

CONSERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT



Appendix L

Management
Plan
2009-2013



ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

S403(2) & cl 199(1)

In preparing this management plan, Council is aware of its responsibility to manage activities, which properly develop, protect, restore, enhance and conserve the environment in a manner that is consistent with and promotes the principles of Ecological Sustainable Development.

Ecological Sustainable Development requires the effective integration of economic and environmental considerations in decision-making process.

Council continues to take steps toward a more positive contribution towards the environment. Council are aware of their responsibilities toward the environment as a result of new environmental legislation as well as a general increase in awareness of environmental issues across the community as a whole. It is important that Council continue to minimize the impact of activities on the environment.

The following activities are identified in Council's Principal State of the Environment Report. Council has committed resources to achieve the desired outcome for the next financial year.

- **To improve the management of domestic animals in urban areas to enhance the local amenity**
- To facilitate this objective Council has adopted a Companion Animals Management Plan. The implementation of the plan during the next year including activities such as microchipping days and procedures to ensure impounded animals are returned to their owners in the shortest possible time. Investigation of off leash areas will occur as part of a review of the plan.
- **To reduce the negative impacts of on-site effluent systems in unsewered areas on water quality and health.**
- This objective will be met by the implementation of the onsite sewerage management strategy adopted by Council previously.
- **To reduce the amount of waste going to landfill through waste minimisation, resource recovery, recycling and educational awareness initiatives.**

DrumMUSTER is the national program for the collection and recycling of empty, cleaned, non-returnable crop production and on farm animal health chemical containers. Wentworth Shire Council supports the initiatives of the drumMuster program by participating in the program with drums being able to be delivered to Council's landfill facilities at Buronga, Pomona and Ellerslie.

Wentworth Shire Council is an active participant in the ChemClear Program. ChemClear is an industry-funded program for the ongoing collection and disposal of unwanted, registered chemicals. The program collects unwanted registered rural chemicals produced by croplife Australia, Animal health Alliance Limited and the Veterinary Manufacturers and Distributors Association members. This equates to approximately 90% of the rural chemicals sold in Australia. The program also accepts non-registered chemicals; however these are accepted at a cost to the owner. Another collection will be arranged in Wentworth Shire Council in the period of this management plan.

In addition to these activities Council this year will investigate options to allow residents access to a recycling program.

- **To implement statutory requirements in Council's planning instrument to support looking after the environment.**

Wentworth Shire Council will during the next financial year complete the conversion of the 1993 Local Environmental Plan to conform to the standard instrument released by the Department of Planning. In the preparation of this LEP Council will be adopting provisions to protect, enhance, conserve and restore the environment with emphasis placed on the riverine environ. In conjunction with funding from the Department of Planning Council has committed significant funds to the LEP project.

- **Undertake reviews of Heritage Listings.**

As part of the LEP review process the Heritage listings will be reviewed and updated. A requirement of the LEP standard template is that a map must be attached to the LEP to identify heritage items of significance within the Shire. Council is committed to the conservation and protection of the heritage items within the Shire. Council has adopted an interpretive plan for the Port of Wentworth which will facilitate significant heritage item enhancement through funding from the Heritage Office.

- **To minimise Council's water usage through efficient water practices.**

It is anticipated that water restrictions will be implemented as a direction of the State Government.

In addition to this Council is considering initiatives of incentives for the installation of AAA rated water saving devices within the home and the installation of rainwater tanks.

- **To ensure a high level of compliance with regulatory requirements for community health and safety in the public and private domain**

Council is committed to the education of the community in the aspects of public health. Council has an inspection program for operations required under public health legislation to be monitored including – food preparation premises, hairdressers and air-conditioning towers. Council undertakes sampling of the potable water supplies to ensure compliance with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

- **Encourage water conservation and recycling measures in new development as well as energy efficient design.**

Council is committed to the state government initiative BASIX. All new development is subject to the requirements of BASIX for which Council officers educate the public from the preparation of the plans to the final certificate of occupancy for the new development.

- **Take a stronger stance on illegal activities such as vegetation clearing, firewood collection and rubbish dumping.**
- **Endeavour to be responsive to complaints on environmental matters.**
- **Monitor major developments within the LGA for compliance, particularly those that have the potential to detrimentally impact on the environment**

Council will take a proactive role in educating the community in the matters listed above. This is possible by resourcing the Local Laws area with three full time staff.