

# **Wingecarribee Shire Council**



**Supplementary State of the Environment Report  
2007/2008**

## **Introduction**

This report is produced in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993, which requires the Wingecarribee Shire Council to produce a State of the Environment (SOE) Report annually.

This Report is a ***Supplementary Report*** and provides updated information on environmental impacts since the last comprehensive report in 2003/2004. This Supplementary Report should be read in conjunction with the last Comprehensive Report, as the Comprehensive report provides detailed information on indicators, pressures and actions which have been summarised in this report. The Comprehensive Report is available online at: [www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/environment/1172.html](http://www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/environment/1172.html).

This report provides information on Land, Water, Biodiversity, Air, Waste, Noise and Heritage issues. Each section in the report is addressed according to a model called the State, Pressure, and Response Model. The Pressure segment describes the factors influencing the environment, the State section describes the present condition, and the Response heading describes what activities are being done to influence the situation. As this report is produced and owned by Council, the response segment is dominated by Council's own response, but in some cases may include examples of community or individual activities.

This SOE Report sees the introduction of a new format which is being trialled for Council's Supplementary SOE Reports. This format aims to summarise the main issues affecting each environmental parameter, and present this information in a simple table format. In this way, the information should clearly identify the factors effecting each environmental issue, and what actions are being undertaken in response to these factors. Also it should be apparent when there are gaps in actions and when future responses are needed.

## **How the SOE Report is Used**

The SOE provides the community with information about the Shire's environment and the various pressures that are being placed on it.

The report provides Council with a gap analysis as it helps to identify where the community is not responding to pressures and threats. The SOE Report needs to inform the management planning process, and recommendations should dictate where programs, resources and outcomes are required.

Cover Photo: Wingecarribee River

## Land

*Land is essential to support terrestrial ecology, sustain land uses eg agriculture, urban development, and transport infrastructure. Council's objective must be to manage land use change in a way which integrates social, economic and ecological objectives.*

Issue	State	Pressure	Response
Land Use & Land Use Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The major Land Use Zonings (by land area) across the shire are Agricultural (43%), Environmental Protection (28%), Special Uses Water catchment (23%), and Residential (2.5%).</li> <li>Agricultural practices are mainly grazing with some potato and dairying in the Robertson, Burrawang, and Kangaloon areas. Smaller farm sizes have led to diversification of agriculture, including vineyards, and boutique farming.</li> <li>Development pressure remains high with approximately 1331 Land Use Applications approved in 2007/2008. Application numbers remain high in the main townships, and are increasing in various villages.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proximity of the shire in the Sydney Canberra Corridor means that population and development pressure will continue into the future.</li> <li>99 Subdivision applications (including construction certificates) were approved in 2007/2008 creating at least 265 new lots. 2 Strata title and 14 boundary adjustments were also approved. Subdivisions were created across most zones, with the majority in village zones and town residential areas.</li> <li>Intensification of land use often results in pressures on ecosystems from land clearing, weed invasion, pest animals, and likely decreased water quality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Wingecarribee LEP is the main environmental planning instrument used by Council for land use planning and development decisions. This establishes land use zones which indicate what is permitted and prohibited on certain areas of land.</li> <li>A new LEP has been drafted, and was placed on public exhibition between November 2007- February 2008. There are a number of aims stated in the Draft Plan which cover both the broader and specific issues. However, without doubt there are two priority aims set out in the draft plan which are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Conserve and enhance, for current and future generations, the ecological integrity, environmental heritage and environmental significance of Wingecarribee Shire; and</li> <li>➢ Maintain the Shire's original settlement pattern of towns and villages dispersed throughout a rural and native vegetation landscape.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Council's DCPs provide details and standards for application of the LEP.</li> <li>The Sydney – Canberra Corridor Regional Strategy has been approved by the Department of Planning. This provides a 25-year blueprint to guide growth, improve housing affordability and protect valuable natural resources along the regional corridor between Sydney and Canberra.</li> </ul>

			<p>The strategy identifies a projected population increase of 15,500 by the year 2031, with a dwelling demand of 8,700.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Drinking Water Catchments Regional Environmental Plan No 1 (REP) commenced 1 January 2007, and provides the following:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Sets water quality objectives for the catchments,</li> <li>➢ Requires the SCA to develop rectification action plans (RAP's)</li> <li>➢ Requires Council to prepare and review LEPS, including consideration of strategic land and water capability assessments (SLWCAs), and</li> <li>➢ Requires Council to assess and approve new developments and activities in the catchments and apply the requirements for proposals to have a neutral or beneficial effect on water quality.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Vegetation Clearing	<p>It is estimated that 63% of the shire remains vegetated with native forests. The main vegetation communities present are Mittagong Sandstone Woodland, Hawkesbury Sandstone, Wingebarrie Woodland, and Bindook Porphyry Dry Woodland. These four communities account for 55% of the remnant vegetation in the shire and cover nearly 34% of the shire.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land clearing is the biggest threat to biodiversity in the shire.</li> <li>• Significant tracts of vegetation remain on unprotected lands, and remain subject to land use change and potential clearing.</li> </ul>	<p>The tools for restricting or controlling the clearing of vegetation includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>DNR</u> – Under the <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i>, there are restrictions on clearing.</li> <li>• <u>Council</u> – Council's LEP restricts clearing in 7(A) and 7(B) zones (2(B) under the TPO).</li> <li>• The TPO requires approval for the removal of trees from an Endangered Ecological Community and approval to remove certain rare trees.</li> <li>• Flora and Fauna Assessment Guidelines for Development Applications (Refer to Biodiversity section for more details)</li> </ul>
Soil Degradation (Erosion & Salinity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data exist for erosion potential for part of the Shire (70%). The following areas are subject to the following erosion:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Mass Movement – 1990 Ha</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main contributor to erosion is vegetation clearance, and uncontrolled excavation activities.</li> <li>• Erosion adversely affects the environment in a number of ways including;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sediment and Erosion control issues are considered in the assessment process for Land Use Application</li> <li>• A <b>WOFE</b> funded Environmental Officer patrols building sites and developments, to</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Minor – 284,529 Ha</li> <li>➤ Moderate – 556,252 Ha</li> <li>➤ No Erosion – 1,072,567 Ha</li> <li>➤ Severe – 152073 Ha</li> <li>➤ Very Severe – 152 Ha.</li> <li>• 8 Ha of salt affected land has been mapped at the upper reaches of the Paddys River / Uringalla Creek.</li> </ul>	<p>Habitat loss, scouring, increase water turbidity and nutrients levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The DNR's "Southern Highlands Groundwater Technical Status Report (1999)" notes that the potential exists for the development of land salinisation in areas of poor groundwater quality such as the Wianamatta Group shale.</li> <li>• Rising groundwater levels have been experienced over much of rural NSW due to changes in the natural hydrogeological balance caused by modern farming practices and the replacement of native deep rooted vegetation with shallow rooted crops.</li> <li>• Groundwater rises are often associated with increased recharge to shallow and deep aquifers with saline groundwater approaching the ground surface.</li> </ul>	monitor and control erosion and sediment control practices.
Extractive Industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 26 active quarries and two producing coal mine are located within the Shire. Table 2.6.shows the Shire Register of Mines and Extractive Industries.</li> </ul>	<p>Demand for quarries in the Shire is expected to remain high. This is due to numerous reasons including the level and variety of infrastructure needs, the diminishment of resources closer to Sydney and increasing cost effectiveness of Rail and road transport. Indications are that the major companies who hold consents in the area that have not yet commenced extraction are moving towards extraction in the near future.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Employs an Environmental Planner (which covers quarry operations) to regulate consents and facilitate high standard environmental outcomes.</li> <li>• A Council representative sits on the Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee (C.C.C), the Mt Flora C.C.C, Mt Flora Rail C.C.C, Dendrobium Community Enhancement Fund and the Wingecarribee Swamp Committee.</li> </ul>

#### **Future Considerations and Data Gaps:**

- **A strategic, holistic approach is needed to manage land issues, particularly when managing land use change and vegetation clearing. Improved resources and key instruments or tools that contribute to increased knowledge and understanding of the local environment are needed to address these gaps. This will enable increased efficiency and effectiveness of the decision making process.**

## Water

*Aquatic ecosystems fulfil crucial ecological, chemical and geomorphic functions, such as flood mitigation, nutrient cycling. They provide essential links in aquatic and terrestrial food chains.*

Issue	State	Pressure	Response
Surface Water Quality	<p><i>The Naturally rich agricultural soils of the Wingecarribee Shire, prolonged application of super-phosphate and extensive soil and subsoil erosion has left this region with a legacy of potentially eutrophic streams and rivers.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turbidity levels are high, and correlate with soil and bank erosion, level of development and impervious surfaces.</li> <li>• Nutrient levels (P&amp;N) routinely exceed guideline values in many locations.</li> <li>• Faecal coliform bacteria levels are high, and increase dramatically with rain events. Dry weather sources are probably direct faecal contamination by unfenced stock.</li> </ul> <p>(M.O'Donnell, G.O'brien, A. Hutton, 2006)</p>	<p><i>Due to the potentially eutrophic condition of streams and in Rivers in the Wingecarribee region, lower flows, stagnation, and increasing temperatures will facilitate the development of algal blooms and anoxic conditions degrading ecosystem health, lowering amenity and the suitability of water for human consumption. Therefore climate change may lead to greater frequency of these occurrences.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surface Water extractions lower environmental flows. This is directly related to public demand and consumption. 5273 Mega litres were extracted for town water use. This is a decrease of nearly 10% since last year.</li> <li>• Degraded and /or destabilized riparian zones lead to erosion, loss of biodiversity and poor water quality.</li> <li>• Sediment and erosion as a result of development and unstabilised soils increase turbidity and nutrient load.</li> <li>• Uncontrolled stock access degrades and destabilizes the riparian zone, causes soil compaction, leads to defecating directly into waterways, and reduces water quality.</li> <li>• Sewerage Treatment Plants are still</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Action Plan 2007-2016 – This plan sets the direction for the activities and investment of the Hawkesbury Nepean CMA over the next ten years and was approved by the Minister for Environment and Climate Change in March 2008.</li> <li>• The Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority – <u>River restoration project</u> - On ground works with landholders including revegetation, weed and erosion control, fencing and provide off-river watering systems for stock. <u>Bushland conservation project</u> – assisting landholders to conserve and enhance native vegetation, by fencing, plantings, and weed control. - <u>Catchment protection scheme</u> – On ground works with landholders aimed to repair severe gully, stream bed and bank erosion.</li> <li>• <b>WOFE program</b> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Rehabilitation of public owned river corridors.</li> <li>➢ Targeted environmental review program</li> <li>➢ Sediment and Erosion control inspection program.</li> <li>➢ Construction of stormwater pollution control devices.</li> <li>➢ Environmental education.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Council's Stormwater Management Plan Outlines priority actions for implementation. A review is under way to ensure that it reflects changing priorities, and to achieve better</li> </ul>

		<p>major point sources of nutrients.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stormwater through and from developed land can carry nutrients, trace metals, hydrocarbons, and pathogens. Linked to the amount of impervious surfaces within a catchment.</li> </ul>	<p>integration into Council Management Plans, budgeting processes, policy documents and reporting mechanisms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council is implementing the On Site Sewerage Management Strategy. An officer has been employed (with part funding from the SCA for this year), and monitoring inspections have occurred.</li> <li>• Council Sewerage Strategic Plan – this plan outlines the operation and future works associated with Council's 5 Sewerage Treatment Plants. One of the aims of this plan is the achievement of effluent of a quality which exceeds the licence requirements.</li> <li>• Council has implemented a liquid trade waste program to control the quality of sewage from commercial premises, resulting in better quality effluent being discharged.</li> <li>• Water consumption controlled by mandatory use of water saving devices and a step pricing policy.</li> <li>• Council undertakes a street sweeping program of urban areas.</li> </ul>
Ground Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The primary groundwater recharge area appears to be the upper unit of the Hawkesbury Sandstone. The groundwater extracted is high quality.</li> <li>• Data from the DNR monitoring bores have indicated that there has been an overall decline in the water level over the past few years. This decline is attributed in part to reduced rainfall but also to large volumes of water being extracted from nearby bores.</li> </ul> <p>The parishes of Bong Bong, Mittagong and Sutton Forest already have groundwater entitlements exceeding the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pressure on the ground water resources within the shire has increased significantly due to drier conditions, increased rural and urban development and an embargo on new surface water extractions.</li> <li>• A 60% increase in bore license applications has been received by DNR since 1998.</li> <li>• Inappropriate land use or activities in recharge zones may pollute groundwater resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DNR has placed an embargo on all new commercial groundwater licences in the parishes of Berrima, Bong Bong, Mittagong, Sutton Forest, Yarrunga, Belangalo, Murrimba, Wingello, Bundanoon, Burke, Kangaloon, and Wongawilli.</li> <li>• Council is implementing the On Site Sewerage Management Strategy. An officer has been employed (with part funding from the SCA for this year), and monitoring inspections have occurred.</li> </ul>

	sustainable limit. The parishes of Berrima and Yarrunga are already approaching their extraction limit.		
--	---	--	--

**Future Considerations and Data Gaps:**

- A broader organisational approach needed to manage water issues, particularly when managing land use change, including new urban releases and riparian areas. Greater education and commitment across the organisation is required to proactively manage water related issues including a Total Water Cycle Management and Action Plan. Our Stormwater management Plan needs to be updated to consider changing priorities.
- Commitment to implementing components of the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Action Plan.
- WOFE program needs to continue to enable Council to address the issues raised in the SOE report.

## Biodiversity

*Biodiversity is the cornerstone of all natural systems. It plays a significant role in maintaining physical environments, providing human needs in the food chain, and supports major industries such as agriculture, forestry, and tourism.*

Issue	State	Pressure	Response
Ecological Communities	<p>49 ecological communities have been identified and mapped in the Shire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is estimated that 63% of the shire is remains vegetated with native forests.</li> </ul> <p>The main vegetation communities present are Mittagong Sandstone Woodland, Hawkesbury Sandstone, Wingebaribee Woodland, and Bindook Porphyry Dry Woodland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approximately 346 wetlands located</li> <li>6 Endangered ecological communities (including montane swamps and peatlands).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land management practices, including broad scale land clearing.</li> <li>Intensification of land use.</li> <li>Agricultural practices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protected areas – 11 DECC National Parks, Recreational areas or Nature Reserves - Sydney Catchment Authority areas mutually managed with DECC - 11 Council managed bush reserves.</li> <li>Voluntary conservation agreements with DECC (2 properties – 70 Ha), and DNR (8 properties – 78 Ha).</li> <li>Endangered Ecological Communities and certain rare trees are protected in Council's Tree Preservation Order (TPO).</li> <li>Flora and Fauna Assessment Guidelines for Development Applications – Council guidelines have been prepared to provide guidance to Council planners and potential developers on the preparation and use of Flora and Fauna Assessment Reports. The guidelines aim to maintain biodiversity in the shire and reduce the impact of development.</li> <li><b>WOFE Program</b></li> <li>➤ Voluntary Management Agreements with Council to conserve remnant endangered bushland.</li> <li>➤ Bush regeneration projects (WOFE supported)</li> <li>➤ Wingebaribee Bushcare Program</li> <li>➤ Wetland restoration projects.</li> </ul>
Native Species	<p>DECC's Flora and Fauna atlas showed 1210 plant species and 352 native animal species identified in the shire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14 plant species are listed at</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land management practices including land clearing, and rock removal.</li> <li>Habitat loss and fragmentation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issues are considered to some degree in the Development assessment process</li> <li>Endangered Ecological Communities and certain rare trees are protected in Council's Tree</li> </ul>

	<p>Endangered and 16 species as Vulnerable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 animal species are identified as Endangered and 34 species as Vulnerable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intensification of land use.</li> <li>• Fire regimes that are too frequent disrupting the lifecycles of plants and animals.</li> </ul>	<p>Preservation Order.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protected areas (see above).</li> <li>• Flora and Fauna Assessment Guidelines for Development Applications (See above).</li> <li>• Wingeerribee Bush Fire Risk Management Plan includes Biodiversity regime guidelines.</li> </ul>
Pest Plants and Animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 9 species of pest animals present in the shire including wild dogs (numbers are on the increase), rabbits, wild pig, goats, deer and foxes.</li> <li>• 18 Noxious weeds and numerous environmental weeds identified in the Shire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main causes of weed introduction include land disturbance and clearance (including pasture), livestock and stock movements, contaminated feed, and windborne (eg. serrated tussock). Spread of weeds exasperated by lack of coordinated cooperation between landholders.</li> <li>• Numerous environmental weeds are 'escapees' from gardens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinated control programs for certain species of pest animals are undertaken by Council, DECC and RLPB (<b>WOFE</b> supported)</li> <li>• Weed reductions programs undertaken in protected lands such as Council reserves and National Parks. Works in Council reserves undertaken by Bush Regeneration officers and Bushcare groups) (<b>WOFE</b> supported)</li> <li>• Inspections of private property for noxious weeds (including mapping of infestations) and enforcement program undertaken by Council.</li> <li>• Roadside Weed Control Strategy</li> <li>• Council produces education material on noxious and environmental weeds and conducts education programs</li> </ul>

#### Future Considerations and Data Gaps:

- **Council needs to utilise planning tools to reduce fragmentation, and loss of significant ecological communities, support no net loss of native vegetation communities, address links between areas of significant communities, and protect remnant vegetation.**
- **WOFE program needs to continue to enable Council to address the issues raised in the SOE report, including the development and adoption of phase II of the Biodiversity Strategy.**

## Air

*Good Air quality is a prerequisite for good health. Some pollutants also effect the global environment and can lead to climate change. A changing climate will detrimentally affect the Shire.*

Issue	State	Pressure	Response
Local Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Local air quality is seasonally impacted by Wollongong – Sydney airshed.</li><li>National Pollution Index (NPI) identifies 43 substances emitted from 44 sources. 10 facilities reported to the NPI.</li><li>Indicative top sources are Motor Vehicles (18%), Domestic and Commercial Solvents and Aerosols (12.2%), Architectural surface coating (8.6%), Concrete Product manufacturing (7.2%),</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Increasing population and development.</li><li>Increasing number of motor vehicles being registered / used in the shire (39% increase in 10 years).</li><li>Incorrect burning of woodheaters and inappropriate backyard burning.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Council regulation and control of backyard burning. Media articles are produced on these controls</li><li>Council has education material available on woodsmoke reduction. Patrols are conducted to identify problem premises.</li><li>Council has approximately 24 km of bicycle tracks which it maintains across the shire.</li><li>Council Green car option – increased fuel efficiency in a number of Council vehicles. (31% of Council's passenger vehicles)</li></ul>
Greenhouse gases	An inventory of greenhouse gas emissions undertaken in 2005 showed that Council emissions were 11,450 tonnes of CO2-e and Community emissions at 685,072 tonnes of CO2-e. These are increases of approximately 40% since 1996 levels.	Despite a number of abatement measures, emissions are increasing significantly. Factors are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Increasing population.</li><li>Increasing energy use in domestic, commercial, industrial, and transport sectors</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Council's Green Car Option - see above (18 t/yr)</li><li>Council uses energy efficient office equipment (15t/yr)</li><li>Council's purchase of Green Power (340 t/yr)</li><li>Council's Showerhead replacement Program (1,068 t/yr)</li><li>Green waste diversion (16,689 t/yr)</li><li>Council's Energy Smart Housing Policy.</li></ul>

### Future Considerations and Data Gaps:

- Council needs to increase its commitment and efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the shire, and minimize the impacts of fires and wood heating.**

## **Waste**

*The management of waste has become increasingly important as the amount of waste generated continues to expand as a result of increased domestic consumption, continued building activity, and increasing commercial supply.*

<b>Issue</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Pressure</b>	<b>Response</b>
Waste Stream and Disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Resource Recovery Centre at Moss Vale is the centre for Waste Transfer Facilities. The Centre contains waste collection facilities, recycling facilities, and green waste collection facilities. Wastes going to landfill are transported to the regional landfill at Jack's Gully. The only active landfill site in the Shire is Bowral Brick Works inert waste landfill.</li><li>• Despite the continuing increase in the waste stream, the total amount of waste that is going to landfill is continuing to decrease</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Growing waste stream – The amount of waste being generated continues to increase.</li><li>• Increasing population and associated development.</li></ul>	<u>Council Waste Management Strategies include:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Waste minimization strategies</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ Reduction of plastic bag use</li><li>➢ Waste wise education</li><li>➢ Promoting composting and worm farms.</li><li>➢ RRC pricing and service</li><li>➢ Cost incentives</li></ul></li><li>• <u>Resource Recovery</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ Domestic and Commercial recycling program.</li><li>➢ Approximately 70% of waste is recycled or reprocessed.</li><li>➢ Vertical Composting Unit - composting of Organic Waste / food trial.</li></ul></li></ul>
Litter and Illegal Dumping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Illegal dumping incidences remain high, both on public land, and private land.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Incidence of illegal dumping may increase as waste disposal fees are raised to reflect actual disposal costs.</li><li>• Increasing amount of building waste being brought into the shire and dumped illegally.</li></ul>	<b>WOFE</b> supports the employment of a Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) squad officer to investigation, enforce and educate on illegal dumping.

### **Future Considerations and Data Gaps:**

- **Council needs to continue to support the Resource Recovery Centre operations, and implementation of its strategic management plan.**

## Noise

*Unwanted noise can affect public amenity, rest and enjoyment. It directly affects the amenity of the shire.*

Issue	State	Pressure	Response
Residential Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anecdotal evidence shows that background levels are relatively low. The number of barking dog complaints remain high</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Majority of noise complaints relate to barking dogs – factors relate to rate of dog ownership, responsible ownership, and the number of houses left vacant during working hours.</li> <li>Domestic activities such as air conditioner use, and music.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complaint investigation.</li> <li>LEP provisions relating to the location of Air conditioner installations.</li> <li>Education material disseminated on an as needs basis.</li> </ul>
Commercial and Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occasional complaints relating to these activities.</li> <li>Most issues relate to hours of operation, and activities on the fringe of zones.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing construction and commercial base.</li> <li>Emphasis on infill development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The development assessment process allows for potential noise impacts to be considered, with acoustic reports being requested for activities likely to generate a noise nuisance.</li> <li>Conditions of approval may restrict hours of operation and noise levels measured at property boundaries. As well as controlling nuisance impacts, the NSW EPA Industrial Noise Policy also allows for the impact on the amenity criteria to be determined.</li> </ul>
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noise from transport corridors (road and rail).</li> <li>Number of vehicles on roads to reflect population and development demands.</li> </ul> <p>Noise from recreational vehicles, particularly trail bikes, poses a threat particularly to the shires villages, and rural communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in population and development will mean more road users, and potentially noisier communities.</li> <li>Both internal and external (Sydney) users, likely to increase the legal and illegal use of recreational vehicles in the shire, both on private land, reserved land, and crown land.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complaint investigation.</li> <li>Development assessment process allows for potential noise impacts to be considered</li> </ul>

### Future Considerations and Data Gaps:

- Continued commitment needed to complaint resolution, policy development for key areas, and appropriate assessment of Land Use Applications.

## **Heritage**

*Natural and Cultural heritage is worth conserving because it builds individual, community, and national identities; it defines who we are and by maintaining links with the past a sense of continuity within a changing society is provided.*

<b>Issue</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Pressure</b>	<b>Response</b>
Aboriginal Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NPWS records indicate that there are 402 significant Aboriginal sites within the shire.</li><li>• Key sites have been destroyed, and as much of the Gundungarra literature was contained on trees that have now been cleared, there is little chance of learning more.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dispossession and Urban Development.</li><li>• Land use change and intensification.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The principal laws which deal with Aboriginal heritage in New South Wales are the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, the National Parks and Wildlife Act and the Heritage Act.</li><li>• The Local Environment Plan (LEP) contains extensive provision for the identification and preservation of both Aboriginal and Non Aboriginal Heritage items and sites.</li></ul> <p>Wingecarribee Aboriginal Advisory Committee</p>
Non Aboriginal Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There are approximately 350 items of heritage identified in the Wingecarribee Local Environment Plan 1989. Of these 38 items are also subject to controls under the NSW Heritage</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Land Use Change - Decline of rural industries could mean a significant loss to farm culture and changes to the rural landscape.</li><li>• Lack of knowledge – Identification tends to be on an ad hoc basis.</li><li>• Physical condition and deterioration</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Heritage Advisory Committee- considers heritage listings, development applications, policies, and grants and funding.</li><li>• Conservation Areas – in Bowral, Bundanoon, and Burrawang.</li><li>• This comprehensive LEP amendment was gazetted in 2004 and forms part of Wingecarribee Local Environmental Plan 1989 (WLEP).</li><li>• Heritage Fund</li></ul>

### **Future Considerations and Data Gaps:**

- **Continued commitment needed to complaint resolution, policy development for key areas, and appropriate assessment of Land Use Applications.**

## Sustainability

*Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.*

Issue	State	Pressure	Response
<b>GOVERNANCE</b>			
Sustainability / Environment policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council has a number of policies in place outlining expected behaviours and attitudes, including a policy in place for the implementation of ESD.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a trend for Local Government organizations to have an environmental policy in place. Over time, more progressive Councils are moving to incorporate sustainability into their policies and decision making</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council has adopted an Environment Policy which outlines Council environmental objectives and commitment to ESD.</li> <li>A formalised corporate improvement program.</li> </ul>
Management Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management structure is comprised of three directorates overseeing technical services, corporate services and environment and planning. This structure was established in 1993 to make council more businesslike and accountable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Councils have streamlined directorates to look after key service areas. To assist with the implementation of sustainability ideas and education both internally and with the community, sustainability officers have been appointed where funding allows.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organizational functional review being undertaken to improve the management plan and process that informs it.</li> </ul>
Management Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Range of systems are in place or being established. This includes OH&amp;S, Risk, governance and environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasingly organizations are moving to online, real time systems for the performance management of council operations. Occupational, Health and safety systems along with environment and quality management systems are being applied to ensure compliance with legislative requirements and that good work practices are employed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New governance system being implemented and designed along the lines of quadruple bottom line. Environmental management system being implemented.</li> </ul>
Communication / education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular newsletter prepared for Council staff. Community education programs undertaken as funding becomes available.</li> <li>Community reference committees in place to advise Council on projects and requirements including environment and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communications strategies and education plans are in place for not only organisations but also externally. Sustainability education officers are in place at larger Councils. Sustainability indicators are being used by a number of Councils and publicized to the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular newsletter prepared for Council staff. Community education programs undertaken as funding becomes available. Funding is being sought through the Environment Trust and other avenues to continue</li> </ul>

	Local agenda 21.	community to measure performance over time.	education. Environment communication strategy being developed to support the implementation of the Environment management system. • Public sustainability indicators have been developed but require review and refinement.
<b>FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>			
Tourism	• Southern Highlands Tourism rebranded and refocused.	• Move to have partnerships established with tourism operators within in area to coordinate provision of services along with event management and promotion	• Further plans in place to partner with tourism operators and events in the highlands
Shire significant development	• Policy developed and on public display. Developments already being assessed as Shire significant developments	• Trend for Policies and Development Control Plans to be put in place in various organizations to aid in the streamlined approach for significant developments.	• Promotion of procedure to developers to encourage expenditure in the shire. Website developed to encourage consideration of the Shire as a place to do business.
Land availability	• Enterprise Corridor developed in Moss Vale, with other land being identified. Strategy developed to encourage business to this area.	• Enterprise development zones being developed in various Council areas to aid in the cluster of industries and developments, streamlining approval processes.	• Promotion of Enterprise Corridor ongoing.
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>			
Sustainability	• Range of programs in place aimed at sustainable operations of Council and the Shire. New drafted LEP developed based upon ESD principles	• Focus appears to be on ESD as legislative requirement. Some councils have progressed to sustainability reports and balance of Quadruple bottom line	• Council has undertaken a review of the status of sustainability across the Council. This has allowed us to determine where we are at, where we wish to be and programs to be implemented to go there. Use of a self assessment tool to formalize what sustainability can look like.
<b>SOCIAL</b>			
Health and Safety - Healthy Lifestyles and	• Council functions assist in provision of healthy lifestyles through the management and maintenance of roads, parklands,	• Increasing aging population and high numbers of children and youth with a corresponding range of levels of financial	• Implementation of actions outlined in Social Plan 2005 -2010 including supporting existing services

Healthy Environment	sporting fields, parks, pools and community facilities as well as water and sewerage treatment. Safety and youth programs are implemented with the provision of immunization clinics and health inspections to assist in maintaining community health and environment.	disadvantage requiring support	
Housing and Work - Housing Choice, Workforce Diversity and Volunteering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wingecarribee Our Future Strategic plan 2002 and the Wingecarribee Local Environment Plan (LEP) reinforce the need for developments to include a diversification of housing styles and economic development zones. Council has in the past donated land to assist in the provision of social housing through Argyle Housing.</li> <li>Facilitation of an Economic development committee to promote and assist business in the region.</li> <li>Future new release areas will provide a mixture of dwelling types and allotment sizes to suite the broad range of the populations needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rapid population growth in the region with an increasing aging population with limited housing diversity to accommodate smaller households of 1 to 2 people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of actions outlined in Social Plan 2005 – 2010 including supporting existing services</li> </ul>
Social Support and Services - For Families, Children, Young People and aboriginal residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council facilitates a community assistance scheme to assist in the funding of community services provided by local community groups and associations in conjunction with other assistance schemes. Community run Family Day Care Scheme and out of school hours programs provided. Community Services and Youth consultative committees in place to assist Council in understanding the provision of services required. Council employs an Aboriginal Liaison Officer and Youth Liaison Facilitator to facilitate services and programs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trend for smaller family groups without extended support with an increasing older population, increasing divorce rates and lone parent families all requiring increasing support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of actions outlined in Social Plan 2005 – 2010 including supporting existing services</li> </ul>
Community Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shire Access committee and seniors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing demand for care and support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of actions outlined</li> </ul>

and Support - For Older People, People with a Disability and Carers	committee in place to advise Council on requirements in the shire. Council prepares a Seniors directory on a yearly basis as well as facilitates Seniors Week. Donation of land undertaken to provide community service facility in Moss Vale. Council employs an Aged and Disability worker to facilitate services and programs.	with increasing older population. An increasing amount of reliance is being placed upon family or informal carers.	in Social Plan 2005 – 2010 including supporting existing services
Access and Mobility - Information, Communication and Public Transportation, Housing and Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Range of internet and information services available through libraries and Council. Provision of a range of community grants to aid in supporting community provided services as well as assistance to community bus. Council Access policy and Shire committee in place to advise on requirements. Council's functions such as planning and roads and traffic management assist in the provision of services.</li> <li>• Shire has a dispersed population with a high proportion of both elderly and young people requiring assistance with information and public or assisted transport.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of actions outlined in Social Plan 2005 – 2010 including supporting existing services</li> </ul>	

**Future Considerations and Data Gaps:**

- Informing the community of and educating the community in, the sustainability of the shire through the preparation and public reporting of Shire wide sustainability indicators on an annual basis.
- Development of a Sustainable Shire strategy and an updated Sustainability Policy including the setting of goals and targets containing current and required programs to assist in Council meeting it's vision of "Making the shire a better place to live"
- Development of an ongoing sustainability education strategy for community and business.
- Development, education, and integration of Quadruple Bottom Line (QBL) accounting into the organisation from the top down. This will be reinforced by the current changes to Council Management Plan and the undertaking of the QBL self assessment and reporting.