



Walcha Council Annual Report 2020 – 2021

State of the Environment Report

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

INTRODUCTION

The vision of our Community Strategic Plan, *Walcha 2027*, is:

“To be a vibrant, welcoming, resilient and sustainable community that supports our citizens, businesses, industries and environments.”

The term environments includes the natural, built, social and cultural environment that has and will continue to shape the Walcha Community, and demonstrates that the environment is fundamental to the success of delivering the CSP and achieving our vision.

This report conveys a snapshot of environmental measures identified in the CSP and demonstrates progress of achieving the quadruple bottom line in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan for 2020-2021.

GOAL 6.1



STRATEGY 6.1.2

Promote sustainable development and protection of our natural resources through the planning system.

ACTIONS

Apply Council's Local Environmental Plan and planning controls

TASK	MEASURE	OUTCOME
Town Planning functions Biodiversity Conservation	Full compliance with legislation	Each development application is assessed under section 4.15 of the EP&A Act 1979 taking into consideration relevant planning controls and ensuring compliance
Implement environmental planning measures to protect land identified as koala habitat	Environmental planning measures implemented	Conditions of consent placed on DA's for land identified as koala habitat in accordance with Koala Plan of Management and new Koala SEPP

STRATEGY 6.1.7

Manage Land Contamination through the planning and development control process

ACTIONS

- a) Identify and investigate land contamination during the environmental planning and assessment process and the integration of any necessary remediation into any redevelopment or rezoning.
- b) Facilitate and control land remediation through SEPP 55

TASK	MEASURE	OUTCOME
	Consideration is given to contamination issues during all rezoning and development	SEPP 55 referred to during development assessment. As well Council is currently undertaking a NSW Government funded project to identify & develop a register of all contaminated or potentially contaminated land. A Policy & Procedure has also been adopted by Council
	Provide information about land contamination on all planning certificates issued under Section 10.7 of the EP&A Act.	✓

GOAL 6.2



STRATEGY 6.2.1

Develop and promote programs that increase the participation of the community in recycling

ACTIONS

- a) Develop and promote programs that increase the participation of the community in recycling
- b) Capture more recyclables from rural properties
- c) Participate in container deposit scheme

TASK	MEASURE	OUTCOME
Educate residents on ways to recycle	The weight of material recycled	Waste strategy is under development
Implement actions that capture more recyclables	The weight of material recycled	Waste strategy is under development
Participation in CDS	CDS Operating	✓

STRATEGY 6.2.2

Implement alternate and affordable processes that reduce waste going to landfill.

ACTIONS

Implement processes that reduce waste going to landfill

TASK	MEASURE	OUTCOME
Identify and investigate process options	Completion of Waste Management Strategy	Waste strategy is under development

STRATEGY 6.2.4

Manage solid waste in an efficient, affordable and sustainable manner.

ACTIONS

- a) Prepare a waste management strategy for solid waste that includes all landfill sites
- b) Participate actively in regional waste forums

TASK	MEASURE	OUTCOME
Review the waste management strategy	The strategy is developed	Waste strategy is under development
Participate in the NIRW Group	The number of meetings attended	Well attended, exact statistics not available.

GOAL 6.3



STRATEGY 6.3.1

Implement the recommendations of the Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy and other water and sewer management plans

ACTIONS

- a) Implement the recommendations of the Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy
- b) Implement measures to better quantify and mitigate unaccounted water losses
- c) Maintain the water supply system as per the water Asset Management Plan
- d) Maintain the sewerage system as per the Sewerage Asset Management Plan.
- e) Manage the water supply service in accordance with the Water Strategic Business Plan.
- f) Manage the sewerage service in accordance with the Sewer Strategic Business Plan.

TASK	MEASURE	OUTCOME
Review the Drought Management Plan.	The Plan is reviewed.	Draft Emergency Water Carting Plan developed and to be included in updated drought management plan.
Review the Water Quality Management Plan annually.	The Plan is reviewed annually.	Annual DWMS Report completed and submitted to DPIE-Water, and NSW Health. Monthly water quality meetings and improvement plan actions reviewed.

TASK	MEASURE	OUTCOME
Continue the replacement of old water meters.	100% of old meters are replaced.	Ongoing
Renewal & Upgrade Works – Sandfill media replacement	Truckwash upgrade. Sand filter media replacement.	Funding received for TWB upgrade, almost complete, Sand filter media Scope of Works and Cost Estimation completed by Hunter h2o.
Operate the water supply service as per the Water Strategic Business Plan.	The service provided meets the adopted levels. The number of complaints received. The level of community satisfaction.	IWCM Issues Paper updated February 2016. IWCM gap analysis undertaken by Namoi Water Alliance Jan 2020. Namoi Regional Water Strategy funding approved by DPIE Water Jan 2021.
Reduce the annual cost of pumping water.	The cost of pumping water is reduces	To be reviewed in alignment with new off creek storage dam

GOAL 6.6



STRATEGY 6.6.1

Maintain the character of the Walcha Local Government Area through orderly development of the natural and built environment.

ACTIONS

Apply Council's Local Environmental Plan and planning controls.

TASK	MEASURE	OUTCOME
Building Control - Ensure development complies with code, regulations and policies.	100% compliance during construction inspections	BCA compliance and consistency with development consent ensured at each critical inspection stage prior to construction progressing

STRATEGY 6.6.2

Ensure that sufficient land is available to meet the demand for appropriate land uses

ACTIONS

Undertake review of NENW Housing & Land Monitor Report to assess housing & employment land availability & demand

TASK	MEASURE	OUTCOME
Provide housing & employment land data to the DPI&E to assist in preparation of the NENW Land Monitor Report	Service provision and infrastructure investment meet the needs of the LGA.	Updated Housing and Land Monitoring data submitted to the Department annually.

STRATEGY 6.6.3

Prevent agricultural land from being developed in ways that reduce its productivity

ACTIONS

Apply Council's Local Environmental Plan and planning controls.

TASK	MEASURE	OUTCOME
Ensure the Local Environmental Plan complements the LLS Strategic Land Use Plan.	Take LLS Strategic Land Use Plan into consideration when assessing Development Applications.	✓

STRATEGY 6.6.4

Enhance the Walcha Local Government Area so that it continues to be an attractive place to live, work and visit

ACTIONS

- a) Maintain parks as per the Parks Asset Management Plan
- b) Maintain streetscapes and street trees as per the Management Plan
- c) Control activities that impact on residential amenity.

TASK	MEASURE	OUTCOME
Review and update the Parks Asset Management Plan.		GAP analysis and initial review scheduled for completion 2020-2021. Asset Management Plan review deferred until 2021 – 2022.
Enhance the facilities at, and the use of, Council's Parks ensuring equipment is inclusive.	Improve parks facilities.	✓
Prepare the Streetscape Management Plan	The Plan is created, updated and adopted.	Individual projects are being presented to Council for adoption. However overall upgrade program still requires review.