



STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Scorecard 2017 - 2018

Biodiversity | Climate Change and Air Quality | Waste | Transport

Total Water Cycle | Planning, Built Environment and Heritage

Engagement and Education for Sustainability

THE MOSMAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

The Mosman LGA is located 8km north-east of the CBD on Sydney’s lower north shore. It is one of Australia’s premier suburbs with an unmatched harbourside setting. Occupying some 8.7 sq km, Mosman features stunning bays and beaches punctuated by rugged headlands, sandstone cliffs, bushland areas and foreshore parklands.

Mosman’s undulating foreshore is approximately 24km in length and is emphasised by more than a dozen headlands. Mosman is home to many popular swimming and recreation beaches and bays including Chinamans and Balmoral Beach, The Spit, Cobblers Beach and Clifton Gardens. The majority of the foreshore include significant rocky areas, bushland, including many protected areas, and reserves and tourist attractions, such as Sydney Harbour National Park and Taronga Zoo.

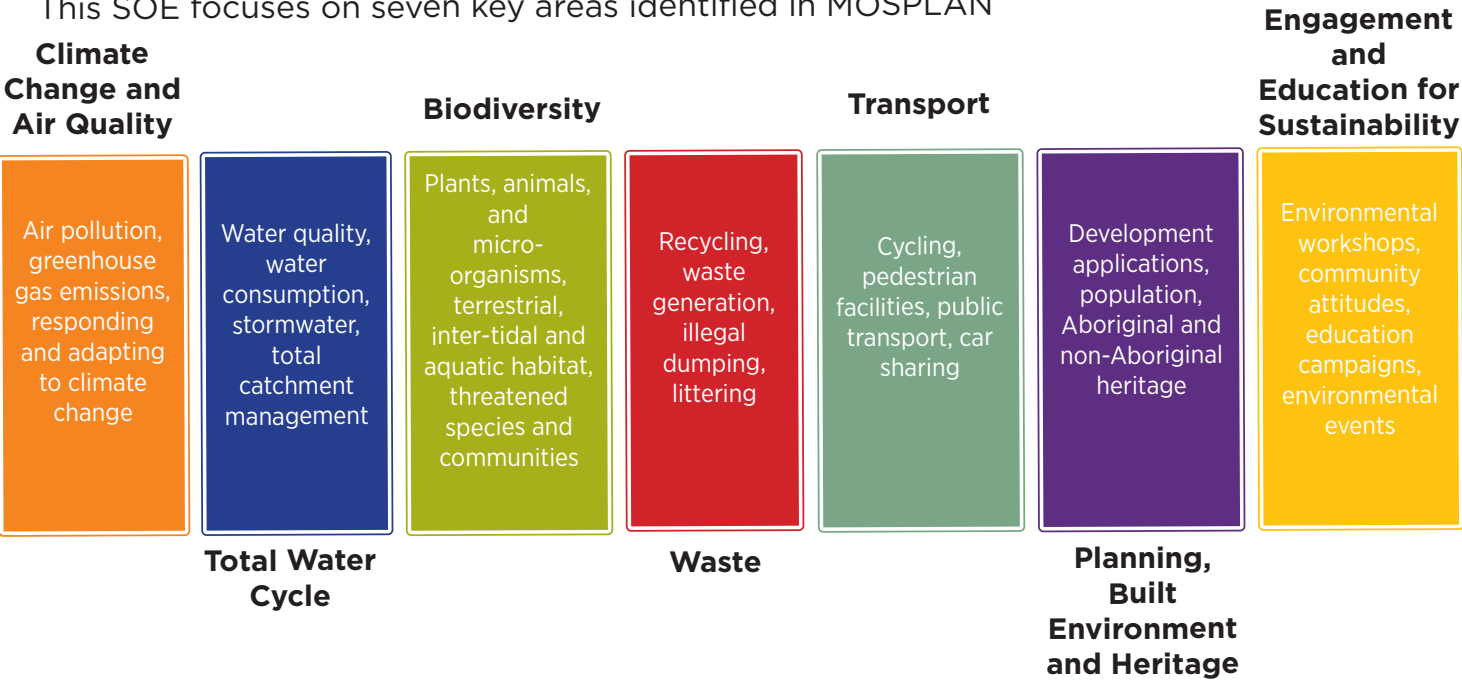
Mosman Council’s vision is to preserve and enhance biodiversity, including Mosman’s bushland, parks, open space, beaches and marine environment through best practice operational and maintenance programs, infrastructure, regulatory practice and education campaigns.

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORTING

A State of the Environment (SOE) Report provides a snapshot of the condition of the environment, impacts on the environment and the Council’s response to these impacts. The 2017-2018 SOE Scorecard summaries initiatives, programs and projects undertaken by Council to improve the local environment.

KEY AREAS

This SOE focuses on seven key areas identified in MOSPLAN



A number of standard indicators have been chosen by the State Government to measure each key area. These indicators align with the goals and objectives of MOSPLAN and allow for changes in the environment to be measured over time.



CLIMATE CHANGE AND AIR QUALITY

AIR QUALITY	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Change from previous year
Number of air pollution complaints received by Council	3	2	2	12	↑
ENERGY					
Electricity use Council operations (kWh)	1,577,961	1,666,642	1,588,203	1,598,413	↑
Council energy and consumption (GJ)	6,396	7,087	6,648	6,880	↑
GHG emissions from Council energy and gas use (tonnes CO ₂ -e)	1,605	1,588	1,511	1,707	↑
Total residential and non residential electricity use for Mosman (MWh)	138,437	137,569	136,916	34,219	↓
Solar generation exported to the grid (MWh)	599	640	757	767	↑

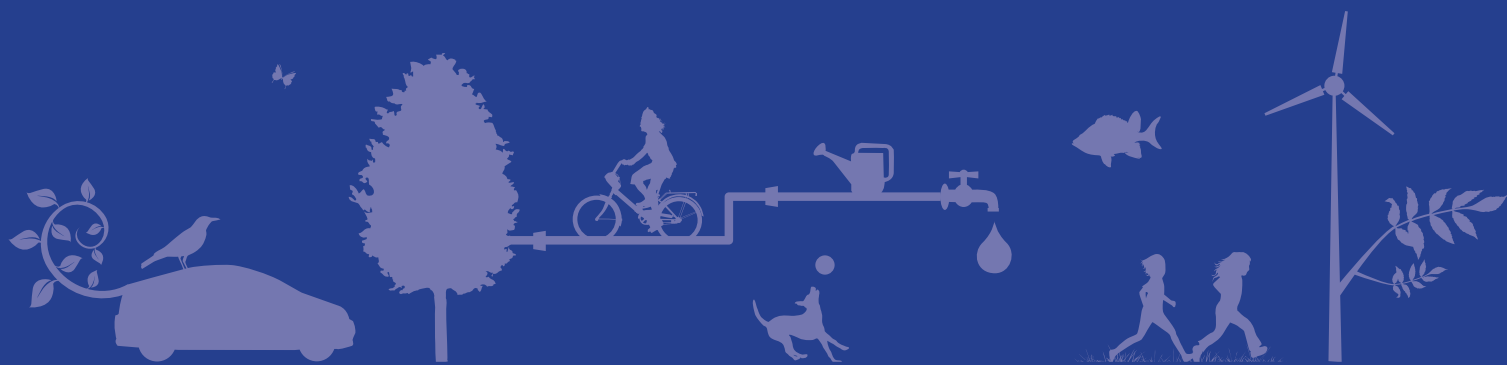
RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND AIR QUALITY ISSUES- CASE STUDIES

DEPOT LIGHTING RETROFIT

In recent years Mosman Council has upgraded the lighting in its largest Council buildings to more energy efficient lighting. The latest building to undergo this upgrade was Council's Depot building. In March 2018 the lights at the Depot were upgraded to energy efficient LED lights. It is envisaged that in the years going forward Council's energy usage at the depot will decrease.

COUNCIL ENERGY AND ELECTRICITY USAGE

Council's energy and electricity usage has increased slightly from last year. Analysis of our top energy and electricity usage sites show that they are all key council venues- Civic Centre, Library, Art Gallery and Drill Hall. This increase can be directly linked to an increase in utilisation due to external meetings and events. Whilst Council continues to try and reduce its energy usage it is difficult when venue utilisation is increasing.



TOTAL WATER CYCLE

STORMWATER	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Change from previous year
Number of gross pollutant traps (GPTs)	34	34	34	34	↔
Total gross pollutants removed from GPTs (tonnes)	247	376	368	118*^	↓
WATER CONSUMPTION					
Total LGA potable water use (kilolitres)	3,128,482	3,062,906	3,201,659	3,429,718	↑
Total residential potable water use (kilolitres per capita)	103	100	89	112	↑
Total Council potable water use (kilolitres)	67,352	61,850	71,329#	63,319	↓

^This is a significant decrease due to dry conditions and low rainfall. Leaf litter and kerbside litter were collected by street sweeping

RESPONDING TO TOTAL WATER CYCLE MANAGEMENT ISSUES- CASE STUDIES

WATER LEAKS IDENTIFIED

Through data monitoring program by Planet Footprint, Council was able to identify and appropriately manage two large water leaks at the Civic Centre that were occurring from Council taps and pipes. This prevented continued water loss at this site.

STORMWATER SYSTEMS

Council continued to monitor stormwater re-use systems at Cross Street and Botanic Road to ensure these systems provide quality water for irrigation of Council's ovals, thus reducing our reliance on potable water.





BIODIVERSITY

BIODIVERSITY CONDITION	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Change from previous year
Noxious weed notices	0	0	0	0	↔
Noxious weed assessments undertaken	21	11	15	14	↓
Number of registered active bushcare volunteers	80	79	86	86	↔
Bushcare Program volunteer hours	1,800	1,750	1,860	1,700	↓
Number of active bushcare groups	17	17	21	22	↑
Total number of native plants supplied to volunteers, contractors and residents	8,455	8,500	13,000	10,000	↓
Number of native plant species recorded in LGA	454	490	490	490	↔
Number of threatened flora species	3	3	3	3	↔
Number of threatened fauna species	5	5	5	5	↔
Number of endangered ecological communities	0	2	2	2	↔
Number of endangered fauna populations	0	0	0	0	↔
Number of feral fauna species targeted through programs (eg. rabbits, foxes, cats)	1	1	1	1	↔



RESPONDING TO BIODIVERSITY ISSUES- CASE STUDIES

QUAKERS HAT BUSHLAND TRACK UPGRADE

This year Council conducted significant repairs and upgrades to Quakers Hat Bushland Track which runs from Spit West to Quakers Hat Bay. Works included leveling of track, aligning of stair ways, installation of water bars to prevent wash out, decking over wet areas and new timber stairs. The track is a well utilised walking track and project has been heralded as a great success by the public.



STREET AND PARK TREE PLANTING PROGRAM 2018

Through April this year council conducted the Street and Park Tree planting contract for 2018. Over 180 trees and shrubs were planted throughout Mosmans' Streets and Parks, with 95% success rate. This was an excellent outcome given the prolonged dry weather conditions presented during the planting and maintenance period for this contract.



CHINAMANS BEACH DUNE FENCING

During March this year Council completed the upgrading of the dune fencing surrounding Chinamans Beach dune system. This project will help Council to protect and preserve a unique natural resource for years to come.

HABITAT TREES

Council has continued to create and protect habitat trees throughout Mosman streets, bushlands and parks. With numerous habitat trees created for specific fauna and signage outlining the benefits which educate and inform the community.

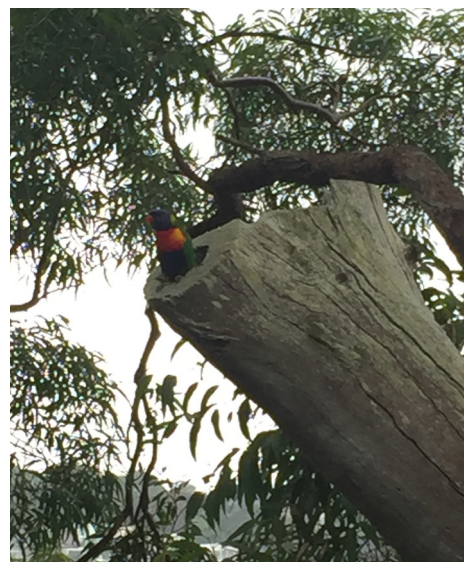


TREE INVENTORY

Council is nearing the completion of a Mosman-wide inventory of street and park trees. Information will aid Council in revitalising street and park trees, and ensure Mosman has a leafy outlook for many years to come.

STREET TREE MASTERPLAN 2017

In July 2017 Council adopted a revitalised Street Tree Masterplan for Mosman LGA. The aim of the new Street Tree Master Plan is to sustain and further enhance Mosman's streetscape. Street trees provide habitat corridors for local fauna, increase shading of hard surfaces (such as parking lanes, roadways and infrastructure) and provide significant amenity and character to the local area. Further, the amendments are aimed at reducing long-term maintenance costs and nuisance through more appropriate species selection.





WASTE	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Change from previous year
Total waste to landfill, including general cleanup (tonnes)	7,102	7,097	6,701	7,050	↑
Total waste to recycling including paper, co-mingled, metal and green waste (tonnes)	5,227	5,156	4,326	3,928*	↓
Total waste to landfill, including general cleanup per capita (kg)	234	232	218	248	↑
Total waste to recycling, including metal and green waste per capita (kg)	173	169	141	127	↓
Green waste diverted from landfill per capita (kg)	78	71	49	43	↓
Total e-waste collected (kg)	56,815	50,371	59,039	52,871	↓

* Decrease mainly attributed to drop in vegetation due to dry weather and reduced paper tonnage.

RESPONDING TO WASTE ISSUES- CASE STUDIES

LITTER EDUCATION

In 2016, Mosman Council became aware through independent litter surveys that sporting ovals were becoming increasingly polluted with items such as discarded plastic tape, packaging from snack foods, single-use water bottles and take away coffee cups.

To counter the problem, actors from Eaton Gorge Theatre Company were hired to conduct an engagement and awareness program amongst the sporting community across 6 different ovals between the months of April and May 2017. Their objective was to raise awareness on the litter issue and to encourage anti- litter behaviour.

Through the winter actors stepped out amongst the crowd in fluoro jackets and blond wigs. The actors certainly gained attention. Over 540 pledges were signed and 80 shin guard stays were handed out. Shin guard stays being reusable bands to hold socks up and to secure shoe laces without using disposable plastic tape. People tasked with setting up the field were also encouraged to come up with reusable items to secure nets in place of plastic tape. Videos were posted to Facebook and a few articles were published in the Mosman Daily.

In 2018, Council rehired the same actors for another anti-litter programme. This time actors came out as Litter Detectives. In full costume and with large magnifying glasses and note books the actors from Eaton Gorge collected over 350 pledges from the sporting community. The detectives highlighted the problem of small litter items such as bottle tops and small pieces of plastic and again encouraged reuse of hot drink cups, water bottles and shin guard stays.

WASTE AND UNIT BLOCKS

The joint use of garbage bins can sometimes lead to confusion and a lesser sense of responsibility in areas where the one bin is shared by a number of different households. To overcome the problem a new set of bin stickers and wall signs for unit blocks was developed. The main aim was to design signs to better educate residents on what could be recycled and what could not.

A project officer was hired in 2016 to optimise outcomes for the project through research, resident surveys and to assist with final design elements. The project was successful with many more people aware of what items could be recycled and what items were considered contamination in recycling bins.

To further the programme and to ascertain the longer term benefits of the signage an external consultant was hired in 2018 to judge the effectiveness of signs a year from the initial roll out. Six thousand surveys were sent out to unit blocks with a 14% response rate. Of those who responded 86% said recycling was important to them and 83% said protecting the environment was their main motivation for recycling. Ninety percent of people said the new signage was helpful. Visual audits supported these results. Paper recycling bins were well utilised with many paper recycling bins being 80 % full. It would appear packaging from online purchases and flat pack purchases are replacing newspaper waste.

WATER REFILL STATIONS

Following the success of previous installed water refill stations Council installed another three water stations at Memorial Park, Spit East and Countess Park. The water stations are provided to encourage residents and visitors to refill their own water bottles, rather than purchasing single use plastic bottles of water.





TRANSPORT

TRANSPORT	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Change from previous year
Registered vehicles in Council LGA	19,697	19,497	19,791	19,820	↑
Number of Council fleet vehicles	22	22	22	21	↓
GHG emissions from Council fleet vehicles (tonnes CO2-e)	207	114	113	79	↓
Number of passengers using the Mosman Rider Bus	46,202	28,097^	24,220	21,585*	↓
Number of people using the GoGet carshare scheme	982 (613)	1102 (713)	825#	889	↑

Drop in member numbers in 2016 is a result of improved spatial analysis and reporting methods carried out by GoGet. Prior to this date some memberships outside of council boundaries in neighbouring suburb Cremore were recorded as in Mosman. Numbers in brackets reflect estimate for Mosman based on average growth rate.

* Mosman Rider Bus has been discontinued.

RESPONDING TO TRANSPORT ISSUES- CASE STUDIES

PEDESTRIAN UPGRADES

Council has undertaken a number of pedestrian upgrades to improve access. These included a shared zone at Civic Lane, a pedestrian refuge at Bardwell Road and Mosman Junction Pedestrian crossings.

CYCLING UPGRADES

Council also undertook cycling upgrades at Spit and Parriwi Roads and will continue to install bike racks where required.





PLANNING, BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

POPULATION	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Change from previous year
Estimated population of LGA – at 30 June (ERP)	30,033	30,215	30,465	30,877	↑
Residential density (persons per hectare)	34.72	34.93	35.22	35.49	↑
NOISE					
General noise complaints received by Council	86	38	49	83	↑
Barking dog complaints received by Council	29	25	25	38	↑
DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS					
Total number of development applications received by Council	352	332	260	258	↓
Number of development applications approved	325	301	197	231	↑
ABORIGINAL HERITAGE					
Total number of Aboriginal heritage sites	105	105	105	105	↔
NON ABORIGINAL HERITAGE					
Total number of non-Aboriginal heritage items	485	483 [^]	483	480	↓
Number of built items*	444	444	444	444	↔
Number of landscape items*	34	34	34	34	↔
Number of archeological items	16	13 [^]	13	10	↓
Heritage conservation areas	13	13	13	13	↔

*Some items in Mosman are classified as both built and landscape items, therefore the breakdown figures add up to a number greater than the total number of items.

[^] Change is a result due to review of archeological sights undertaken in 2016.

RESPONDING TO PLANNING, BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE ISSUES- CASE STUDIES

PROTECTING MOSMAN'S SCENIC PROTECTION AREA

Mosman's Scenic Protection Area is identified in Mosman Local Environmental Plan as land below the 60m contour line. The Scenic Protection Area is recognised for its significance in terms of views to and from Sydney Harbour and its unique balance of natural landscape, vegetation and the built environment. The scenic protection area is currently excluded from the NSW Government's Housing Code that would allow the construction of two storey houses as Complying Development, that is, development that does not require a development application. The current exclusion is temporary and is due to lapse in November 2018, placing the Scenic Protection Area at threat of inappropriate development that does not consider Council's requirements for built form and bulk, view sharing and vegetation retention. Council has been advocating its position with State Government in an attempt to secure a permanent exemption for the Scenic Protection Area and as a result of Council's campaigning the Department of Planning is currently considering a two year extension to the Housing Code exclusion.

MOSMAN HOUSING CAPACITY AND HOUSING STUDY

An important part of maintaining the quality of the natural and built environment is managing the impact of residential development. Council's current planning controls have been developed to manage the built environment through careful consideration of Mosman's character, natural environment, landscape and desired built form.

The Greater Sydney Commission's (GSC) Draft North District Plan sets a housing supply target for Mosman of 300 new dwellings by 2021. To assess the capacity of Mosman to meet this target a comprehensive housing capacity study was undertaken. The study assessed the current capacity of Mosman to provide new dwellings under the existing planning controls such as zoning and floor space ratios, and considering individual property constraints such as heritage and strata titles. The study found that under current planning controls Mosman has sufficient capacity and is on track to meet the GSC's five year housing supply target.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION AREA RANKING REVIEW

A Heritage Conservation Area (HCA) is an area recognised and valued for its special historical and aesthetic character. Mosman features 13 HCAs that are protected under Mosman Local Environmental Plan 2012, encompassing 1,369 properties. Each property within Mosman's HCAs is ranked according to its contribution to the significance of an area, with four categories of rankings ranging from contributory to detracting. The aim of the rankings is to assist Council to maintain the identified character of the area in the process of development assessment.

In the 20 years since the rankings were prepared there have been changes to buildings in the HCAs including alterations and additions, demolitions and restorations. This has resulted in some of the rankings no longer reflecting the building on the site. To address this, Council commissioned a review of HCA property rankings. This involved a photographic survey of each property and an assessment to determine if any changes should be made to the building's ranking based on current practices for assessment. This was then peer reviewed, and a new set of rankings ascertained. Most (72%) of properties retained the same ranking; 17% had an improved ranking and 11% had a reduced ranking. Council adopted the revised HCA rankings at its meeting on 3 April 2018. The revised rankings will allow Council to appropriately manage development in HCAs moving forward.



ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY

EDUCATION	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Change from previous year
Total number of environmental programs (workshops, events, surveys) delivered to the community.	78	102	87 [#]	63	↓
Total number of environmental programs (workshops, events, surveys) delivered to Council staff.	6	9	11	5	↓
Number of HarbourCare volunteers	N/A	N/A	19 [^]	26	↑

[^] HarbourCare was a new program introduced in July 2016.

^{*} additional inclusion of marketing campaigns and newsletters.

[#] no winter (June, July) programs run due to minimal community interest

RESPONDING TO ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES- CASE STUDIES

RETHINK RUBBISH - BALMORAL BEACH POP-UP

In February 2018, a series of waste education programmes were orchestrated throughout the month to engage locals and visitors alike to rethink rubbish. The programmes incorporated elements such as waste avoidance, reuse and binning unwanted items correctly. Shark in a Bus (a marine heritage museum in a bus) received 2,526 visitors over three weeks. People who visited the bus learnt about marine debris and marine conservation. Circus Solaris run a programme on using the right bin for rubbish including how to recycle at home. Boomerang Bags had a stall alongside Two Hands who guided people on how to reuse old T shirts by transforming them to bags. Reverse Garbage had a stall on how to make jellyfish mobiles from items that would otherwise have been discarded. Seaside Scavenge conducted an amazing beach clean- up with 100 people volunteering to pick up rubbish particularly the small pieces too often left behind.

A massive 10,000 pieces of rubbish was collected in the clean-up including cigarette butts. Overall the pop-up series had a great reach and was very well received by the public one comment being,

“I’m really behind this. It’s the best thing you’ve ever done down here and the whole beach is talking about it’ – Carly (local resident).

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Mosman Council is committed to protecting the environment and reducing its ecological footprint by identifying areas where improvements can be made and to formulate strategies to achieve better environmental outcomes in the future.

Future planning

- Continue to Implement better waste management, including expansion of recycling at Council Depot
- Investigate domestic waste processing to improve domestic recycling rates diversion from landfill
- Continue to monitor council and community water and energy usage
- Continue to monitor MUD waste disposal and educate as necessary
- Continue to explore more sustainable lighting options for Council parks and reserves
- Increase street tree planting to build on recent increases to canopy coverage across the LGA
- Continue to expand the HarbourCare and Bushcare programs and encourage foreshore community engagement and connectiveness based on environmental protection works
- Continue street tree planting program
- Continue bushland restoration works including increase in 90%+ native vegetation cover
- Continue to work with SSROC to get LED street lighting





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