

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT

2013/2014

Strategic direction:

A clean and sustainable environment

Strategy statement:

Provide local places and spaces that are clean and healthy and turn awareness and commitment into action to halt or reverse the effects, pressures and threats on the built and natural environment by working in collaboration with our community and other stakeholders.

Strategy area:

A Clean and Sustainable Environment

Focus area 1: Council leads by example through integrating sustainability into core business and reducing its ecological footprint in its day-to-day operations.

Environmental awareness is incorporated into the staff induction program for new starters. The focus is on Council's sustainability policies, programs and the practical ways staff can implement them. All staff are encouraged to take personal action to become more sustainable. There is a particular focus on sustainable resource procurement and management of day-to-day operations.

Council undertook a range of water saving initiatives including:

- Water use audits were completed for three of Council's top water consuming assets: Riverstone Swimming Centre, Popondetta Park and Anne Aquilina Reserve. The audits include recommendations for improved water efficiency and management, which can be replicated at other high-use sites and integrated into the review of the Water Savings Action Plan.
- The Blacktown stormwater harvesting and reuse scheme will harvest 200 megalitres of water from Angus Creek and treat the water via a gross pollutant trap, series of ponds and wetlands and ultraviolet light to clean the water so it is suitable for irrigation. The harvested stormwater will be used to irrigate the Blacktown International Sports Park, Anne Aquilina Reserve, Kareela Reserve, Charlie Bali Reserve and also will be used to top up the ornamental ponds at Nurragingy Reserve. Construction is 85% complete. This project will be completed in 2014/2015.

Council undertook a range of energy saving initiatives including:

- Replacing older and poorly performing air conditioning systems with more energy efficient units that use more environmentally-friendly refrigerants. Automatic controls also ensure the air conditioning is switched off when the building is vacated, and the internal temperature settings are adjusted with the outdoor temperature.
- At the Rooty Hill Works Depot, Blacktown Leisure Centre Stanhope and Glendenning Neighbourhood Centre new lower energy heating systems and lower wattage efficient lighting systems were installed. At the Animal Holding Facility 86 heaters were replaced with more efficient systems resulting in an energy saving of over \$13,000 per year.
 - o The total energy cost savings of these initiatives is estimated at \$73,206 per year, and a 795.78 tonne reduction in CO2 emissions per year.
- Council received funding from the Local Government Energy Efficiency Program, a joint venture with the Commonwealth Government. This funding allowed Council to install 20 solar hot water systems at various Council owned centres and facilities.
 - o This initiative resulted in the generation of 541 mega-watt hours which are identified as a tradable asset under the Federal Government's Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme.

Focus Area 2: Encourage healthy and sustainable living opportunities for the community

Council facilitates a range of programs aimed at actively encouraging our community to take positive steps towards becoming more sustainable.

Sustainable living workshops:

- Council hosted 53 free sustainable living workshops with 511 residents attending. The workshops aim to give residents practical information and hands on experience on how to reduce their impact on the environment. From feedback received 97% of respondents indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied with the program.

In addition to the sustainable living workshops, 82 residents participated in the following:

- Farm gate tour
- Farmers' market tour
- Community gardens tour.

Community gardens:

- Council provides ongoing support to community gardens located in the local government area. The gardens are managed by volunteers who have been trained to act on behalf of Council. Volunteers run the day-to-day operations in the garden and are supported by Council officers who manage resources, budgets and attend monthly meetings.
- New gardens include:
 - Blacktown Showground community garden
 - Grantham Heritage Park community garden
 - Bungaribee community garden
 - Bush tucker and medicinal garden at Grantham Heritage Park.
- Several other gardens are jointly supported by Council and Community Greening: the branch of the Botanic Gardens Trust, which supports gardens in Housing NSW areas.
 - o Bidwill community garden
 - o Oasis (Toongabbie) community garden
 - o Lethbridge Park community garden.



Image 1: Bungarribee Hub and garden opening in February 2014

- Council also offers varying levels of support and encouragement to the following established gardens:
 - o Lalor Park community garden
 - o Marist Youth Care community garden
 - o Riverstone community garden
 - o Quakers Hill Uniting Church community garden
 - o Willmot Public School.

TAFE outreach program:

- This program has been operating at Grantham Heritage Park since early 2011. In 2013 the program was extended from offering Statement of Attainment in Sustainable Horticulture, to offering trade level qualifications of Certificate of Horticulture II and III. This program is a partnership between Council, and Nirimba and Blue Mountains TAFE colleges. Approximately 100 students were enrolled in 2013 and approximately 250 students have graduated from the program since it began in 2011.

Eco-active schools program:

- Council's Eco-active schools program is an environmental sustainability grants program tailored specifically to schools within the Blacktown local government area. The Program provides funding to schools to undertake environmental sustainability improvement projects.
- The 2013/2014 program focused on biodiversity and had the following categories available for funding:
 - o Creating habitat – supporting wildlife by creating habitat for local fauna including insects, birds, frogs and mammals.
 - o Biodiversity education – the school can engage with an expert to provide displays, workshops or lessons on biodiversity, wildlife conservation or similar that demonstrates clear links to the K-12 curriculum.
 - o The following 9 schools received funding totalling \$14,612.29:

<i>School</i>	<i>Project title</i>
William Rose School	Sensory Habitat
Blacktown North Public School	Friendship Garden
Mount Druitt Public School	Bush Tucker Garden
Minchinbury Public School	Creating a Frog Friendly Habitat
Marayong Public School	Encouraging Native Birds
Madang Avenue Public School	Eco-Active at Madang
Bidwill Public School	Planting for the Future
Tregear Public School	Tregear PS Natural Habitat
Willmot Public School	Nature Provides. See it in nature....make it natural

Greening our young initiatives:

- Council encourages children at local childcare centres and pre-schools to interact and explore nature in a safe yet real-world setting, to nurture an appreciation for the environment. In 2013/2014 four centres welcomed land and plantscaping, vegetable gardens and chicken coops.
- Council visited 51 childcare and preschool centres exposing 1,287 children plus staff and parents to vital messages about recycling, worm farming and waste disposal.

Youth programs:

- The Youth Eco Summit, is a curriculum based event held at Newington Armory, Sydney Olympic Park that provides hands-on workshops for students in the western Sydney region. The focus of the summit is to provide students and teachers with access to a wide range of sustainability resources and experts from industry, government, community agencies and academia. At the 2013 event, Council facilitated two different hands-on workshops, worm farming and composting and stormwater catchment management in schools. The workshops were booked out completely for both days.
- EnviroMentors and Radical Recyclers visited local primary schools to teach students about recycling and waste disposal, worm farming and composting, and ways to reuse old items. Over 56 days, 5,562 students participated.

Community events:

- The 2014 Greener Living Expo was themed around practical ways to save money and live more sustainably, while acknowledging that Blacktown's growing population puts increasing pressure on the area's natural resources. The event had over 40 stalls and displays grouped in themes of waste, water, energy, food, transport, and biodiversity. Interactive displays including the Sustainable Kitchen Cooking School, and the Sustainable Backyard provided the backdrop for hands-on workshops and demonstrations. Over 6,000 pledges towards living more sustainably were made by visitors. The event was attended by over 60,000 people across two days in May 2014 making this the largest environmentally-themed event held by Council.
- Council encourages community members engaged in learning or volunteer programs to be spokespeople for the environment. Over 30 volunteers worked over the weekend of the Greener Living Expo explaining organic gardening and food production techniques, water saving ideas and backyard animal husbandry to the public.



Image 2: Sustainable garden display at the Greener Living Expo in May 2014



Image 3: Wildlife show at the Greener Living Expo in May 2014

Clean up Australia Day 2014:

- In 2014, 101 volunteers from across our community collected nine tonnes of waste from 48 registered sites.
- 5,519 students from 40 schools across the local government area also participated.

Diversion of waste from landfill:

- Council is striving to meet the NSW Government's target of 66% of the community's waste to be diverted from landfill. Council's diversion rate for 2013/2014 was 65%; just 1% under the state government target.

Table 1: Waste diversion rate

	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014
Percentage of waste diverted from landfill	63%	48.3%	58%	64%	61%	65%

Household chemical cleanout:

- In 2013/2014, 868 residents correctly disposed of 34,532 kilograms of unwanted household chemicals through the Environment Protection Authority's Chemical Clean Out program.

Mount Druitt Restoria:

- Mount Druitt Restoria is a joint initiative with Council, Whalan Community Action Group and Housing NSW where unwanted furniture is restored and distributed to people in need.
- Since its commencement in 2011, over 200 items have been diverted from landfill.

Bicycle recycle program:

- Launched in 2009, unwanted bicycles are repaired and restored and donated back to the community at local community festivals and events through a lottery system.
- Over 700 bikes have been given away through the program since it commenced.

Focus Area 3: Enhance the wellbeing and amenity of the community and promote a clean and attractive city

Council monitors businesses and properties within the local government area to ensure the premises are clean and safe, and are not polluting the environment. This includes investigating all complaints, and the proactive environmental health surveillance of all premises selling food, operating cooling towers, operating onsite sewage management systems and involving any skin penetration (like tattooists). The following tables give a summary of the number and type of inspections that have occurred.

Table 2: Pollution investigations

Type of investigation	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014
Water pollution – domestic	65	79	95	106	104
Water pollution – commercial/industrial	41	35	49	92	65
Water pollution – spills	11	16	12	3	23
Water pollution – sewage complaint	68	81	90	87	101
Total water pollution	185	211	246	288	293
Air pollution – commercial/industrial	44	62	30	40	58

Air pollution – backyard burning	40	69	64	109	79
Air pollution – wood heaters	30	33	19	30	29
Air pollution – odour	100	111	92	173	125
Total air pollution	214	275	205	352	292
Noise pollution – barking dogs	793	735	797	810	837
Noise pollution – commercial/industrial	74	94	85	92	88
Noise pollution – air conditioners	28	25	20	29	34
Noise pollution – alarms	21	29	19	31	54
Noise pollution – music	238	232	220	215	244
Noise pollution – pool filters	5	11	7	13	9
Total noise pollution	1,159	1,126	1,148	1,190	1,246
Land pollution – unauthorised fill	10	9	18	23	15
Land pollution – illegal dumping	112	121	144	206	166
Land pollution – overgrown premises	780	815	1076	789	719
Total land pollution	902	945	1,238	1,018	900

Table 3: Environmental health investigations

<i>Type of investigation</i>	<i>2009/2010</i>	<i>2010/2011</i>	<i>2011/2012</i>	<i>2012/2013</i>	<i>2013/2014</i>
Food – Hygiene & handling	55	43	56	53	69
Food – Foreign matter	8	18	19	26	26
Food – Food quality	48	32	27	28	49
Food – Food poisoning	21	17	17	34	47
Food – Food labelling and advertising	-	5	3	6	6
Food – other	5	14	12	16	17
Food – itinerant vendors	6	6	10	9	4
Total inspections	143	135	144	172	218

Table 4: Surveillance of environmental health issues

<i>Environmental health surveillance</i>	<i>2012/2013</i>	<i>2013/2014</i>
On site sewerage management – routine inspections	541	402
Routine skin penetration inspections	246	250
Routine cooling tower inspections	75	78
Routine food premises inspections	990	1157

Following an investigation a notice to prevent or clean up pollution and/or fines can be issued.

Table 5: Notices and fines issued

<i>Notice/fine type</i>	<i>2009/2010</i>	<i>2010/2011</i>	<i>2011/2012</i>	<i>2012/2013</i>	<i>2013/2014</i>
Noise pollution notices	8	15	19	8	21
Noise pollution fines	*	*	*	3	5
Water pollution notices	139	89	71	55	62
Water pollution fines	*	*	*	0	14
Land pollution	83	194	46	30	17
Land pollution fines	*	*	*	0	0
Air pollution notices	10	25	13	19	53
Air pollution fines	*	*	*	0	10
Environmental health notices	87	181	79	100	104
Environmental health fines	114	92	53	88	121
<i>Total notices/fines</i>	<i>441</i>	<i>596</i>	<i>281</i>	<i>303</i>	<i>407</i>

*Data breakdown not available

Focus Area 4: Pursue best practice sustainable water management to protect and improve the water quality of the local environment.

Council facilitates a range of programs to work towards protecting and improving the water quality of our local waterways.

Waterways health monitoring program:

- Council regularly monitors the health of our waterways. In total there are 16 monitoring sites on 14 creeks

throughout the local government area. Data is analysed and results in a waterway health grade for each creek. Council uses the information to prioritise creek remediation works, monitor the impacts of increased urbanisation and the effectiveness of our water quality planning controls.

- The condition of Blacktown's creeks is variable yet overall the ecological condition of our creeks is fair.
- In the past year, Council identified a 'reference creek'. A 'reference creek' is a minimally disturbed creek, representative of what would have existed throughout the Blacktown local government area prior to European settlement). This creek is a tributary of Little Creek located within the Shanes Park Airservices Australia site. The monitoring results have been used to set local water quality monitoring objectives relevant to the Blacktown local government area.

Monitoring of Sydney Water wastewater discharge points:

- In house water quality monitoring also occurs on Breakfast Creek, Eastern Creek and South Creek both upstream and downstream of the Sydney Water wastewater discharge points.
- An analysis of the results upstream and downstream of the treated wastewater discharge points shows minimal variation at each location.
- Council's data was consistent with the data produced as part of Sydney Water's monitoring program. This confirmed Sydney Water is complying with its NSW Environment Protection Authority licence conditions.

Industrial stormwater auditing program:

- This involves the proactive inspection of local businesses to ensure they are adopting safe and responsible stormwater management practices. This program provides encouragement small to medium sized industrial businesses to prevent or lessen the amount of pollutants entering our local waterways.
- 1,343 inspections were conducted on business premises which resulted in 758 audits being undertaken.
- The information gathered from these audits was reviewed and a risk rating of high, medium or low given to each business. This will assist Council in the future to determine the potential risk certain activities a business is undertaking has to pollute our waterways.

Water sensitive urban design capacity building program:

- This was developed to assist Council to adopt the principles of sustainable water management in its operations and projects. This followed intensive analysis of Council's ability to implement water projects and was developed in collaboration with staff to identify their needs. During 2013/2014 this program established a water working group who held 8 meetings with the intention of developing water policy within Council. The program also developed a variety of resources and guidance on best practice water management on Council's intranet. The program also provided numerous training sessions for Council staff.
- The group also developed a series of fact sheets and standard drawings for local developers to assist them to incorporate best practice water management into their developments.

Stormwater education:

- Stormwater-related engagement and education strategies have been developed for target groups. The aim is to raise awareness of the problems caused by stormwater pollution and the activities that residents can undertake to assist as well as those that should be avoided in order to reduce pollution.
- Council undertook a desktop review of current projects and programs and the development of water balance and water pollutant models for our local catchments as it relates to the State of the Waterways Report 2005. Council also conducted seven workshops with the community in the Angus Creek, Bungarribee Creek, Breakfast Creek and Greystanes Creek catchments to gain community input into how they value our local waterways.
- Council hosts an annual catchment field day with students from schools across the Blacktown local government area. This field day includes an activity where students can sample, analyse and interpret the water quality from samples they collect.
- A stormwater model was constructed as a miniature working replica of the Blacktown local government area, encompassing agriculture, industry, residential areas and natural areas. The model is intended to illustrate the flow-on effects of behaviours in various parts of the city with regards to water health. It is interactive, engaging and highly accessible to children. This model was used at numerous local festivals and events as a learning tool during the last year.



Image 4: Children enjoying the stormwater model at the Greener Living Expo in May 2014

Blacktown Showground redevelopment:

- Council received the NSW Stormwater Excellence Award for the redevelopment of Blacktown Showground which incorporates many features including a wetland, bio retention systems and stormwater harvesting and reuse.
- The redevelopment intends to help reduce the impact of the Showground on downstream waterways and provide a sustainable water supply for the watering of green areas and toilet flushing. The project has now been put forward for the National Stormwater Excellence Awards with Stormwater Australia and will compete against other winning projects from the respective states.

Water sensitive urban design auditing program:

- This involves the proactive inspection of developments including privately owned water quality treatment systems to ensure the devices are being maintained.

Water management collaborations:

- Council participates in the Hawkesbury Nepean Local Government Advisory Group and Parramatta River Catchment Group. These groups consist of NSW State Government, local government and community representatives. The aim of these groups is to work collaboratively to improve the health of the Hawkesbury Nepean and Parramatta Rivers.
- Council is also a member of the Sydney Metropolitan Consortium for the Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities. This is a collaborative program with over 70 partners which will work together for urban water reform.

Focus Area 5: Conserve, restore and enhance the City's biological diversity and ecosystem health, particularly threatened species, populations and communities

Biodiversity refers to the variety of all life forms: the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, their genes and the ecosystems of which they are a part. Protecting biodiversity and land resources is important because of its role in sustaining natural processes, such as nutrient cycling, soil formation and pollination. Maintaining biodiversity is essential for the survival of healthy ecosystems.

Council implements a range of programs aimed at conserving Blacktown City's biodiversity.

Volunteer Bushcare program:

- Bushcare groups are made up of residents who have an interest in improving the health and aesthetics of their local bushland reserves through hands on activities. The aim of bushcare programs is to engage the community to increase understanding of biodiversity issues and to utilise volunteer labour to extend the capacity of Council to undertake revegetation and regeneration works.
- Bushcare groups carried out weeding, revegetation and regeneration activities at:
 - Banks Reserve, Kings Langley
 - Bill Colbourne Reserve, Doonside
 - Duncan Park, Seven Hills
 - Faulkland Crescent Reserve, Kings Park
 - Reserve 813, Kellyville Ridge
 - Knudsen Reserve, Riverstone
 - Morgan Power Reserve, Kings Langley
 - Pied Piper Playground, Seven Hills
 - RAAF Park, Mount Druitt
 - Snowy Reserve, Seven Hills (new group in 2013/2014)
 - Timbertop Reserve, Prospect
 - Tregear Reserve, Tregear
 - Tuscan Waters, Glenwood
 - Whitehaven Reserve, Quakers Hill

Table 6: Our volunteer Bushcare groups

	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014
Number of Bushcare groups	13	14	16	13	14
Number of registered Bushcare volunteers	201	142	150	202	161
Number of locally native plants planted by volunteers	3,670	940	3,326	2,933	5,809
Number of hectares under restoration by volunteers	49.05	53.68	29.75	30.75	39.96
National Tree Day volunteers	335	309	246	300	211



Image 5: Whitehaven Reserve Bushcare group in action

National Tree Day:

- Proudly supported by Council, National Tree Day is facilitated nationally by Planet Ark. These events are well received locally however the number of plants and participation rates vary each year due to national media coverage, volunteer group involvement, the number of planting sites and the weather.
- National Tree Day was held on 28 July 2013, with a total of 4879 native plants planted at five sites across the Blacktown local government area.
- Council also provided 480 plants to 12 schools and community groups for planting as part of Schools National Tree Day.

Biodiversity Strategy 2011-2020:

- The Biodiversity Strategy is a centralised, comprehensive record of information relating to Council's biodiversity. It prescribes actions to ensure the protection of biodiversity values across the Blacktown local government area. Council's strategy was developed to ensure the effective long term management and viability of remnant vegetation and ecosystems. In 2013/2014:
 - 78 high priority actions completed
 - 20 high priority actions are commenced/ongoing
 - 6 medium priority actions completed
 - 27 medium priority actions are commenced/ongoing
 - 6 medium priority actions not yet commenced.

Biodiversity conservation:

- Commonwealth legislation
 - The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 provides a national scheme for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation.
 - In 2013/2014, there were 29 Species, Populations and Communities in the Blacktown local government area listed as vulnerable, 18 listed as endangered, 8 listed as critically endangered and 1 species listed as extinct under this act.

- NSW legislation:
 - The Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (NSW) provides for the conservation of threatened species, populations and ecological communities of animals and plants.
 - The following table represented the number of vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered species, populations and communities in the Blacktown local government area, listed under this Act.

Table 7: Status of species, populations and communities known to exist in the Blacktown local government area listed in the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (NSW)

<i>Status</i>	<i>2009/2010</i>	<i>2010/2011</i>	<i>2011/2012</i>	<i>2012/2013</i>	<i>2013/2014</i>
Vulnerable	16	19	61	75	72
Endangered	17	15	16	64	66
Critically endangered	2	2	4	4	5

Source: NSW Office of Environment and Heritage 2014 – Bionet

Bush regeneration and revegetation projects:

- On ground restoration projects undertaken in 2013/2014 include:
 - Nurragingy Reserve, Lorikeet Marsh, Doonside
 - Lalor Creek, Kings Langley
 - Metella Reserve, Toongabbie
 - Eskdale Street Wetland Reserve, Minchinbury
 - Mitchell Reserve Wetland, Blacktown
 - Blacktown Showground, Blacktown
 - International Peace Park (Blacktown Creek), Blacktown
 - Pearce Reserve, Kings Langley
 - Pied Piper Playground, Seven Hills
 - Plumpton Park, Plumpton
 - Sherwood Park, Quakers Hill
 - Whalan Reserve, Whalan
 - Tregear Reserve, Tregear
 - Timbertop Reserve, Prospect
 - Knudsen Reserve, Riverstone
 - Endeavour Reserve, Kings Langley
 - Walshe Grove, Bidwill



Image 6 –Tregear Reserve in February 2013 (before regeneration work)



Image 7 –Tregear Reserve in June 2014 (after regeneration work)

Community plant giveaways:

- Council actively promotes the greening of the city to improve the natural environment for local people, as well as nurturing its native flora and fauna. Council propagates a wide range of native and non-native plants at its nursery in Blacktown.
- In 2013/2014 a total of 28,943 plants were provided to our community free of charge to plant in their gardens.

Table 8: Plant giveaways

<i>Plant giveaways</i>	<i>2009/2010</i>	<i>2010/2011</i>	<i>2011/2012</i>	<i>2012/2013</i>	<i>2013/2014</i>
Travelling	12,497	11,121	11,344	9,129	10,105
Local government week	4,992	4,944	4,908	4,179	4,018
General	15,518	17,080	10,860	13,116	14,820
School and community	16,777	20,817	26,562	8,889	8,800
TOTAL	49,784	53,962	53,674	35,313	37,743



Image 8: Plants used in revegetation programs grown at Council's nursery

Focus Area 6: Mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change for the benefit of current and future generations.

Council continues to advocate and address climate change and works towards maximum efficiency and best practice. Several initiatives were undertaken to reduce atmospheric pollutants and improve air quality in the western Sydney basin.

Blacktown Climate Change Action and Adaptation Plan:

- Council continues to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the implementation of targeted energy savings:
 - Upgrades to existing Council assets have saved 1,221 tonnes of CO2 per year, including 8,845 kilolitres of water and 7,334 gigajoules of energy.
 - Council reduced its energy budget (excluding street lights) by \$230,000 in 2013/2014 through implementing energy efficient projects.

Council's greenhouse gas emissions are represented in the following table.

Table 9: Greenhouse gas emissions

	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/ 2013	2013/2014
Quantity of greenhouse gas emissions in tonnes CO ₂ -e	35,840	37,169	36,824	38,133	38,720

Community education:

- Council facilitated three energy smart workshops which provided advice and tips on energy conservation within the home.
- Council also ran two free bicycle maintenance workshops. These workshops teach members of the public how to maintain their own bicycles and ride safely to encourage less reliance on motorised transport.
- Disposing of organic matter through conventional waste disposal systems (i.e. bin collection) is a major contributor to the release of methane into the atmosphere. This has been identified as a major contributor to climate change. Recycling organics back into soil and fertiliser is an easy way to address this issue at a household level.
 - o In 2013/2014, Council presented 23 composting and worm farming workshops to 356 participants and distributed 232 compost bins and kitchen tidy bins to households where members attended a workshop. Council provided 55 rebates to residents for purchasing worm farms, compost bins or bokashi bins as part of the At Home Organics Recycling Incentive program.

Cool streets program:

- The Cool streets program aims to reduce the 'urban heat island effect' caused by a lack of vegetation and an excess of heat-trapping material such as concrete and brick. Council has engaged a consultant to examine urban land design in the local government area and is aiming to redesign specific problem areas with strategic plantings of suitable plant species.

Sustainable fleet:

- Council continues to lead by example with its Sustainable Fleet policy. The policy actively encourages the use of smaller engine, liquid petroleum gas and hybrid vehicles for staff, while also seeking to replace works vehicles with more fuel efficient and lower emission equivalents.
- Fuel consumption continues to be below the 2005/2006 level, providing estimated 5% annual savings over the last seven years.
- Council's total diesel consumption (1,400,299 litres) and 75% of total petrol consumption (531,774 litres) uses biofuels. This is in alignment with a mandate made by State Government encouraging the use of biofuels wherever possible for Council vehicles.