



SUPPLEMENTARY

STATE OF ENVIRONMENT REPORT 2012



Prepared by
Gloucester Shire Council
September 2012



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Acknowledgement

Material used in the preparation of this document is acknowledged within the relevant sections of the report.



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INTRODUCTION

The 2006/07 Department of Environment and Climate Change “Who Cares about the Environment?” survey identified that the environment remained the third highest priority behind family and friends. 93% of respondents rated the environment as either very or rather important. It is therefore important to recognise the quality of our environment and monitor the impacts and changes that may lead to its degradation.

Gloucester Shire Council conducted community surveys in 2011 and 2012. The importance of the environment and concern over mining issues within the community were highlighted in these surveys.

The Department of Local Government and consequently Gloucester Shire Council is committed to Ecological Sustainable Development (ESD). The principles of ESD are to prevent and reverse adverse impacts of economic and social activities on the ecosystem while continuing to allow the sustainable, equitable development of society.

The State of the Environment report systematically monitors environmental performance in order to improve the quality of the local environment and monitor the success of management decisions. It is Council’s annual environmental ‘report card’ and, as such, provides relevant information for Council policies and programs.

Gloucester is well positioned to adopt sustainable practices as a small rural based community. There are a wide range of activities that are currently being undertaken by the general community, community groups, business and industry to ensure Gloucester will be a sustainable community into the future.



BACKGROUND

The Gloucester Local Government Area (GLGA) is located in the north-eastern corner of the Hunter region, approximately 120 kilometres north of Newcastle. The shire encompasses an area of approximately 2,952 km².



Gloucester Shire forms a significant catchment for the Manning River, comprising four main river systems- the Gloucester, Barrington, Barnard and Avon Rivers. The Barrington Tops National Park and large areas of State Forest encompass areas of steep topography within the Gloucester Local Government Area. These high value conservation areas represent a significant ecotourism resource for the area.

In 2012 Council completed the Gloucester Community Strategic Plan 2012 – 2022. This Plan identifies the goals and aspirations for the community, and includes the vision:

*We want to work together to preserve our special place:
To value and protect our environment
To care and contribute to our community, and
To build a sound and prosperous future.*

The Community Strategic Plan (CSP) identifies the environment as one of the five main issues that are important to the community, and establishes a comprehensive program of activities to improve the environmental management of the local area.

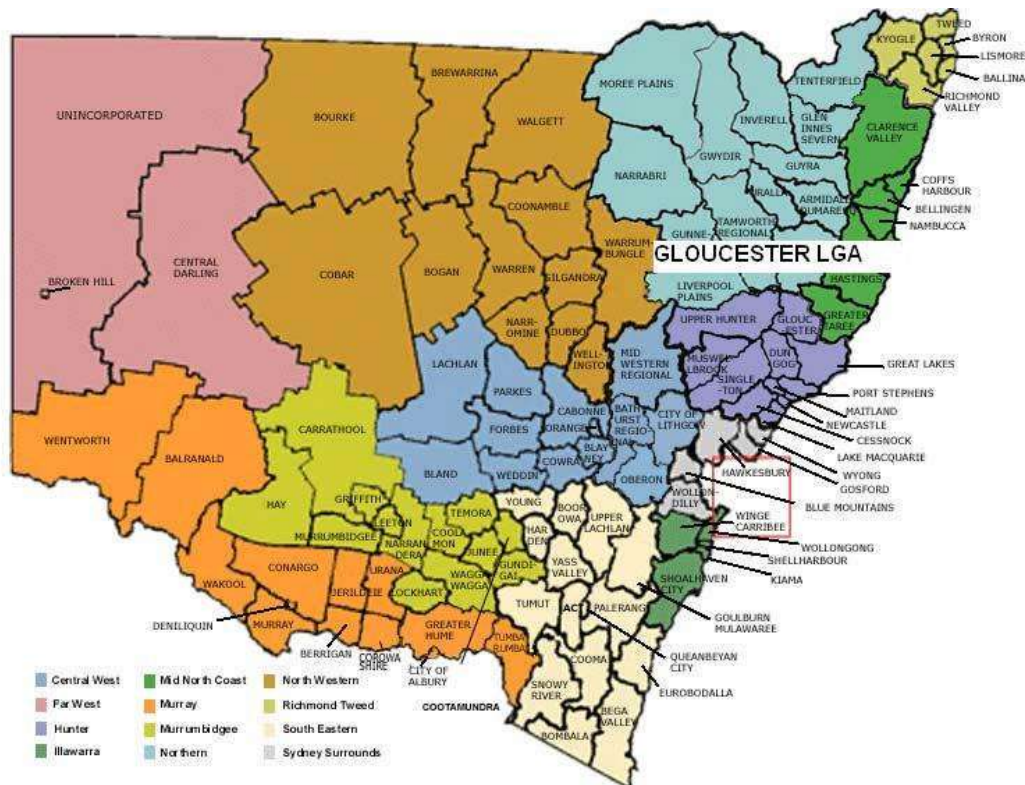


Figure1: Location of the Gloucester Local Government Area

1. HUMAN SETTLEMENT

By comparing a range of social indicators, the health of a community can be determined. Indicators which can be used include population structure, employment, family characteristics, and new dwelling approvals.

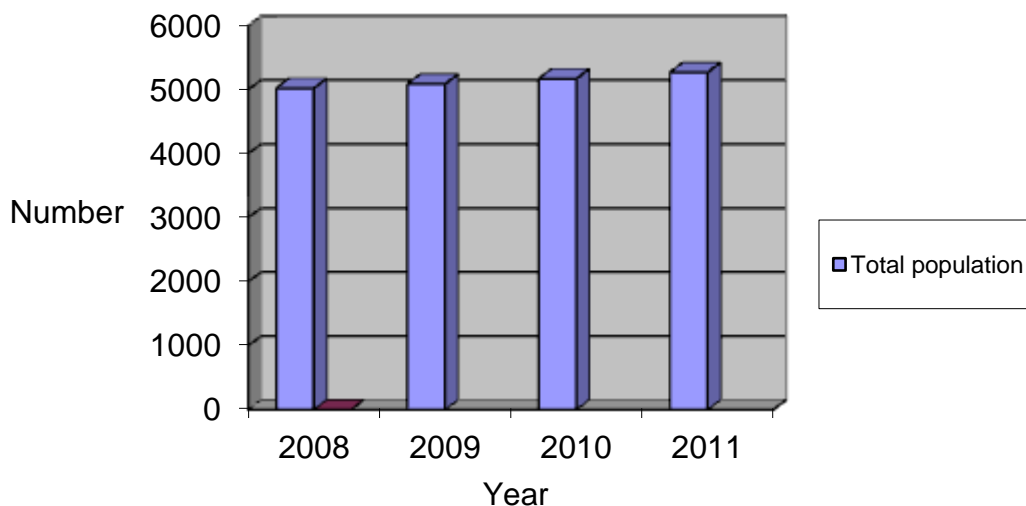
Demand for infrastructure including housing, energy, water, transport and waste disposal, increase as the population grows. Supplying this infrastructure can result in changes to land use and also impact on the environment. Careful planning can minimise and help to manage these impacts.

POPULATION

Historical records indicate a steady total population growth since 1911 within the Shire. Preliminary statistics released from the Australian Bureau of Statistics indicate a total population of 5272 persons within the Gloucester Local Government Area (GLGA).



Graph 1. Gloucester Population 2008-2011



DEMOGRAPHICS

Shifts in demographics drives change in land use and also demand for housing types. Population growth in Gloucester has been accompanied by a change in the age structure, average number of people per household, and the composition of households.

Table 1. Gloucester Population Age Structure 2008 and 2012 census

Age Group	% of Pop. 2008	% of Pop 2012
0-14 years	16.8	15.9
15-24 years	10.1	9.1
25-34 years	7.3	6.8
35-44 years	12.3	11.2
45-54 years	14.1	14.1
55-64 years	17.3	16.1
65-74 years	11.4	14.3
75-84 years	8.2	8.9
85 years and older	2.2	2.9

Graph 2. Average annual salary income in the Gloucester Local Government Area and Australia 2012

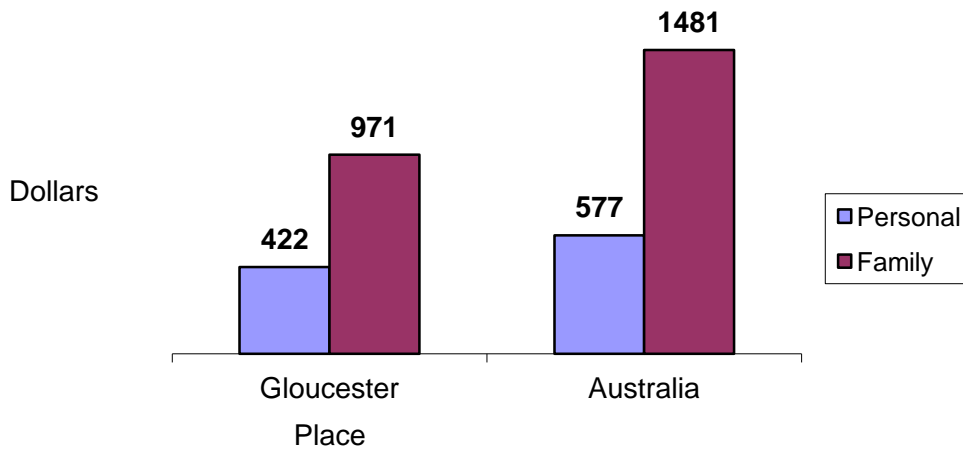
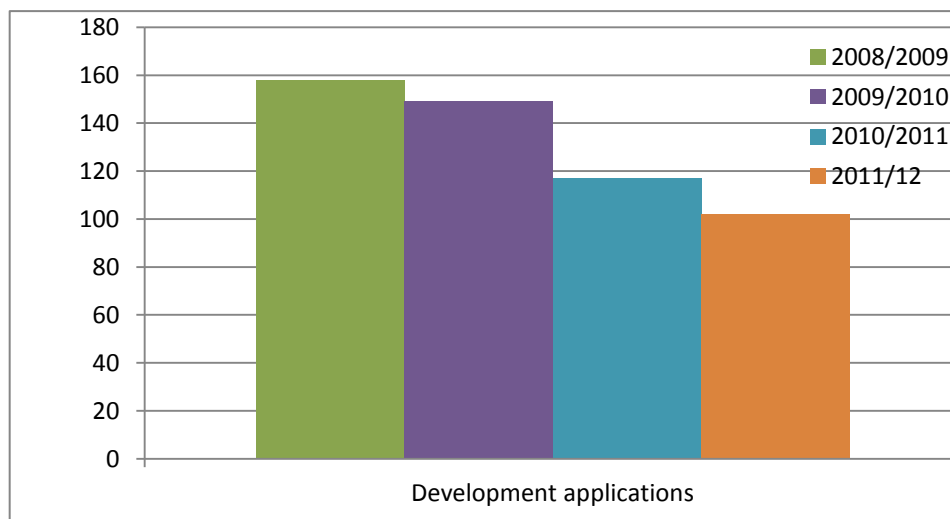


Table 2. Gloucester Family Characteristics 2012 Census.

Family Characteristics	Gloucester 2008	Gloucester 2012	% of total families 2008	% of total families 2012
Total Families	1383	1393	-	-
Couple families with children	453	496	35.6	32.8
Couple families without children	745	725	52	53.9
One parent families	165	157	11.3	11.9
Other families	20	15	1.1	1.4

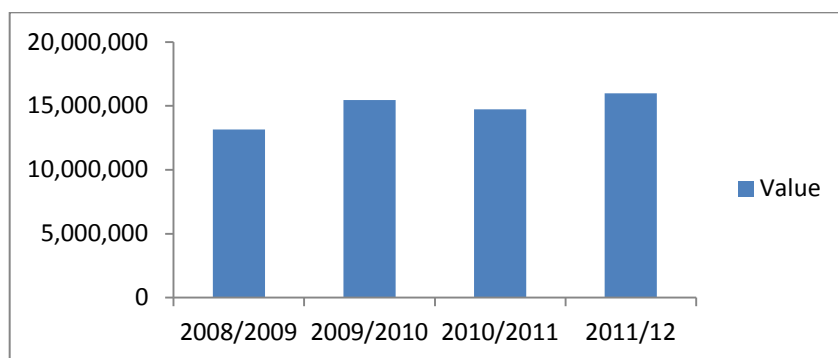
DEVELOPMENT

Graph 3: Development Applications in Gloucester Shire Council, 2008-2012.

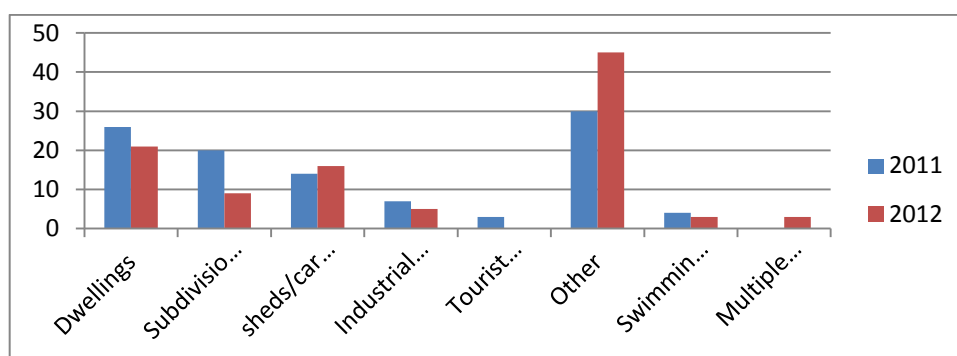




Graph 4: Value of developments in Gloucester Shire 2008-2012



Graph 5: Development types in Gloucester Shire for 2011 and 2012



2. LAND

DROUGHT

Drought declarations for the Gloucester area for 2009-2010 are provided below.

Table 3: Monthly drought declarations

Month	Declaration
July 2011	Satisfactory
August 2011	Satisfactory
September 2011	Satisfactory
October 2011	Satisfactory
November 2011	Satisfactory
December 2011	Satisfactory
January 2012	Satisfactory
February 2012	Satisfactory
March 2012	Satisfactory
April 2012	Satisfactory
May 2012	Satisfactory
June 2012	Satisfactory



EXPLORATION AND MINING ACTIVITIES

Exploration and mining in NSW are conducted under licences and leases issued by the Mineral Resources Division of Department of Primary Industries (DPI) under the *Mining Act 1992* and the *Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991*. Any company or individual can apply for a title, however they must satisfactorily explain its proposed program and expenditure, demonstrate its technical, environmental and financial capacity to conduct the program, and explain how it will rehabilitate any disturbance and report the results as required under the conditions of the exploration licence (DECC 2008).

Coal seam gas exploration

The Gloucester Gas Project is a coal seam gas project located in Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL) 285, which fully encompasses the Gloucester Geological Basin in New South Wales. The project is owned and operated by AGL. In February 2011, the independent NSW Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) approved the Gloucester Gas Project.

The Gloucester Gas Project includes:

- The Stage 1 Gas Field Development Area - including up to 110 gas wells and associated infrastructure including gas and water gathering lines;
- A Central Processing Facility – for compression and processing of the extracted gas, and a water treatment plant;
- An up to 15MW gas fired electricity generating facility;
- A gas transmission pipeline between the central processing facility and the existing gas supply network at Hexham; and

The project includes:

- Drilling production wells in the development area;
- Building infrastructure such as roads and gas and water gathering lines;
- A central gas processing facility to treat the gas and water;
- A high pressure gas transmission pipeline to deliver the gas to the existing network at Hexham; and
- A Delivery Station at Hexham to transfer the gas from the pipeline to the Sydney Newcastle trunk pipeline.
- A delivery station at Hexham to connect the transported gas to the existing Sydney-Newcastle trunk pipeline

The Gloucester Gas Project is presently awaiting a determination of its application for approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) from the Commonwealth Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

Local environment groups have lodged a challenge to the approval of coal seam exploration in the Land and Environment Court.



Coal Mining

Gloucester Coal

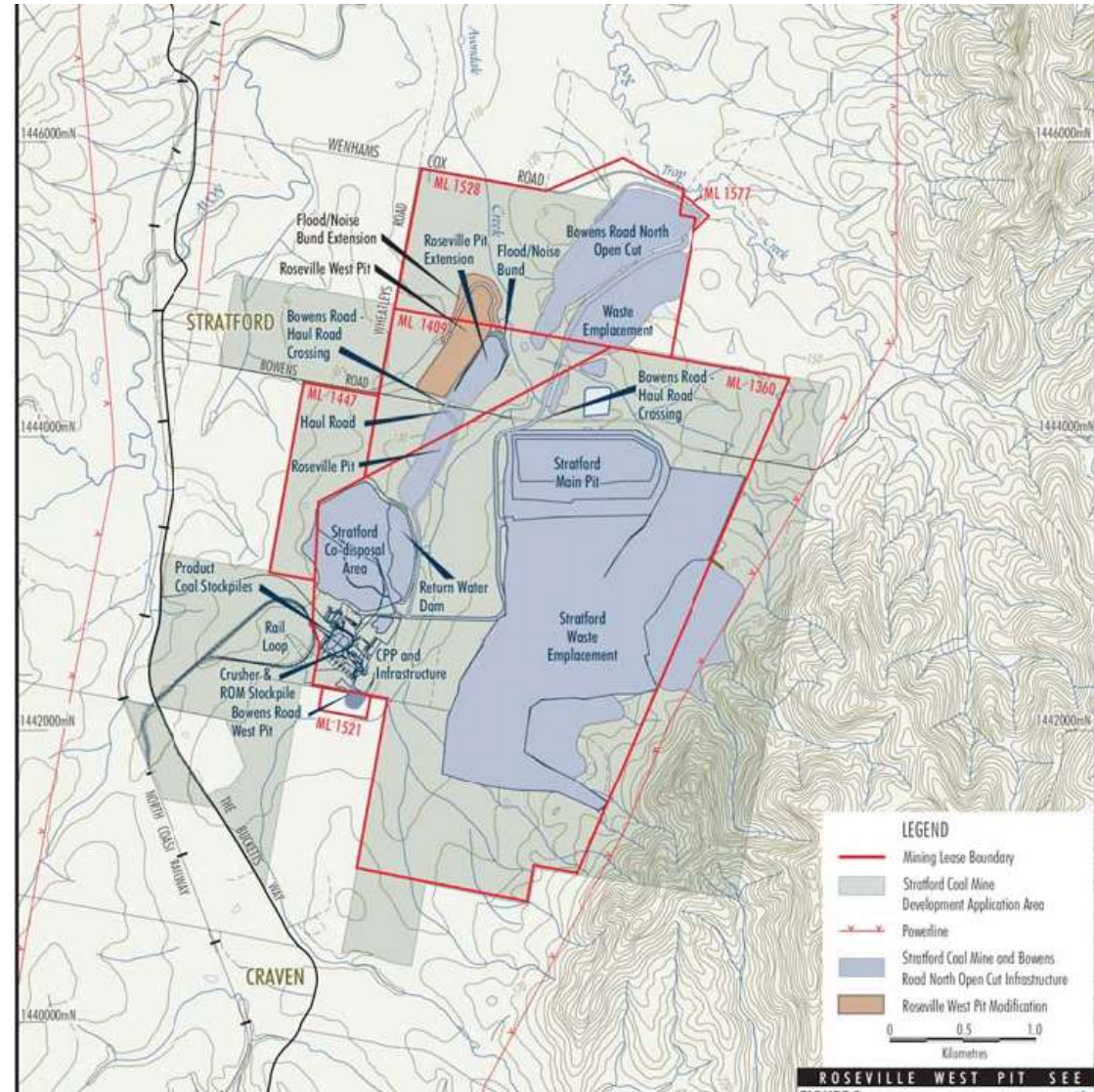
Yancoal owns and operates the Stratford coal mine under the name of Gloucester Coal. The mine is located about 20 kilometres south of Gloucester (Map 1) and operating since 1995. The main components of the mine include:

- 3 mining pits:- the Stratford Main Pit, which is now used for water and tailings storage
- the Roseville Pit, which is currently being mined;
- and the Bowens Road North Pit; a coal handling and preparation plant, which includes a co-disposal area; and a rail loop and loading/unloading infrastructure.

The mine currently operates under two development consents, both granted by the Minister: DA 23-98/99, which covers the Stratford mining complex; and DA 39-02-01, which covers the Bowens Road North mining complex.

Under these consents, Stratford Coal is allowed to:

- extract up to 1.25 million tonnes of run-of-mine (ROM) coal a year from the mining complex;
- receive up to 1.3 million tonnes of ROM coal a year by rail from the nearby Duralie mine for processing; and
- rail up to 2.3 million tonnes of product coal a year to export and domestic markets.



Map 1: Stratford mine, Stratford

Gloucester Resources Limited - Mining application

Gloucester Resources Limited (GRL) have proposed the establishment of a new open-cut coal mine on their Exploration Licence 6523 by requesting Director General's Requirements (DGR's).

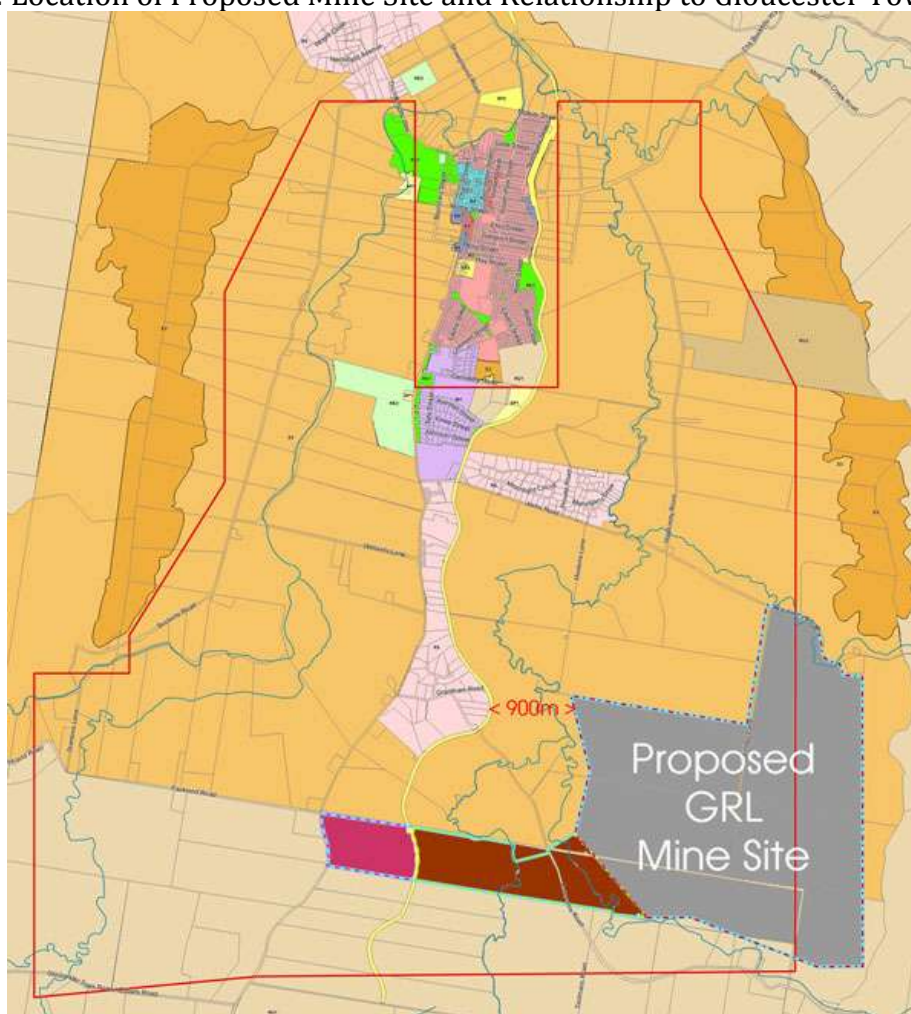
Details of the proposed coal mine and associated processing operations are as follows:

- Project life – up to 21 years (including construction, mining and rehabilitation)
- Construction period – 9 to 12 months
- Run-of-Mine (raw) coal production – up to 2.5 million tonnes per annum
- Overburden to be preferentially placed in mined out-pits with excess placed external to or over the pits
- Course and fine rejects from coal processing to be dewatered and emplaced with overburden



- No tailings dams are proposed
- Estimated employment during construction (100) and during operations (150)
- Hours of operations: mining – 7:00am – to 10:00pm Mondays to Saturdays (with limited activities outside these hours, subject to satisfaction of sleep disturbance criteria)
- Coal processing – 7:00am to 10:00pm
- Train loading – 24hours/7days per week
- Maintenance - 24hours/7days per week
- All coal products are to be dispatched by rail with an average of 2 trains per day when in production

Map 2: Location of Proposed Mine Site and Relationship to Gloucester Township



Council has resolved unanimously to oppose the GRL coal mining application as the proposed site:

- is substantially within an area zoned for Environmental and Scenic Protection
- is within 850 metres of residential housing in the Forbesdale Estate and that it
- adds to the cumulative impact of (all) mining activity surrounding Gloucester



Federal 'bio-region' status for the Gloucester Basin with regard to mining

In 2012, the Gloucester Basin was given Federal bio-regional status, and will now be included in wide-ranging research on the impact of coal seam gas extraction and open cut coal mining.

The Commonwealth will spend 150 million dollars over four years for an Independent Expert Scientific Committee to assess the impacts of coal seam gas on water.

TransGrid

TransGrid is the owner, operator and manager of the NSW high voltage network connecting generators, distributors and major end users in NSW and the ACT. TransGrid has proposed an upgrade to the existing transmission network between Stroud and Taree including:

- Construction of a single circuit 330 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Stroud substation and Landsdowne
- Establishment of a new 330 kV substation at Landsdowne
- Construction of a double circuit 132 kV transmission line between the Landsdowne substation and the existing Taree to Port Macquarie 132 kV transmission line
- Establishment of associated access tracks and
- Provision of ancillary infrastructure and work to enable the above developments.

An overview of a map of the proposed network can be found on transgrid website. Based on the most recent data and forecasts available in the Annual Planning Report (2012), TransGrid believes the Project may be deferred until the early 2020s.

CAMPING GROUNDS

Gloucester Shire Council has 3 camping grounds in the LGA, with basic amenities, two located on Thunderbolts Way and one outside the village of Barrington



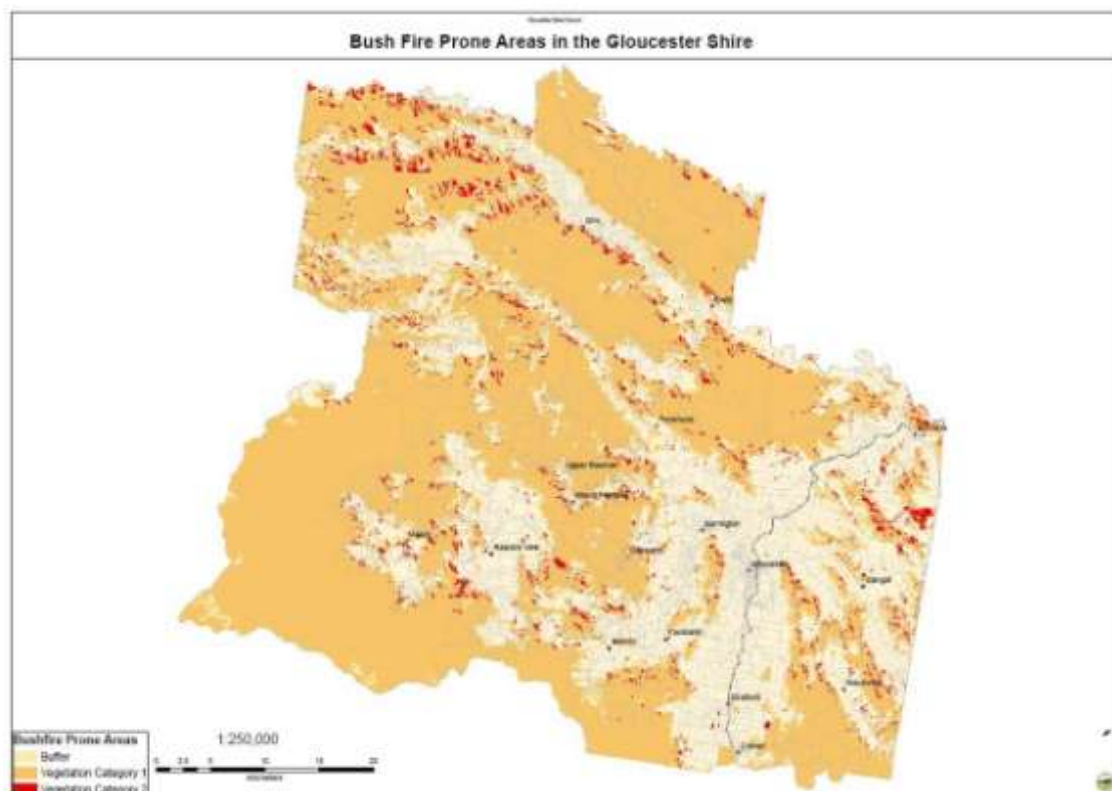
Photo 1: Brett Reserve Camping area

BUSHFIRE

Uncontrolled bushfires can cause destruction to life, property, flora and fauna. Hazard reduction burns are carried out throughout the Shire in an attempt to control the negative effects of wildfires. These burns are carried out by State



Forests NSW, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Lands, the Rural Fire Service and landholders. In order to mitigate potential unwanted fire events, Gloucester Shire Council has identified areas within the LGA that are bushfire prone. This map can be viewed at council.



Map 3: Bushfire Prone Areas in the Gloucester Shire

Table 4 : Area burnt within the GLGA 2011-2012 (RFS, 2012)

Indicator	Area
Total number of Hectares	250.1
Number of fires	35
Area burnt by Hazard Reduction burns	2864
Number of permits	230

3. WATER

DRINKING WATER AND SEWRAGE

The water supply for Gloucester is sourced from the Barrington River and treated, filtered and pumped approximately 1.5km to the Gloucester Township. The system services approximately 2700 people.



The construction of a sewer and water reticulation system from Gloucester's water and sewer treatment plant to Barrington village commenced in 2009. The sewer was completed in August 2010 and the water reticulation system in 2011. The new service has resulted in Barrington residents receiving increased water quality and the provision of sewer has addressed further health and environmental concerns within the village. MidCoast Water took over management of water and sewer provision to the Gloucester and Barrington townships as of July 1st, 2011.

Water in the rural townships of Bundook, Copeland, Stratford and Craven are supplied by tank water. Individual septic tank systems are also in place in these villages and in the rural areas.

Water Watch

A number of volunteers are collecting Water watch data within Gloucester Shire. The data they collect is available for download from the NSW Water watch website, or by contacting the Manning Great Lakes Water watch Coordinator.

STRATFORD MINE

Water quality

The Stratford Coal Mine operations work within the Gloucester Shire boundaries. The mine undertakes regular environmental monitoring as a condition of their licensing and includes testing for:

- Surface water quality
- Surface water flow
- Ground water

Water quality sampling is undertaken monthly and presented at the consultative committee.

RAINFALL

Graph 6 shows rainfall within the Gloucester LGA over the last 2 years. Rainfall activity is irregular between the two years. The June 2011 rainfall event culminated in floods within the Gloucester LGA, and the area was subsequently declared a Natural Disaster Area. In February 2012 the Gloucester LGA was declared a Natural Disaster for a second time after further rainfall within the district.

Graph 6: Annual rainfall for 2011-2012

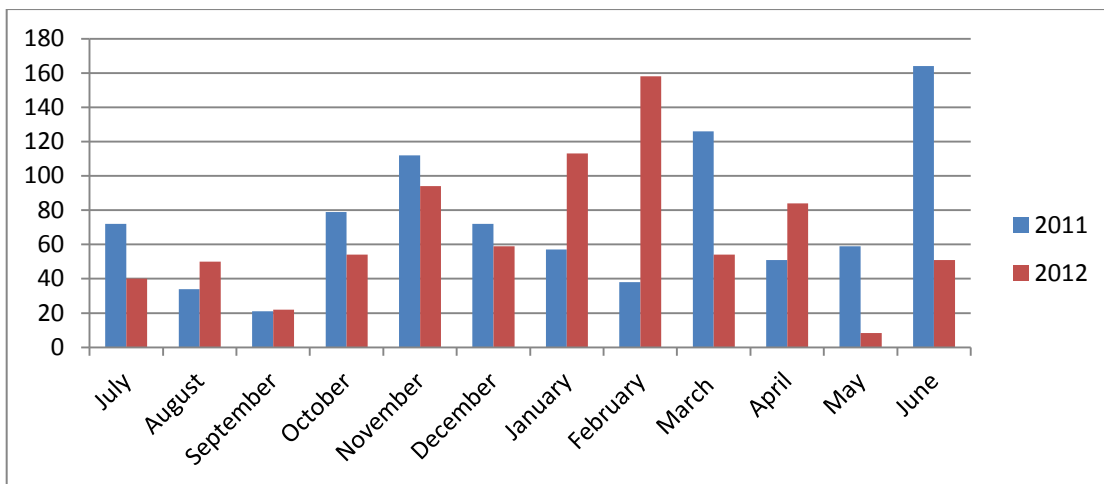


Photo 2: Flood water in Gloucester, 2011.



Photo 3: Floods around Gloucester 2011

CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (CMA)



The Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority (HCRCMA) was very active within the Gloucester LGA, contributing \$369, 867 in grants to land holders. The main project involved partnering with large landholdings on the Mid North Coast with total land ownership of more than 70,000 hectares. This project will deliver soil health outcomes through:

- innovative water harvesting
- solar electric fencing technology
- pasture monitoring
- stock exclusion
- feed budgeting & new grazing management

practices for these types of properties to:

- manage groundcover
- change pasture composition to resilient perennials
- maximise rainfall infiltration
- revegetate eroded gullies
- minimise soil erosion & evapotranspiration
- enhance soil biota activity to promote nutrient cycling
- increase soil carbon levels

The project will also control emerging weeds & establish wildlife corridor

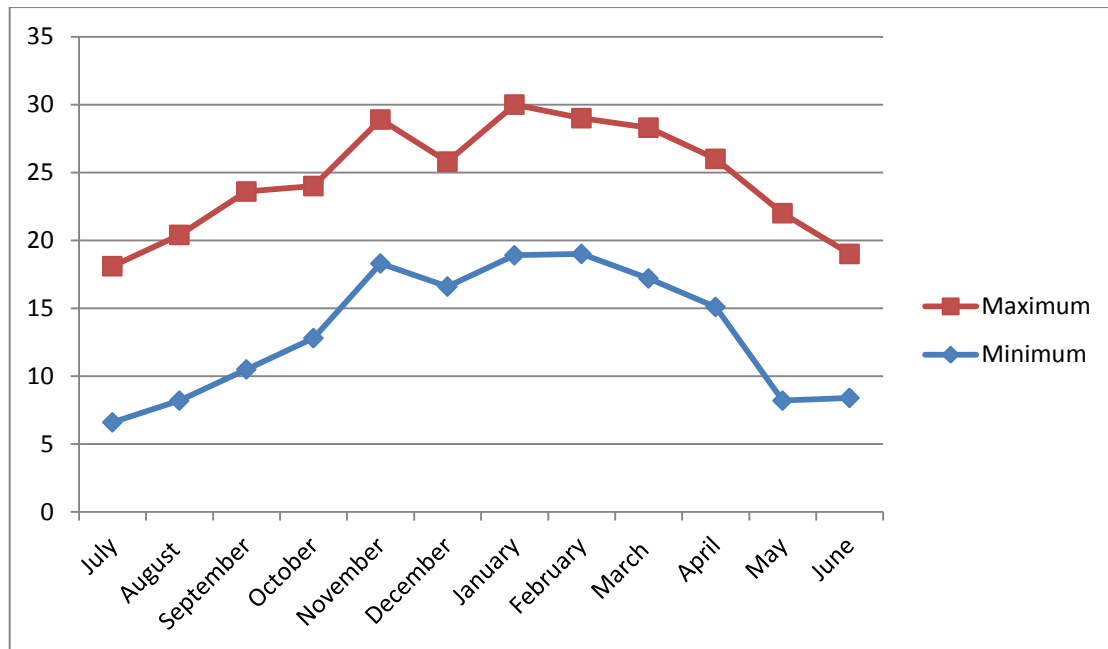
4. AIR

Gloucester has a warm temperate climate, with warm to hot summers and mild to cool winters. Wind direction and patterns are influenced by the topography of the Gloucester area, where winds tend to be channelled along the valley.

TEMPERATURE

Graph 8 shows the average maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in the Gloucester LGA over 2011 to 2012. The maximum temperatures in the GLGA follow general patterns with January recording the highest temperature and July the lowest.

Graph 7: Maximum and minimum temperatures 2011-2012.



AIR QUALITY

Council does not conduct air quality monitoring in the Gloucester Shire, however Gloucester’s air quality is considered to be of a high quality.

Activities that can contribute to the reduction of air quality in the GLGA include:

Use of wood heaters during winter

Bushfires

Prescribed/permitted burns and pasture burns

Agricultural activities

Motor Vehicle Emissions

Operations at Stratford Coal Mine and fires within the coal reserve

Dust monitoring at Stratford coal mine


The Bowens Road North (BRN) open cut coal mine under its Development Consent Condition 6.1 b) (vi) is required to provide a six monthly report on the performance of dust control methods as detailed in its Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and conditions of consent. Full details of the control methods and monitoring system employed are provided in the Bowens Road North Open Cut Coal Mine, Dust Management Plan (April 2002).

Gloucester resources are collecting data for the GRL mine.

5. BIODIVERSITY

THREATENED SPECIES

The NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSCA) identifies and protects native threatened species, populations and ecological communities in



danger of becoming extinct. Gloucester Shire is home to 55 species of flora and fauna listed under this Act and one threatened population (Appendix 1).

The Grey Crowned Babbler is listed as vulnerable under the TSC Act, with some family groups residing within the Gloucester urban and industrial areas. Gloucester Shire Council has commissioned a Grey-crowned Babbler Retention Plan and dedicated an area as a Babbler Reserve Area.

A cat free zone around the main reserve area on Cemetery Rd has been declared. Through an Environmental Trust Grant a fence was erected around a section of the identified Babbler habitat to ensure the protection of the area from cats and dogs and to ensure the protection of the habitat. Educational signs and a walkway adjacent to the Babbler reserve, highlight the significance of the area.



Photo 4 : Babbler Reserve Area




Photo 5 : Babbler walk

ROADSIDE VEGETATION PROJECT

Roadside environments comprise a diverse range of environmental, economic, social and heritage values and provide a range of benefits. These environments make up 5% of the total land area in NSW, with local government responsible for the management of a large majority.

The Regional Roadside Environmental Policy (RREP) was developed by Hunter and Central Coast Regional Environmental Management Strategy (HCCREMS) in order to adopt a consistent approach to the management of roadside environments in the region. The RREP policy was adopted by Council in July 2010 and has proved to be an important tool in meeting a wide range of



legislative requirements and providing a framework for management decisions regarding roadside environments. As a part of the RREP, a roadside marker scheme was developed by HCCREMS to highlight significant areas within roadside reserves, and to provide management guidelines for those areas.



Photo 6: Roadside marker.

MANAGEMENT OF CREEK CROSSINGS


A project funded by the Local Government and Shires Association to improve the biodiversity and water quality has been started within the Gloucester LGA. The project is identifying and assessing priority sites where roads intersect with key waterways and significant vegetation communities. Key roadside management issues affecting water and vegetation quality will be identified. A new 'Water Crossings' category under the Regional Roadside Marker Scheme will be established, marker posts installed and a Field Guide developed to inform work practices at these sites. On ground vegetation rehabilitation works are being delivered at 6 roadside locations containing rainforest and threatened flora.

WEEDS

Weeds are problem plants that invade natural ecosystems, reduce agricultural production and / or threaten other species including both plants and animals. Weeds tend to be introduced species growing outside their natural range. They pose one of the most significant threats to biodiversity after land clearing and habitat destruction.

With the initiation of the NSW Weeds Action Program (WAP) by the NSW Government, the priority focus through Council and the Mid North Coast Weeds Co-ordinating Committee has been on the preparation of the Strategic Invasive Weeds Plan for 2010-2115. This was completed and adopted in August 2010. The plan sets out the strategies and mechanisms to consolidate the alliance between Councils to undertake and implement their obligations under the NSW Invasive Species Plan 2008-2015 and the Noxious Weeds Act 1993.

Gloucester Shire Council's 2011/2012 annual inspection program for Noxious Weeds and new weed incursions has concentrated in the Barrington River Catchment, Manning River Catchment and the Barnard River Catchment with the



higher priority weeds mapped on Councils GIS system.320 documented inspections were carried out during the year with the major emphasis on new and emerging weeds. Gloucester Shire Councils management of weeds include spraying, slashing and the release of biological agents throughout the Shire.

Council has close ties with the Mid North Coast Weeds Co-ordinating Committee as well as the Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority whose funding is being used for follow up treatments on Honey Locust in the Waukivory Valley and Blue Periwinkle along the Bowman River. More CMA funding has become available for projects on the Blue Periwinkle in the upper Barnard River catchment, African Olive on Brett Reserve and Vine Weeds, Tree of Heaven and Broad Leaf Privet in our upper catchments in the Gloucester Shire. These programs are being carried out by Taree Indigenous Development and Employment (TIDE). Gloucester Council hosts the TIDE employees.

Noxious Weeds and new weed incursions targeted during the year have included Senegal Tea Plant, Kidneyleaf Mudplantain, St John's Wort, Green Cestrum, Mother of Millions, Bridal Creeper, Cats Claw Creeper, Madeira Vine and Tecoma.



6. NOISE

NOISE POLLUTION

Noise pollution can be defined as unwanted or offensive sounds that unreasonably intrude into our daily activities. Noise can have many sources, most of which are associated with urban development: road, rail and air transport; industrial noise; neighbourhood and recreational noise.

In relation to managing noise Gloucester Shire Council has developed a noise zone map for the airport. Properties within the possible affection zone are identified in planning certificates issued by Council under Sec 149 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

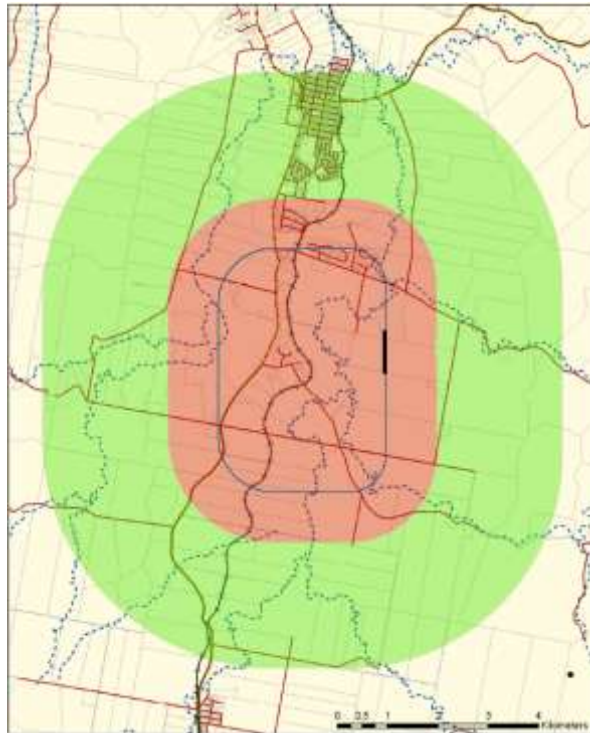


Figure 2: Airport Noise Map

Stratford Coal Mine

Stratford coal mine (SCM) has a Noise Management Plan (1996) in place that details monitoring, reporting and management requirements. The SCM Annual Report for 2011/2012 also details the number of complaints received regarding the mine.

7. WASTE





WASTE MANAGEMENT/RECYCLING

Gloucester Shire Council's goal is to deliver high quality waste management services that are environmentally sustainable. The Council provides a weekly domestic waste collection and a fortnightly recycling service for residents of the Gloucester Township and some rural areas.

All shire residents are issued with a sticker for entry into the landfill site that allows for free drop off of most waste and recycling. Businesses are charged for drop off of waste at the landfill facility.

Gloucester Shire Council is a member of two collaborative waste groups, MidWaste and MidCoast Waste. These groups implement cooperative projects to improve planning and delivery of waste management services across the region.

LANDFILL

The Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO Act) requires licensed waste facilities in NSW to pay a contribution in respect of each tonne of waste received for disposal at the facility. The levy aims to reduce the disposal of waste and promote recycling and resource recovery, so that by 2014, 66% of all waste is recycled.

As of July 1st 2009, the State Government extended the regulated area for the waste levy to include the Gloucester Shire Council area. The introduction of the levy meant changes to the local landfill and included the introduction of disposal fees for non Gloucester residents and commercial vehicles, recording of amounts and types of waste and reporting to the Department of Office of Environment and Heritage.

MIDCOAST WASTE

In May 2009 Gloucester Shire Council, Great Lakes Council and Greater Taree City Council signed a 10 year waste management contract with JR Richards and Sons. The three councils are known as MidCoast Waste and work cooperatively together with the contractor to provide waste and recycling services across the region. The Material Recovery Facility (MRF) was opened in Forster, NSW in March 2010, and is where all kerbside recycling is processed for re-use. The facility enables tours of the MRF for community and school groups, with an inbuilt educational and viewing room.

MIDWASTE

MidWaste is a forum made up of representatives of eight Councils on the Mid North Coast, including Gloucester Shire Council. Under MidWaste, a number of projects have been completed in the Gloucester LGA. A successful illegal dumping campaign, a pilot scheme called Plasback that recycles silage wrap in Taree and Gloucester, a free e-waste drop off site for Gloucester residents and an initiative to recycle waste through a regional competition, Waste 2 Art, have all been completed.

Table 5: Key Focus Areas for MidWaste for 2011- 2012

Key Focus Area	Sector	Year funded	11/12 Projects
Strategy & Policy	All	2010	Reporting Rationalisation - Diversion Reports
	All	2011	Development of Regional Strategy 2012-15
Infrastructure & Operations	Municipal	2010	Event Waste Management
	C&I/Municipal	2011	Collective Tendering
Community Engagement & Education	C&I	2010	Business Waste Reduction Project
	Municipal	2011	Community Education
	Municipal	2011	Southern Subregion Waste into Art
	Municipal	2011	Kempsey Waste into Art
Innovation & Research	Municipal	2011	Website Promotion
	C&I	2010	Waste not DCP development
Administration	All	2011	Administration
	All	2011	RENEW

Additional Projects were conducted as follows:

Sector	Additional Projects
All	Carbon Tax and Landfill Project
All	Landfill Operator Training
All	Sharps Training
Municipal	Business Case for Organics – southern region
All	Waste Levy Review Submissions



Photo 7: Silage wrap (Plasback) collection

Table 6 :Waste and recycling in categories over the Midwaste Councils for 2011-2012. (MUN=municipal waste, C&I =commercial and industrial, C&D)

REGIONAL RESOURCE RECOVERY PROGRAMS		2011/2012					
Category	Unit	July - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar	Apr - Jun	TOTAL	
Municipal (MUN)	Organics	Tonnes	9859.39	15433.58	11169.55	7840.57	44303.09
	Comingled Recycling	Tonnes	8516.51	9964.15	8094.05	6864.17	33438.88
	Biosolids	Tonnes	2617.43	2748.62	939.18	2045.68	8350.91
	Batteries - Lead Acid (Car)	Tonnes	10.23	15.43	9.02	13.75	48.43
	Batteries - Household	Kgs	132.00	14.00	0.00	0.00	146.00
	Scrap Metal (inc. Non-refurbished gas bottles)	Tonnes	1341.78	926.71	814.36	1134.35	4217.20
	Gas Bottles (reused)	Per Unit	147.00	971.00	94.82	501.00	1713.82
	Clinical Waste	Kgs	411.00	555.50	301.00	198.50	1466.00
	Tyres	Tonnes	46.21	33.56	23.32	260.40	363.49
	Hazardous Chemicals	Kgs	5953.89	8814.50	3152.00	3462.75	21383.14
	Paint	Litres	2810.06	6493.00	2408.00	7105.50	18816.56
	Illegal Dumping	Per Incident	104.00	60.00	27.00	30.03	221.03
	Used Oil	Litres	19510.00	23737.90	10600.92	12003.32	65852.14
	Mattresses	Per Unit	635.04	1403.00	811.00	844.88	3693.92
	Crushed Glass	Tonnes	2228.44	2405.97	2363.76	867.88	7866.05
	Tip Shop	Per Transaction	431.00	2598.40	449.00	443.50	3921.90
E - Waste	Tonnes	130.58	94.18	65.38	127.60	417.74	
C & I	DrumMUSTER	Per Unit	788.00	1065.00	1322.00	212.00	3387.00
	Used Oil	Litres	103050.00	96380.00	114000.00	0.00	313430.00
	Comingled Recycling	Tonnes	1671.95	2502.91	790.98	984.69	5950.53
	Scrap Metal	Tonnes	21.96	25.00	3.00	64.48	114.44
	Organics	Tonnes	358.40	681.06	93.92	342.92	1476.30
	Mattresses	Per Unit	0.00	352.00	0.00	5.40	357.40
	Silage Wrap	Tonnes	16.18	7.78	0.00	3.90	27.86
C & D	Construction & Demolition	Tonnes	6360.31	4880.25	4944.26	4249.19	20434.01
Other	Other	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Other 2	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Other 3	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL LANDFILLS		Tonnes	13313.72	31959.04	24780.17	9990.95	80043.88



MOBILE MUSTER

Council continues to support and take part in the mobile muster campaign.

8. ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY

HUNTER AND CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY (HCCREMS) ACTIVITIES

Focus on Energy

The program, “Focus on Energy” allows local residents to borrow an Energy Saving Kit for a 2 week period to measure the energy consumed by household appliances. As a part of this scheme, workshops were held in Gloucester to focus on ways people can reduce energy, water and money through simple methods.

Focus on Facilities

Focus on Facilities is a program developed by Hunter Councils, providing funding for each of the member Councils to undertake projects relating to energy assessments for Council assets. The region-wide activities include events specifically on how to save energy and water at priority facilities. Through this program Gloucester Shire Council has taken the opportunity to become a member of Planet Footprint. This project measures Council’s environmental performance including consumption, costs and emissions of Council’s properties for energy, streetlights, water, fleet, waste and greenhouse.

THE GLOUCESTER PROJECT

The Gloucester Project is a community based organisation that is driving climate change research and development for the Gloucester Shire using the Transition Town principles. Some of the major initiatives that are being undertaken by the Gloucester Project include the Gloucester Farmers Market and the Tucker Patch demonstration site.

PLATYPUS AWARENESS AND CONSERVATION TEAM (PACT)

Gloucester Shire Council is an active member of The Platypus Awareness and Conservation Team (PACT). Signs have been erected around waterways in the LGA, indicating potential platypus habitat areas.

PACT also organises the Platypus festival, an annual event in Gloucester highlighting the importance of the Platypus, its conservation and the importance of clean waterways. Platypus spotting workshops were also held in Gloucester to highlight its conservation value.



Photo 8: Cr Linda Gill (Great Lakes) and Cr John Rosenbaum (Gloucester) launching the Platypus signs.



Photo 9: Platypus festival in Gloucester, 2011.

NATIONAL TREE DAY

Annually, Council gives away shrubs and trees on National Tree Day, to encourage residents and local schools to plant. 700 native shrubs and trees were given away to local residents in 2012.



Photo 10 : Gloucester Public School accepting plants for National Tree Day from Cr. Katheryn Smith.



Photo 11: Council staff giving away trees and shrubs on National Tree Day 2011.

TIDY TOWNS

The Tidy Towns Committee, hosted by Council, is an active part of the community. This Committee hosts a number of events that benefit the community, the main ones being Clean Up Australia Day and the annual Tidy Towns competition. In 2012, Gloucester won third place in its population category for the overall Sustainability Communities Award in NSW.



Photo 12: Tidy Town Committee member Norma Fisher and Cr John Rosenbaum with the Tidy Town Award.



Photo 13: Clean Up Australia Day participants

SUSTAINABILITY FORUM

Gloucester Council hosted the Sustainability Forum, a community meeting aimed at gathering information regarding sustainability issues concerning the community. Held in conjunction with Tidy Towns, the forum also attempted to link community groups with particular projects.

CAR POOLING SITE

Carpool Mid North Coast is an initiative of the eight Mid North Coast councils - Coffs Harbour City Council, Bellingen Shire Council, Kempsey Shire Council, Nambucca Shire Council, Port Macquarie Hastings Council, Greater Taree City Council, Gloucester Shire Council and Great Lakes Council - plus Transport for NSW, North Coast TAFE, Mid North Coast Local Health District and Southern Cross University.

The free, easy to use website helps match members with people taking the same journey, whether regularly or occasionally, and they share a vehicle which cuts the environmental and travel costs. The Carpool scheme includes a secure, free, carpool website, member car stickers and branded road signs which identify the Pick Up and Set Down locations. A pilot scheme launched in 2009 in the Northern Rivers region has already proved highly successful. Gloucester Shire Council launched its car pooling site this year.



Photo 14: carpooling site

SHIRE BUILDINGS

Gloucester Shire Council has reduced its carbon footprint by installing Solar panels on the roof of the Council Chambers. It is anticipated that will reduce the Councils electricity usage by 10-15%. Gloucester Council was also successful in securing a federal grant to reduce and monitor the energy use within the Council Administration building.



Photo 15: Solar panels on the roof of the Council buildings.

Appendix 1

Threatened Species under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act) and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) for the Gloucester Shire.

Table 5: Current threatened species listed for the Gloucester LGA

Fauna – Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Booroolong Frog	<i>Litoria booroolongensis</i>	Endangered
Davies' Tree Frog	<i>Litoria daviesae</i>	Vulnerable
Glandular Frog	<i>Litoria subglandulosa</i>	Vulnerable
Stuttering Frog	<i>Mixophyes balbus</i>	Endangered
Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	Endangered
Flame Robin	<i>Petroica phoenicea</i>	Vulnerable
Gang-gang Cockatoo	<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>	Vulnerable
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami</i>	Vulnerable
Grey-crowned Babbler (eastern subspecies)	<i>Pomatostomus temporalis</i> <i>temporalis</i>	Vulnerable
Masked Owl	<i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i>	Vulnerable
Olive Whistler	<i>Pachycephala olivacea</i>	Vulnerable
Powerful Owl	<i>Ninox strenua</i>	Vulnerable
Rufous Scrub-bird	<i>Atrichornis rufescens</i>	Vulnerable
Scarlet Robin	<i>Petroica boodang</i>	Vulnerable
Sooty Owl	<i>Tyto tenebricosa</i>	Vulnerable
Speckled Warbler	<i>Pyrholaemus saggitatus</i>	Vulnerable
Superb Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus superbis</i>	Vulnerable
Wompoo Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus magnificus</i>	Vulnerable
Eastern Pygmy-possum	<i>Cercartetus nanus</i>	Vulnerable
New Holland Mouse	<i>Pseudomys novaehollandiae</i>	Vulnerable
Eastern Quoll	<i>Dasyurus viverrinus</i>	Endangered
Spotted-tailed Quoll	<i>Dasyurus maculates</i>	Vulnerable
Brush-tailed Phascogale	<i>Phascogale tapoatafa</i>	Endangered
Common Planigale	<i>Planigale maculate</i>	Vulnerable
Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby	<i>Petrogale penicillata</i>	Vulnerable
Parma Wallaby	<i>Macropus parma</i>	Vulnerable
Red-legged Pademelon	<i>Thylogale stigmatica</i>	Vulnerable
Rufous Bettong	<i>Aepyprymnus rufescens</i>	Vulnerable
Long-nosed Potoroo	<i>Potorous tridactylus</i>	Vulnerable
Yellow-bellied Glider	<i>Petaurus australis</i>	Vulnerable
Squirrel Glider	<i>Petaurus norfolcensis</i>	Vulnerable
Koala	<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>	Vulnerable
Broad-toothed Rat	<i>Mastacomys fuscus</i>	Vulnerable
Eastern Bentwing-bat	<i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i> <i>oceanensis</i>	Vulnerable
Eastern Cave Bat	<i>Vespadelus trouhoni</i>	Vulnerable



Eastern False Pipistrelle	<i>Falsistrellus tasmaniensis</i>	Vulnerable
Eastern Freetail-bat	<i>Mormopterus norfolkensis</i>	Vulnerable
Golden-tipped Bat	<i>Kerivoula papuensis</i>	Vulnerable
Greater Broad-nosed Bat	<i>Scoteanax rueppellii</i>	Vulnerable
Grey-headed Flying-fox	<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Vulnerable
Large-eared Pied Bat	<i>Chalinolobus dwyeri</i>	Vulnerable
Large-footed Myotis	<i>Myotis adversus</i>	Vulnerable
Little Bentwing-bat	<i>Miniopterus australis</i>	Vulnerable
Stephens' Banded Snake	<i>Hoplocephalus stephensii</i>	Vulnerable
Flora	Scientific Name	Status
Austral Toadflax	<i>Thesium australe</i>	Vulnerable
Barrington Tops Ant Orchid	<i>Chiloglottis platyptera</i>	Vulnerable
Broad-leaved Pepperbush	<i>Tasmannia purpurascens</i>	Vulnerable
Fragrant Pepperbush	<i>Tasmannia glaucifolia</i>	Vulnerable
Milky Silkpod	<i>Parsonsia dorrigoensis</i>	Vulnerable
Polblue Eyebright	<i>Euphrasia ciliolate</i>	Vulnerable
Rainforest Cassia	<i>Senna acclinis</i>	Endangered
Slaty Leek Orchid	<i>Prasophyllum fuscum</i>	Vulnerable
Veined Doubletail	<i>Diuris venosa</i>	Vulnerable
White-flowered Wax Plant	<i>Cynanchum elegans</i>	Endangered
Willi Willi Zieria	<i>Zieria lasiocaulis</i>	Endangered

Table 6: Endangered populations in the Gloucester LGA

Broad-toothed Rat at Barrington Tops	<i>Mastacomys fuscus</i>	In the local Government areas of Gloucester, Scone and Dungog.
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