

2017-2020



Natural Resource Management Delivery Plan

The Cowra Natural Resource Management Delivery Plan represents a four year plan which details actions to achieve better diversity outcomes within the Cowra Local Government Area.



Council Department Environmental Services
Contact Officer Director – Environmental Services

Revision History

Version	Council Meeting Date	Responsible Officer
Draft	24 July 2017	Director – Environmental Services
Adopted	27 November 2017	Director – Environmental Services

List of Definitions

CLEAN	Cowra Low Emissions Action Network
COUNCIL	Cowra Shire Council
DCP	Cowra Council Development Control Plan
DES	Director – Environmental Services
DIO	Director – Infrastructure & Operations
LED	Light-emitting diode
LLS	Local Land Services (Central Tablelands)
NRM	Natural Resource Management Advisory Committee
TSR	Travelling Stock Reserve
WSUD	Water Sensitive Urban Design Principals



1.0

The Plan

The Cowra Natural Resource Management Delivery Plan represents a four year plan which details actions to achieve better diversity outcomes within Cowra Local Government Area. The Plan focuses on completing actions that can be applied within the existing framework of Council's regulatory and operational functions in the following focus areas:

- Strategic planning and development control
- Operator of major infrastructure and road plant
- Manager of community and operational land
- Community liaison / facilitation
- Development of Regional and Local Partnerships
- Regular Review Council's Functions and Responsibilities in the Context of Integration of Natural Resource Management

The 'Actions' proposed in this Plan are not binding on the Council to complete or to be undertaken within the timeframes indicated.

The 'Actions' are objectives only that Council will aim to achieve, through the planning and implementation of the Cowra Shire Delivery Plan. Where funding or resources are not available to complete 'Actions', projects may need to be deferred.

1.0

Focus Area

Strategic Planning & Development Control

Action	Source		Timeframe			Responsibility				Cost / Comment
	Internal	External	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2120	Council	DES	DIO	NRM Committee	
<p>Encourage the use of Water Sensitive Urban Design principals in new urban release areas and subdivisions:</p> <p>Review provisions in the DCP and incorporate additional WSUD principals for all development including, residential, industrial, commercial and Council related.</p>	•		•				•			On-going. Nil budget required.
<p>Review the recommended tree list with input of the Birds in Backyards project and Birdlife Australia and include this in the review of the DCP</p>			•						•	Nil budget required.

2.0

Focus Area

Operators of Major Infrastructure & Road Plant

Action	Source		Timeframe			Responsibility				Cost / Comment
	Internal	External	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2120	Council	DES	DIO	NRM Committee	
Continue to implement strategies to optimally position Cowra Shire in a low carbon emission future. Continue to support CLEAN Cowra.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Continue to develop and support innovations in this field. No additional budget required.
Continue to investigate alternative energy technologies for Council facilities. Continue to support CLEAN Cowra with trials for sludge processing.	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	Continue to develop and support innovations in this field. Source additional budget as required.
Investigate opportunities for renewable / alternative energy sources for Council infrastructure.			•					•		Source additional budget as required.
Continue to participate in the State of the Environment Report supported by LLS.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			In-house resources required to complete action. No additional budget required.
Liaise with Essential Energy to investigate the use of LED lighting in all street lighting in Cowra.	•	•	•			•		•	•	In-house resources required to complete action. No additional budget required.

3.0

Focus Area

Managing Community & Operational Land

to conserve and enhance biodiversity

Action	Source		Timeframe			Responsibility				Cost / Comment
	Internal	External	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2120	Council	DES	DIO	NRM Committee	
Continue to manage Council land in terms of weed management within the current legislation	•	•	•	•	•				•	This is an ongoing budget item. Additional Government funding is required.
Continue to seek funding for the Lachlan River Master Plan, as available, to provide improved access to the Lachlan River.	•	•	•	•	•				•	Lachlan River Precinct Masterplan adopted by Council. Additional external funding required.
Continue to seek funding to improve the Cowra Peace Precinct.	•	•	•	•	•				•	Cowra Peace Precinct Masterplan adopted by Council. Additional external funding required.
Continue to support and investigate the use of traditional / ecological burning practice on appropriate Council owned land. NRM Committee to organise a visit to a demonstration site.	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	To provide support to Council and other agencies to undertake this practice.
Liaise with appropriate government agencies to promote better management of government owned land within Cowra Shire	•	•	•	•	•	•				Advocate for better management practices along railway corridors, TSRs and Crown Reserves. Extra funding may be required to complete some projects and conduct training.

4.0

Focus Area

Community Liaison & Facilitation

to support and engage local communities as part of an NRM partnership

Action	Source		Timeframe			Responsibility				Cost / Comment
	Internal	External	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2120	Council	DES	DIO	NRM Committee	
Maintain a community based committee to advise on NRM issues and projects.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	No extra funding required.
Provide resources and support activities of community groups undertaking environmental restoration work through the small environmental grants program.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	Continue the annual environmental incentive fund for small community based projects.
Provide support to Mid Lachlan Land Care and the Cowra Bird Watchers Group as required.	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	As requested or required.
Continue to participate in the Birds in Backyards Project.	•		•	•	•		•			Where budget permits participation.
Continue to participate and promote the Science in the Pub / Library in conjunction with the Cowra Cabonne Science Hub.	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	Some funding may be required.
Continue the development of training programs that focus on environmental management and biodiversity conservation for Council staff, Building Industry Reference Group and NRM Committee.	•	•	•	•	•		•			These courses are offered as they become available.

Review the use of water tanks for residential purposes.	•	•	•				•			This has BASIC's implications.
Encourage the use of Integrated Sustainable Water Management practices for water treatment, reuse and conservation in the Cowra Shire related to water use by residential, industrial, commercial, community and Council activities	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Investigating options as part of DCP review.

5.0

Focus Area

Development of Regional and Local Partnerships

to share ideas and resources to address NRM

Action	Source		Timeframe			Responsibility				Cost / Comment
	Internal	External	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2120	Council	DES	DIO	NRM Committee	
Establish partnerships with local schools, community environmental groups, and individual residents to increase improved NRM outcomes – via the small community grants program	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			Existing budget.
Collaborate with other agencies for control of exotic pests, disease and animals as required.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	Ongoing. No additional budget is required.

6.0

Focus Area

Review Council's Functions & Responsibilities

to embrace a culture for continual improvement in NRM

Action	Source		Timeframe			Responsibility				Cost / Comment
	Internal	External	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2120	Council	DES	DIO	NRM Committee	
Regularly review the Natural Resource Management Delivery Plan, and any other strategies policies or documents developed under it, to ensure continual improvement through the adoption of new information as it becomes available.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			This action is ongoing. No external funding required.