



Narrandera

Shire Council

Annual Report 2006/2007

APPENDIX C

State of the Environment Report



STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT

2007 Update

Overview

Council commissioned Geolyse Pty Ltd to develop a 2004 Comprehensive Report on the State of the Environment for Narrandera Shire. Council is currently investigating a regional approach for State of Environment Reporting. This collaborative approach will possibly be adopted for the comprehensive report due in 2008.

The following documentation represents an update of items arising from the 2004 comprehensive report.

1.0 Land

Since the completion of the 2004 report there has not been any significant developments which have impacted on rural land. Apart from the approval of a 900 head beef cattle feedlot on the southern side of the Murrumbidgee River. There has been little evidence of further agribusiness development. A number of concessional allotments have been approved as well as several rural subdivisions. The continuation of the drought in most rural areas of New South Wales has had a negative impact on agribusinesses throughout the Shire. Even irrigated areas of the Shire are experiencing difficulties due to low water residues in upper catchment dam resulting in severe cutbacks to water allocations.

1.1 Contaminated Lands

Since the last report a service station at Gillenbah (Ampol) has been closed and the site is currently in the process of remediation. A site, formally owned by the Shell Oil Company, has undergone a decontamination process following the closure of this facility. A site formerly used for bitumen sealing processing has been identified as being a contaminated site and has been identified for a future remediation process.

1.2 Urban Land Development

No significant growth has occurred in the urban area in 2006/2007. Council has sold land stock within stage 3 of its residential development at North Narrandera and a private subdivision comprising 19 residential lots will be released. This development is not anticipated to create pressures on infrastructure.

It is also anticipated that a further subdivision of 7 allotments will be released in Council's Industrial Subdivision in North Narrandera within the next six months. Investigation is continuing to service these and existing lots with reticulated sewer to a packaged treatment plant. The new lots will range between 2000 m² and 3000 m².

The continuing drought affecting the State along with water shortages and an aging population is having a significant impact on urban land development. There appears to be more interest in developing infill sites as opposed to green field sites. Council is seeing more interest in unit type development instead of single dwelling houses.

2.0 Water

Council is trustee of a reserve which incorporates a waterway known as Lake Talbot. This lake is fed by the main canal supplying the MIA. The lake edge has become infested with willows and Council is currently preparing a management plan to provide for selective removal and replanting with native species. Council has been successful in obtaining an Environment Trust grant over three years to fund this work along with restoration work on sections of the Bundidgerry Walking Track that traverse areas around the lake. Removal of the willows commenced in late 2007 with the project expected to be completed by December 2007.

2.1 Groundwater

The Narrandera Town Water Supply is currently supplied by three bores on the southern side of the Murrumbidgee River. Two bores have been in service for thirty years and both are subject to refurbishment works. A new bore has been developed and commissioned. The additional bore will not adversely impact on the ground water resources as the total drawdown will remain the same with the additional bore being developed to provided security of supply rather than additional output given the age of the existing bores.

2.2 Wetlands – Narrandera

Council, with the support of the Department of the Environment, constructed a wetlands area on the northern side of the Murrumbidgee River. The purpose of the wetlands is to provide a natural treatment of town stormwater drainage prior to its entry into the River. The Wetlands area may also be supplemented with treated effluent from the adjoining Sewerage Treatment Works. Grant funds are currently being sought for these works.

3.0 Biodiversity

Council has accepted grant funding from Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority which will provide for selected road side vegetation studies.

4.0 Waste

Council commenced planning of a new waste depot in early 2005. The concept plans are currently being finalised and will provide for recycling on a larger scale than is presently being provided. The concept is being developed in conjunction with the Regional Waste Management Strategy. Council has formed a local Waste Management Committee to oversee all aspects of waste management within the Shire. Due to the lapse of time since the original plans were commissioned the committee is currently reviewing these plans for the new waste depot site with the

view of updating the data to bring it into line with best management practices.

5.0 Built Heritage

A study funded under the Main Street Program in the 1990's identified 62 heritage properties in the urban area of Narrandera. Council is currently involved in a consultancy to amend its Local Environment Plan to list these properties as a means of preserving the current streetscape and heritage character of the CBD and adjoining areas. The new Local Environment Plan is due in 2011 and work will be commencing to review the present document to ensure that it meets the requirements of the Department of Planning's guidelines.

Conclusion

Overall, the State of the Environment in the Narrandera LGA is relatively unchanged since the 2004 Comprehensive Report.