



State of the Environment Report

2015/16



About Camden

The Camden Local Government Area (LGA) is a semi-rural and urban area in the Macarthur region.

The Camden LGA is situated in the south west of Sydney, approximately 60km from Sydney and covers an area of 206 sq kms and is bisected by the Nepean River. The LGA is bounded by Liverpool City Council in the north, Campbelltown City Council in the east and Wollondilly Shire Council in the south and west.

The Camden LGA is rapidly growing and is one of the fastest growing areas in New South Wales. Due to this growth, the Camden LGA now has 23 suburbs with special characteristics and uniqueness. The suburbs are Camden, Camden South, Bickley Vale, Bringelly, Cawdor, Catherine Field, Rossmore, Cobbitty, Kirkham, Leppington, Elderslie, Ellis Lane, Grasmere, Narellan, Narellan Vale, Currans Hill, Mount Annan, Smeaton Grange, Harrington Park, Spring Farm, Oran Park, Gregory Hills and Gledswood Hills.

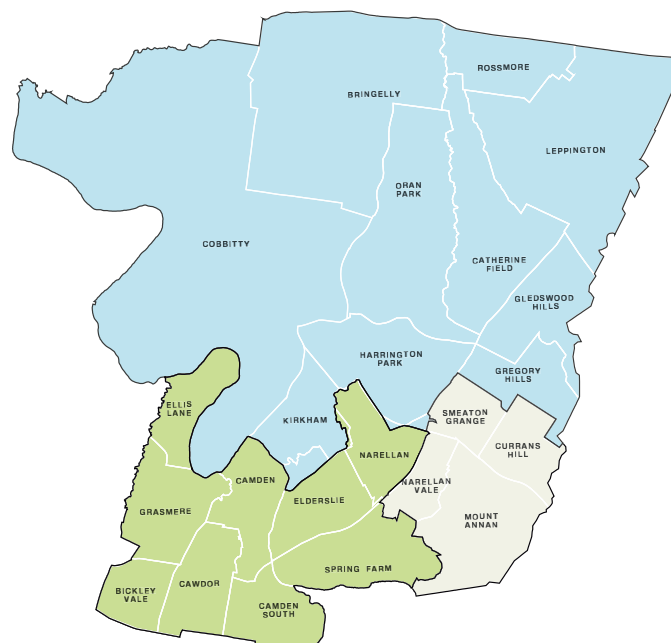
Council is effectively balancing this new urban growth with the existing semi-rural country feel by providing people with the option to enjoy both an urban and rural lifestyle. The Camden area is steeped in heritage, arts, culture, sports and recreation.

Regional Context

The Macarthur region covers an area of 3,289 square kilometres and includes the local government areas of Camden, Campbelltown and Wollondilly.

The region has a diversity of land uses from agricultural to urban and developing residential areas, commercial and industrial and mining.

Regional issues for the Macarthur area include managing population growth, transport infrastructure planning, employment generation and environmental protection.



This Annual Report is prepared in accordance with Section 428 of the Local Government Act 1993 and the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) Guidelines for Local Government in NSW (2013).

The Annual Report comprises:

■ **Community Report**

This document is the Community Report and provides a general overview, key achievements, and a highlight on major projects and provides IPR, End of Term Report and Fit for the Future outcomes.

■ **Statutory Report**

This document provides information required by legislation.

■ **State of the Environment Report**

This document reports on Environmental issues relevant to the objectives established by the Community Strategic Plan – Camden 2040.



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Photography

The photographs featured throughout this Annual Report have been obtained from many sources including professional photographers, local developers, stock image suppliers and Council officers – thank you to all photographers.

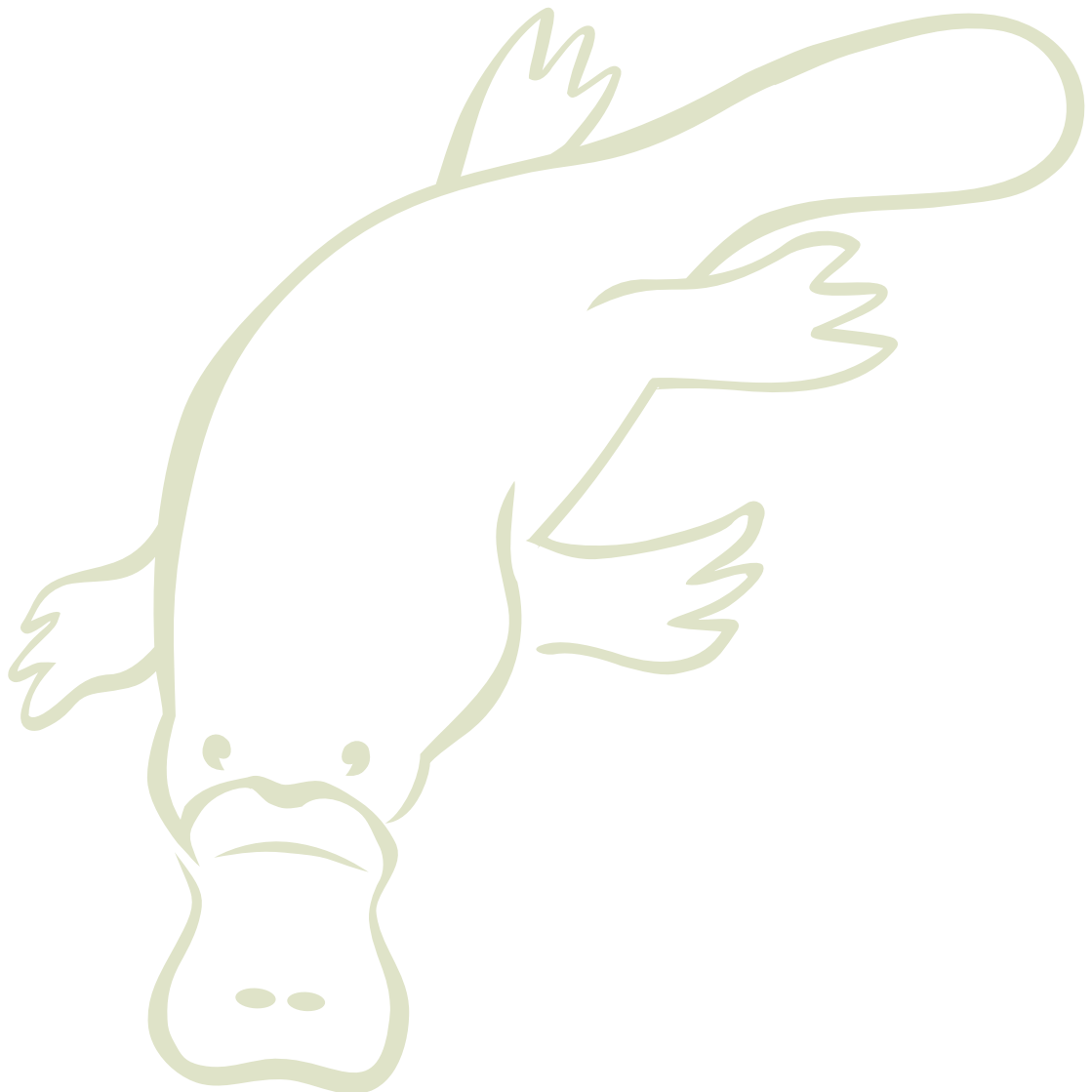
Purpose of this Report

All New South Wales Councils are required by section 428A of the Local Government Act 1993 to prepare a State of the Environment (SoE) report.

A SoE report provides a summary of the environment within a local government area and the human impacts on that environment. It provides a record of the activities, actions or responses made in the protection, restoration and enhancement of the local environment.

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Executive Summary

Council is required to report on the State of the Environment as part of its annual reporting requirements every four years under the Local Government Act, 1993 (s428A).

The concept of 'environmental sustainability' reflects a broad agreement that whole-of-government, community and the private sector have an obligation to protect the environment for the benefit of current and future generations. The environment includes the land, biodiversity, water conservation and water ways, waste and resource recovery, air quality and energy consumption.

It is vital to strategically consider how we all 'value' and 'care' for our environment to encourage its protection. It is also important we broaden the general knowledge and awareness about the benefits of the environment, with a transformative shift in our appreciation.

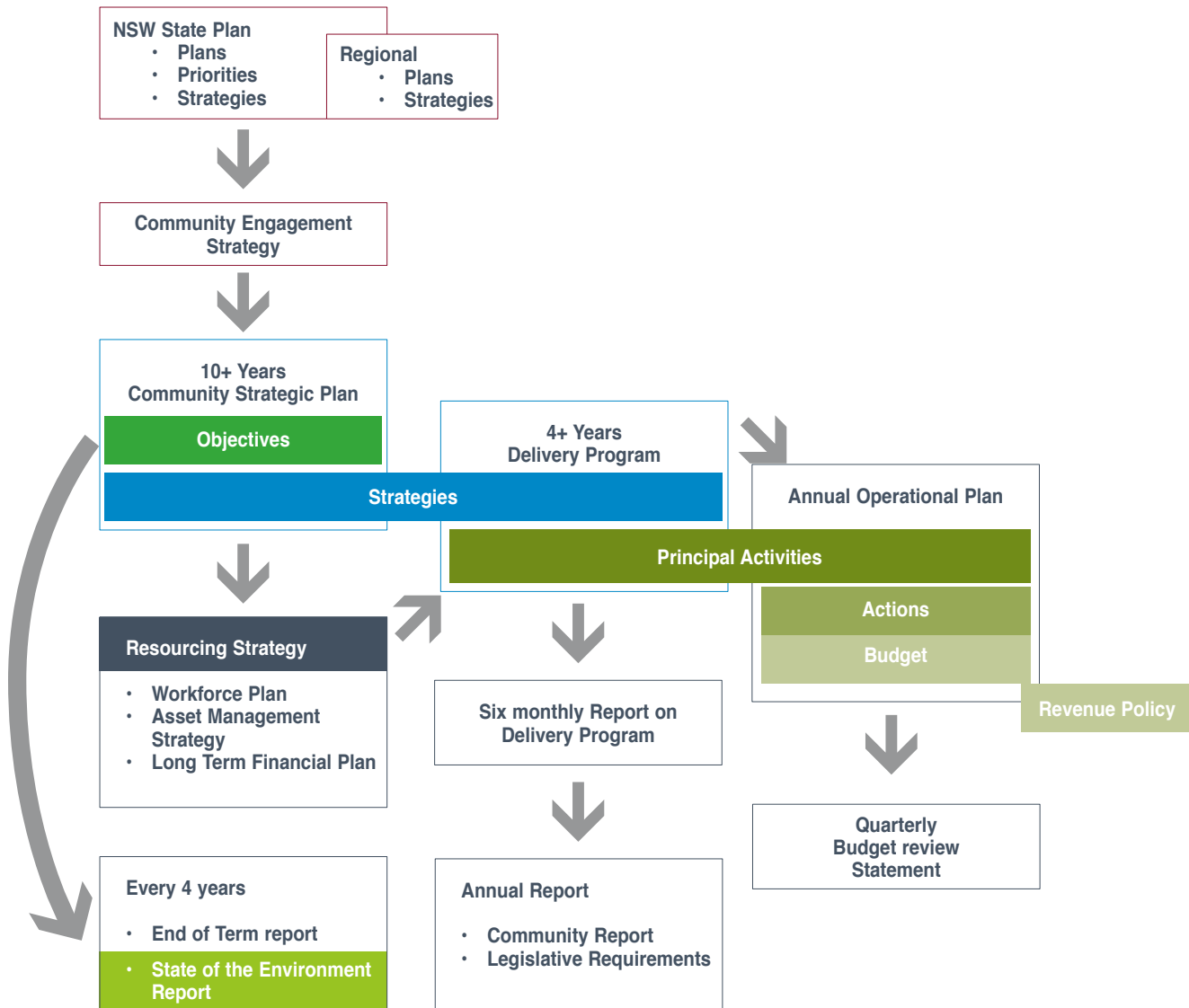
This comprehensive report follows the six environmental sectors Land, Air, Water, Biodiversity, Waste and Noise. These six sectors address the environmental community outcomes stated under the Key Directions in the Camden 2040 (Community Strategic Plan). The report adheres with Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) framework requirements and through its integrated approach showcases actions taken by Council and external agencies in protecting our environment.

Environmental issues are not restricted to Council boundaries and as such Council works in collaboration with neighbouring Councils, various external agencies, including the State Government, developers, the private sector and community groups.

A healthy environment is critical for a productive economy and a connected community. It is a collaborative responsibility to protect, conserve and improve the environment to ensure we have an effective ecosystem. We are all leaders and share responsibilities in this important journey of environmental sustainability.

Introduction

An SoE is an important management tool which aims to provide the community and Council with information on the condition of the local environment to assist in decision making and putting strategies and policies in place to address and report on environmental protection, restoration and enhancement. It is a useful tool in measuring and reporting on Council and the community’s progress towards a sustainable future.



Camden 2040 – Community Strategic Plan

Camden 2040 is the Community Strategic Plan which stretches beyond the next ten years. The diagram opposite displays the alignment with Camden 2040 and State of the Environment reporting.

Camden 2040 was first adopted in 2010 following extensive consultation with the Camden community and translated the community's aspirations and priorities into action. In 2013 it was reviewed as per the IPR requirements.

Camden 2040 has six Key Directions, with a number of community outcomes stated under each Key Direction. The following community outcomes are relevant to State of the Environment reporting, and they are linked with the six environmental sectors Land, Air, Water, Noise, Biodiversity and Waste. As per the IPR framework requirements these environmental community outcomes are well integrated within Camden 2040.

- Key Direction 1: Actively Managing Camden's Growth
 - Outcome: Camden has the best of both worlds

- Key Direction 2: Healthy Urban and Natural Environments
 - Outcome: The water is clean
 - Outcome: People breathe clean air
 - Outcome: Bushland is protected
 - Outcome: You can hear the sounds of nature
 - Outcome: Nothing is wasted

Legislative Requirements

Under Section 428A of the Local Government Act 1993, the State of the Environment (SoE) Report is required to be prepared once every four years, and reported in the Annual Report in the year of the council election.

The State of Environment Report is to:

- a. establish relevant environmental indicators for each environmental objective,
- b. report on, and update trends in, each such environmental indicator,
- c. identify all major environment impacts (being events and activities that have a major impact on environmental objectives).



Land

The Camden LGA is one of the fastest growing areas in New South Wales. The population of the Camden LGA has expanded rapidly in the past decades.

Under the NSW State Government's Metropolitan Strategy, the population is planned to increase from the current population of approximately 77,242 people to grow to 212,656 by 2036.

This growth has already delivered rapid development of residential areas such as Oran Park, Gregory Hills, Gledswood Hills, Spring Farm and Elderslie, with numerous other precincts well-advanced in the planning and rezoning process.

The most significant of these is the Leppington North Precinct which will become a major centre incorporating retail, commercial, residential, industrial and civic precinct land uses adjacent to the recently completed railway station which forms part of the South West Rail Link.

The Camden LGA will see significant change from its rural and agricultural past and the ongoing challenge for Council, the community and other agencies, is to manage this growth in such a way as to maximise the many opportunities this growth will bring while at the same time retaining Camden's rural and country history, backdrop and community spirit.

The growth in the Camden LGA is providing a greater diversity of housing choices and facilities and infrastructure to support the increased population. Council continues to support this growth by controlling existing and new development in a dynamic and strategic manner that meets the needs of current and future needs of the community and State Government requirements.

Our Response

Council's many plans and policies apply to manage the right kind of development within the Camden LGA. Other plans and policies are developed by the NSW State Government to ensure sustainable development across the State.

Local Environment Plan and State Environmental Planning Policy

In the Camden LGA, the principal legal instrument for controlling development is the Camden Local Environment Plan (LEP) 2010, with land in the South West Growth Centre being controlled by the State Environmental Planning Policy (Sydney Region Growth Centres SEPP) 2006. These instruments establish different zones which allow certain types of land uses, and identify standards that regulate what kind of development can happen. In the South West Growth Centre, Council is working together with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and other agencies to develop controls for major centres such as Oran Park, Catherine Park and Gledswood.

During this reporting period, five LEP amendments were gazetted which will deliver an additional 2,260 new dwellings; and three growth centre precincts were gazetted which will deliver approximately 7,000 new dwellings. In addition, the Lowes Creek Maryland (Part) Precinct is currently being planned and is anticipated to deliver around 5,400 additional dwellings.

Development Control Plans (DCP)

Land within the LGA is subject to the Camden Development Control Plan (DCP) 2011 that provides a detailed guideline of controls that apply to a particular type of development or in a particular area. Land within the South West Growth Centre is also subject to the Camden Growth Centre Precincts DCP which contains additional provisions for each precinct.

During this reporting period Council managed 11 DCP amendments.



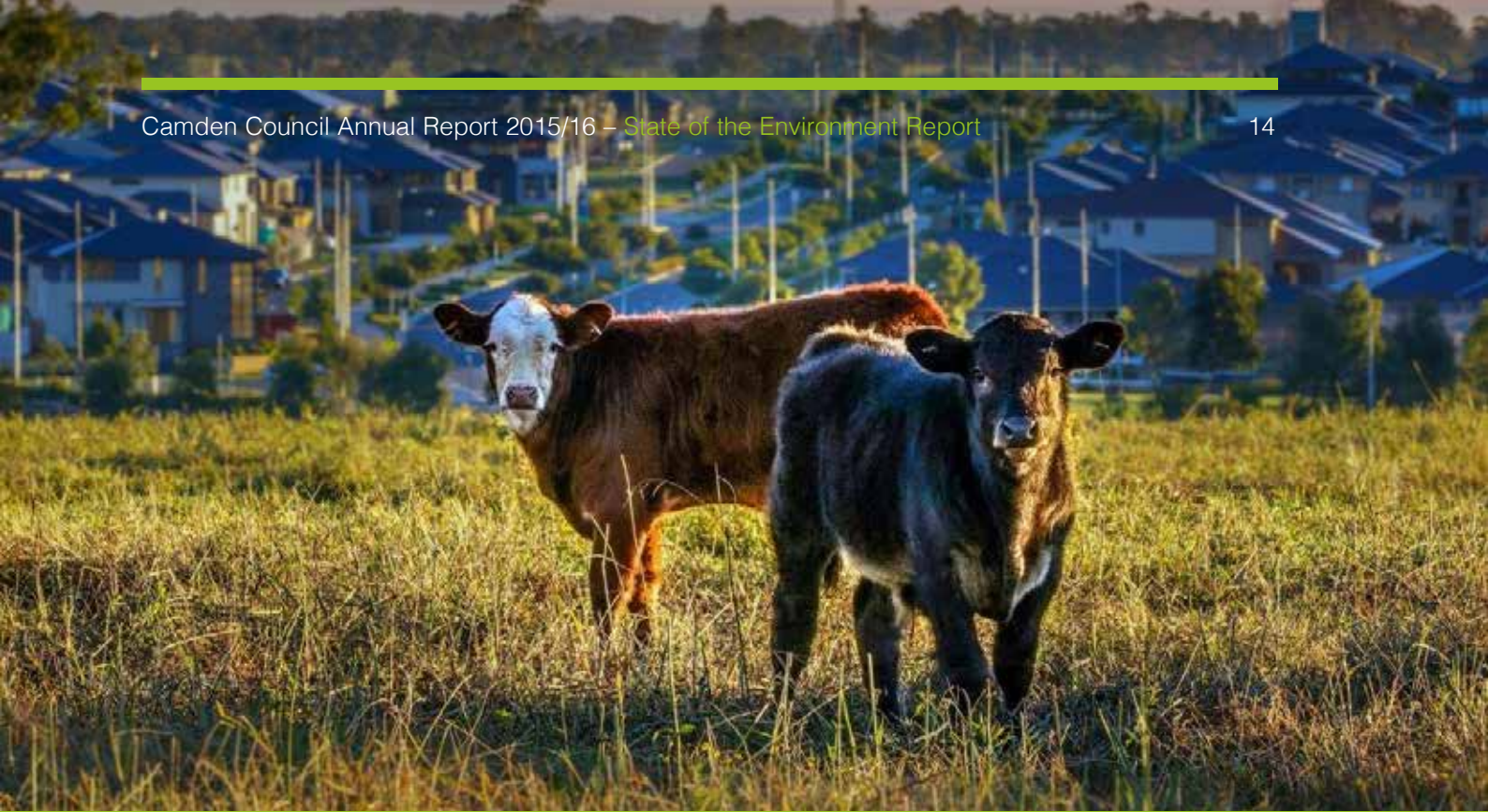


Heritage Conservation

Council in its strategic planning work constantly balances the protection of its important heritage items and areas with the pressures of urban growth to achieve good urban areas. Examples where VPAs have been used to conserve heritage and balance development include:

- the restoration of Orielton Homestead within the Harrington Grove west residential area
- ensuring that there are adequate controls to protect the setting of Denbigh Homestead
- the establishment of curtilages to protect the heritage significance of Oran Park House and Maryland Homesteads within the new residential release areas of Catherine Park and the future Maryland Precinct

These homesteads have been, or are in the process of being, included on the State Heritage Register reflecting their importance as part of Precinct Planning processes.



Rural Lands Study

Council has commenced the Rural Lands Study which will guide Council in its decision making process on matters such as rezonings/planning proposals, development applications, and review of broader strategic plans such as the Camden Local Environment Plan 2010 and Camden 2040.

The Camden LGA is known as a rural region on the fringes of Sydney. Under the Camden LEP 2010, there are three rural zones covering a total area of 10,655 hectares which comprises just over 50% of the land within the LGA. However the resumption of land for the South West Priority Growth Area has resulted in a reduction in rural land of 3,964 hectares.

Bushfire Prone Land Map

The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 requires councils to identify land which can support a bush fire or is subject to bush fire attack.

The Camden Bush Fire Prone Land Map classifies bush fire hazards and associated buffer zones within the Camden LGA. New development on areas identified as bush fire prone land are subject to development and planning controls of the NSW Rural Fire Service Planning for Bushfire Protection.

Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPA)

A VPA is an agreement entered into by a planning authority (such as Council) and a developer in which the developer agrees to provide or fund public amenities and services or other infrastructure. As part of managing the growth within the Camden LGA, Council has entered into a number of VPAs with developers to deliver infrastructure and facilities to create sustainable and connected communities.

Council currently has 13 executed VPAs, and monitors and enforces the implementation of VPAs to ensure the delivery of infrastructure for new residents.



Camden Town Farm Master and Management Plan 2016

The Camden Town Farm Master and Management Plan 2016 were prepared by the Camden Town Farm s355 Committee and were adopted by Council in June 2016. The Master and Management Plan provide strategic focus on local heritage significance, potential development, functions, activities, and direction on the range of agricultural, livestock, community and tourism events.

The Camden Town Farm was bequeathed to Council by Miss Llewella Davies and provides the Camden LGA with a rural precinct that links the agricultural heritage of the Macarthur region to the township.

Nepean River Flood Study

With funding from the NSW Government, Council prepared the Nepean River Flood Study to provide more robust and detailed information of flooding behaviour.

The Nepean River is a major waterway running through the Camden LGA, entering at the southern boundary and exiting at the north western boundary. The Nepean catchment is the largest within the Camden LGA and includes a number of tributaries. Of these tributaries, Narellan Creek is one of the largest, flowing through a highly urbanised region.



The next step of the Floodplain Risk Management Process is to undertake the Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan. This process will assist to refine the existing flooding behaviour and associated hazard, and to investigate any possible mitigation options to reduce flood damage and risk.

Herberts Hill Reserve Specific Area Plan of Management

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, in April 2015 Council adopted the Herberts Hill Reserve Specific Area Plan of Management which addresses heritage, cultural and visual matters and proposes desirable and compatible recreational and community use of land.

Herberts Hill Reserve is located on the southern side of Camden Valley Way at Elderslie. The site is on a prominent hill which is also known as Rheinbergers Hill and comprises Rheinberger's Cottage (a single-storey weatherboard cottage) and its immediate domestic garden area within surrounding hedges. The remainder of the reserve is open space, with a recently installed bike / pedestrian path and dense African Olive infestation along the Camden Valley Way boundary.

Rheinbergers Hill (including the Cottage) is listed as a heritage item in the Camden LEP 2010. Rheinbergers Hill is also listed as a Cultural and Visual Landscape in the DCP 2011.





External Agencies and the Community's Response

Conservation of Heritage Items

The community and external agencies have assisted in undertaking the following work to conserve heritage items:

- Conservation of the Camden Town Farm Barn and sensitive new development in the Camden Town Farm; and
- Securing State government funding to restore the ceilings of Macquarie Grove Cottage, within the Camden Airport land. The ceilings were significant dating from the mid-1800s.



Air

Council recognises the sources that are contributing to poor air quality trends in the form of greenhouse gases, fine particle pollution, photochemical smog and odour.

Air quality refers to the condition or state of the troposphere layer of the earth's atmosphere – the layer that supports all life on earth. The quality of this air is dependent on its gaseous composition and processes of weather namely wind, temperature inversions and rainfall. Warm to hot summers and cool to mild winters typify the climate of the Camden LGA.

Due to the geography and meteorology of the Sydney basin, south-west Sydney experiences higher levels of air pollution in comparison to the remainder of the Sydney Basin. The key factors contributing to the concentration of emissions in south-west Sydney are exacerbated by the temperature inversions and calm wind conditions, especially in winter, which trap pollutants close to the ground surface and inhibit the dispersal of emissions.

Current practices and lifestyle choices have an impact on the composition of the gases in the air. Human activities such as land clearing, industrial production, use of private motor vehicles, use of wood fire heaters, consumption of household energy and lawn mowing generate many air pollutants, locally, regionally and globally. These include sulphur dioxide, nitrous oxide, carbon dioxide, ozone, hydrocarbons, particulate matter and odours.

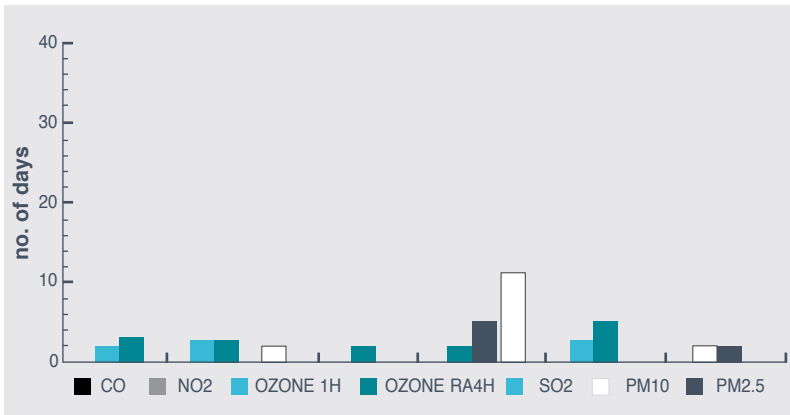
Air quality for the Camden LGA is assessed using readings from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) air monitoring stations located in the Sydney south-west Region.

The Camden air quality monitoring site is located at the Camden aerodrome as a NSW Office of Environment Heritage site to measure the following air pollutants and meteorological parameters:

- O3
- NO, NO2 & NOx
- CO
- Fine particles (by nephelometry)
- Fine particles as PM2.5 using a Beta Attenuation monitor (BAM)
- Fine particles as PM10 using a tapered element oscillating microbalance (TEOM)
- Wind speed, wind direction and sigma theta
- Ambient temperature
- Relative humidity

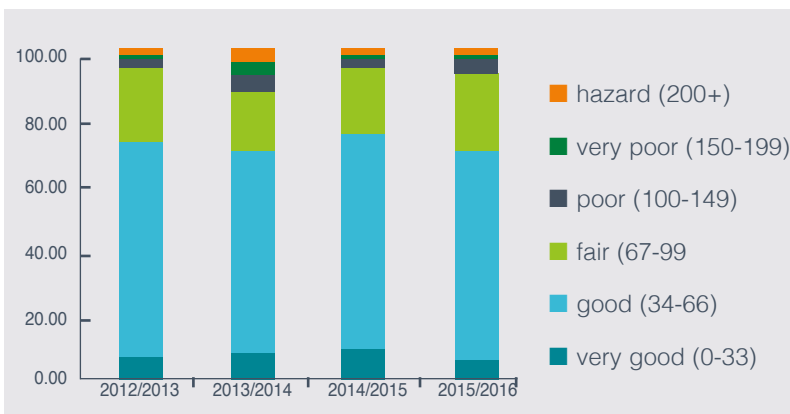
Due to the daily pattern of air flow in the Sydney basin, air pollutants tend to collect and settle in the south-west region. As determined by Graph A, air quality during the reporting period was generally good with no exceedances of carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide or sulphur dioxide in the past six years. There were a few days in which ozone and air particles exceeded the NEPM and in 2013 PM10 level was exceeded on 11 days. This exceedance is due to bushfire activity in western Sydney, the Blue Mountains and Wollondilly.

Sydney South-West – Annual Exceedances



Graph A: Annual exceedances in air pollutants for the Sydney South West region 2010-2015

Air Quality Index (AQI) readings obtained from the regions monitoring stations indicate that in 2012/2013, 2014/2015 and 2015/2016, air quality was considered very good, good or fair for more than 92% of the year. While in 2013/2014, air quality was considered very good, good or fair for 87% of the year due mainly to warm, dry and windy conditions in September and October leading to severe early season bushfire activity in western Sydney, the Blue Mountains and Wollondilly, (below Graph B).



Graph B: AQI categories as a percentage of time

Air quality has remained largely stable over the past five years, although air flow in the Sydney basin does cause pollutants to collect and settle in the Camden LGA.

Our Response

Amendment to the Camden Local Environment Plan 2010

In 2013, Council amended Schedule 2 – Exempt Development of the Camden LEP 2010 to include wood heaters that complied with a range of performance and installation criteria. The changes were a proactive approach to improve air quality in the Camden LGA.

Installation of solid fuel (wood heaters) that do not comply with the performance criteria are still permitted within the LGA subject to the submission and approval of a development application. Development applications are assessed on their merits based on a range of considerations in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.



Wood Smoke Reduction Program

The NSW Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) Wood Smoke Reduction Program aims to raise awareness about the effects of wood smoke on health and the environment and the benefits of correct wood heater operation.

Council participated in the program in 2013 and 2014 receiving funding to promote Wood Smoke Reduction messages to the Camden community and undertook smokey chimney surveillance. In 2013, a cash incentive was provided to encourage residents to shift to a cleaner form of heating.

In 2014, residents were offered a cash incentive to have their wood heater system and flue cleaned professionally. The program also provided funding for smokey chimney surveillance and target rebates to encourage a shift to cleaner forms of heating.

In 2015 and 2016, Council continued to promote Wood Smoke Reduction messages through the use of roadside banners and information on Council's website.

External Agencies and the Community's Response

Consultation Regulation Impact Statement for Reducing Emissions from Wood Heaters

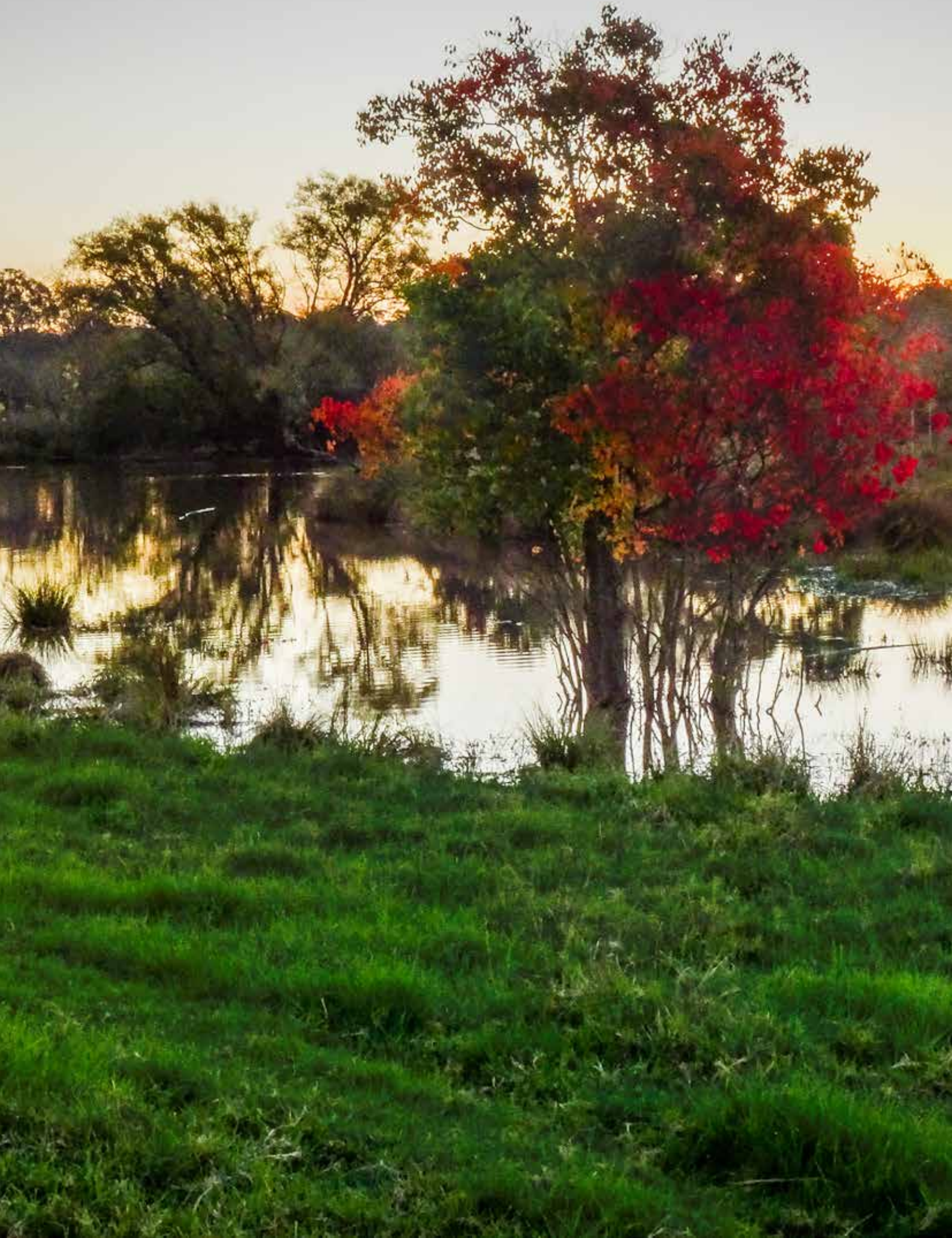
In April 2013, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Standing Council on Environment and Water released the consultation regulation impact statement for reducing emissions from wood heaters for public consultation.

The consultation regulation impact statement explores options for a national policy and/or regulatory framework for reducing emissions from wood heaters. Its purpose is to help the community and stakeholders to identify potential impacts of the various policy and regulatory options presented.

A total of 59 submissions were received in the consultation period including one from Council that outlined actions that are being taken by Council to improve local air quality including changes to Camden Local Environment Plan 2010 and provided comment on current and proposed future regulation models.

In December 2013, COAG replaced its 22 Standing Councils with a set of eight Councils resulting in the revocation of the Standing Council on Environment and Water.







Water

Almost all of the Camden LGA is located within the Hawkesbury-Nepean River Catchment, with a small area (<1%) in the north-east draining into the Georges River Catchment.

The Hawkesbury-Nepean River Catchment consists of an area of over 22,000km² that drains to the Hawkesbury-Nepean River. The Hawkesbury-Nepean River system supports a growing population in over 20 local government areas.

Water quality within Camden is influenced by many factors both within the LGA and in the broader Hawkesbury-Nepean catchment area. There are nine sub-catchments of the Hawkesbury-Nepean catchment in the Camden LGA, these being:

- Bringelly Creek sub-catchment
- Cobbitty Creek sub-catchment
- South Creek sub-catchment
- Kemps Creek sub-catchment
- Nepean Bends sub-catchment
- Narellan Creek sub-catchment
- Sickles Creek sub-catchment
- Matahil Creek sub-catchment
- Spring Creek sub-catchment



The health of our waters is essential for the sustainability of the Camden LGA. As a result of the urban growth, large volumes of fast moving stormwater is directed into our waterways through the gutters and drainage pipes carrying with it pollutants which flow into our wetlands, creeks and the Nepean River, degrading the health of our waterways. However growth is also bringing about opportunities to rehabilitate waterways and stormwater systems to improve the water quality in the Nepean River.

The responsibility for healthy streams and rivers is shared between public authorities and private landholders. It is important to note that the urban development process imposes a range of requirements on developers, some of which involve the installation of stormwater improvement devices and rehabilitation of waterways and riparian areas.



Our Response

Education and Promotion

Several education and promotion activities have been implemented each year to increase our community's awareness of potential polluting activities. These activities include:

- the delivery of Keep NSW Beautiful EnviroMentors – environmental education workshops themed around 'water' or 'catchment' to local schools
- the Macarthur Nature Photography Competition
- an initiative to promote and celebrate healthy catchments and posters displaying stormwater messages such as 'Keep Litter out of the River' displayed in bus shelters across the Camden LGA
- key Stormwater messages are also conveyed in Council's quarterly newsletter 'Let's Connect'



Water Quality Monitoring

With rural lands being transformed into residential suburbs, this growth is increasing the amount of hard surfaces such as roofs, paths, driveways, roads and carparks, which prevent rainwater from absorbing into the ground. These hard surfaces direct large volumes of fast moving stormwater into our waterways through the gutters and drainage pipes. This stormwater carries with it pollutants which flow into our wetlands, creeks and the Nepean River, degrading the health of our waterways.

Over the past four years, Council has undertaken water quality sampling within the Narellan Creek Catchment. The catchment falls within the boundary of the Upper Nepean River Catchment with a catchment area of 3,300 ha and along with its small tributaries, has a total length of approximately 40km, which includes:

- Herbert Rivulet – Lodges Road Narellan
- Oxley Rivulet – Hilder Street Narellan
- Condron Creek – Camden Golf Course
- Cross Creek – Narellan Town Centre
- Campbell Rivulet – Harrington Parkway Harrington Park
- Howe Creek – Camden Bypass Smeaton Grange
- Kenny Creek – Anderson Road Smeaton Grange
- Annan Creek – Hartley Road Smeaton Grange

As a result of continued urban expansion, permanently wet stormwater quality control ponds at Harrington Park Lake, Lake Annan, The Cascades etc, have been constructed within the catchment in an attempt to control stormwater discharges and provide some passive recreational amenity.

In March 2016, Council commissioned a Water Quality Management Device Effectiveness Assessment as part of a review of the Water Quality Monitoring Program. The assessment results from the stormwater management assets and devices, including pollution control basins, wetlands and lakes, indicate a reduction in pollutant loads, which would otherwise drain into the downstream Nepean River.

The reduction of nutrients and other pollutants is particularly demonstrable within the smaller

drainage units or sub-catchments. Given that urban developments have accelerated in many sub-catchments draining to the Narellan Creek it is important that stormwater control assets are maintained.

Stormwater Levy Program

Funding collected through the Stormwater Management Levy provides additional funds to Council to implement stormwater management projects that address catchment issues for the area of catchment in which it is charged. In addition a range of education and promotion activities to help increase our community's awareness of potential polluting activities was delivered. Some of the projects that have been funded by the Stormwater Management Levy include:

■ Lake Annan Gross Pollutant Trap

The design and construction of the Gross Pollutant Trap (GPT) and associated access way was completed in 2015. The GPT will provide a reduction in gross pollutants entering Lake Annan and improve the water quality.

■ Lake Annan Rehabilitation

Council has prepared three concept designs for the rehabilitation of the Lake to address water quality issues.

The issues include:

- high nutrient loads contributing to algal blooms and odour of the Lake in the warmer months
- poor water clarity due to high turbidity
- widespread loss of macrophyte plants
- sediment build up
- localised areas of erosion and bank scalding
- additional nutrient loads due to a large population of Australian White Ibis using the island for breeding

The preferred option to address the above issues and which will have the least impact on visual quality while providing relatively good water quality improvement for the value of works involves:

- providing intensive treatment at the main stormwater inlet
- construction of three floating wetlands
- an inlet zone for sedimentation
- the placement of a reactive layer
- It is expected the rehabilitation works will be implemented in 2016/17



Biodiversity

Biodiversity refers to the variety of all life forms - the different plants, animals, microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems they form. The conservation of biodiversity is essential for supporting human life on Earth. Biodiversity maintains ecosystem productivity and function, thus improving ecosystem stability during climate change and providing a mechanism for the absorption of waste products (State of the Environment Advisory Council 1996).

The Camden LGA lies within the Cumberland Plain, and has rich Nepean River flats and undulating Wianamatta Shale Hills. The main vegetation community is Cumberland Plain Woodland which is made of the two prominent Eucalypts, Grey Box (*Eucalyptus moluccana*) and Forest Red Gum (*Eucalyptus terreticornis*) which typify the remaining treed landscape of Camden.

The ground layer in Cumberland Plain Woodland is typically

made up of grasses such as Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda australis*) and Weeping Meadow Grass (*Microlaeana stipoides*).

The bushland in the Camden LGA contains five vegetation communities which are listed as Critically Endangered Ecological Communities and Endangered Ecological Communities under the Commonwealth's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995. These communities are in varying condition with approximately 2,033ha of remnant good quality vegetation.

Over 580 native plant species have been recorded in the Camden LGA and of these, four are threatened at a National and State Level and 25% are regionally vulnerable. There is a diverse range of fauna species found in the Camden LGA, including 172 birds, of which 12 are threatened species.

At present, there is approximately 158 hectares of bushland which

is under Council's care and control. Some remnant vegetation is protected in reserves.

It is expected that the increasing Camden population will continue to place pressure on natural areas and biodiversity due to habitat clearing, degradation of waterways, and spread of pest animals and weeds. Additional pressures to the biodiversity of the Camden LGA include overgrazing, chemical run-off, irrigation and dryland salinity, erosion and sedimentation, unsustainable firewood collection and rubbish dumping.

The management of bushland is essential for the sustainability of the Camden LGA. Whilst the responsibility is shared between public authorities and private landholders, the employment of two bush regenerators has increased Council's active management and regeneration of bushland within its ownership and enabled an increase in bushcare volunteer opportunities.



Our Response

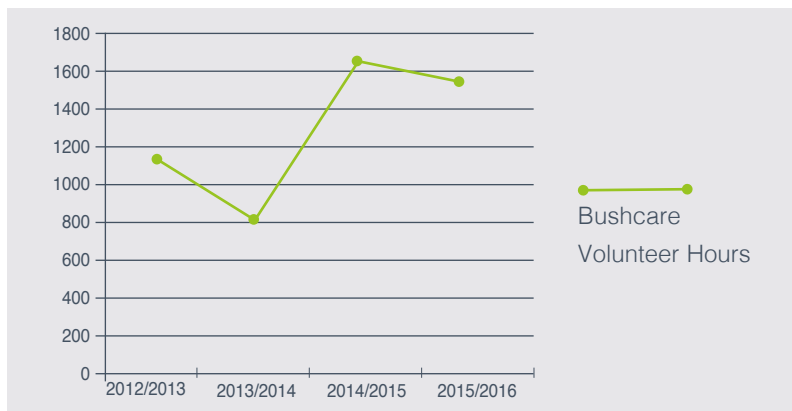
Actively Managing Natural Areas

Council is actively managing 32.3 hectares of natural bushland which represents 20.4% of the natural areas owned and managed by Council. This includes Kings Bush Reserve, Sickles Creek Reserve, Ron Dine Reserve, Hayter Reserve, Parrotts Farm, Gundungurra Reserve, Spring Farm Bush Corridor, Camden Wetlands Reserve and Nepean River Corridor.

Camden Bushcare

Camden Bushcare is an environmental volunteer program established by Council to encourage local communities to actively participate in managing and maintaining the remnant urban bushland areas in the Camden LGA. In 2012/2013, Council had three bushcare groups, two of these at Kings Bush Reserve and one at Sickles Creek Reserve.

Since 2014, additional Bushcare groups have been established at Hayter Reserve, Ron Dine Reserve and Parrotts Farm. Volunteers have also contributed to protecting and enhancing our natural environment through participation at tree planting events and National Tree Day.



Graph C: Volunteer Bushcare hours

As highlighted in Graph C, volunteer Bushcare hours increased overall during the reporting period. Slight fluctuations in the number of volunteer hours are a result of the number of projects and opportunities available people can participate. Volunteers contributed 1150 hours in 2012/13, 834.50 hours in 2013/14, 1630.50 hours in 2014/15 and 1551 hours in 2015/16.

Local Biodiversity Strategy for the Camden LGA

In October 2013, Council adopted a Local Biodiversity Strategy for the Camden LGA to guide in the biodiversity management of public land that is consistent with current legislation, plans and policies.

Following adoption of the Strategy, some of the high priority actions implemented include:

- management of high conservation value lands
- an assessment of the Biobanking potential of Council reserves
- and preparation of a biodiversity corridor masterplan for the Western Hills area

Biodiversity Certification in the Camden LGA Policy

Biodiversity Certification is an assessment option under Part 7AA of the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995, for Planning Authorities to strategically address biodiversity issues for land use proposals.

The Policy outlines the process to confer biodiversity certification, and the responsibilities of Council and proponents pursuing biodiversity certification of land within the Camden LGA.

Council is responsible for making the submission of the formal application for Biodiversity Certification together with the Biodiversity Certification Assessment Report and Biodiversity Certification Strategy which is prepared by the proponent. In addition, Council is responsible for the public exhibition of the proposed Biodiversity Certification in accordance with the Office of Environment and Heritage requirements.

Biodiversity Corridor Masterplan

In October 2013 Council adopted the Camden Local Biodiversity Strategy to guide Council and the community to achieve the vision for biodiversity as expressed in Camden 2040. Council has commenced work to prepare a Biodiversity Corridor Masterplan for the Western Hills precinct, surrounding the Cobbitty and Bringelly townships, to ensure long term protection and management of biodiversity in this mainly rural context with largely private rural landholdings. In addition, Council has initiated a preliminary biobanking feasibility assessment of eight Council reserves. Biobanking of Council's reserves would provide resources for the biodiversity management of the land in perpetuity.

It is also important to note that the urban development process imposes a range of requirements on developers, some of which involve the protection and improvement of endangered bushland. Currently, there are significant bush corridors being identified and regenerated as a result of this process.



Bushland Restoration

Council, through the input of volunteers and contractors, have undertaken the restoration of bushland and riparian areas. This work has been undertaken through the Camden Bushcare Program, National Tree Day Plantings, contract work through grant funded programs and as part of in kind works for subdivisions funded by developers.



Camden Wetlands

In September 2014, Council received funding from the Australian Government's Department of Trade and Investment, Crown Lands to rehabilitate a portion of the Camden Wetlands Reserve to enhance the biodiversity, aesthetic values, and the ecological functions of the wetlands through the removal of woody weeds and revegetation planting of locally native plants with support from volunteers and community engagement.

Ongoing environmental maintenance is being applied to the Camden Wetlands though Council's volunteer Bushcare program to continue engaging the community in wetland management and increasing the local biodiversity values.



Nepean River Trail Habitat Corridor Enhancement and Extension

In March 2015 Council was awarded a grant from the Federal Department for the Environment, through the 20 Million Trees Program, to enhance and extend a portion of the Nepean River Habitat Corridor. A key aim of the project is to protect and enhance the remnant River-flat Eucalypt Forest within the site through Council's Bushcare Program.

The site is located within Rotary Cowpasture Reserve, along the Nepean River, and adjoins King's Bush Reserve. The site area is 2.5 hectares with 2 hectares of woody weeds and 0.5 hectares of remnant River-flat Eucalypt Forest, which is listed as an Endangered Ecological Community under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995.

The project is being conducted over two years with community planting events having already been held on World Environment Day (June 2015 & 2016) and Threatened Species Day (September 2015). Other planting days also occurred for National Tree Day (July 2016) and Threatened Species Day (September 2016). Through these events Council is working with members of the community to plant 10,000 trees and shrubs to revegetate the project site with River-flat Eucalypt Forest species.

Regeneration of Bushland at Gundungurra (South), Spring Farm

In July 2015, Council commenced a partnership with Greater Sydney Local Land Services to control invasive weeds in remnant Endangered Ecological Communities (EECs) within Gundungurra Reserve (South). Three EECs have been mapped within the reserve, Cumberland Plain Woodland (NSW & Commonwealth Critically Endangered), Elderslie Banksia Scrub Forest (NSW Critically Endangered), and River-flat Eucalypt Forest (NSW Endangered).

Professional bush regeneration contractors and volunteers were engaged to assist Council's bush regeneration team to control weeds over a designated core regeneration area (1.5 hectares). Gundungurra Reserve (South) was subject to prolific infestations of the Noxious weeds African Olive, and major environmental weed African Lovegrass as well as Weeds of National Significance Bridal Creeper and Lantana. In order to buffer and protect the condition of regenerating EECs, and build resilience in the Spring Farm Corridor, primary and secondary weed control was undertaken with a long-term view for native plant regeneration and protection.



A key aim of the Nepean River Trail Habitat Corridor Enhancement and Extension project is to protect and enhance the remnant River-flat Eucalypt Forest within the site through Council's Bushcare Program.





Regeneration of Bushland at Elizabeth Macarthur Reserve, Camden South

In February 2016 Council commenced works to regenerate a portion of bushland at Elizabeth Macarthur Reserve, Camden South. The overall aim of the project was to protect and regenerate native remnants of Cumberland Plain Woodland within identified areas of Elizabeth Macarthur Reserve, including the removal and treatment of invasive and noxious weeds (i.e. African Olive, African Lovegrass, Chilean Needle Grass and African Boxthorn) over a 1.7 hectares area.

This project was achieved through implementing on-ground weed management and bush regeneration works to reduce and eliminate the presence of invasive and noxious weeds, and encourage natural regeneration of native plants.

Two patches of bushland have been managed as a 'no-mow' zone for over a decade and has allowed for native grasses, shrubs and some canopy trees to populate the site. Significant fauna species such as Tawny Frogmouths, Bleating Tree Frogs and Cumberland Plain Land Snails have also been found within the site. The population of over 30 Cumberland Plain Land Snails is very significant for the conservation value of the reserve.

Creating Habitat Stags

In December 2015 Council conducted a habitat stag demonstration to install tree hollows in a dead habitat tree in Belgenny Reserve. This project was supported by Greater Sydney Local Land Services through funding from the NSW Government.

The habitat tree had been struck by lightning and needed to be pruned for public safety reasons. As part of the pruning process, branches were retained for bird perches and tree hollows were installed.

Arborists worked to create large hollows in tree limbs suitable for large birds to live in, as well as a hollow specifically designed for microbats called a “bat maze”. Hollows are very important to ecosystem function because they provide animals with a place to shelter, hide from predators, breed in and raise their young.

Protecting habitat trees will greatly assist conservation of bird, bat and mammal species and help to ensure that these animals are not lost from the Camden area.



“ Arborists worked to create large hollows in tree limbs suitable for large birds to live in, as well as a hollow specifically designed for microbats called a “bat maze”.

Management of Australian White Ibis at Lake Annan, Mount Annan

Australian White Ibis (AWI) is a common native Australian waterbird species protected in NSW under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.

In January 2013, Council adopted a Management Plan for Australian White Ibis (AWI) at Lake Annan, Mount Annan for managing a native species in an urban area and simultaneously demonstrating responsible and ethical environmental management which is conducted strategically and sustainably. Since then, innovative management techniques have been applied to humanely manage the population of AWI to reduce impacts on residents and monitor the population and impacts of management techniques.

In early 2016, Council conducted a study for the AWI population residing in Lake Annan.

A major finding of the study was that the management techniques implemented by

Council have resulted in a general decrease in AWI numbers in Lake Annan. The study also concluded that:

- there has been a gradual decrease in the AWI population between 2009 and 2016 since the implementation of management strategies
- AWI are most abundant between July and November (breeding season) and greatly reduced between March and May (non-breeding season)
- some AWI have been recorded breeding year-round since June 2014
- the combined actions of egg-oiling, nest removal, carcass removal and winter ecological burns appear to be effective in reducing the abundance of AWI in the subsequent breeding seasons

Council will continue with the existing management techniques and conduct another study in three years to identify further changes in the AWI population and methods for continued improvement of AWI management.



Green Army

Through funding from the Australian Government, in April 2015 Council formed a partnership with Conservation Volunteers Australia to run Green Army teams in the Camden LGA to enhance habitat of national significance.

The work to be undertaken by the Green Army teams was to restore River Flat Eucalypt Forest along the Nepean River and establish the national Vulnerable species *Eucalyptus benthamii* (Camden White Gum) at the Town Farm and 'Fergusons Land' as well as enhance the habitat of the national Threatened Vegetation Community Cumberland Plain Woodland at the following Council reserves:

- Elizabeth Throsby Reserve, Curran Hill
- Charles Throsby Reserve, Currans Hill
- Spring Farm Bushland Corridor
- Gundungurra Reserve (North)

Council sponsored three consecutive Green Army teams (three stages) from April 2015 to November 2016 with each team to undertake 6.25 hectares of targeted weed removal and revegetation at the Town Farm and Fergusons Land with the planting of 1,000 plants including 50 *Eucalyptus benthamii*, resulting in a total of 18.75 hectares of target weed removal and 3,000 plantings.



Native Plant Giveaway

As part of the Camden Festival's Picnic in the Park event held at Macarthur Park each year, Council provides free native plants to residents to be planted in their gardens and backyards. A variety of native groundcovers, shrubs and trees are available to help improve local biodiversity and to provide a habitat that encourages native fauna into our gardens.



Tree Management Policy

In February 2015, Council adopted a Tree Management Policy to ensure that the value Camden residents place on its trees is reflected through the use of tree species with known qualities and performance and that are relevant to our natural and cultural heritage and vision for how Camden will look in the future.

Noxious Weeds

Council's Noxious Weeds Program implements a number of inspection and on ground projects each year. Key projects include:

- Nepean River Aquatic Weed project: Camden Council leads a collaborative program with Wollondilly and Campbelltown Councils to control Alligator Weed along the Nepean river. This project has been a success and continuously contributes towards improving the biodiversity of the Nepean River
- Control of Green Cestrum in riparian areas along the Nepean River and South Creek, this project contributes towards protecting both environmental and agricultural assets in the region
- Aquatic Weed Control LGA wide, extensive aquatic weed control programs throughout the stormwater and creek network within the LGA which contributes toward the prevention of spread of aquatic weed into significant waterways

The program also includes advice and guidance on best practice weed management to the land managers to assist them in monitoring for new and emerging weed species.

External Agencies and the Community's Response

Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program

The Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program was established in 2008 as part of a package of conservation measures to offset the impacts on biodiversity that are occurring as Sydney's Growth Centres are developed.

In the seven years that the program has been operating, 471 hectares of native vegetation has been protected including establishing the Mater Dei biobank site on the banks of the Nepean River at Cobbitty and protecting 26 hectares of threatened bushland. This land contains:

- 162 hectares of state-listed critically endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland
- 287 hectares of threatened ecological communities other than Cumberland Plain Woodland
- habitat for ten recorded threatened fauna species
- ten threatened plant populations



Bush Mates

Bush Mates is a joint initiative by the National Parks Association of NSW, WWF, Greening Australia and The University of Sydney and is supported by Greater Sydney Local Land Services, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme and WWF. It is a community engagement and education program to establish a respectful and sustainable relationship between communities and wildlife and habitat.

Bush Mates was launched in November 2015 at Harrington Forest, Harrington Park, and included a series of nature walks guided by ecologists, live animal demonstrations and games and activities. Other events have followed at Harrington Forest including a planting day and a Backyard Wildlife Workshop guiding participants on how to attract and protect local wildlife whilst maintaining the aesthetics of their garden.



Biodiversity Certification of Emerald Hills Estate

In 2014, the proponents of Emerald Hills Estate, Macarthur Developments, requested that Council make an application to the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage to confer Biodiversity Certification on the 126.79 hectares of land within the Camden LGA.

As part of the rezoning process, the proponent engaged Ecological Australia to prepare a Biodiversity Certification Assessment Report to inform biodiversity outcomes on the site. This report mapped areas to be retained and certified, identified losses from certified areas, and identified potential conservation measures and offsets for losses of biodiversity.

Following the rezoning, a Biodiversity Certification Assessment Strategy was prepared and it identified that of the 126.79 hectares of land that is proposed for biodiversity certification, 23.4 hectares of both moderate to good and low condition vegetation will require clearing.

To meet the requirements for biodiversity certification, a combination of conservation measures were proposed including the biobanking of the Cumberland Plain Woodland in the E2 conservation zone (on-site) and the purchase and retirement of Biobanking Credits (offsetting off-site) at The Oaks.



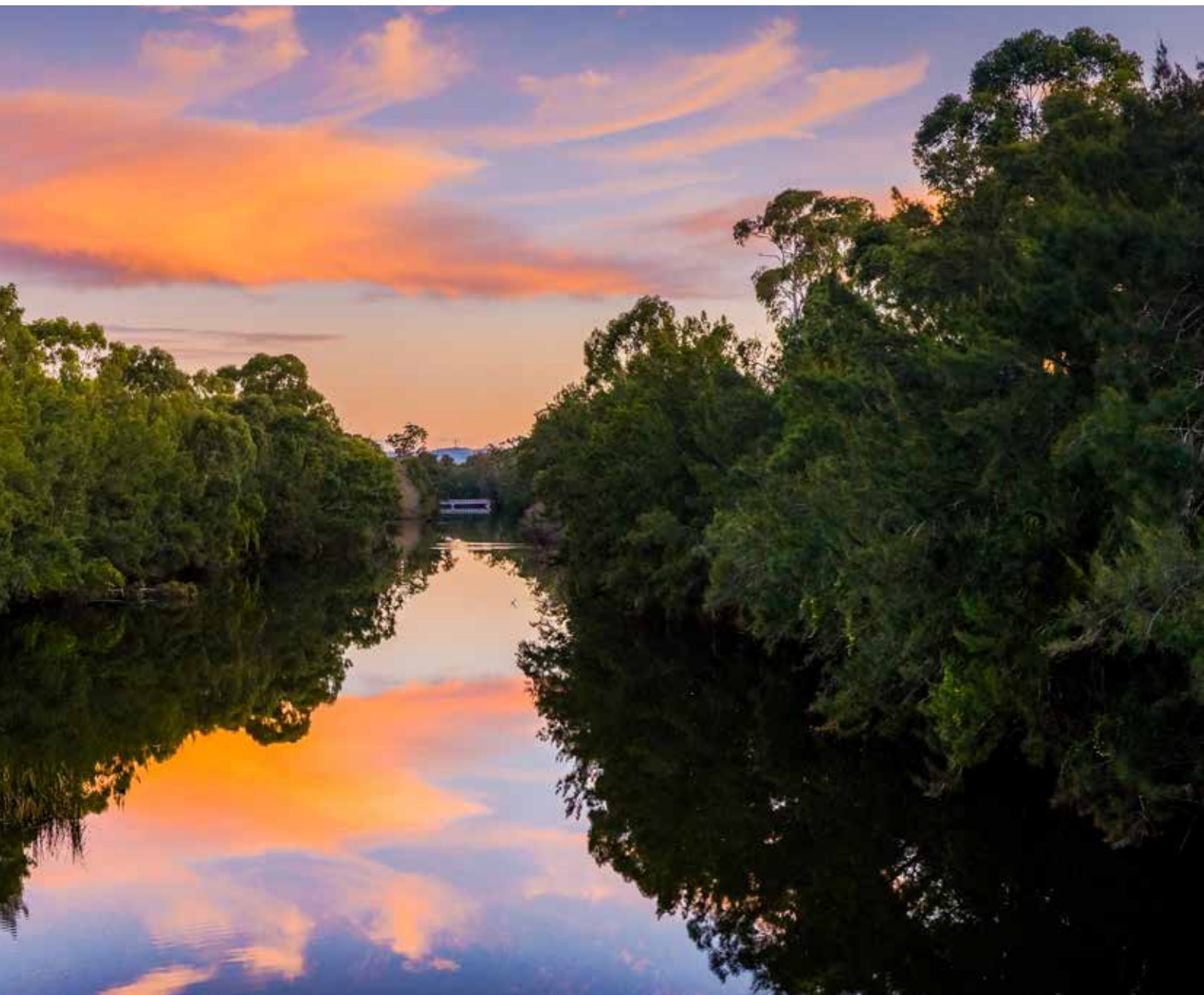
Biobanking Agreements

The NSW Biobanking Scheme was established from Part 7A of the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995. Biobanking is a market based scheme that enables 'biodiversity credits' to be generated by landowners and developers who commit to enhance and protect biodiversity values on their land through a Biobanking Agreement.

In the Camden LGA, there are three certified biobanking sites:

- two at Mater Dei (owned by the Trustees of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan)
- one at Emerald Hills Estate established by the developers DA&I Pty Ltd

Together these biobanking agreements are conserving 103.5 hectares of land for biodiversity.





Noise

Noise is often defined as unwanted or offensive sound that is disagreeable and discordant with normal daily activity. In an urban environment such as the Camden LGA, community noise or environmental noise can be one of the most common pollutants. Noise pollution in the Camden LGA includes the primary sources of traffic, construction, public works and domestic living.

There are two main factors that are contributing to increasing noise levels in the Camden LGA. These are:

- an increasing population, with resultant increases in domestic noise
- activities associated with urban living, particularly increased volumes of traffic on roads

In 2015/2016, Council received 204 noise complaints relating to community activities including barking dogs, music, swimming pool

pumps, air conditioners, trail bikes and other animals. However, more than 55% of these complaints were due to a barking dog. This compares to 211 noise complaints received in 2014/15, with 52% due to a barking dog and 196 noise complaints received in 2013/2014 with 58% relating to barking dogs.

With a growing population and increased urbanisation, it is expected over time that noise levels generated within the community may increase. Current data available on ambient noise levels indicate that the levels have remained relatively stable with higher levels of ambient noise found in areas on major roads, or in commercial and industrial areas where there are greater heavy vehicle movements.

Noise complaints are also an indication of the liveability and amenity of local neighbourhoods. The number of noise complaints has also remained relatively stable.

Our Response

Environmental Noise Policy

Council's Environmental Noise Policy provides a framework and criteria for the assessment of noise impacts from development upon potentially sensitive receivers. The policy also recognises community noise within residential communities that can give rise to significant levels of noise generation and establishes criteria or management techniques by which noise impacts can be regulated and minimised.

Dealing with Neighbourhood Noise Issues

Council receives and investigates complaints regarding neighbourhood noise nuisances, with barking dogs making up over half of the

complaints received for neighbourhood noise issues.

Council has implemented a system to provide the dog owners information of their responsibilities and provide further information on barking dogs. Should further complaints be received, Council may undertake an investigation leading to appropriate notices and/or infringements being issued under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.

In 2015/16, through this system, 69% of complaints were resolved by informing the dog owner of the issue and providing advice on how to deal with the matter.



“ In response to the rapid development within the Camden LGA, the number of services and facilities provided by Council is increasing, as is the frequency in which they are used. This is resulting in significant increases in energy and water consumption. In addition, the land utilised for the purpose of managing waste disposal is rapidly filling up.

Waste

Council's municipal waste collection consists of a three-bin system collected weekly – greenwaste, recycling and general garbage – which is designed to maximise the amount of resources diverted from landfill and recovered for reuse or recycling.

Council also undertakes an on-call bulky household waste collection across the LGA – the Kerbside Clean up, and collects waste material in public place collection points (street and park bins). The commercial garbage and recycling services are available to businesses within the Camden LGA.

In response to the rapid development within the Camden LGA, the number of services and facilities provided by Council is increasing, as is the frequency in which they are used. This is resulting in significant increases in energy and water consumption. In addition, the land utilised for the purpose of managing waste disposal is rapidly filling up.

Council faces a challenge in ensuring that as the population of the area and the facilities and services to the community grows, that in all areas of business, Council utilises energy and water resources efficiently. Council is preparing Energy and Water Management Frameworks to assist in managing and to utilise natural resources efficiently.

In addition Council's ongoing environmental awareness and education continues to see more households taking up initiatives to further improve their environmental footprint.

Our Response

Education for Sustainability Strategy

The Education for Sustainability (EfS) Strategy strives to build the capacity of Council and its community to move purposefully towards a sustainable future – meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Renewable Energy

Council has installed solar photovoltaic cells on the Narellan and Community Libraries and the Narellan Child, Family and Community Centre. In addition, solar photovoltaic systems have been installed at the new Central Administration Building at Oran Park and planned for the upgrade at the Mount Annan Leisure Centre.

Local Government Energy Efficiency Program

In July 2013, Council received funding through the Australian Government's Local Government Energy Efficiency Program to replace existing hot water systems with electric boosted solar hot water systems at the following:

- Camden Senior Citizens Centre
- Camden Family Day Care
- Jumbunna Childcare Centre
- Harrington Park Community Centre
- Currans Hill Community Centre
- Rheinberger's Cottage
- Catherine Field Hall

It is estimated that solar hot water systems will provide 50-90% of the hot water needs of these facilities.

Save Power Kits

Council have kits available to show residents what uses the most power in their home and gives ideas and some easy steps they can take to save money, power and reduce their impact on the environment. The Save Power Kits include a Power-Mate lite to measure the power used by appliances, infrared thermometers to show where energy is escaping, a thermometer to check room and fridge temperatures, stopwatch to measure how long you spend in the shower, a compass to work out which rooms face north (and west) to take advantage of the sun in winter and save money in cooling by shading them in the summer and a user guide. These kits are free to borrow from the Camden or Narellan Libraries.

Fridge Buyback Program

Fridge Buyback is an energy savings program operated by Next Energy Pty Ltd accredited under the NSW Government's Energy Savings Scheme. Under the program, residents can have their second fridge or upright freezer collected by professional removalists with the appliances being degassed and the metals recycled.

Since the program began eight years ago, over 500 fridges and freezers have been collected from the Camden LGA, saving over \$158,000 on electricity costs and 4,200 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, over 47 tonnes of metals have been recycled.



Energy Savings Audits

Council conducted Energy Audits on its ten highest energy consuming facilities to identify cost effective changes in order to reduce the consumption of energy. The ten highest energy consuming facilities included:

- Mount Annan Leisure Centre
- Narellan Library
- Camden Swimming Pool
- Narellan Administration Centre
- Camden Civic Centre
- Camden Administration Centre
- Camden Library
- Works Depot
- Waste Depot
- ArtyCaf

Numerous energy saving opportunities were identified including replacement and upgrades of existing technologies and behavioural changes in the use of technology.

Many of these measures have already been implemented, such as lighting upgrades, review of the Building Management System at Narellan Library, installation of a new air-conditioning system at Camden Civic Centre, sub-metering and the installation of power factor correction at Narellan Library and Mount Annan Leisure Centre. These initiatives resulted in energy savings at these facilities.

Water Savings Audits

Council conducted audits on its ten highest water consuming sites. The ten highest water consuming facilities included:

- Mount Annan Leisure Centre
- Camden Civic Centre
- Nott Oval
- Macarthur Park
- Jack Nash Oval
- Camden Swimming Pool
- Onslow Oval
- Narellan Park
- Wandarrah Reserve
- Bicentennial Equestrian Park

These audits identified numerous actions to reduce water consumption. Many options have been implemented including flow reduction or replacement of taps, showers and toilets to more efficient models to ensure best practice flow rates. Numerous leaks were also identified and repaired. In addition, the installation of rainwater tanks is one of the recommendations.



Better Waste and Recycling Fund

The Better Waste and Recycling Fund was introduced in 2014 under the Waste Less, Recycle More initiative to deliver non-contestable funding for councils in regulated areas (metropolitan) paying the waste levy. This initiative replaced the Waste and Sustainability Improvement Program (WaSIP) that had operated for a number of years. Some of the funded projects include:

Illegal Dumping

Council has developed a policy, strategies and programs for deterring and combating illegal dumping on both public and private lands.

Council has a specifically designed vehicle to pro-actively collect illegally dumped material and litter and maintain a clean environment that would discourage further dumping.

Waste Smart phone app

A Smart Phone app has been developed to provide standard information around Council's Waste service in addition to information on recycling and other waste services available to residents. The app also allows Council to communicate with residents about service issues and upcoming events such as the Household Chemical Clean Out.

Waste Audit

A comprehensive waste audit has been undertaken in the new release areas to gather data and better understand the habits and waste generation of residents in the new release areas.

Love Food Hate Waste

Love Food Hate Waste aims to raise awareness about the





impact of food waste in NSW and reduce how much 'good' food we waste. Love Food Hate Waste is managed by the NSW Government by partnering with corporate, government and not-for-profit organisations committed to reducing food waste in NSW. Council is a registered partner to the Love Food Hate Waste Program and with funding from the NSW Government has implemented the following projects:

Project Lunchbox

Undertaken in 2014/15, Project Lunchbox was an awareness raising and education project undertaken in aimed at addressing food waste and its impact on the environment targeting local families with children and young people aged 18-24 years.

The following resources were developed:

- What's for dinner? Children's Book was created for families with young children and includes tips on reducing food waste
- Seasonal Fruit and Vegetable Pocket Guide – this guide assists consumers in buying fruit and vegetables that are in season.

Cook It! Macarthur

Cook It! Macarthur is a partnership project lead by the Macarthur Regional Organisation of Councils (MACROC), Campbelltown and Camden Councils. The program is being funded through the NSW Governments Love Food Hate Waste Grants Program and will teach residents food waste avoidance skills through a series of cooking clinics. The clinics will provide participants with hands-on experience on avoiding food waste through the full life cycle of a meal, including thoughtful purchasing, storage, portion size and using up leftovers.

Food Waste Avoidance Workshops

Community workshops and information stalls have been provided to educate residents about food waste and to support Council's Love Food Hate Waste Program.

The Macarthur Regional Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy

The Strategy has been developed in collaboration with the region's waste management teams with a strong focus on reducing waste generation and ensuring sufficient services and infrastructure available into the future.

External Agencies and the Community's Response

Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living

The Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living (MCSL) is a non-profit, community driven organisation located within the grounds of the Australian Botanic Gardens Mount Annan which provides functioning displays of renewable solar energy production and use, waste water recycling, water and energy efficiency, waste avoidance and management.

Commenced in 2009/2010, Council has contributed \$30,000 annually towards the operation of the Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living.

Coal Seam Gas

In April 2013, Council adopted a policy position on Coal Seam Gas in the Camden LGA which calls for a moratorium on further Coal Seam Gas exploration and production in the Camden LGA until such time as the required research is carried out.

With pressure on existing gas and energy reserves, there was a move towards the extraction and use of CSG, including in the Camden LGA and surrounding region. With the increase in production and experience there has been increased exposure in the realm of CSG and the Camden Gas Project in particular. With this exposure there has been ongoing environmental and health concerns raised by the residents of the Camden LGA.



Camden Gas Project

The Camden Gas Project has been producing CSG since 2001 with the project originally being carried out by Sydney Gas Limited. Since AGL's takeover of Sydney Gas Limited in 2009, the wells have continued operation and expanded to include a network currently consisting on:

- 86 producing CSG wells;
- 100km of gas gathering lines and associated infrastructure
- The Rosalind Park Gas Plant, located in the Menangle area for gas treatment and sales

AGL is currently operating under Petroleum Production Licences (PPL) 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 and has 100% ownership and operations of the Project. No new wells have been drilled as part of the project since September 2012 and AGL relinquished Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL) 2 in July 2015 as part of the Upstream Gas Review and announced that the proposed Camden North Expansion Project would no longer proceed.

In February 2016, AGL announced that it will progressively decommission wells and rehabilitate sites at the Camden Gas Project prior to ceasing production in 2023.

Household Chemical Clean Out

Council supports the NSW Government's annual Chemical Clean Out event which provides residents the opportunity to dispose of household chemicals in a safe and environmentally friendly manner.

Date	Waste Collected (Kgs)	Number of People
31/1/2016	38,941	1,128
1/2/2015	28,480	780
2/2/2014	22,077	560
3/2/2013	27,323	639

The main waste collected each year is water based paint, followed by oil based paint, oils, lead batteries, gas cylinders (propane) and hydrocarbons and fuels.

E-Waste Service

The Spring Farm Resource Recovery Facility offers a free e-waste (electronic waste) recycling service for residents and small businesses in the Camden LGA. E-waste includes equipment such as televisions, computers, laptops, printers, scanners and other peripherals.

Mobile Muster

Mobile Muster is the Australian mobile phone industry's official product stewardship program. It's a free mobile phone recycling program that accepts all brands and types of mobile phones, plus their batteries, chargers and accessories.

Over 90% of the materials used in a mobile phone are recyclable and can be reused, avoiding future greenhouse gas emissions, saving energy, protecting our environment conserving scarce natural resources.

Council is a partner to Mobile Muster providing a drop off collection point for mobile phones and their accessories. Over the past five years, 64.6kgs of mobile phones have been collected from the Camden LGA.





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Photography

The photographs featured throughout this Annual Report have been obtained from many sources including professional photographers, local developers, stock image suppliers and Council officers – thank you to all photographers.