

# **SUPPLEMENTARY**

## **STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT,**

### **WEDDIN SHIRE**

**2014 - 2015**

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**1 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 General**

Weddin Shire Council is required under the Local Government Act [the Act] to prepare a Supplementary State of the Environment Report for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2015.

Such a Supplementary Report must:

- [i] identify any new environmental impacts since the Council's last State of the Environment Report, and
- [ii] update the trends in environmental indicators that are important to each of the eight environmental sectors specified in section 428 [2] (c) of the Local Government Act

These eight environmental sectors are:

- [i] land,
- [ii] air,
- [iii] water,
- [iv] biodiversity,
- [v] waste,
- [vi] noise
- [vii] Aboriginal heritage, and
- [viii] non – Aboriginal heritage,

In relation to each such environmental sector, the report must consider any

- management plans relating to the environment,

- special council projects relating to the environment, and
- the environmental impact of council activities.

## 1.2 Relevant Catchment Management Targets

Weddin Shire is located within the Central West Local Land Services [CWLLS] area and therefore has an obligation to contribute to the achievement of the land and water management and biodiversity / native vegetation management targets established for the catchment.

While many general targets have been set by the CWLLS for its total area, and are relevant to Weddin Shire and its people, there are a number that have direct implications for local government councils in the catchment – including Weddin Shire Council.

The Central West LLS Transitional Catchment Action Plan is being introduced and identified by Weddin Shire.

Council continues to recognize the following from previous work:

- **MT5** – By 2016 ten Councils within the catchment have prepared and are implementing local biodiversity strategies consistent with the National and State Biodiversity Guidelines for local government.

**Progress / Outcome:** Weddin Shire Council has previously completed a biodiversity audit

- **MT6** – By 2016 all regional and local land use strategies and environmental planning instruments incorporate provisions which support the protection of environmental assets for the sustainability of the landscape and its native flora and fauna.

**Progress / Outcome:** Weddin Shire Council has updated its LEP

- **MT7** – By 2016 twenty councils are managing roadside reserves in line with Roadside Vegetation Management Plans.

**Progress / Outcome:** Weddin Shire Council has participated in roadside vegetation management planning projects

- **MT11** – By 2010 an Integrated Weed Management Strategy will be developed. By 2016 priority actions identified in the Integrated Weed Management Strategy will be implemented.

**Progress / Outcome:** A regional weed strategy has been developed and published

- **MT12** – By 2010 an Integrated Pest Animal Management Plan will be completed. By 2016 populations of priority environmental pest animals will be controlled and suppressed in accordance with the pest animal management plans.

**Progress / Outcome:** A regional animal strategy has been developed and is awaiting printing.

- **MT18** – By 2016 ten councils have adopted and are implementing an Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan

**Progress / Outcome:** Weddin Shire Council is currently developing this plan with a completion

### **1.3 CWLLS Activity in Weddin Shire**

The Central West Local Land Services will foster a number of land and water management programs within the Shire since. The formal agreements between the CWLLS and landholders indicate that almost 112 000 hectares were targeted to achieve positive changes in land and water management as a result of the implementation of these programs.

In reality, however, there is a considerably larger area of land within the Shire that has been subjected to improved land management practices associated with cropping and grazing as well as strategic tree planting that have been implemented by individual farmers as they adopt these practices on a whole farm basis.

The individual broad programs funded within Weddin Shire in the past include

**Water Quality Management** – including sediment and nutrient control and mapping of areas with a high salinity potential

**Land Management** – including conversion of existing farm machinery to achieve conservation farming outcomes, purchase of new conservation farming machinery and related equipment, use of soil ameliorants, use of perennial pastures for revegetation of groundwater recharge sites and salinity outbreak areas, drought lotting of livestock [drought years only], improving water use efficiency.

**Vegetation Management** – including vegetation conservation in dryland and riparian situations, revegetation of dryland, riparian and salinity discharge sites

## **2 REPORT FOR 2014 - 2015**

A Comprehensive State of the Environment Report was prepared by Weddin Shire Council for the year 2012-2013.

Any changes in the situation described in 2012-2013 Comprehensive Report and the previous Supplementary Reports, are addressed below under the headings of the eight environmental sectors listed in the Act.

### **2.1 Land**

#### **2.1.1 Shire Area**

There were no changes to the total area within Weddin Shire during the 2014-2015 year.

#### **2.1.2 Major Centres and Population**

The total Weddin Shire population recorded at the 2011 census was 3665 – a minor increase from 3640 in 2006.

A breakdown of the populations within the town of Grenfell and the four main localities within the Shire shows the following populations within these statistical areas.

- Grenfell – 2590 people
- Quandialla [including Bimbi and Piney Range] – 349 people
- Caragabal [including Pullabooka] – 220 people
- Greenethorpe [including Bumbaldry] – 320 people
- Warraderry [including Glenelg and Pinnacle] – 186 people

Although the population of the Shire increased slightly the main change noted in the census was the decrease in the number of people in the 25 to 54 years age bracket by 122 people.

### **2.1.3 Land Use Planning in Weddin Shire**

The Weddin LEP 2002 was gazetted on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2002 and replaced the previous Grenfell IDOs.

Zonings under this LEP were as follows

- 1[a] - agricultural zone - 333,184 ha
- 1[ci] - rural residential zone - 203 ha
- 1[cii] - small farm zone - 286 ha
- 1[ciii] - rural retreat zone - 950 ha
- 2[t] - township zone - 475 ha
- 2[v] - village zone - [Village of Quandialla 162 ha], [Village of Caragabal 36 ha], [Village of Greenethorpe 57 ha], [Village of Bimbi 12 ha].
- 8 - national parks and reserves zone - 10, 432 ha

This LEP was replaced by Weddin LEP 2011 which was gazetted on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2011. The new land zones in the Weddin LEP 2011 are:

- E3 – Environmental Management
- RU1 – Primary Production
- R5 – Large Lot Residential
- R1 – General Residential
- B2 – Local Centre
- INI – General Industrial
- RE1 – Public Recreation
- RE1 – Private Recreation
- E1 – National Parks & Nature Reserves
- RU5 – Village
- SP2 – Infrastructure

### **2.1.4 Land Use**

Land use patterns within Weddin Shire continued to be similar to those of previous years.

In general the year was one that would be described as a repeat of the previous year that culminated in a cold dry November. This resulted in many cereal crops suffering weather damage that resulted in heavy discounting of the prices received.

Sheep were less affected. Sheep blowflies and intestinal worms caused less significant losses in some areas and fewer sheep developed foot problems from the dryer environment.

No detailed livestock production figures are available for the Shire, but many properties are carrying reduced stock numbers because of the previous drought years.

No additional lands have been added to the National Parks in the Shire during the year.

The gold mine at Bumbaldry that was approved by Council some years ago has ceased production and is in closure mode.

During the year Weddin Shire Council continued to seek concurrence from Department of Planning regarding amendments to the Primary Production Strategy, a Supply and Demand Analysis. These relate to availability of land for residential purposes close to existing centres of population and an analysis of 'Constraints and Opportunities for R5 and RU1 Lands'.

### **2.1.5 Natural Resource Management and Surveys**

Most Landcare groups within the Shire have engaged in minimal levels of activity during the year.

One initiative that has continue to develop during the year has been the Weddin Landcare Wildplant Nursery which has been operating through the Grenfell TAFE premises. The nursery site has been formalised, and the group involved have been collecting and cleaning native plant seeds in preparation for propagation of local provenances of native tree and shrub species for use in rehabilitation of areas where native vegetation has been removed.

In addition, a number of the volunteers have completed a TAFE course aimed at assisting them to recognize the different native plant species and to propagate the species from seed.

No additional land resource surveys dealing with soils or geology within Weddin Shire were published during the year to add to the knowledge about these resources within the Shire boundaries.

#### ***WEDDIN SHIRE COUNCIL ACTIVITIES:***

- Council has not developed any new management plans related to the land resources of the Shire, nor has it any ongoing plans of this nature.
- No Council activities or activities of individuals or corporations have had a major or significant impact on the land resources of the Shire during the reporting year.

## **2.2 Air**

There have not been any specific studies of air quality in Weddin Shire that have provided additional air quality data during the year under review.

With regard to all industry, Council applies the following conditions to reduce air pollution:

- [a] activities must be carried out in a manner that will minimise emissions of dust from the premises.

- [b] dust generated by an activity must be prevented from polluting any natural waterway and it is the operator's responsibility to control dust generated by an activity.
- [c] if odour or dust becomes a nuisance to neighbours, then the operator must take all necessary actions to reduce the nuisance to acceptable levels. This may involve increased landscaping, dust suppression measures or changes to work practices.

No instances of significant air pollution were reported to Council and no litigation in relation to air pollution was commenced during the year. However, some complaints were received about emissions from two grain depots in Grenfell.

***WEDDIN SHIRE COUNCIL ACTIVITIES:***

- Council has not developed any new management plans related to air quality in the Shire, nor has it any ongoing plans of this nature.
- No Council activities or activities of individuals or corporations have had a major or significant impact on the air quality in the Shire during the reporting year.
- Council continues to ensure that industries that have a potential to impact on air quality use management practices and appropriate technology to minimise this possibility

### **2.3 Water and Water Quality**

No sewerage spills occurred during the year and there were no reported instances of pollution and / or sedimentation associated with local streams.

***WEDDIN SHIRE COUNCIL ACTIVITIES:***

- Council has not developed any new management plans related to the water resources of the Shire, nor has it any ongoing plans of this nature.
- No Council activities or activities of individuals or corporations have had a major or significant impact on the water resources of the Shire during the reporting year.

### **2.4 Biodiversity**

#### **2.4.1 Fauna Studies**

No new fauna studies were carried out in the Shire during the 2014-2015 year.

#### **2.4.2 Vegetation Studies**

No new flora studies were carried out in the Shire during the 2014-2015 year.

#### **2.4.3 Threatened Species, Endangered Ecological Communities and Recovery Plans**

##### **2.4.3.1 Threatened Fauna Species**

###### **[a] NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act**

During the year, there have been no new species added to the list of threatened fauna species recorded within the Weddin Shire. There are currently thirty one threatened fauna species recorded from Weddin Shire that are listed in the Schedules of the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995 [TSC Act].

These threatened species are:

**Australian Bustard** [*Ardeotis australis*] [listed Endangered]

**Barking Owl** [*Ninox connivens*] [listed Vulnerable]

**Bilby** [*Macrotis lagotis*] [listed as Presumed Extinct]

**Black-chinned Honeyeater** [eastern subspecies] [*Melithreptus gularis gularis*] [listed Vulnerable]

**Brown Tree-creeper** [including eastern subspecies] [*Climacteris picumnus victoriae*] [listed Vulnerable]

**Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby** [*Petrogale penicillata*] [listed Endangered]

**Corben's Long-eared Bat** [*Nyctophilus corbeni*] [listed Vulnerable]

**Diamond Firetail** [*Stagonopleura guttata*] [listed Vulnerable]

**Flame Robin** [*Petroica phoenicea*] [listed Vulnerable]

**Gang-gang Cockatoo** [*Callocephalon fimbriatum*] [listed as Vulnerable]

**Gilbert's Whistler** [*Pachycephala inornata*] [listed Vulnerable]

**Grey-crowned Babbler** [eastern subspecies] [*Pomatostomus temporalis*] [listed Vulnerable]

**Hooded Robin** [south-eastern form] [*Melanodryas cucullata cucullata*] [listed Vulnerable]

**Koala** [*Phascolarctos cinereus*] [listed Vulnerable]

**Major Mitchell's Cockatoo** [*Cacatua leadbeateri*] [listed Vulnerable]

**Little Eagle** [*Hiraaetus morphnoides*] [listed Vulnerable]

**Little Lorikeet** [*Glossopsitta pusilla*] [listed Vulnerable]

**Little Pied Bat** [*Chalinolobus picatus*] [listed Vulnerable]

**Painted Honeyeater** [*Grantiella picta*] [listed Vulnerable]

**Pied Honeyeater** [*Certhionyx variegatus*] [listed Vulnerable]

**Regent Honeyeater** [*Xanthomyza phrygia*] [listed Endangered]

**Scarlet Robin** [*Petroica boodang*] [listed Vulnerable]

**Speckled Warbler** [*Pyrrholaemus sagittatus*] [listed Vulnerable]

**Spotted Harrier** [*Circus assimilis*] [listed Vulnerable]

**Spotted-tail Quoll** [*Dasyurus maculatus*] [listed Vulnerable]

**Square-tailed Kite** [*Lophoictinia isura*] [listed Vulnerable]

**Superb Parrot** [*Polytelis swainsonii*] [listed Vulnerable]

**Swift Parrot** [*Lathamus discolor*] [listed Endangered]

**Turquoise Parrot** [*Neophema pulchella*] [listed Vulnerable]

**Varied Sitella** [*Daphnoenositta chrysoptera*] [listed Vulnerable]

**White-fronted Chat** [*Ephthianura albifrons*] [listed Vulnerable]

These species are included in the list of fauna species that must be considered by Council in assessing the likely environmental impact of developments within Weddin Shire.

**[b] Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act**

The fauna species that are listed under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act [EPBC Act] as likely to occur, or their habitat is likely to occur within Weddin Shire are listed below [*source*: Protected Matters Report under the EPBC Act, dated 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2012].

The additional species listed during the past year are indicated by an asterisk '\*':

**[i] Birds**

**Australian Painted Snipe** [*Rostratula australis*] [listed Vulnerable]

**Australian Bittern** [*Botaurus poiciloptilus*] [listed Endangered]

**Malleefowl** [*Leipoa ocellata*] [listed Vulnerable]

**Regent Honeyeater** [*Anthochaera phrygia*] [listed Endangered]

**Superb Parrot** [*Polytelis swainsonii*] [listed Vulnerable]

**Swift Parrot** [*Lathamus discolor*] [listed Endangered]

**[ii] Mammals**

**Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby** [*Petrogale penicillata*] [listed Vulnerable]

**Koala** [*Phascolarctos cinereus*] [combined populations of NSW, ACT, Qld] [listed Vulnerable]

\* **South-eastern Long-eared Bat** [*Nyctophilus corbeni*] [listed Vulnerable]

**Spotted-tail Quoll** [*Dasyurus maculatus maculatus* [SE mainland population]] [listed Endangered]

### [iii] Ray-finned Fishes

**Macquarie Perch** [*Macquaria australasica*] [listed Endangered]

**Murray Cod** [*Maccullochella peelii peelii*] [listed Vulnerable]

### [iv] Reptiles

**Broad-headed Snake** [*Hoplocephalus bungaroides*] [listed Vulnerable]

\* **Pink-tailed Worm-lizard** [*Aprasia parapulchella*] [listed Vulnerable]

### [v] Migratory Birds

**A number of migratory marine, terrestrial and wetland birds are also listed as species that are likely to occur in Weddin Shire, or whose habitat is likely to occur in the Shire. These are in addition to some of the species already listed and include:**

**Cattle Egret** [*Ardea ibis*]

**Fork-tailed Swift** [*Apus pacificus*]

**Great Egret** [*Ardea alba*]

**Latham's Snipe** [*Gallinago hardwickii*]

**Painted Snipe** [*Rostratula benghalensis* s. lat]

**Rainbow Bee-eater** [*Merops ornatus*]

\* **Rufous Fantail** [*Rhipidura rufifrons*]

\* **Satin Flycatcher** [*Myiagra cyanoleuca*]

**White-bellied Sea-eagle** [*Haliaeetus leucogaster*]

**White-throated Needletail** [*Hirundapus caudacutus*]

All of these species are included in the list of fauna species that must be considered by Council in assessing the likely environmental impact of developments within Weddin Shire.

#### 2.4.3.2 Threatened Flora Species

##### [a] NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act

The four threatened flora species that are listed in the Schedules of the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995 and that have been recorded from Weddin Shire are:

***Acacia ausfeldii*** [Ausfeld's Wattle] [listed Vulnerable]

***Austrostipa wakoolica*** [a Speargrass] [listed Endangered]

***Diuris tricolor*** [Pine Donkey Orchid] [listed Vulnerable]

*Leionema sympetalum* [Rylstone Bell] [listed Vulnerable]

This list is based on the records contained in the 'Atlas of NSW Wildlife [Office of Environment and Heritage website] and the National Herbarium [Royal Botanic Gardens] website.

These species are included in the list of flora species that must be considered by Council in assessing the likely environmental impact of developments within Weddin Shire.

**[b] Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act**

Five flora species are listed under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act are likely to occur, or their habitat is likely to occur within Weddin Shire [source: [source: Protected Matters Report under the EPBC Act, dated 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2012] These species are

*Austrostipa metatoris* [a Speargrass] [listed Vulnerable]

*Austrostipa wakoolica* [a Speargrass] [listed Endangered]

*Leucochrysum albicans* var. *tricolor* [Hoary Sunray] [listed Endangered]

*Swainsona murrayana* [Slender Darling Pea] [listed Vulnerable]

*Tylophora linearis* [listed Endangered]

These species are included in the list of flora species that must be considered by Council in assessing the likely environmental impact of developments within Weddin Shire.

**2.4.3.3 Endangered Ecological Communities**

**[a] NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act**

During the year no additional endangered communities that occur within the Weddin Shire were listed in the Schedules of the Threatened Species Conservation Act by the NSW Scientific Committee.

Currently there is a total of four Endangered Ecological Communities that occur within Weddin Shire. These communities are:

- Fuzzy Box Woodland on Alluvial Soils of the South Western Slopes, Darling Riverine Plains and Brigalow Belt South Bioregions Endangered Ecological Community.
- Inland Grey Box Woodland in the Riverina, NSW South Western Slopes, Cobar Penepplain, Nandewar, and Brigalow Belt South Bioregions;
- Myall Woodland in the Darling Riverine Plains, Brigalow Belt South, Cobar Penepplain, Murray Darling Basin, Riverina and NSW South Western Slopes Bioregions; and
- White Box - Yellow Box - Blakely's Red Gum Woodland Community,

Impacts of proposed developments within Weddin Shire on all of these communities must be addressed in environmental assessments prepared for areas where they occur in the Shire.

**[b] Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act**

The list of Threatened Ecological Communities under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act that occur within Weddin Shire includes:

- Grey Box [*Eucalyptus microcarpa*] Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia;
- Weeping Myall Woodlands; and
- White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grassland

Again, impacts of proposed developments within Weddin Shire on all of these communities must be addressed in environmental assessments prepared for areas where they occur in the Shire.

**2.4.3.4 Threatened Species Recovery Plans**

During the year the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service prepared a number of draft and approved Recovery Plans for Threatened species that are listed in the Schedules of the Threatened Species Conservation Act.

Under section 70 of that Act, any public authority identified in a Recovery Plan as being responsible for implementation of measures included in the Plan must report annually in its State of the Environment Report on the actions taken to implement those measures.

During the 2014-2015 reporting year there were no Recovery Plans approved that require Weddin Shire Council to implement any aspects of such plans.

Perusal of the total listing of Approved Recovery Plans on the National Parks and Wildlife Service website indicates that there are two threatened species recorded for the Shire for which a final Recovery Plans ha been approved – the Koala and Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby.

**2.4.3.5 Endangered Populations**

There are no Endangered Flora or Fauna Populations listed for Weddin Shire in the Schedules of the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995.

**2.4.3.6 Critical Habitat**

There are no areas of Critical Habitat listed for Weddin Shire in the Schedules of the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995.

#### **2.4.3.6 Key Threatening Processes**

There are a number of processes that have been gazetted as Key Threatening Processes under the provisions of the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995.

Under this Act, the Office of Environment and Heritage must prepare a Threat Abatement Plan that identifies actions required to be taken and identifies the responsible authorities, including local government councils.

Perusal of the Department of Environment and Conservation's website indicates that only one Threat Abatement Plan relevant to Weddin Shire has been finalized. This relates to *Predation by the Red Fox [Vulpes vulpes]*.

There are no actions listed in the Plan that require involvement by Weddin Shire Council.

#### **2.4.4 Clearing of Native Vegetation**

During the 2011 – 2012 reporting year there were two applications approved for the clearing of native vegetation. One application involved approval to clear 19.18 hectares of invasive native scrub and the thinning of 4.49 hectares of regrowth.

The second approval involved the removal of some 1035 paddock trees over an area of 50.4 hectares to facilitate easier operation of farming plant.

#### **2.4.5 Native Tree Planting**

Few native trees and shrubs were planted in the Shire during the year under Landcare and related programs. Some tree planting was undertaken by individual landholders but these plantings were usually small in extent.

#### **2.4.6 Weed Control**

Council has continued its direct weed control activities on Council controlled lands. In addition, infestations of noxious weeds on private lands and those controlled by other public bodies are monitored as funds permit.

There are now more than one hundred weed species or species groups are declared noxious within Weddin Shire. The current listing represents a decrease of three species or species groups during the year. Many of these species do not occur within the Shire but have been added to the noxious weed list following their declaration as noxious weeds for the whole of New South Wales.

The listing of these species is contained on the NSW Primary Industries website.

Council's direct expenditure on noxious weed control during the year was \$101,335. Council's Noxious Weeds Officer has been active during the year in inspecting individual farming properties. In all, some 202 properties were inspected.

## 2.4.8 Feral Animal Control

Feral animal control continues to be carried out in the Shire on individual landholders' properties as well as on the two National Parks in the Shire.

Control activities have been targeted feral goats, feral pigs, rabbits and foxes.

### **WEDDIN SHIRE COUNCIL ACTIVITIES:**

- Council has not developed any new management plans related to biodiversity within the Shire, nor has it any ongoing plans of this nature.
- No Council activities or activities of individuals or corporations have had a major or significant detrimental impact on biodiversity within the Shire during the reporting year.

## 2.5 Waste Management

### 2.5.1 General Waste Management

All kerbside recycling collections and other similar material is transferred to a facility operated by Cowra Shire Council where the materials are sorted and sold for reuse. Domestic waste collections during the year by Council amounted to approximately 1715.04 tonnes.

Similarly all paper and glass for recycling is transported to the Cowra facility for sorting and sale.

The Grenfell Waste Facility is manned during limited opening hours. Hours of operation are 10am – 4pm on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. At other times the site is locked. The greater supervision of the waste depot has ensured that it a much more ordered site.

Six thousand nine hundred [6,900] litres of oil were collected at the Grenfell Waste Facility during the year. Collections of hazardous household materials were made twice during the year.

From the recycling collections, Council sold 200 tonnes of metal waste for the year.

The following quantities of waste were handled by Council facilities during the year:

- [a] (i) **Unweighed waste - Grenfell Landfill** [*including ferrous, non-ferrous, contaminated soil, mixed, vegetation / garden, wood, tyres*]
- **Garbage Collections** – 1,715.04 tonnes
  - **Industrial** – 459.68 tonnes [est]
  - **Building Waste** [*including virgin excavated natural material [VENM], non- contaminated soil, bricks, concrete, plasterboard, mixed, contaminated soil and asbestos*] – 790.79 tonnes [est]
  - **Transported Waste** – for recovery or re-use [*including co-mingled, glass, paper, cardboard, ferrous and non- ferrous metal, oil, E-waste*] – 316.26 tonnes

(ii) **Unweighed waste – Quandialla Landfill** - *[including mixed, food, vegetation / garden, wood / trees / timber, paper / cardboard, glass]*

- **Garbage** – 31.35 tonnes [est]

(iii) **Unweighed waste – Caragabal Landfill** - *[including food, mixed, vegetation / garden, wood / trees / timber, glass, paper, ferrous metals]*

- **Garbage** – 27.95 tonnes [est]

The green waste is disposed of by mulching and used for cover in the disposal cells.

During Clean Up Australia Day the Grenfell community volunteers participated in a town cleanup as well as rubbish collections along roadsides and at the approaches to Grenfell. In addition many landholders involved themselves in cleaning up roadside rubbish on areas adjacent to their properties.

#### **[b] Sewerage**

No changes have occurred in the management of sewerage effluent and solids. The management processes reported on previously continue to operate successfully.

Council continues to use treated sewerage effluent on parks and gardens within Grenfell.

During the year 600 metres of sewer mains were re-lined to ensure that the system operated effectively.

The Grenfell Sewerage Treatment Plant wetland project has remained in abeyance due to a lack of funds.

#### **[c] Contaminated Sites**

No new contaminated sites were identified in the Shire during the report year. The situation with the old Grenfell Gas Works site remains unchanged although a final report on the site has been prepared some time ago.

#### **WEDDIN SHIRE COUNCIL ACTIVITIES:**

- Council has developed 3 new improvement plans related to waste management within the Shire at its 3 waste facilities and is seeking funding to carry out these works.
- No Council activities or activities of individuals or corporations have had a major or significant impact on waste management within the Shire during the reporting year.

## **2.6 Noise**

Council experiences very few problems with noise from industry or traffic. There were no significant problems during the year.

### ***WEDDIN SHIRE COUNCIL ACTIVITIES:***

- Council has not developed any new management plans related to noise abatement in the Shire, nor has it any ongoing plans of this nature.
- No Council activities or activities of individuals or corporations have had a major or significant impact on noise levels or on noise abatement in the Shire during the reporting year.

## **2.7 Aboriginal Heritage**

No studies relating to the Aboriginal heritage within Weddin Shire have been carried out during the year and no additional listings of Aboriginal sites have been made during the year.

### ***WEDDIN SHIRE COUNCIL ACTIVITIES:***

- Council has not developed any new management plans related to Aboriginal heritage within the Shire, nor has it any ongoing plans of this nature.
- No Council activities or activities of individuals or corporations have had a major or significant impact on sites or other aspects of Aboriginal heritage within the Shire during the reporting year.

## **2.8 Non-Aboriginal Heritage**

The Weddin LEP 2011 lists some 90 heritage items and two new heritage conservation areas.

Council continued to retain a consultant heritage adviser to assist staff and residents in the conservation of heritage sites within the Shire.

A viewing platform and toilet block have been provided by Council at the O'Brien's Hill historic mining site.

### ***WEDDIN SHIRE COUNCIL ACTIVITIES:***

- Council has developed a new management plan for the O'Brien Hill site and is seeking funding to develop the site.
- No Council activities or activities of individuals or corporations have had a major or significant deleterious impact on sites or other aspects of non-Aboriginal heritage within the Shire during the reporting year.