



MOSMAN STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCORECARD 2024/2025

Adopted by Council 4 November 2025

The State of the Environment Scorecard 2024-25

Availability

The State of the Environment Scorecard 2024-25 is available on Council's website mosman.nsw.gov.au

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Mosman
COUNCIL



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Introduction

The Mosman Local Government Area

The Mosman Local Government Area 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, Balmoral, The Spit, Cobblers and Clifton Gardens. The majority of the foreshore include significant rocky areas, bushland, including many protected areas, parks and tourist attractions, such as Sydney Harbour National Park and Taronga Zoo.

The population estimate for Mosman Council area as of the 30th June 2025 is 29,253. Since the previous year, the population has increased by 0.63%. Population growth in Greater Sydney was 1.97%. The last census showed the median age of residents 42 years old, children aged 0-14 years account for 17.9% of Mosman's population and people aged 65 years and over equate to 18.8% of the population.

Mosman Council's vision is to preserve and enhance biodiversity, including Mosman's bushland, parks, tree canopy, beaches and marine environment through best practice operational and maintenance programs, infrastructure upgrades, regulatory practice and education campaigns. Council has also committed to net zero carbon emissions for its operations by 2030 and implement best practice waste management.





State of the Environment Scorecard

This report aims to show that Council is sustainable and is actively managing the use of the local environment whilst conserving and protecting it for the enjoyment of future generations.

The State of the Environment (SOE) Scorecard provides an annual snapshot of the condition of the environment, current impacts on the environment and the Council's response to these impacts.

The 2024-2025 SOE summarises key areas of operation and projects undertaken by Council to improve the local environment for residents and visitors alike.

Key Areas

This SOE focuses on seven key areas, these include:

- Climate Change and Air Quality
- Total Water Cycle
- Biodiversity
- Waste
- Transport
- Planning, Built Environment and Heritage
- Engagement and Education for Sustainability

Within these areas are a number of long standing indicators used to measure change. These indicators align with the goals and objectives of Council's MOSPLAN and allow for change in environmental management to be measured over time.

Climate Change and Air Quality

Air Quality	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Change from previous year
Number of air pollution complaints received by Council	15	33	9	38	Up ↑
Energy	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Change from previous year
Electricity use Council operations (kWh)	994,696	1,106,849	1,174,199	1,003,968	Down ↓
Gas use Council operations (GJ)	839	395	945	420	Down ↓
Council energy and consumption (GJ)	5,293	5,406	5,187	4,035	Down ↓
GHG emissions from Council energy and gas use (tonnes CO ₂ -e)	894	20	80*	87*	Up ↑
Total residential and non residential electricity use for Mosman (MWh)	128,574	126,048	123,818	122,571	Down ↓
Solar generation exported to the grid (MWh)	2,620	3,409	4,153	4,833	Up ↑

* Improved data accuracy enabled by the implementation of the Trellis Emissions Accounting Platform including identification of some additional sites not previously recorded.

Energy and Solar Upgrades

Mosman Council has delivered a suite of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects across its buildings to cut emissions, reduce costs, and improve environmental performance.

At Rawson Oval Pavilion, outdated gas hot water has been replaced with an electric system, and solar panels have been installed to supply clean energy.

The Mosman Art Gallery, Barry O'Keefe Library, and Civic Centre have received HVAC upgrades, including improvements to the Civic Centre's cooling tower, reducing energy use while maintaining comfort.

Council has also expanded its solar monitoring platform to connect all council-owned solar sites, including the Civic Centre, Library, Depot, Rawson Oval, Georges Heights, and Allan Border Oval, enabling real-time tracking of energy generation and usage.

These initiatives strengthen Council's commitment to renewable energy and smarter energy use.

LED Lighting Upgrades

This year, lighting upgrades were carried out in the Library, Art Gallery, and Civic Centre. At the Library, more than 300 lights were replaced, improving both energy efficiency and functionality. The study area in particular required lighting suitable for long periods of reading. Low-glare panels were installed to help reduce eye strain, while bright 4000K neutral white LEDs provide clear, comfortable illumination for extended study sessions. Beyond improved lighting quality, the new LEDs also offer significant energy savings and lower maintenance costs, as they last much longer and require less frequent replacement.

Ausgrid has completed the upgrades of 1,167 streetlights to LED for main and local roads in Mosman. The new LED street lights will provide a safer environment for the public and reduce Council's annual emissions by approximately 250 tonnes CO₂-e.

Passive Design Enhancements at Council Facilities

Passive design principles focus on maintaining comfortable indoor temperatures, ideally between 20 °C and 25 °C, without relying heavily on energy-intensive systems. Achieving this involves thoughtful architectural choices, such as high-quality insulation and sealing air gaps around windows, doors, and exhaust fans. Even small, targeted upgrades can yield significant benefits.

Recent improvements at Council's Youth Centre and Art Gallery demonstrate this in action. New blinds have been installed on windows at both sites, helping to reduce heat gain through the glass and metal frames - particularly in summer, when windows facing the car park at the Youth Centre and office windows at the Art Gallery are exposed to intense sunlight. Metal frames tend to absorb and radiate heat, raising indoor temperatures. The blinds act as a barrier, limiting this effect.

At the Youth Centre, additional awnings were installed to block direct sunlight from reaching the metal frames altogether. This proactive measure not only lowers indoor temperatures but also reduces the energy required for air conditioning. On some days, thanks to these simple yet effective passive design strategies, air conditioning may not be needed at all.





Total Water Cycle

Stormwater	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Change from previous year
Number of gross pollutant traps (GPTs)	35	35	35	35	Stable ↔
Total gross pollutants removed from GPTs (tonnes)	380	335	374	420	Up ↑
Water Consumption	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Change from previous year
Total LGA potable water use (kilolitres)	2,815,493	2,755,724	2,948,111	2,901,497	Down ↓
Total residential potable water use (kilolitres per capita)	85	98	101	99	Down ↓
Total Council potable water use (kilolitres)	44,991	43,598	47,333	49,893*	Up ↑

*Recent previous year reductions due to high annual rainfall total spread across the year.

Mosman Flood Study

The Mosman Area Flood Study provides technical flood information to Council, emergency services and the community. Outcomes of the study will help Mosman by allowing State Emergency Service and Council to better plan for and manage flood events, increasing community safety, awareness and resilience, informing decision-making to minimise flood risk for new developments and supporting future upgrades to Council's stormwater infrastructure. Council established a Flood Management Community Consultative Committee (FRMCCC) with the inaugural meeting held in March 2025. Council has also worked closely with Manly Hydraulics Laboratory and received the Draft Flood Study Report for review in June 2025. Public exhibition of the Mosman Draft Flood Study is being held between 14 August and 30 September 2025. Final study is expected to be finalised by the end of the year.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity Condition	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Change from previous year
Biosecurity notices	0	0	0	0	Stable ↔
Biosecurity assessments undertaken	16	9	6	5	Down ↓
Number of registered active bushcare volunteers	63	55	62	59	Down ↓
Bushcare Program volunteer hours	1,500	782	1,043	1,008	Down ↓
Number of active bushcare groups	20	20	20	21	Up ↑
Total number of native plants supplied to volunteers, contractors and residents	10,500	18,800	10,000	11,000	Up ↑
Number of native plant species recorded in LGA	499	499	499	499	Stable ↔
Number of threatened flora species	2	2	2	2	Stable ↔
Number of threatened fauna species	4	4	4	4	Stable ↔
Number of endangered ecological communities	2	2	2	2	Stable ↔
Number of endangered fauna populations	0	0	0	0	Stable ↔
Number of feral fauna species targeted through programs (eg. rabbits, foxes, cats)	2	2	2	2	Stable ↔

Seagrass Restoration in Mosman

Cobblers Beach in Mosman has become the first location in Sydney Harbour to host a site for the restoration of endangered seagrass.

It follows a concerted community effort, led by Mosman Council, to revive the vital marine environment.

In a partnership between Council and the Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS), underwater plots of *Posidonia australis* seagrass have been planted at Cobblers Beach.

Seagrass fragments, some of which were collected by community members after being washed up after storms, were harvested at the SIMS headquarters in Chowder Bay.

Hundreds of seagrass shoots have now been planted off the Cobblers Beach coastline to support marine life, including seahorses. Results are being monitored, with potential for the project to expand to other harbour locations.

Bushland Plantings and Renewals

Over the last year Mosman Council has continued to plant native trees, shrubs and groundcovers across bushland areas and unmade roads within the Mosman LGA, aiming to improve biodiversity outcomes and further establish habitat for native animals. This year's National Tree Day event was held at Clifton Gardens. Volunteers combined with Council Staff and contractors planted over 700 plants to improve the creek line area along the back of Clifton Gardens.

Further upgrades to Mosman bushwalking tracks continued with a focus on transitioning away from traditional timber raised walkways over to Fibreglass Reinforced Plastic (FRP) decking that improves both durability and safety. Areas of focus included Quakers Hat Park and new treads on the stairs leading to the water through Parriwi lighthouse.

Native Wildlife

Mosman Council is fortunate enough to be home to the Powerful Owl which is considered vulnerable within NSW. Recently it was observed that two mating pairs in different areas are raising chicks of their own. This exciting development is a reminder of the importance of native bushland habitats in supporting the continuation and hopefully increase in vulnerable species such as the Powerful Owl.

Waste

Waste	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Change from previous year
Total waste to landfill, including general cleanup (tonnes)	6,996	6,460	6,510	6,320	Down ↓
Total waste to recycling including paper, co-mingled, metal and green waste (tonnes)	4,572	4,070	3,831	3,840	Up ↑
Total waste to landfill, including general cleanup per capita (kg)	247	230	224	216	Down ↓
Total waste to recycling, including metal and green waste per capita (kg)	161	145	132	131	Down ↓
Green waste diverted from landfill per capita (kg)	62	63	52	60	Up ↑
Total e-waste collected (kg)	12,888	25,138	22,000	14,271	Down ↓

Domestic Waste Recycling

Council continues to manage its waste services to best practice and is actively recycling those materials that have local and reliable end-markets. Council's recovery rate of domestic waste has plateaued at 37% with an obvious increase possible by removing food organics from mixed solid waste. Whilst this is consistent with Council's long-term goal, currently the waste industry has weaknesses in infrastructure and capacity shortfalls for food organics processing. It is also clear that CO₂-e emission savings are not as high as reported whilst costs to implement and operate the service will add significant costs to Council's current waste management services. There will also be change needed for domestic bin number and type and this will need further consideration and input from residents.

Council will meet the food organics 2030 mandate and will continue to plan to implement food organic collection and processing options including monitoring other Sydney's Council's progress on same.

What Not to Waste

Council's key message to residents is to follow the waste hierarchy. Avoid creating waste in the first place, repair or mend items where possible and reuse or repurpose items. Recycle once all these options are exhausted. Council provides a range of opportunities to support recycling:

E-Waste - Items such as computers, TVs, and batteries can be dropped off for free by Mosman residents at Council's e-waste drop-off days (held twice a year in the Council Car Park), The Community Recycling Centre (CRC) in Artarmon or Kimbriki Resource Recovery Centre. Recycling e-waste helps recover valuable finite resources like gold, copper, and silver for the circular economy, while preventing hazardous materials such as lead and mercury from entering landfill.

Mattresses - Mattresses are collected for recycling during household clean-ups.

Paper - Clean paper collected at the kerbside, produces higher-value recycled paper than paper contaminated with food or other waste.

Other Problem Waste - The CRC in Artarmon also accepts paints, smoke alarms, X-rays, and both cooking and motor oils - all free of charge. Most of these items can be recycled or reused.

For more information on how to dispose of a wide range of items responsibly, see Council's A-Z Waste Disposal Guide on the Council website.

Transport

Transport	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Change from previous year
Registered vehicles in Council LGA	17,828	17,778	17,801	17,578	Down ↓
Number of Council fleet vehicles	21	21	20	19	Down ↓
GHG emissions from Council fleet vehicles (tonnes CO2-e)	45.67	29.56	26.32	24.84	Down ↓
Number of carshare members as at 30 June 2025	1,596	1,704	1,867	2,146	Up ↑

Electrified fleet

As part of ongoing efforts to reduce its carbon footprint, Council is transitioning to a more sustainable vehicle fleet. With the support of a \$66,000 grant under the NSW Government's EV fleets incentive 'Kick-start funding' program, Council is replacing seven traditional vehicles with electric and hybrid models.

The latest additions to the fleet include two Teslas and two Hyundai Kona electric vehicles. In the new financial year, another electric vehicle will be added, with an additional two hybrid vehicles coming to complement the electric vehicles. To support the fleet transition, five Tesla charging stations were installed across Council facilities to ensure sufficient infrastructure for the new fleet. The EV fleets initiative helps eligible organisations procure battery electric vehicles and optional smart chargers. Funding is designed to cover part of the purchase price and operating cost gap between a battery electric vehicle and an equivalent internal combustion engine vehicle.

Walking Safely to School

Despite some wet weather, children at schools throughout Mosman safely made their way to school on foot for Walk Safely to School Day, on 16 May, in conjunction with National Road Safety Week.

The nationally-recognised day is an opportunity for families to walk to school together and have conversations about being safe near roads, with the hope that walking to school becomes a regular part of the family routine.

Council encouraged local schools to participate on the day providing posters, stickers, and other items to promote active participation, wellbeing and road safety awareness.

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and Blessed Sacrament Catholic Primary School were among those who participated. The schools said healthy lifestyle habits were something that they actively promote and Walk Safely to School Day was a great opportunity to reinforce this.

"The children get very excited about the day and parents see it as a great opportunity for community building," Sacred Heart's Assistant Principal Jane Taylor said.

Council has an ongoing program of works to boost road and pedestrian safety in and around schools, which includes infrastructure improvements and education.



Planning, Built Environment and Heritage

Population	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Change from previous year
Estimated population of LGA – at 30 June (ERP)	28,329	28,123	29,071	29,253	Up ↑
Residential density (persons per hectare)	32.56	32.47	33.59	33.80	Up ↑
Noise	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Change from previous year
General noise complaints received by Council	103	91	59	33	Down ↓
Barking dog complaints received by Council	35	48	33	32	Down ↓
Development Applications	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Change from previous year
Total number of development applications received by Council	206	221	168	176	Up ↑
Number of development applications approved	168	182	138	130	Down ↓
Aboriginal Heritage	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Change from previous year
Total number of Aboriginal heritage sites	105	105	105	105	Stable ↔
Non Aboriginal Heritage	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Change from previous year
Total number of non-Aboriginal heritage items	481	481	481	481	Stable ↔
Number of built items	445	445	445	445	Stable ↔
Number of landscape items	34	34	34	34	Stable ↔
Number of archeological items	10	10	10	10	Stable ↔
Heritage conservation areas	13	13	13	13	Stable ↔

The Ever-Changing Planning Landscape

While Council makes a concerted effort to establish planning controls that will protect and enhance local character and amenity, the wider planning landscape does, from time to time, present special challenges and constraints.

The evolution of the planning landscape has continued in recent years, with a raft of changes to planning policies and controls proposed or enacted by the NSW Government. Like other areas of Sydney, Mosman is subject to state-wide planning legislation and controls, as well as plans, policies and directives relating to part, or all, of the Sydney metropolitan area.

In an attempt to address housing affordability the State Government has imposed wide reaching planning legislation that has removed Council's Local Planning Controls in most of the suburb. This has the potential to change the streetscape of Mosman by encouraging higher density development in areas that are not of Councils choosing.

This density increase could also have significant impacts on Mosman's future population and create more pressure on the already strained infrastructure network. These potential impacts have been identified in the 2023 Customer Satisfaction Survey where the second most significant major issue raised in the survey is Development – control, overdevelopment and overcrowding. The top priority for the next ten years (from the survey) is managing development/overdevelopment.

These planning changes made outside Council's controls, will have far-reaching impacts for years to come and may affect much of Council's work to protect local amenity.

The additional residential densities allowed under the provisions will have broader implications in terms of placing additional demands on infrastructure and services.

Engagement and Education for Sustainability

Education	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Change from previous year
Total number of environmental programs (workshops, events, surveys) delivered to the community.	46	52	85	75	Down ↓
Total number of environmental programs (workshops, events, surveys) delivered to Council staff.	6	10	12	10	Down ↓
Number of HarbourCare volunteers	39	29	22	29	Up ↑

Sustainability Workshops and Education Programs

Council continued its successful partnership with Good for the Hood to deliver a series of online sustainability sessions, covering key topics such as sustainable transport, home energy efficiency, and waste reduction. These sessions are hosted on the Mosman at Home online platform, which is freely accessible to all Mosman residents. Live sessions offer interactive Q&A opportunities, while recorded versions allow residents to engage with the content at their convenience - an option that has proven highly popular within the community.

In addition to online offerings, Council hosted a range of well attended in-person sustainability workshops and events. A highlight was the Solar and Electrification event held at The Allan Border Pavilion, delivered in collaboration with Zero Emissions Solutions. Following expert presentations, attendees engaged directly with a panel of specialists to explore tailored solutions for their homes and lifestyles. Council also launched the Scorecard program, helping residents improve energy efficiency at home.

Waste reduction and resource recovery remained a key focus. Council facilitated hands-on workshops in worm farming and composting at Kimbriki Eco House and the Mackie Lane Community Gardens, encouraging residents to view waste as a valuable resource.

The annual Sustainability Fair returned to Balmoral Reserve, drawing over 400 attendees. The event featured a vibrant mix of stallholders, demonstrations, workshops, and a community beach clean-up. Stalls included a local business showcasing upcycled denim bags, clay brick-making workshops for native blue banded bees, and emergency response displays from the Water Police, Fire Brigade, and SES.

Mosman Schools Sustainable Journey

The Mosman Sustainable Schools program, now in its fifth year, includes all schools in Mosman as well as SCECGS Redlands, located near the Mosman LGA border. In partnership with The Green Schools Collective, Council brings these schools together four times a year to share experiences and explore ways of embedding nature-based sustainability frameworks into school culture and environmental education outcomes.

Meetings are hosted by participating schools giving students the opportunity to present environmental projects to their peers. These projects range from classroom initiatives to on-ground efforts such as creating wildlife habitat zones.

New initiatives are always inspiring, but perhaps even more impressive are the long-term projects sustained over many years - like Mosman Public School's outstanding composting and worm-farming systems. The dedication to maintaining these efforts shows the true heart of the program, thanks to the commitment of students, teachers, and parent communities.

Across Mosman, every participating school demonstrates remarkable vision and persistence, working together for a better, more sustainable future.



Future Directions

Mosman Council is committed to protecting the environment and has set a net zero emissions target by 2030 for Council operations.

Future directions include:

- Update and continued implementation of Council's strategic response to climate – the Climate Action Plans
- Continuation of the Climate Action Community Consultative Committee
- Continue to plan to meet the food organics 2030 mandate and implement food organic collection and processing options including monitoring other Council's progress in Sydney
- Increase street tree planting in urban heat-prone areas to improve canopy cover and enhance climate resilience
- Enhance community connection to the environment through continued investment in HarbourCare and BushCare programs
- Continue bushland restoration works including increase in 90%+ native vegetation cover for bushland and unmade road sites
- Continue transitioning Councils fleet to a more sustainable vehicles, including EVs
- Continue education and behaviour change initiatives, including workshops, events, and school-based programs that promote sustainability at home and in the community
- Finalise and adopt the Mosman Flood Study, using outcomes to guide infrastructure planning and emergency preparedness
- Complete LED upgrades for all remaining streetlights, in partnership with Ausgrid, to further reduce emissions and operational costs.
- Recently identified electricity sites to be integrated to Council's renewable electricity contract.

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