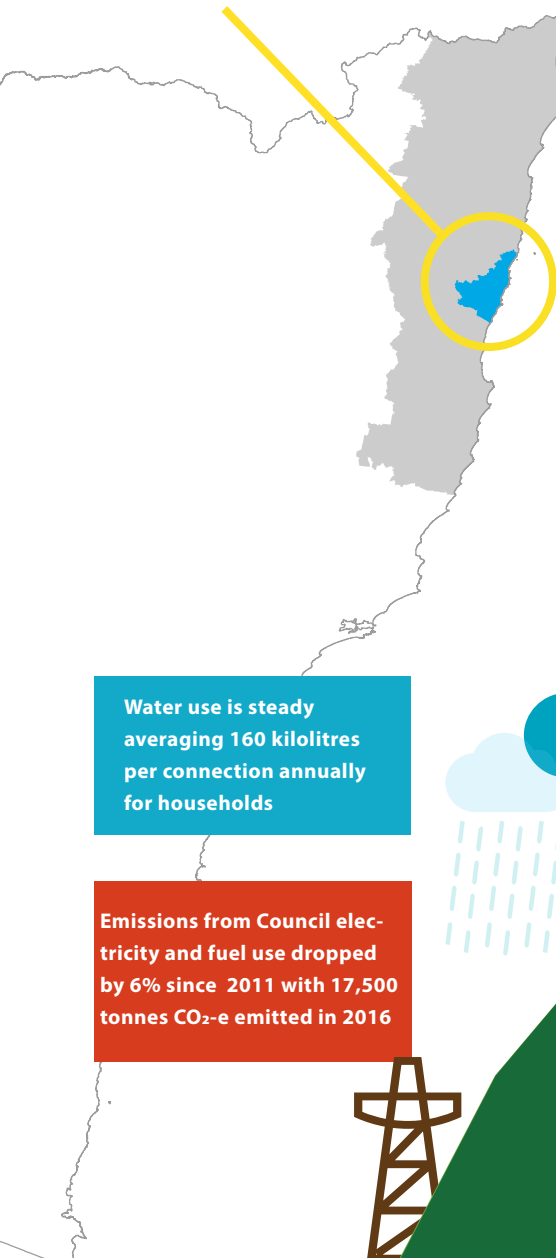


STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT 2016 SUMMARY

COFFS HARBOUR LGA

INTRODUCTION

This summary for the Coffs Harbour 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 three County Councils of the North Coast Region of NSW. Reporting on major environmental indicators from 2010 to 2016, it identifies trends where relevant. Data was provided by Council, State and Federal Government, universities, energy suppliers and community groups.



Key weed threats are Tropical Soda Apple, kidney leaf mud plantain, cats claw creeper

Water use is steady averaging 160 kilolitres per connection annually for households

Emissions from Council electricity and fuel use dropped by 6% since 2011 with 17,500 tonnes CO₂-e emitted in 2016



Waste has reduced by 7% in the past 5 years, each person generating 638kg of waste in 2016, but 73% was recycled

In 2016, 18% of waste water was reused, and 100% of biosolids were composted

20% of dwellings have roof top solar. Domestic electricity use is STABLE at 2,100 kilowatt hours annually.

Koala declared vulnerable, and 1 new critically endangered population added since 2012

Ecohealth river condition monitoring shows a slight decline in waterway health since 2012

PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

1

POPULATION



2009

2015
72,971

POPULATION increased by 5% since 2009

CLIMATE CHARACTERISTICS

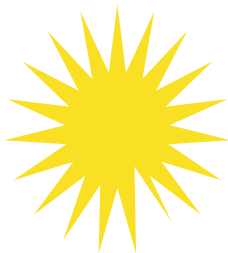


RAINFALL

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

FLOODING

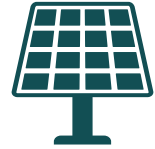
2013 January - MAJOR
2013 February - MODERATE
2013 March - MODERATE
2016 June - MINOR



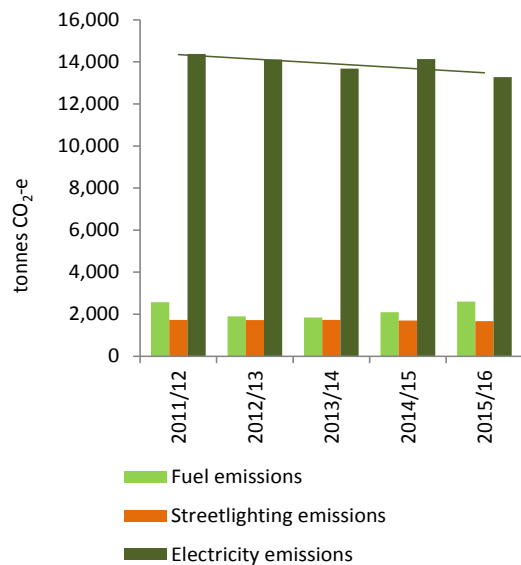
2013 was Australia's **HOTTEST YEAR** on record

GREENHOUSE GASES AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

20% of dwellings have roof top solar



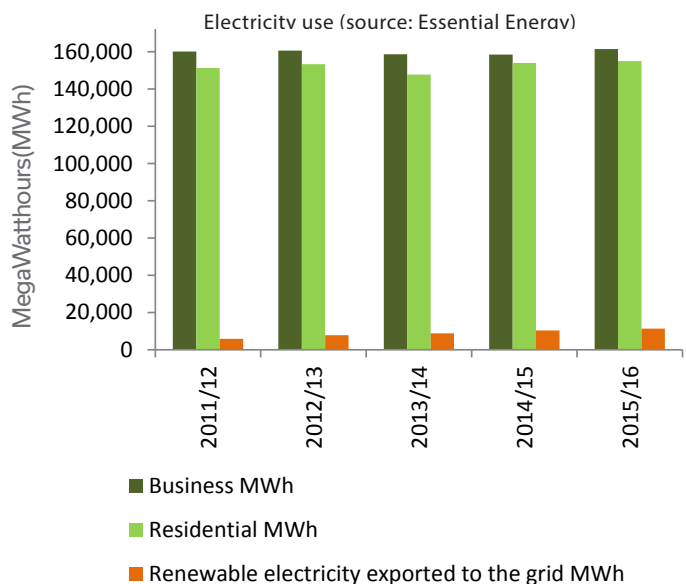
COUNCIL EMISSIONS - DECREASED BY 6% SINCE 2011



RENEWABLE ENERGY

fed back to the grid has increased by 95% since 2012 with 155 kWh exported per person annually in 2016

2,100 hrs of residential electricity use per person annually
MEGAWATT STABLE from 2012 to 2016



PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT CONT.



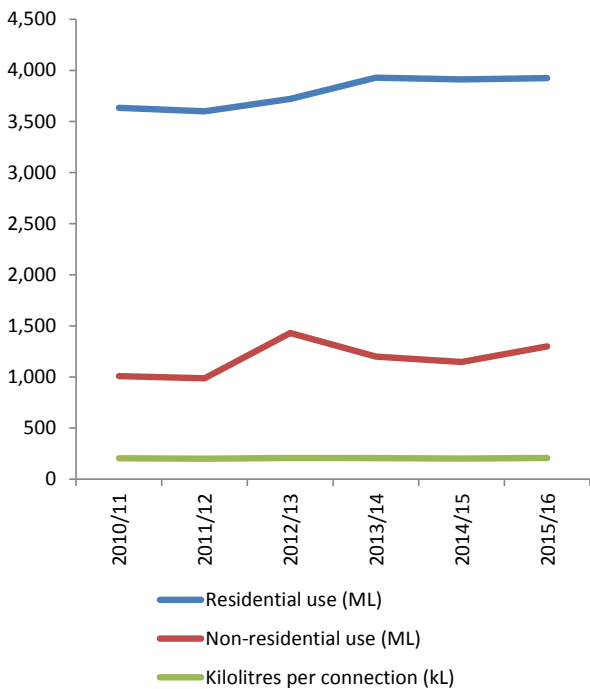
WATER USE

208 KILOLITRES
water use per connection
annually steady from
2011-2015



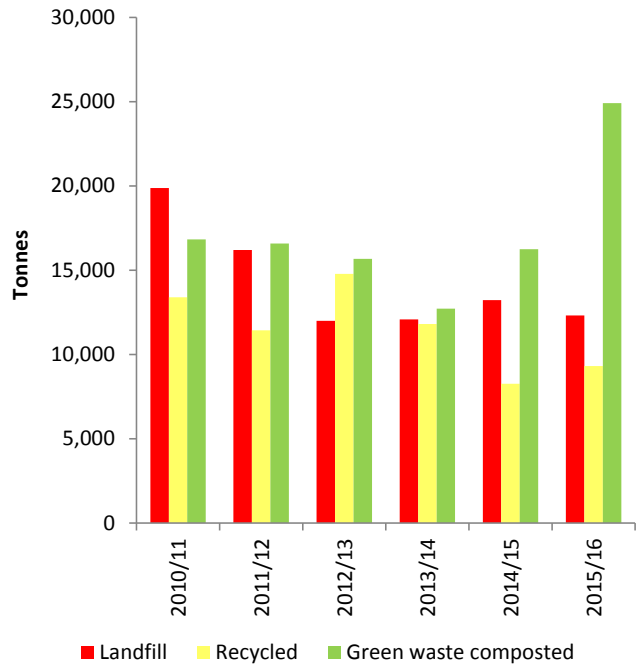
Domestic water use

160 KILOLITRES
per connection in 2016,
below the NSW Regional
average of 172kL



WASTE

Overall DOMESTIC WASTE generated
has **DECREASED BY 7% SINCE 2011**



**TOTAL WASTE TO LANDFILL
DECREASED BY 35%**



638 KILOGRAMS
waste generated by each
person in 2016, **DOWN**
from 712kgs in 2011

**GREEN WASTE RECYCLED
UP BY 48% SINCE 2011**



Green waste and reclaimed mixed
waste is processed into compost

BIODIVERSITY AND VEGETATION

2

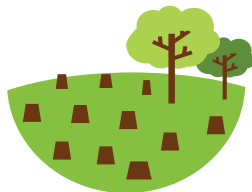
RESILIENT LANDSCAPES

Council protects high conservation value land that is outside existing reserves through its Local Environmental Plan and various strategies including the Biodiversity Strategy

VEGETATION LOSS

Vegetation loss within the LGA is primarily from forestry operations on private land

136 APPROVALS FOR PRIVATE NATIVE FORESTRY were granted by the EPA in the LGA since 2007 covering 5,834 HECTARES (9.6%) OF PRIVATE LAND IN THE LGA



From 1988 to 2007, 2,996 hectares of land was cleared for agriculture, forestry and maintenance, indicating the potential impact private native forestry is having on native vegetation outside protected areas

NATIVE FLORA & FAUNA

2 NEW KEY THREATENING PROCESSES SINCE 2012:

Myrtle rust pathogen
Noisy miners excluding native species from habitat



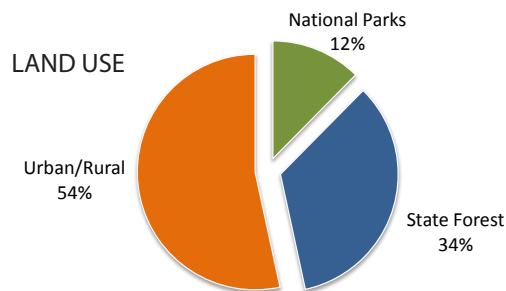
1 NEW CRITICALLY ENDANGERED POPULATION

Allocasuarina inophloia

3 NEW ENDANGERED SPECIES

Giant dragonfly
Needle-leaf fern
Nightcap plecanthus

Koala **DECLARED VULNERABLE**



HABITAT REGENERATION

Area of land under rehabilitation increased from 954ha in 2012 to 1,600ha in 2016

+23,000 trees planted since 2012

COUNCIL REHABILITATES 200 HECTARES OF PUBLIC LAND ANNUALLY

LANDCARE REHABILITATES 300 HECTARES OF PUBLIC LAND ANNUALLY

INVASIVE SPECIES

Key weed threats are TROPICAL SODA APPLE, KIDNEY LEAF MUD PLANTAIN, CATS CLAW CREEPER



APPROX. 700KM of high risk weed pathways treated annually

An average of 1,000 HECTARES of weed control COMPLETED ANNUALLY.



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

LAND USE AND SOILS




3

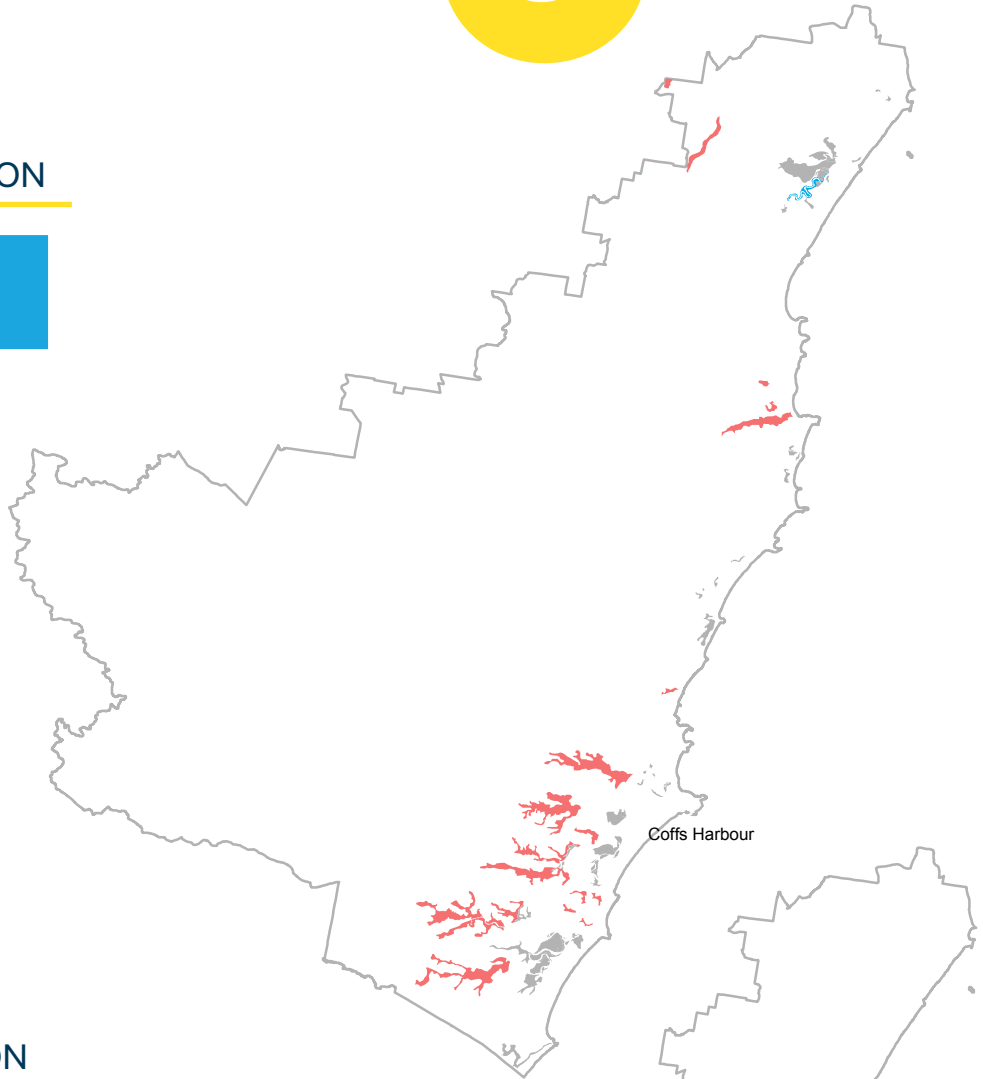
SOIL TYPES AND CONDITION

North Coast Flood Plains
 All other Indicators- GOOD/VERY GOOD
 Poorest indicator - ORGANIC CARBON

Clarence Sodic Soils
 All other indicators-FAIR/GOOD
 Poorest indicator - GULLY & SHEET EROSION

North Coast Acid Sulphate Soils
 All other indicators- GOOD
 Poorest indicator - ACIDITY

-  North Coast Acid Sulfate Soils
-  North Coast Floodplains
-  Clarence Sodic Soils






MINING AND EXPLORATION

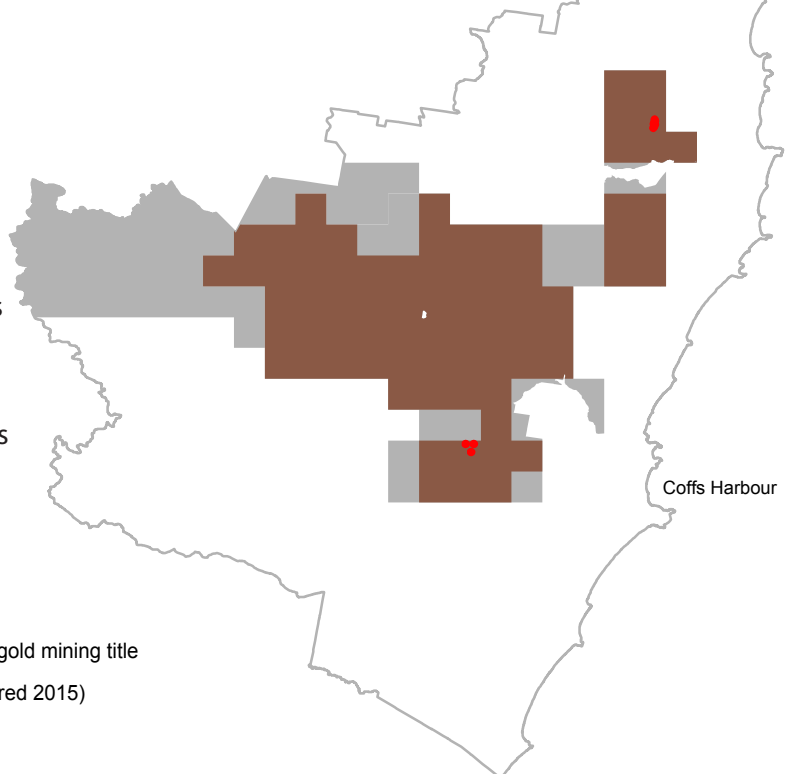
1 Current mining licence (gold)

1 Current exploration licence

10 Mineral exploration boreholes (all pre-1980)

2 Historical mineral explorations licenses (expired 2015)

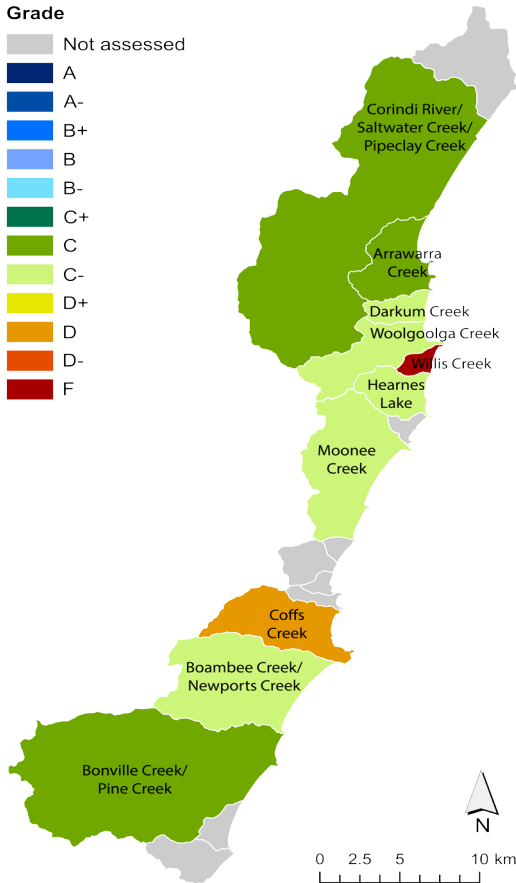
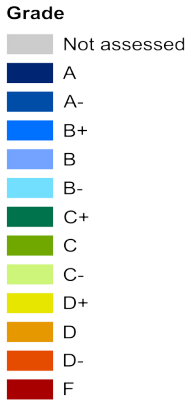
-  Mineral boreholes - 10 (pre-1980)
-  1 current mining exploration licence, 1 small gold mining title
-  2 historical mining exploration licences (expired 2015)



WATER

4

RIVER HEALTH



The Ecohealth water quality monitoring program has been completed twice in the LGA in 2012 and 2015. The coastal Coffs catchments rated a C- or "Fair" condition in 2015, down from a C in 2012. Key issues were riverbank erosion impacting sediment loads, high nutrient levels, and poor riparian vegetation, with subcatchment scores ranging from C+ to F.

Willis Creek and Coffs Creek received the poorest scores.

The Orara catchment was assessed in 2013 as part of the Clarence Ecohealth project, scoring a B or "Good" condition.

OSSM COMPLIANCE

On-site sewage management systems compliance ranges from

60% TO 94% COMPLIANCE

for inspected systems since 2012

GROUNDWATER STATUS

7 groundwater sources, all are currently at low risk of overallocation. All now have water sharing plans as of 1 July 2016

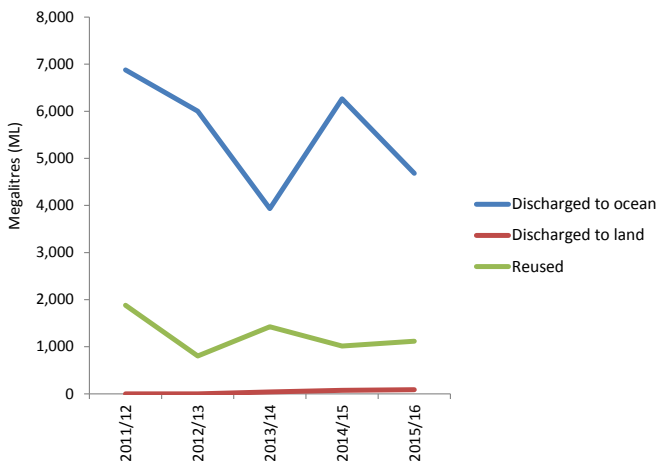
Some **SURFACE WATER SOURCES** appear **UNDER STRESS** in particular subcatchments

WASTE WATER



Waste water discharged to the **OCEAN** averages **5,500 ML ANNUALLY**

WASTE WATER REUSE is variable, ranging from 11 -26% of the total volume of water



RIVER AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT

Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMP) have been prepared for a number of Coffs numerous estuaries, including Coffs Creek, Arrawarra Creek, Bonville Creek, and Corindi River

The remaining estuaries will have CZMPs prepared in accordance with the new *Coastal Management Act 2016* when finalised

