual Water Consumption for Residents in the Wagga Wagga LGA** shows a marked decrease in line with the increase in rainfall.

KL/capita	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Average Urban	370	420	327	382	337	232
Avg Non-Urban	462	525	423	475	432	274

'Urban' refers to the Wagga Wagga City area; 'Non-Urban' is the surrounding villages and rural areas with town water supply.

Source: Riverina Water County Council data.

**Sewerage Treatment Works water data for Wagga Wagga LGA** shows a significant increase in inflow which is largely due to the significantly higher rainfall over the reporting period.

Year	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Total Inflow (ML)	4,523	4,703	4,270	4,464	4,814	6,354
% Discharged to River	87.7	87.3	90.7	94.7	95.3	92.1
% Reused for irrigation	12.3	12.7	9.3	5.4	4.7	7.9

Source: WWCC monitoring records.

## Key Actions

The following are actions taken in 2010/11 to help achieve the WATER objective from the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

### **WAT2 Audit and benchmark Council's water use**

Council engaged a consultant to conduct a water audit of our major sites. The audit identified water usage and potential areas where water saving measures can be implemented.

### **WAT3 Develop and implement a Water Savings Action Plan for Council facilities**

Upon completion of the water audit a Water Efficiency Plan was delivered. Council is proceeding with implementation of the water savings recommended within the report.

### **WAT6 Develop and implement water wise nature strip initiatives**

Council have been liaising with Riverina Water County Council to develop guidelines for landscaping nature strips and is in the process of updating the relevant policy.

### **WAT7 Continue to improve irrigation strategies at Council parks, gardens and open spaces**

Council continues to upgrade irrigation systems through the annual capital works program. Recent works have included the addition of moisture sensors to several irrigated sporting and recreational areas.

### **WAT9 Through the relevant Environmental Planning Instruments (EPI's), encourage water conservation in new developments**

The Aims of the Local Environmental Plan 2010 include (1.2(2) (b) - promote development that is consistent with principles of ecologically sustainable development. In addition, Wagga Wagga Development Control Plan 2010 includes (Subdivision 7.2.5) a requirement for a Water Sustainable Urban Design Strategy for any development proposed to include more than 10 lots and; (section 9) requirements for Grey Water Reuse systems.

### **WAT10 Through the relevant EPI's, ensure new developments have minimal watered areas**

The Wagga Wagga Development Control Plan 2010, includes provisions which restrict the proportion of permeable land on every proposed residential site. In addition, an objective of the Lloyd Development Control Plan is to restrict the average size of lots across this water sensitive area, to reduce potential for wastage of water, and includes "water restriction" provisions.

### **WAT11 Review and continue to implement Council's Effluent Reuse Strategy**

Council is licensed to use recycled water on several major areas including the Wagga Cricket Ground, Bolton Park, Robertson Oval, Wiradjuri Oval, and Rawlings Park. The Duke of Kent Reuse project has been completed and the Flowerdale Reuse project is also underway.

### **WAT12 Review and continue to implement Council's Stormwater Management Plan**

The recommended actions in the adopted Stormwater Management Plan will be funded by the Section 496A Stormwater Management Service Charge. The Stormwater Management Plan includes several projects aimed at improving environmental outcomes, community consultation, education, installation of gross pollutant traps and environmental monitoring of stormwater systems and outlets.

### **WAT13 Through the relevant EPI's, ensure ground water recharge is reduced in new developments**

The Lloyd Development Control Plan includes identified recharge areas. These areas will be subject to processes that reduce ground water recharge.

### **WAT16 Continue to conduct regular sewage and stormwater pipe asset condition audits**

Continued CCTV inspections occur on our sewer and stormwater networks to identify any asset maintenance issues.

### **WAT17 Continue to implement water quality monitoring programs**

Water quality monitoring is done in the Murrumbidgee River, Flowerdale Lagoon and Wollundry Lagoon to assess waterways for health and point source pollution. The Lake Albert recreational water quality program continues for bacteria and blue green algae with alert levels available for public viewing via Council's website and signage at the boat ramp.

### **WAT18 Continue to install and maintain gross water pollutant traps**

The new Stormwater Management Plan has identified the need to install gross pollutant traps on all major stormwater outlets to improve the quality of stormwater discharge. There have been some delays in works due to recent heavy rain events.

### **WAT19 Continue to monitor the urban salinity piezometer network**

As part of Council's commitment to monitoring salinity levels, Council staff regularly check the salinity piezometers for ground water heights and salinity concentrations. The annual salinity report details the current status of salinity in the city.

### **WAT20 Develop and implement initiatives to promote, enhance and protect stormwater quality**

Erosion and sediment control measures have been implemented in a number of high risk areas. Major works have been undertaken in Silvalite Reserve by Council and the NSW Soil Conservation Service.

## Key Actions Continued

The following are actions taken in 2010/11 to help achieve the WATER objective from the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

**WAT21 Continue to implement the Sewer 2010 Program to manage Council's sewage treatment systems in an environmentally friendly manner**

The Sewer 2010 project to upgrade both Koorngal and Narrung Street Sewage Treatment Plants has been completed and will result in a higher quality of effluent leaving the plants. Both treatment plants have been commissioned and are operational.

**WAT22 Continue to implement the On Site Sewage Management Plan**

Council Officers have continued to implement the On-Site Sewage Management Plan. Each existing system is periodically inspected to ensure it is operating efficiently and new applications are assessed with conditions imposed to ensure that no environmental harm or health risk is caused by their operation.

**WAT23 Form partnerships with key stakeholders to develop and implement water management and conservation workshops for community, business and industry**

As part of the 'Great Green Challenge' Council formed partnerships with Riverina Water County Council, Fernleigh Road Nursery, and Climate Rescue of Wagga. Through these partnerships water saving workshops were developed and presented to interested community members and businesses. The attendees were provided with information about water conservation habits, gardening techniques and plant selection, as well as advice on new technologies and appliances that can reduce water consumption.

**WAT24 Form partnerships with key stakeholders to develop and implement water quality and water conservation research initiatives**

Council completed the IWCM Evaluation Study in 2010 which involved Riverina Water County Council (RWCC), Greater Hume



Flooding of the Murrumbidgee River in Wagga Wagga, 2010.



## Key Actions Continued

The following are actions taken in 2010/11 to help achieve the WATER objective from the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

Shire Council, Lockhart Shire Council, Urana Shire Council and the Department of Water and Energy. Council is continuing to be a member of the project steering group for RWCC's detailed IWCM strategy. Council is a part of a series of projects currently being done by the University of Sydney Institute of Sustainable Futures and involving Brisbane City Council, the National Water Commission, RWCC, CSIRO, Wide Bay Water and Sydney Water.

### **WAT27** Develop and implement a Lake Albert Management Plan

Council adopted the Lake Albert Management Plan 2009/2015 in February 2010. Implementation of the management plan actions are progressing in consultation with the Lake Albert Community Committee and Reference Group consisting of community representatives and State Government agencies.

### **WAT28** Form partnerships with key stakeholders to revegetate stream banks using native riparian vegetation

In partnership with the MCMA, Council has continued the 'Maldhangilanna Shared Values' project to restore native vegetation and habitats along key waterways.

### **WAT29** Research the feasibility of developing and implementing initiatives to reduce water wastage

A water audit report was commissioned and the results of that report are being prioritised for implementation. Automatic irrigation systems have been redesigned to operate more at night and be more efficient. Trials being conducted on stabilising unsealed roads will also aid maintenance and save on gravel and water usage.



## Key Pressures

- High rates of solid waste to landfill
- Low rates of recycling for various waste streams such as organic
- Liquid waste and special waste disposal options
- Effluent reuse options
- Rural waste management facilities

## Key Objective

“Minimise our environmental impact by utilising alternative technologies and implementing effective waste management strategies.”

Wagga Wagga Environmental Sustainability Strategy

## Key Indicators

**Types and volumes of waste received at the Gregadoo Waste Management Centre** indicate that disposal rates are steady or showing small increases which is consistent with the population increase.

Waste (types)	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Greenwaste	8,983	8,251	7,947	7,746	8,824	10,607
Municipal waste	13,246	13,338	13,776	31,826	30,212	31,802
Other waste	35,051	39,919	43,084	33,412	35,614	32,675
<b>Totals (tonnes)</b>	<b>57,280</b>	<b>61,508</b>	<b>64,806</b>	<b>72,535</b>	<b>74,650</b>	<b>75,084</b>

'Other waste' includes commercial and industrial waste, construction and demolition waste and waste from other facilities.

Source: WWCC records.

## Comparison of waste sent to landfill versus waste recycled in the Wagga Wagga LGA (per person)

indicates that waste levels remain steady or increasing slightly, but recycling levels have dropped slightly.

Waste Stream	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Recycled (kg/capita)	141	162	162	173	160	157
Percentage comparison	12.9	13.8	13.4	13.0	11.9	11.7
Landfilled (kg/capita)	956	1011	1051	1159	1187	1182
Percentage comparison	87.1	86.2	86.6	87.0	88.1	88.3

Source: WWCC records and SITA/Kurrajong records.

## Key Actions

The following are actions taken in 2010/11 to help achieve the WASTE objective from the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

### **WAS1 Continue to implement the Landfill Environmental Management Plan (LEMP) to reduce the environmental impact of the Gregadoo Waste Management Centre**

Council continues to be proactive in the strategic planning and management of solid waste with all regulatory requirements and minimising the environmental impacts during the operation of the Gregadoo Waste Management Centre.

### **WAS2 Continue to provide effective waste management solutions and recycling facilities at the Gregadoo Waste Management Centre and local transfer stations across the WWLGA**

Council's solid waste facilities includes the Gregadoo Waste Management Centre, three rural landfills and four rural transfer stations. Processes for the recycling of mattresses and computers have been implemented along with improved recycling services at the rural facilities.

### **WAS3 Continue to conduct Tip Free Days at the Gregadoo Waste Management Centre**

The free entry days are part of a commitment by Council to assist and encourage householders to dispose of any extra domestic waste or recyclables, as well as to help discourage the illegal dumping of waste.

### **WAS4 Audit Council's waste and recycling facilities from a business operations perspective**

The first stage of the audit commenced in late 2010 and is intended to capture waste data enabling Council to better manage waste into the future by resource recovery, measuring performance comparisons and providing the essential framework for future reviews and infrastructure developments.

### **WAS5 Continue to promote recycling services across the WWLGA**

Council actively promotes waste minimisation to reduce the amount of material sent to landfill. To achieve this goal Council provides the community with kerbside recycling and promotes programs such as DrumMuster and MobileMuster.

### **WAS6 Continue to encourage more green and organic waste recycling at the Gregadoo Waste Management Centre**

Council operates a three bin kerbside collection service which includes a greenwaste bin collected on a fortnightly basis. All sorted greenwaste disposed direct to the Gregadoo Waste Management Centre is stockpiled and chipped for reuse. Pricing controls have also been implemented at the waste management centre to encourage the sorting and reuse of greenwaste and other recyclables.

### **WAS8 Continue to improve commercial and industrial recycling services**

Facilities for receipt of recyclables including construction and demolition wastes, garden organics and scrap steel and other metals are provided at the Gregadoo Waste Management Centre. Recyclables are also received at the regional transfer stations and landfills.

### **WAS12 Form partnerships with key stakeholders to develop and implement public place recycling systems**

Council has successfully applied for a small grant to install stations for the disposal of recyclable materials along Baylis Street. This will be supported by an educational and media campaign to encourage the community to use these facilities. Council also provides recycling systems at community events and within a growing number of Council facilities.

### **WAS17 Continue to develop initiatives to reduce paper used in Council business**

Council continues to adopt methods to reduce paper consumption, through running meetings online, utilisation of the Enterprise Content Management system and a 'think before you print' campaign.

### **WAS18 Develop and implement waste reduction community education initiatives**

Council participates and promotes Clean Up Australia Day programs locally and works alongside the Wagga Wagga Tidy Towns Committee to coordinate Clean Up Wagga Day. Programs implemented this year to educate the community on waste reduction include 'Recyclabag' - the plastic bag exchange program, the 'Waste Watchers' program in local schools and the National Recycling Week 'Swap Party'.

### **WAS19 Develop and implement plastic bag reduction initiatives**

Council has continued to implement the 'Recyclabag' plastic bag exchange program that allows residents to swap 10 plastic bags for one reusable shopping bag.

### **WAS20 Continue to improve e-waste management strategies and services**

Council currently provides an e-waste recycling service further reducing material being sent to landfill. Other recyclers in the Wagga Wagga LGA are also implementing this service.

### **WAS22 Continue to investigate illegal dumping and littering incidents and complaints**

As part of their responsibility Council staff continue to respond to incidences of illegal dumping and littering.

### **WAS23 Continue to promote the Keep Australia Beautiful Awards Program annually**

Wagga Wagga has a long standing association with the Keep Australia Beautiful Awards being involved from the inception of the program. The Wagga Wagga Tidy Towns Committee has submitted a number of entries in this year's Keep Australia Beautiful competition.

### **WAS24 Continue to implement the Clean Up Australia Day initiative annually**

Council is committed to continuing with the Clean Up Australia Day initiative and recognises the positive impacts that this community supported program has on the environment.

## Key Pressures

- Increasing temperature and decreasing rainfall
- Industrial and agricultural activities
- Bushfire management
- Odour and noise pollution
- High energy consumption (CO<sub>2</sub>e) from households, business and industry

## Key Objective

“Improve air quality and reduce the impact of climate change by educating the community and reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.”

Wagga Wagga Environmental Sustainability Strategy

## Key Indicators

**Climate data for Wagga Wagga** illustrates a large increase in rainfall over the last year.

Year	Rainfall (mm)	Temperature (C)	
		Min	Max
2005	513.0	9.1	23.2
2006	267.2	8.4	24.4
2007	466.4	10.1	23.9
2008	467.2	9.0	22.9
2009	357.2	10.1	24.2
2010	1019.4	9.9	22.2
<b>Annual Mean</b>	<b>558.3</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>22.3</b>

Source: Bureau of Meteorology.

**Air Quality Exceedances for Wagga Wagga** show a decrease in poor air quality days this year.

Year	Exceedances
2005/2006	11 days
2006/2007	57 days
2007/2008	20 days
2008/2009	28 days
2009/2010	21 days
2010/2011	8 days

Exceedances = number of days when particle matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) in the air exceeded the National Environment Protection Measure of 50ug/m<sup>3</sup>  
Source: NSW Office Environment & Heritage.

**Summary of CO<sub>2</sub>-e emissions for Wagga Wagga City Council’s energy consumption** has increased due to increased fleet activity from flood response and clean up as well as the upgrade of the Sewerage Treatment Works.

Energy Type	Electricity & Gas		Streetlighting		Fuel Usage		Emissions
	Consumption (MJ)	Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> -e	Consumption (MJ)	Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> -e	Consumption (GJ)	Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> -e	
2007/2008	55,520,900	12,819	9,671,000	2,843	31,653	2,016	17,678
2008/2009	55,316,285	12,758	10,559,000	3,109	34,054	2,370	18,237
2009/2010	55,305,523	12,994	11,081,747	3,245	28,649	2,135	18,374
2010/2011	59,343,582	12,356	11,191,080	3,326	39,240	2,921	18,405

Source: Planet Footprint reports/Essential Energy data.

## Key Actions

The following are actions taken in 2010/11 to help achieve the CLIMATE AIR & ENERGY objective from the Environmental Strategy.

### **CAE1 Develop and implement a Bike Plan for the WWLGA**

Council has recently adopted the Bicycle Plan 2010 that promotes the health, social, economic and environmental benefits of replacing motorised transport with a bicycle.

### **CAE11 Audit Council's energy use and greenhouse gas emissions**

Council has completed a level 3 energy audit on four of Council's top energy consuming sites; Oasis, Airport, Civic Centre and Civic Theatre. Council continues to utilise Planet Footprint reports to monitor energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

### **CAE12 Review after hours lighting requirements and implement energy saving strategies at Council facilities**

Council has implemented a number of recommendations from the energy audit, including projects involving the Airport, the Civic Centre and the Civic Theatre. The project involved re-lamping, power factor correction and adjustment of the building management system.

### **CAE13 Continue to implement the Wagga Wagga City Council Street Lighting Management Plan**

Council has signed with a Service Level Agreement with Essential Energy that continues to add energy efficient street lighting in suburban development. Priorities for this are identified within Council's Street Lighting Strategy.

### **CAE15 Continue to implement the Earth Hour initiative annually**

Council actively participates and promotes the Earth Hour initiative and acknowledges the public awareness that this activity creates in the community.

### **CAE16 Continue to research the feasibility of installing alternative energy generation technologies at Council facilities**

Council is continuing to investigate opportunities for alternate energy generation technologies. Two Council facilities have been fitted with photovoltaic cells and a feasibility study on cogeneration at the Oasis Aquatic Centre is being conducted.

### **CAE17 Continue to implement energy efficient lighting retrofits at Council facilities**

Retro-fitting of energy efficient lighting at Council facilities is an output of Council's Energy Savings Action Plan. The Airport and Civic Precinct have been the priority facilities for 2010/11.

### **CAE22 Research the feasibility of implementing power factor correction upgrades at Council facilities**

The energy audit carried out on Council's major facilities found that power factor correction was feasible at the Airport and the Civic Theatre. Works are to be completed in 2011/12.

### **CAE25 Develop and implement initiatives to minimise greenhouse gas emissions associated with Council's fleet**

A driver efficiency training program has been developed and will be rolled out to the staff that use heavy machinery.

An increasing number of large vehicles are also using Biodiesel, which results in lower emissions than regular diesel.

### **CAE26 When reviewing Council's electricity contracts ensure there is a requirement to purchase renewable energy**

On renewal of Council's contract the Civic Centre building now incorporates 100% accredited Green Power saving over 1,300 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e a year.

### **CAE29 Develop and implement initiatives to promote energy saving practices for households, businesses and industry**

Council has implemented the 'Great Green Challenge' in 2010/11. The program aims at improving sustainable living practices in the home and workplace. The program centred around sustainability and focused on climate change, biodiversity, sustainable consumption, water efficiency, energy efficiency, and waste management.

### **CAE31 Form partnerships with key stakeholders to develop and implement climate change education initiatives**

In partnership with CROW, the Library has been providing the community with Home Energy Audit Kits. Through the Great Green Challenge, partnerships were formed with Riverina Water, ErinEarth Education Centre and a number of local businesses.

### **CAE32 Continue to investigate air pollution, noise and odour incidents and complaints**

Council staff continue to address and investigate air pollution, noise and odour incidents. In 2011 Council staff implemented strategies to improve air quality as part of the 'Clean Air Healthy Communities' project.

### **CAE33 Form partnerships with key stakeholders to develop and implement air pollution reduction initiatives**

The NSW OEH in conjunction with the EH Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation have commenced a two year project to investigate the high levels of particle air pollution within the Riverina. The collaboration is looking at strategies to improve air quality and employs a local project officer based at the EH Graham Centre in Wagga Wagga.

### **CAE36 Continue to implement the Wagga Wagga City Council Smoke Free Area Policy**

Council continues to implement the Smoke Free Outdoor Area Policy which prohibits smoking on sportsgrounds, parks, covered bus and taxi ranks, and within 10 metres of a playground or entrance of a Council building.

### **CAE37 Continue to implement the Wood Smoke Reduction Program**

Council has continued to implement this program aimed at educating the community on the environmental and health effects of wood smoke and at promoting the efficient operation of wood heaters.

## Key Pressures

- System for recording of heritage sites
- Inadequate procedures to assess the impact of development on culturally significant sites
- Low level of community awareness
- Urban development
- Vandalism

## Key Objective

“Effectively manage heritage and aboriginal culture so it is understood, enhanced and protected.”

Wagga Wagga Environmental Sustainability Strategy

## Key Indicators

**Number of Aboriginal Heritage sites for the Wagga Wagga LGA has not changed over the period, indicating that no new findings have been reported.**

Site Category	No. sites	Site Feature	No. Features
Open sites	1	Burials	1
Open sites	29	Artefact (stone, bone, shell, glass)	39
Open sites	6	Earth Mound/Shell Artefact	7
Open sites	5	Earth Mound/Hearth	6
Open sites	1	Quarry	1
Open sites	36	Scarred Tree	36

Source: Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database search.

**Number of European Environmental Heritage sites for the Wagga Wagga LGA has increased slightly due to a number of additional sites being included in the newly revised and adopted LEP.**

Database Reference	2003/2004	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011
No. of items on the Schedule of Items of Environmental Heritage (DCP/LEP)	50	258	258	310
No. of buildings on the RAIA NSW Chapter Register of 20th century buildings of significance	74	74	74	74

Source: Wagga Wagga Local Environment Plan and Development Control Plan; Royal Australian Institute of Architects NSW (RAIA) Register.

## Key Actions

The following are actions taken in 2010/11 to help achieve the HERITAGE objective from the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

### **HRT1 Continue to map significant heritage sites across the WWLGA**

As part of the Local Environmental Plan 2010 development process, the mapping of significant heritage sites have been updated and this process is ongoing.

### **HRT2 Develop and implement heritage community education initiatives**

Community education regarding heritage is an ongoing process with Heritage Advisors holding public workshops and applicants wishing to undertake development within designated heritage areas being referred to the Council's Heritage Advisors prior to development consent being issued.

### **HRT3 Continue to implement the Heritage Grant funding initiative annually**

Council continues to make application and receive Local Heritage Grant Funding for the development and implementation of its heritage management program. The Local Heritage Grant Funding Program continues to fund physical conservation work within the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area that enhance heritage values, generally to external work on a heritage-related place. During 2010/11 Council has seen funding provided for projects in rural, village or town places, including private, public and commercial properties.

Conservation works include restoration and maintenance, and projects during the last grant period have included -

- Structural works that have extended the life of buildings
- Reconstruction and restoration of original details
- Painting in sympathetic colours
- Repair or replacement of roofing, guttering and drainage
- Removal of inappropriate alterations or additions.

### **HRT6 Continue to provide heritage advice and information to owners of heritage properties**

Council offers a heritage advice service and assist owners of properties in heritage areas by providing preliminary advice on development proposals.

### **HRT7 Continue to deliver heritage programming at Council's cultural facilities**

All of Council's cultural facilities celebrate cultural heritage at both the local, state and National level. A number of exhibitions continually support heritage programming such as the 'Tracking the Dragon' exhibition; 'Built for the Bush: Green Architecture of rural Australia'; and 'In Living Memory'. A number of other initiatives were held such as the Eco Warrior competition in the Museum of the Riverina as well as the Mawang Festival over June, July and August 2009 - a three month festival exploring cultural heritage from an Indigenous perspective. These styles of events shall be continually implemented as they become available.

### **HRT8 Continue to provide heritage cultural collection advice to public and private collections**

The Museum of the Riverina, in conjunction with a community working committee, assisted in the support, advice and development of the Aviation Heritage Centre at Forrest Hill.

### **HRT9 Review the Wiradjuri Heritage Study**

Discussions have been held with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, with support from OEH, around the development of priority sites for significance, for interpretation and documentation. The development of these priority sites is an extension of the Wiradjuri Heritage Study 2002.

### **HRT10 Develop and implement initiatives to partner the local Aboriginal community in environmental projects**

Through the River Restoration Project Council has continued to engage members of the indigenous community in natural resource management. The aim of this project is to increase the knowledge and skills of the land managers and the wider community to protect and respect heritage sites and to incorporate cultural heritage values in natural resource management.

### **HRT11 In partnership with Aboriginal Elders and other key stakeholders develop cultural heritage and environmental business opportunities for the Aboriginal community**

WWCC and the MCMA were involved in a local weaving project as part of cultural heritage development. The 'Women of Wagga Weaving Project' was developed and included weaving projects, cultural exchange and education in relation to cultural techniques, plant gatherings and culminated in a final exhibition in late 2010.

An Indigenous Curator position was developed as part of the Wagga Wagga Art Gallery and funded by Arts NSW in June 2010.

Council is also working with the Office of Environment and Heritage currently around 5 sites as 'Aboriginal Place' nominations. .

### **HRT12 In partnership with Aboriginal Elders and the Aboriginal Lands Council provide interpretive signs at Aboriginal sites**

An initial meeting has been held between a wide number of government and university stakeholders about Charles Sturt University's Indymarra Project in relation to interpretive signage.

### **HRT14 Develop and implement heritage training to selected Council staff**

Aboriginal cultural awareness training was delivered at the corporate level. Three Council employees from the Planning Directorate have also successfully completed the Fundamentals of Heritage training course.

## Key Pressures

- Balance of Environmental, Social, Economic and Governance priorities
- Enhanced general roles and responsibilities of Councils
- Relationship building between key stakeholders
- Balance between built and natural environments
- Unfunded mandates and cost shifting
- Community expectations
- Climate change impacts

## Key Objectives

“Promote environmentally sustainable principles for healthy living through community initiatives.”

“Continuously improve systems and practices at Wagga Wagga City Council to become a leader in sustainable environmental management.”

**Wagga Wagga Environmental Sustainability Strategy**

## Overall Summary of Key Environmental Indicators

The following is an overall summary of how the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area is performing in terms of environmental sustainability for the State of Environment themes of Land, Biodiversity, Water, Waste, Heritage, Climate Air and Energy.

The ratings are based on the various ‘Key Environmental Indicators’ in each section, and are given an overall rating for sustainability based on those broad trends. It is important to note that there are no set parameters for exactly what can be classed as fully sustainable. Therefore, these ratings are subjective, and are shown to provide a broad indication only.





## Key Actions

The following are actions taken in 2010/11 to help achieve the SUSTAINABLE WAGGA objectives from the Environmental Strategy.

### **SWW1 Through the Master Plan development and implementation, ensure the Bomen Business Park demonstrates leadership in ESD principles**

The vision for Bomen states that it will be:

- An internationally renowned exemplar of ESD through deployment of the principles of industrial ecology
- One of the most resource and energy efficient places of business in Australia
- Supplied with infrastructure for transport, energy, communications and resource material sharing that is economically and environmentally effective.

### **SWW2 Through the Master Plan development and implementation, ensure Riverside Wagga Wagga demonstrates leadership in ESD principles**

Riverside Wagga Wagga is a partnership between Wagga Wagga City Council and the NSW Land & Property Management Authority. The Riverside Wagga Wagga strategic master plan includes objectives such as:

- Ensure the development is representative of world class, iconic design that incorporates ecologically sustainable design throughout.

### **SWW3 Continue to integrate environmental considerations to Council's economic, social and governance initiatives**

Environmental considerations are a major part of the development of Council's Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plan. The Wagga Wagga City Council Community Strategic Plan includes goals which relate to the key performance areas of Environmental, Social, Economic, and Governance.

Council acknowledges that Environmental sustainability contributes to and is impacted by each of Council's key performance area goals.

### **SWW4 Continue to consult, survey and plan with the community about environmental sustainability issues**

A community Environmental Advisory Committee was formed in 2009 and meets every quarter. A Biodiversity Sub-committee and an Energy Efficiency Sub-committee have also been formed from this group.

### **SWW5 Ensure Council's project management and reporting systems include environmental reporting requirements**

Environmental reporting requirements and risk assessment are included in Council's Project Management framework.

### **SWW6 Continue to participate in nationally recognised environmental sustainability management initiatives**

Council continues to participate in the OEH Sustainability Advantage Program. The 'Vision, Commitment and Planning' module and the 'Resource Efficiency' module have been completed. Council is in the process of applying for the Program's Bronze Level Recognition Award.

### **SWW8 Continue to explore grant opportunities for programs and initiatives included in the Environmental Sustainability Strategy**

Council has applied for numerous grants in the past year and was successful in receiving funding for a 'Biodiversity Corridor Mapping' project and a 'Clean Air Healthy Communities' grant.

### **SWW11 Develop and implement environmental sustainability education initiatives for Councillors and Council staff**

Staff have been engaged in office recycling facilities, resource efficiency (including paper reduction 'think before you print' and energy efficiency 'switch it off' campaigns) and is involved with Business Clean Up Australia Day annually.

Council staff are also taking part in the OEH Sustainability Advantage Program which engages staff on sustainability issues.

### **SWW14 Develop Environmental Sustainability checklists for Council's Standard Operating Procedures**

Council reviewed the OH&S Risk Assessment process and incorporated environmental risks into the one procedure.

### **SWW16 Continue to participate in the Sustainable Purchasing Program to develop and implement Council's Green Purchasing Policy**

Council is a member of the 'Sustainable Choice' program which aims to increase the level of sustainable purchasing within the local government sector by supporting individual councils and skills sharing between councils on sustainable products and services.

### **SWW17 Continue to prepare the annual State of the Environment Report**

The State of the Environment (SoE) Report covers the reporting requirements outlined in Section 428 of the Local Government Act 1993. The report is published for community information and submitted to the NSW Minister for the Environment.

## Key Actions Continued

The following are actions taken in 2010/11 to help achieve the SUSTAINABLE WAGGA objectives from the Environmental Strategy.

### **SWW18 Promote energy efficiencies at Council facilities**

Council is engaged with energy consultants Planet Footprint to assign responsibility to facility managers and use energy consumption information to promote energy efficiency initiatives such as a 'switch it off' campaign.

Council has also introduced a bicycle fleet to allow staff to ride bikes to meetings within Wagga, to reduce carbon emissions, save fuel costs and as a bonus increase staff health

The energy generated by the solar panels at the Alan Turner Depot is also displayed online at Sunny Portal.

### **SWW21 Continue to attend meetings and form partnership projects with key environmental stakeholders and community groups**

Council continues to support the work of community groups Climate Rescue of Wagga, Landcare and ErinEarth. Council's environmental sustainability team regularly meets with the Environmental Advisory sub-committee groups as well as the Environmental Educators group to discuss potential partnerships and projects.

### **SWW26 Develop and implement a website to educate the community about environmentally sustainable living, community events and activities in the WWLGA**

Council's website upgrade has incorporated a focus on environmental sustainability.

### **SWW27 Develop and promote an expo to educate the community about environmentally sustainable living principles, technologies and initiatives**

An expo was held at the Civic Centre in 2010 in conjunction with CROW and a number of local businesses

### **SWW28 Develop and implement innovative place management initiatives for the rural villages and neighbourhoods across the LGA**

The Village Plans 2010 were developed using a quadruple bottom line approach with relevant environmental actions. Place making initiatives were launched in Fitzmaurice Street, the CBD and Ashmont business district.

### **SWW30 Form partnerships with key stakeholders to develop and implement community initiatives to encourage environmentally sustainable living**

The Wagga Wagga City Council's 'Great Green Challenge' is a program aimed at improving sustainable living practices in the home and workplace. The competition is centred around sustainability and focuses on climate change, biodiversity, sustainable consumption, water efficiency, energy efficiency, and waste management.

The competitors include one business, one couple and four family units. Out of the four families there is one rural residential participant and three urban residential participants.

The slogan for the competition is "Sustainability Won't Cost You the Earth". The aim for the competition is to provide greater education on the behavioural and physical changes businesses, individuals and families can implement in their residence as well as demonstrate that the majority of sustainable changes can be implemented at zero or minimal cost.

The participants shared their experiences to illustrate to the wider Wagga Wagga community how small business, individuals, families, home owners and renters can actively improve their sustainable living practices to reduce their ecological footprint.

Throughout the Challenge there is a workshop series, run once a month which is open to the public.

### **SWW32 Continue to implement the Sustainable Schools Challenge annually**

In 2010/11 Wagga Wagga City Council contributed more than \$10,000 to the 11 schools participating in the annual Schools' Sustainability Challenge. The challenge invites local school students to develop practical projects that will enhance their school environment and promote sustainable practices in our community.

### **SWW34 Develop initiatives for more environmentally themed public art across the WWLGA**

The Public Art Plan 2010 /2012 was developed with environmental considerations included as base underlying principles to the commissioning process.

## List of Abbreviations

ARTC	Australian Rail Track Corporation	KPI	Key Performance Indicator
CBD	Central Business District	LEMP	Landfill Environmental Management Plan
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television	LEP	Local Environment Plan
CMA	Catchment Management Authority	LGA	Local Government Area
CO <sub>2</sub> e	Carbon dioxide equivalent emissions	MCMA	Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority
CROW	Climate Rescue of Wagga	OEH	NSW Office of Environment & Heritage
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	OH&S	Occupational Health & Safety
CSU	Charles Sturt University	PVP	Property Vegetation Plan
DCP	Development Control Plan	RAIA	Royal Australian Institute of Architects
DECCW	Department of Environment, Climate Change & Water (now titled OEH)	REROC	Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils
EPI	Environmental Planning Instrument	RTA	NSW Roads and Traffic Authority
ESD	Ecologically Sustainable Development	RWAP	Regional Weeds Action Plan
ESS	Environmental Sustainability Strategy	RWCC	Riverina Water County Council
FTE	Full Time Equivalent (employee)	SoE	State of Environment
GIS	Geographic Information System	SWL	Standing Water Level
IWCM	Integrated Water Cycle Management	TAFE	Tertiary and Further Education
		WWCC	Wagga Wagga City Council
		WWLGA	Wagga Wagga Local Government Area



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