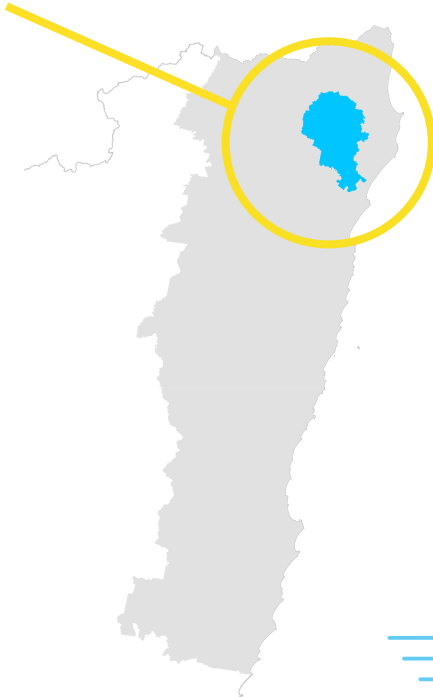


LISMORE LGA



INTRODUCTION

This summary for the Lismore Local Government Area (LGA) forms part of the Regional State of the Environment report for 2016. It was compiled on behalf of the twelve Councils and Rous County Council of the North Coast Region of NSW.

Reporting on major environmental indicators from 2011 to 2016, it identifies trends where relevant. Data was provided by Council, state and federal government, universities, energy suppliers and community groups.

Residential water use is steady averaging 155 kilolitres per connection annually

Council's electricity emissions decreased by 13% since 2012 but fuel emissions increased by 31%

27% of dwellings have roof top solar. Domestic electricity use is 1,980 kilowatt hours annually

Three new endangered species since 2012; koala vulnerable

Increasing threats from invasive species such as tropical soda apple, wild dogs, foxes and Indian mynas

Domestic waste has increased by 32% since 2012. In 2016, each person generated 612 kgs of waste, with 82% recycled-highest in the region

Waste water discharged to waterways dropped by 41% since 2012. In 2016, 2,400 megalitres of waste water was discharged to waterways

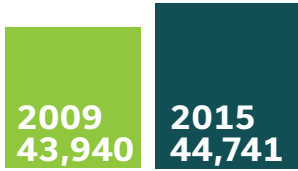
River health is poor due to poor riparian condition and bank stability, and high nutrient levels



PEOPLE & THE ENVIRONMENT



POPULATION



POPULATION is steady

CLIMATE CHARACTERISTICS



RAINFALL

2013 - HIGH
2014 - VERY LOW
2015 - AVERAGE
2016 - 5 June wettest day on record for NSW

FLOODING

2013 January - MAJOR
2013 February - MAJOR
2014 March - MINOR
2014 August - MINOR
2015 February - MINOR
2015 May - MINOR to MODERATE
2016 June - MODERATE
2016 June - MINOR



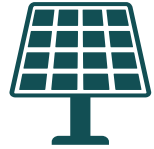
2013 was Australia's **HOTTEST YEAR** on record

EMISSIONS ABATEMENT

Numerous roof-top solar installations and energy-efficient streetlighting reduce emissions, with over 1,500 tonnes CO₂-e abated annually by Council

GREENHOUSE GASES & RENEWABLE ENERGY

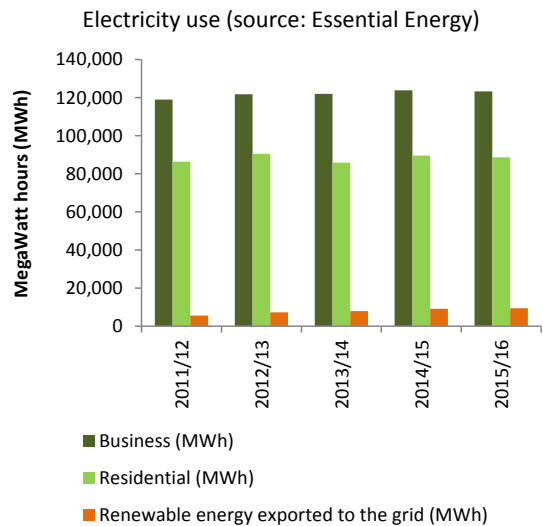
27% of dwellings have roof top solar



RENEWABLE ENERGY

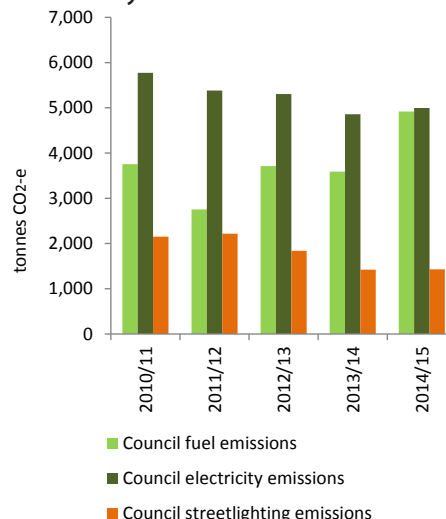
fed back to the grid has increased by 69% since 2012 with 210 kWh exported per person annually in 2016 - the highest in the region

1,980 hrs of residential electricity use per person annually in 2016
MEGAWATT



COUNCIL EMISSIONS - DECREASING

by 13% since 2012 for electricity, but fuel increased by 31%



PEOPLE & THE ENVIRONMENT CONT.

1

WATER USE

209 KILOLITRES

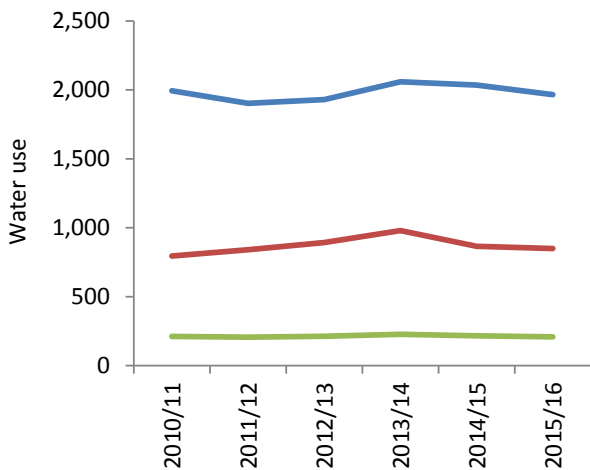
total water use per connection annually - steady from 2011-2016



Residential water use

155 KILOLITRES

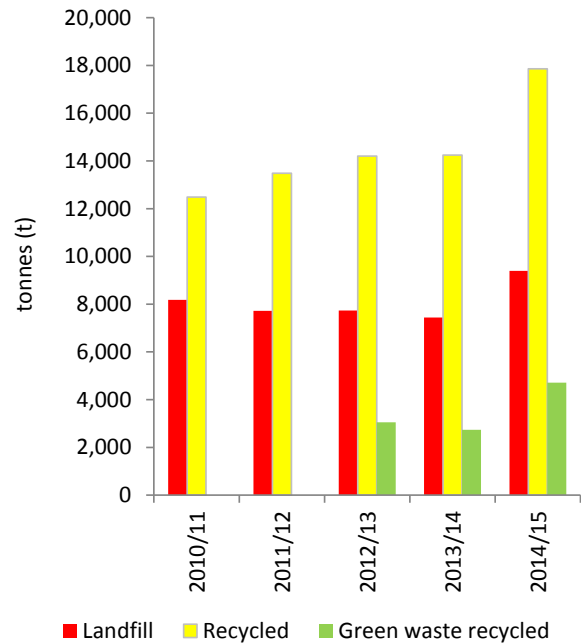
per connection annually, below the NSW regional average of 172kL



- Residential use (ML)
- Non-residential use (ML)
- Kilolitres per connection (kL)

WASTE

Overall DOMESTIC WASTE generated **INCREASED BY 32% SINCE 2011**



DOMESTIC WASTE TO LANDFILL **INCREASED** by 15% since 2011

612 kgs KILOGRAMS

waste generated by each person in 2015, with **82% recycled**

Greenwaste and biosolids are

COMPOSTED



82% of all domestic waste is

RECYCLED

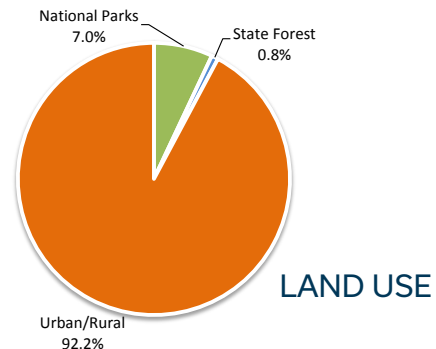
the highest in the region

BIODIVERSITY & VEGETATION

2

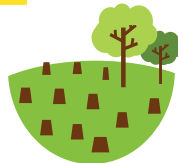
RESILIENT LANDSCAPES

Lismore City Council has a Biodiversity Management Strategy 2015-2035, a Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management 2013, a Growth Management Strategy 2014-2034 and a Rural Landholder Initiative which all guide development and protect biodiversity in the LGA



VEGETATION LOSS

16 APPROVALS FOR PRIVATE NATIVE FORESTRY were granted in the LGA since 2007 covering 1,075 HECTARES (0.9%) OF PRIVATE LAND



From 1988 to 2007, 269 hectares were harvested under forestry and agricultural operations, highlighting the contribution of private native forestry to vegetation loss outside of State Forest and protected areas if all approvals are enacted

HABITAT REGENERATION

50 hectares of land rehabilitated by Council annually, and 130 hectares managed by Landcare

+4,000 trees planted each year

APPROX. 3,000 HRS VOLUNTEER INPUT ANNUALLY ACROSS LANDCARE GROUPS

INVASIVE SPECIES

Key weed threats are TROPICAL SODA APPLE AND HYMANACHNE



FAR NORTH COAST WEEDS (FNCW) CONDUCT WEED CONTROL WORK IN THE LGA

OVER 2,500 KILOMETRES of weed control completed annually on rivers, roadsides and railways

HIGH RISK WEED SITES INSPECTED AND TREATED IN 2015 include waterways, wetlands, nurseries and sale yards

Vertebrate pests - CANE TOADS, WILD DOGS, FERAL CATS, FOXES AND INDIAN MYNAS are pests of concern in the LGA

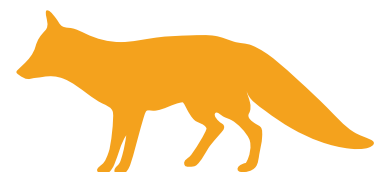
NATIVE FLORA & FAUNA



2 NEW KEY THREATENING PROCESSES SINCE 2012: Myrtle rust pathogen; Noisy miners excluding other native species from habitat

3 NEW ENDANGERED SPECIES SINCE 2012
Black-tailed antechinus
Wollumbin Dogwood
Torrington mint-bush

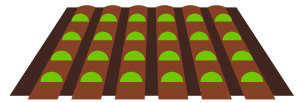
KOALA declared vulnerable



LAND USE & SOILS



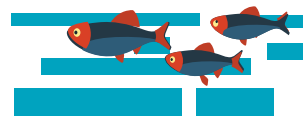
5 SOILS TYPES found in the LGA
 MOST IN FAIR TO VERY GOOD CONDITION, but organic carbon, acidity, gully and sheet erosion are issues



0 CURRENT MINING LICENCES IN THE LGA

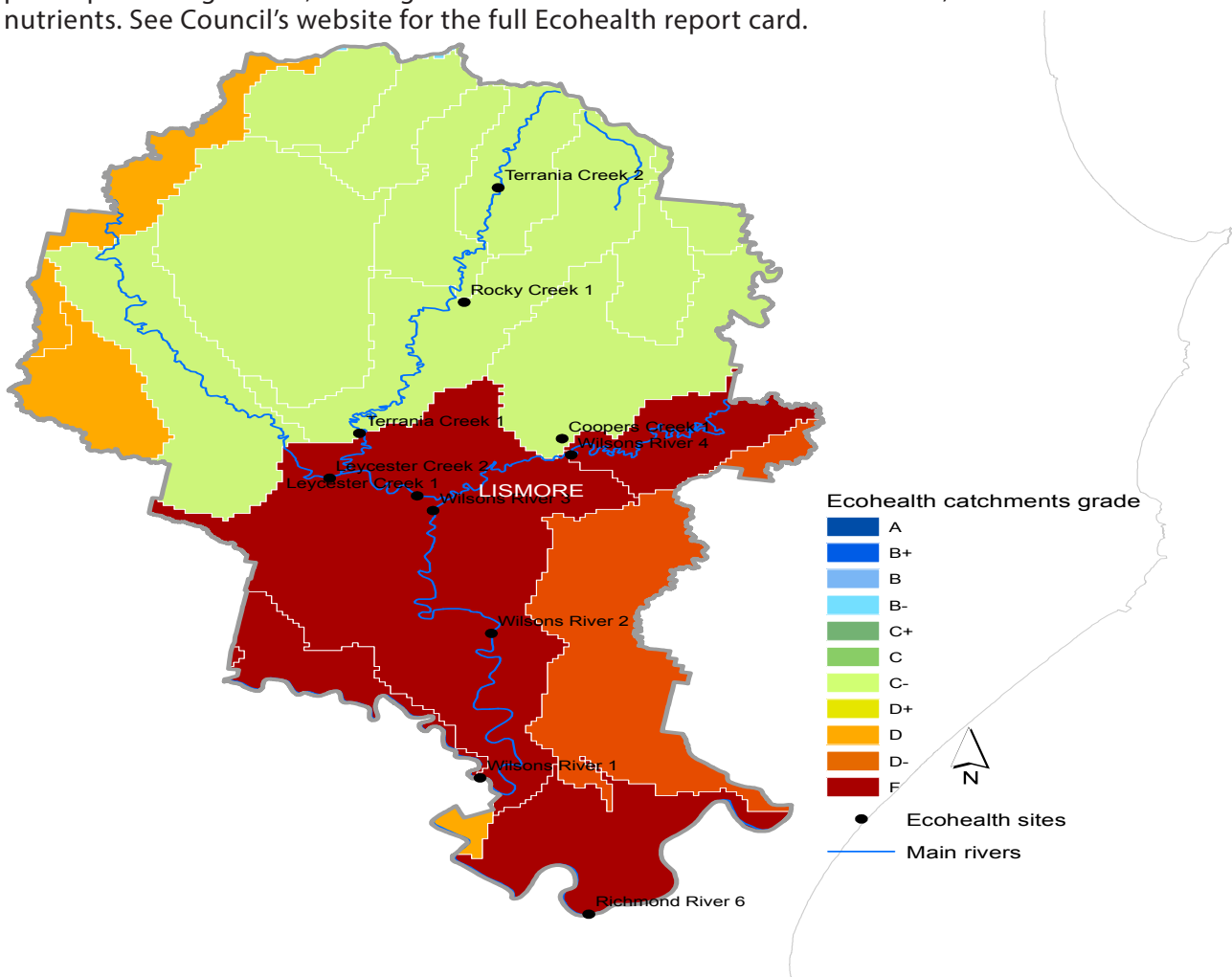
0 CURRENT MINERAL OR COAL SEAM GAS EXPLORATION LICENCES

4 WATER



RIVER HEALTH

The Ecohealth water quality monitoring program was conducted in 2014 for the Richmond system. The overall rating for the Richmond system was "D+" (poor), with scores of "F" (fail) near to and downstream of Lismore. Condition improved in the upstream freshwater reaches. Key issues were poor riparian vegetation, eroding river banks and associated sediment loads, and elevated nutrients. See Council's website for the full Ecohealth report card.



4

WATER CONT.

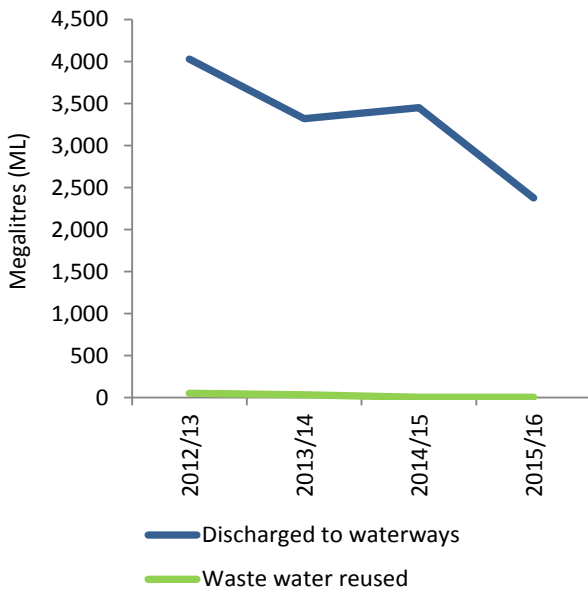
WASTE WATER

Waste water discharged to waterways has dropped by 41% since 2012



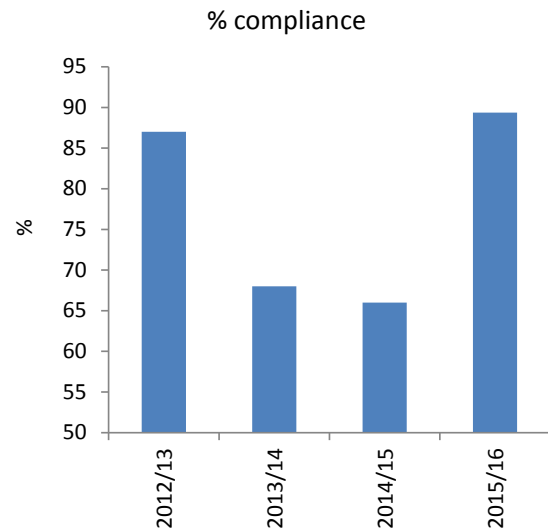
1% of waste water is reused

Biosolids are composted



OSSM COMPLIANCE

On-site sewage management systems compliance is variable ranging from 66% TO 87% COMPLIANCE for inspected systems since 2012



RIVER MANAGEMENT

The Coastal Zone Management Plan for the Richmond River Estuary was completed in 2011 Implemented by Richmond River County Council it guides management of the waterways within Lismore LGA.

Actions include:

Project to prioritise where to conduct revegetation and/or vegetation restoration on riverbanks and a community education program

GROUNDWATER STATUS

8 groundwater sources, all with commenced water sharing plans as of 1 July 2016

Overallocation of sections of the Alstonville Basalt groundwater source is of concern

439 identified GROUNDWATER-DEPENDENT ECOSYSTEMS in the LGA - (1/3 of the region's total)

