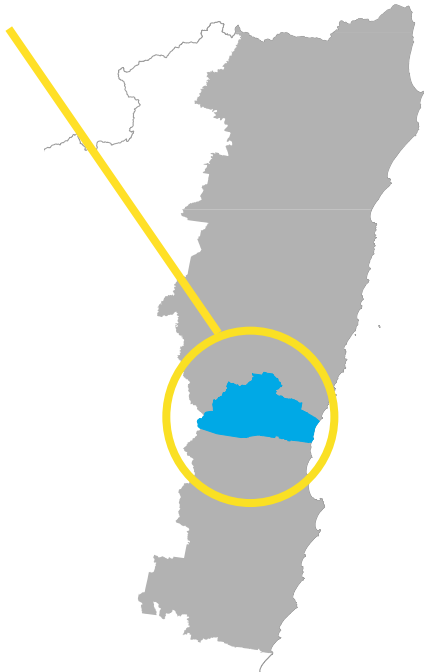




BELLINGEN LGA

INTRODUCTION

This summary for the Bellingen Local Government Area (LGA) forms part of the Regional State of the Environment report for 2016. It was compiled on behalf of the twelve Councils and three County Councils of the North Coast Region of NSW. Reporting on major environmental indicators from 2011 to 2016, it identifies trends where relevant. Data was provided by Council, state and federal government, universities, energy suppliers and community groups.



Residential water use is steady averaging 147 kilolitres per connection annually

Council's electricity emissions decreased since 2014 due to solar installations and lighting upgrades

Increasing threats from invasive species such as tropical soda apple, kidney leaf mud plantain, wild dogs, foxes and deer



Waste to landfill has decreased by 15% since 2013. In 2016, each person generated 682 kgs of waste, with 81% recycled - the highest diversion rate in NSW

Treated waste water discharged to waterways increased by 11% since 2012

24% of dwellings have roof top solar. Domestic electricity use is STABLE at 2,230 kilowatt hours annually

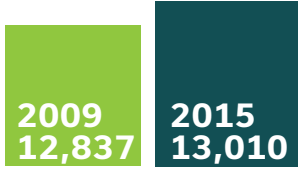
Bellingen River snapping turtle declared critically endangered

River health is generally good but riparian condition and bank stability need improving

# PEOPLE & THE ENVIRONMENT



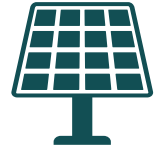
## POPULATION



POPULATION is steady

## GREENHOUSE GASES & RENEWABLE ENERGY

24% of dwellings have roof top solar



### RENEWABLE ENERGY

fed back to the grid has increased by 72% since 2012 with 231 kWh exported per person annually in 2016

## CLIMATE CHARACTERISTICS



### RAINFALL

2013 - HIGH  
2014 - VERY LOW  
2015 - AVERAGE  
2016 - 5 June wettest day on record for NSW

### FLOODING

2013 January - MAJOR  
2013 February - MAJOR  
2013 May - MINOR  
2015 January - MINOR  
2015 May - MINOR to MODERATE  
2016 June - MODERATE

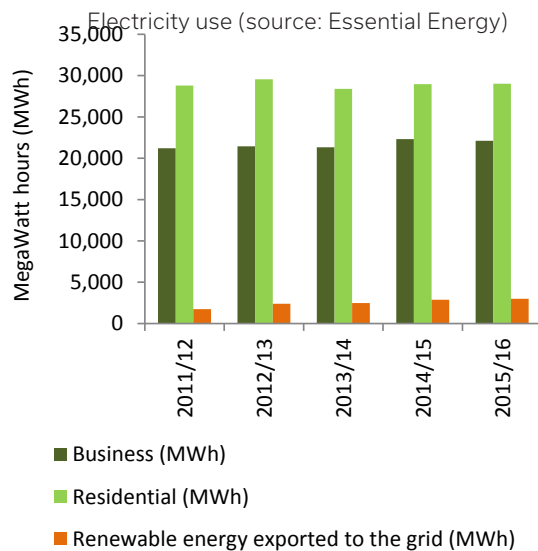


2013 was Australia's HOTTEST YEAR on record

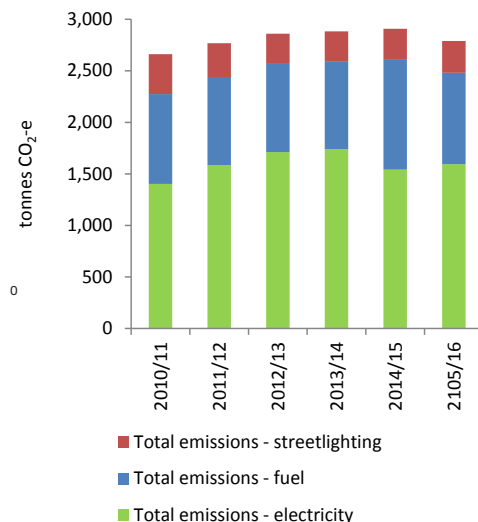
2,230

hrs of residential electricity use per person annually

MEGAWATT STABLE from 2012 to 2016



COUNCIL EMISSIONS - DECREASING since 2014 due to increased roof top solar installations



## COUNCIL EMISSIONS ABATEMENT

Additional roof-top solar installations and multiple lighting upgrades in 2014 have reduced emissions by 4% in 2016

# PEOPLE & THE ENVIRONMENT CONT.

# 1

## WATER USE

**224 KILOLITRES**

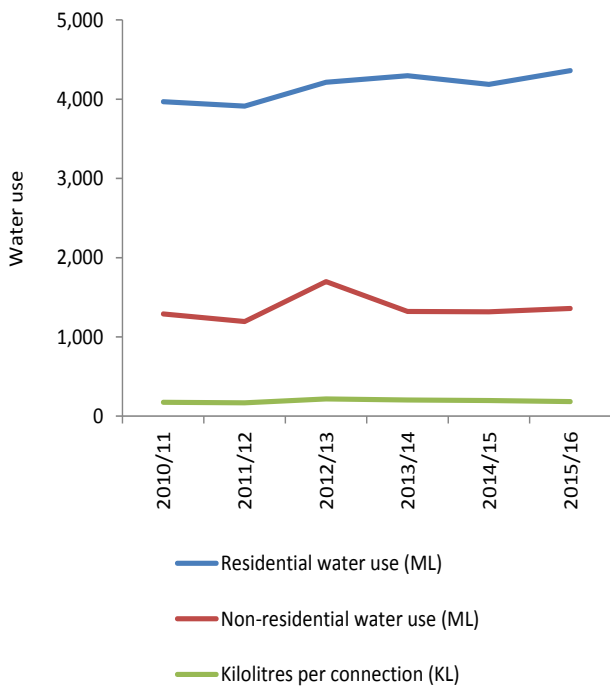
total water use per connection annually - steady from 2011-2015



Residential water use

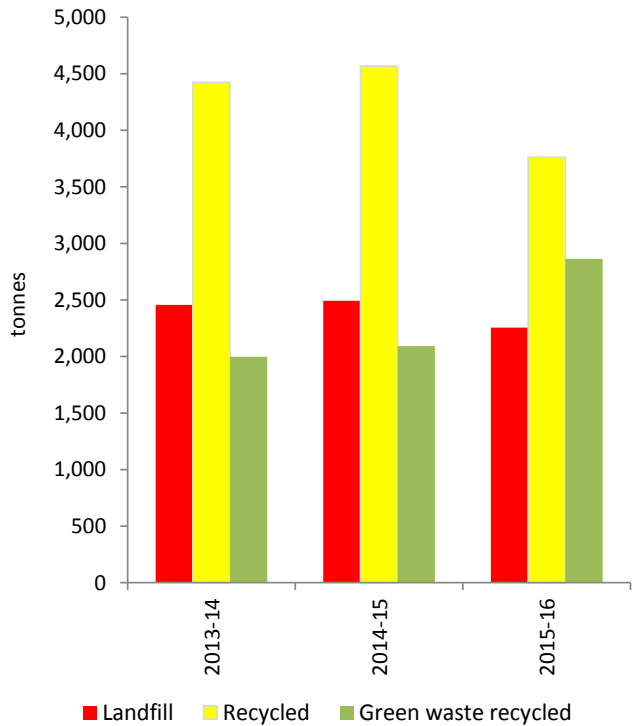
**147 KILOLITRES**

per connection annually, below the NSW regional average of 172kL



## WASTE

Overall DOMESTIC WASTE generated **STEADY SINCE 2013**



**DOMESTIC WASTE TO LANDFILL DECREASED** by 15% since 2013

**682 kgs KILOGRAMS** waste generated by each person in 2016, but **81%** was recycled

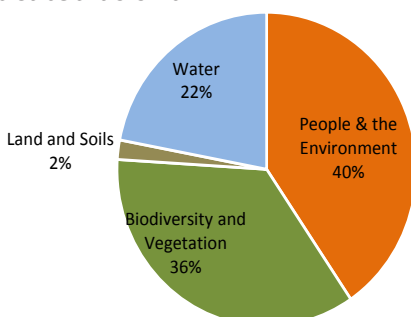
Biomass **RECYCLED INCREASED BY 43%**

turning recoverable organic and bio-solids waste to compost



## ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY

**\$227K RAISED IN 2015/16** allocated as shown



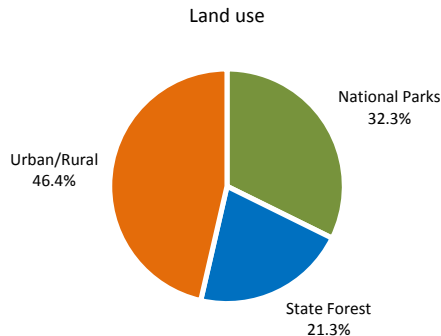
# BIODIVERSITY & VEGETATION

# 2

## RESILIENT LANDSCAPES

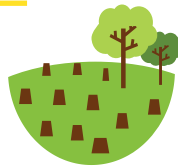
Bellingen has the highest percentage of its LGA as National Park in the whole reporting region

Council has numerous management plans to protect biodiversity



## VEGETATION LOSS

101 APPROVALS FOR PRIVATE NATIVE FORESTRY were granted in the LGA since 2007 covering 7,534 HECTARES OF PRIVATE LAND



From 1988 to 2007, 2,543 hectares were harvested under forestry and agricultural operations, highlighting the contribution of private native forestry to vegetation loss outside of State Forest and protected areas

## NATIVE FLORA & FAUNA

**2** NEW KEY THREATENING PROCESSES SINCE 2012: Myrtle rust pathogen; Noisy miners excluding other native species from habitat

**1** NEW CRITICALLY ENDANGERED SPECIES SINCE 2012: Bellinger River snapping turtle

**1** NEW CRITICALLY ENDANGERED POPULATION New England Peppermint Woodland



## HABITAT REGENERATION

**SINCE 2012**  
100 hectares of land rehabilitated  
- primarily riparian and wetland areas

**+26,000 trees planted**

**OVER 500 HRS VOLUNTEER INPUT ANNUALLY**

## INVASIVE SPECIES

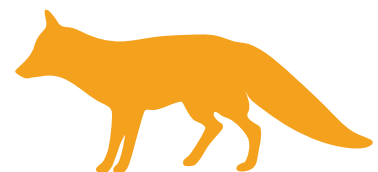
Key weed threats are TROPICAL SODA APPLE & KIDNEY LEAF MUD PLANTAIN



APPROX. 600 KILOMETRES of weed control completed annually on rivers, roadsides and railways

Over 200 property inspections and over 100 hectares of weed control COMPLETED ANNUALLY

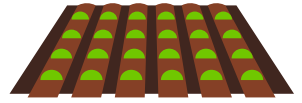
Vertebrate pests - DEER, WILD DOGS, FERAL CATS, FOXES AND INDIAN MYNAS are pests of concern in the LGA



# LAND USE & SOILS

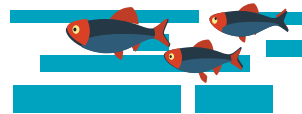
# 3

**4** SOILS TYPES found in the LGA  
 ALL IN FAIR TO VERY GOOD CONDITION, but acidity and sheet erosion are issues  
 All acid sulfate soil drainage systems in the LGA are low risk and are managed through the Local Environmental Plan



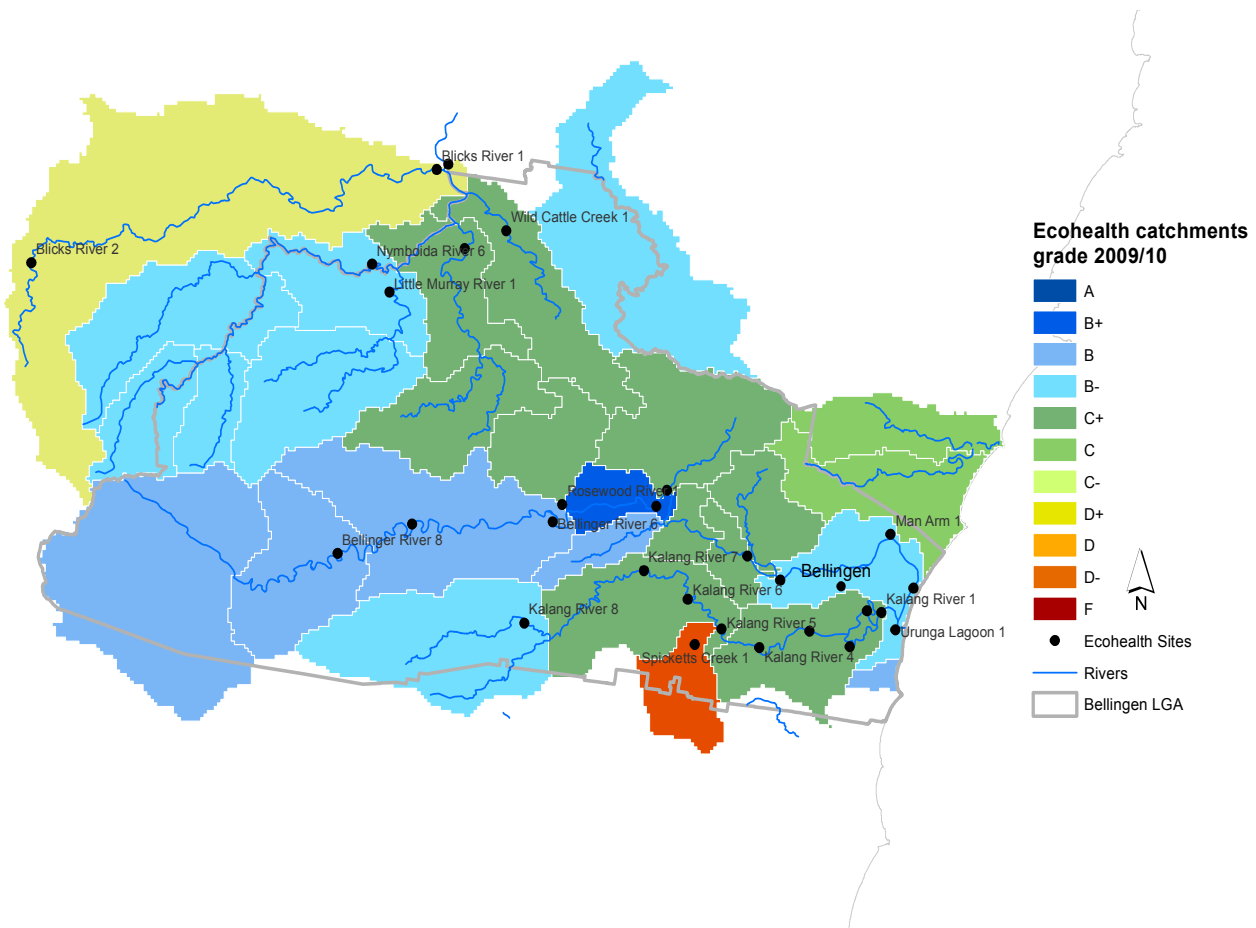
**1** MINERAL EXPLORATION LICENCE current in the LGA for antimony

# 4 WATER



## RIVER HEALTH

The Ecohealth water quality monitoring program was conducted from 2009 - 2011. The Bellingier River was rated a "B-" (good) and Kalang River a C+ (fair). Key issues identified were riparian vegetation condition and bank erosion. Another water quality monitoring program was conducted in 2015/16 and results will be available in 2017. See Council's website for the full reports



# 4

## WATER CONT.

### WASTE WATER

Waste water discharged to waterways has increased by 11% since 2012 with 853 megalitres discharged in 2015/16



There is currently no waste water reuse

Biosolids are reused as compost

### SWIMMING WATER QUALITY

**4 out of 6** popular swimming holes scored **100%** for swimming water quality



Capararros Hole, Gleniffer and Jarret Park, Bellingen failed up to 46% of samples

Council's website advises swimmers on water quality status

### GROUNDWATER STATUS

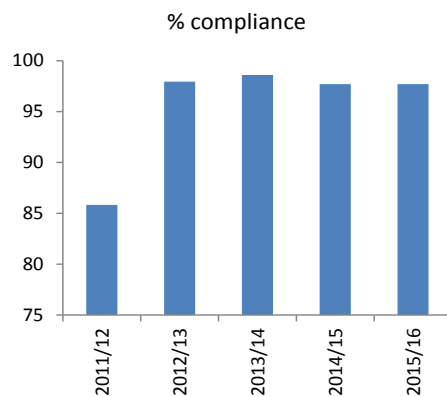
**9** groundwater sources, all with commenced water sharing plans as of 1 July 2016

All groundwater sources are at **LOW RISK** of overallocation

**0** identified **GROUNDWATER-DEPENDENT ECOSYSTEMS** in the LGA

### OSMS COMPLIANCE

On-site sewage management systems compliance has been above **97% COMPLIANCE** for inspected systems since 2012



### RIVER & COASTAL MANAGEMENT

A Coastal Zone Management Plan for the Bellingen Shire coastline was completed in 2014 as per the requirements of the *Coastal Protection Act 1979*

