



SUPPLEMENTARY STATE OF ENVIRONMENT REPORT 2016

ANNEXURE 1



COBAR SHIRE COUNCIL

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1. DISCLAIMER

Any representation, statement, opinion or advice, expressed or implied in this document is made in good faith on the basis that Cobar Shire Council, its agents and employees are not liable (whether by reason negligence, lack of care or otherwise) to any person for any damage or loss whatsoever which has occurred or may occur in relation to that person taking or not taking (as the case may be) action in respect of any representation, statement or advice referred to above.

2. INTRODUCTION

Council produces an end of term State of the Environment Report (SoER) to meet Local Government Act S428 (2c) requirements. The report outlines the environmental issues that are relevant to the objectives for the environment established by the community strategic plan (the environmental objectives).

This supplementary report is for the term ending 2012-2016. The report is to look at environmental indicators, report on trends and identify major environmental impacts.

3. OVERVIEW OF COBAR SHIRE

The State of the Environment Report provides a reporting mechanism to monitor Council's activities.

3.1 CURRENT STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Cobar Shire is located in the Western Division of New South Wales, 700 km west of Sydney. It has an area of 45,609 km² and is approximately 230 km wide from east to west and approximately 300 km long from north to south.

The large area of Cobar Shire and the major distances between the extreme boundaries provides for a diverse range in flora types, fauna species, soil types and climate.

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This report lists the environmental initiatives outlined in Council's Delivery Program and reports against each one for the four year period.

STRATEGY	COMMENT
Develop an alternative energy industry in Cobar.	<p>Council has met with representatives of alternative energy companies to encourage them to develop within the Cobar Shire Local Government Area, such as solar farming.</p> <p>Council has been recently approached by some solar companies with respect to setting up smaller solar power plants and is in the process of developing a compliant process of procuring the services of these companies.</p>
Develop community leadership on becoming leaders in resource use, reuse and recycling.	Council has analysed its current waste operations with the objective of encouraging waste reduction. During this term, we have signed contracts with companies that can assist Council with recycling scrap metal, batteries, mechanical oil and tyres. We are also exploring ways to reduce stockpiling of green waste, such as chipping this waste material for municipal re-use in public parks.
Develop a grazing industry that is based on managed, not feral, stock to improve pasture management.	Council has supported initiatives to encourage the development of a grazing industry in the Cobar LGA.
Having a planting program for Cobar and Villages and encourage the schools and businesses to participate.	Council has supported Local Land Services with regards to planting and rehabilitation programs in the Cobar LGA.
Manage the crown land and commons.	Where Council is the trustee of Crown Land and Common areas, it has appropriately managed the facility with the minimal funding that is available.



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<p>Long term management of noxious weeds.</p>	<p>Council has continued its proactive approach towards noxious weed management. Funding has been obtained each year to undertake a reasonable approach to the identification and management of noxious weeds in the LGA. Cobar Shire has sought to be industry leaders in this field by hosting events and seeking to trial new management and recording concepts.</p>
<p>Vibrant and well run national parks that are accessible and well used.</p>	<p>Council has continued to support National Parks and Wildlife in their management of National Parks in the Cobar Shire LGA.</p>
<p>Manage the externalities of mining and other industries operating close to towns and villages to minimise air pollution.</p>	<p>Council officers have appropriately managed complaints and possible catalysts to air pollution from mines during this reporting period. Where Council is not the appropriate authority to deal with air pollution complaints, these complaints are communicated to NSW Environment Protection Authority.</p>

3.2 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The *Local Government Act 1993* has been amended to allow for an Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework to guide Council's future strategic planning and reporting. Future reports on the State of the Environment are to be reported against the environmental objectives identified in the Delivery Program/Operational Plan as part of the Council's Annual Report (on a four year basis).

As part of that Framework, Council will continue to develop environmental objectives with the community in relation to local environmental issues. Cobar Shire Council has developed its Community Strategic Plan and shall continue to engage the community to ensure currency of that document.