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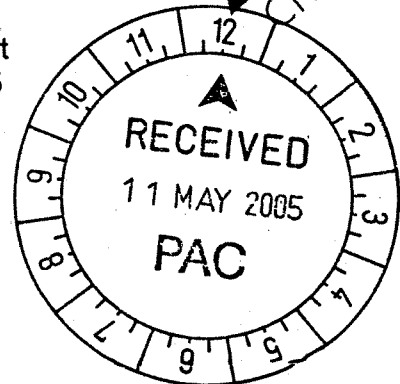


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Please Quote:

Ann Stewart
9 May 2005

Mr Matt Brown MP
Chairman Public Accounts Committee
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000



INQUIRY INTO SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING IN THE NEW SOUTH WALES PUBLIC SECTOR

Dear Mr Brown

Gosford City Council has recently become aware of the Public Accounts Committee call for submissions to an inquiry into Sustainability Reporting in the New South Wales Public Sector.

Gosford City Council would like to advise the Committee that it produced its first ever Sustainability Report in 2004. The main aim in producing this report was to allow Council to commence a process that could improve sustainable decision making for the local government area. The report allows for sustainable decision making by providing a transparent link to Council's annual management planning process for economic, environmental and social considerations. Governance and Leadership is an additional element in the report which Council will use to allow for sustainable decision making in regards to policy improvement/development, corporate planning, management structures and internal operations management.

This Sustainability Report breaks away from the current internationally accepted model for Sustainability Reporting (that being, internal corporate sustainability reporting) in that it is reporting on sustainable outcomes for our local community.

Gosford City Council would like to invite the Committee to use its Sustainability Report to provide an example of an initiative from within the public sector, and assist the Committee in their inquiry.

The secretary of the Committee has been provided with a copy of Council's report and Council would be happy to provide additional copies upon request.

Should the Committee be interested in Gosford City Council participating in any future dialogue regarding Sustainability Reporting please contact Ann Stewart – Sustainability Officer via email to ann.stewart@gosford.nsw.gov.au or via phone on (02) 43258885.

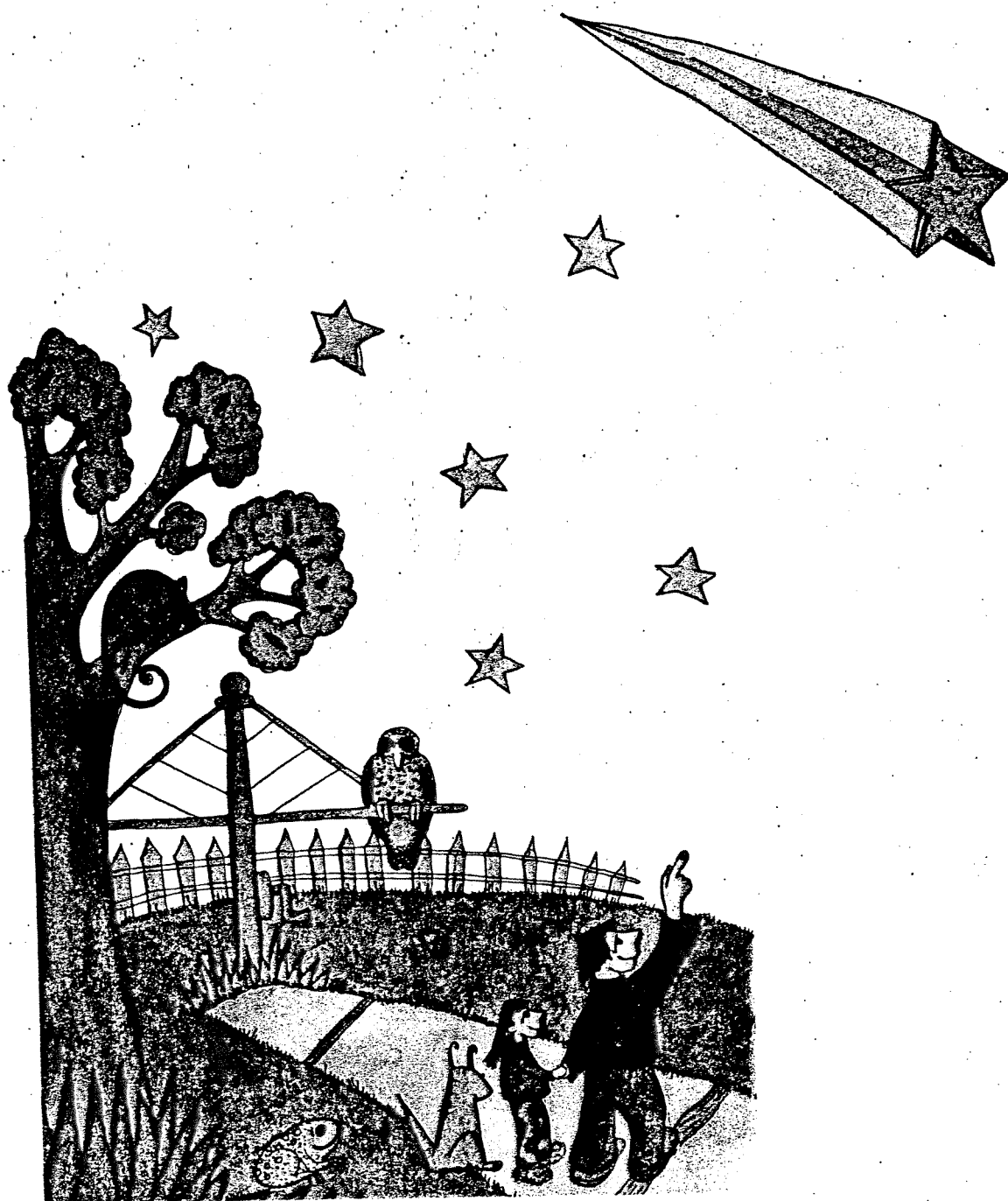


Leading to the future whilst serving for today

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AS', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ann Stewart
Sustainability Officer



Gosford City Council
Sustainability Report 2004

GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP AT A GLANCE

POLICY

State: Good

Commonwealth and State legislation exemplify the principles of ecologically sustainable development. There is a national strategy for sustainability. These act as tools with which Australians can turn to guide progress towards sustainability through policy development.

Pressure: Increasing

While commitment to sustainability through policy development is increasing, there is a long way to go for the integration of environmental with economic and social policies, at all levels of government.

Response: Fair

Council's vision and Environmental Policy E5.08 embody the principles of ecologically sustainable development. There are considerable opportunities to expand our policies and planning documents to look towards long-term sustainability.

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES

State: Good

Council's management structure was revised and implemented in 2002.

Pressure: Stable

The structure is not subject to external forces requiring change.

Response: Reasonable

The structure allows Council to provide adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities for the community and to ensure those services and facilities are managed efficiently and effectively.

MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

State: Fair

In March 2003, Council adopted its Integrated Management System, which integrates occupational health, safety and environmental management.

Pressure: Increasing

Internal processes, namely strategic planning and visioning, require Council's systems to undergo continuous improvement and development to ensure governance is maintained.

Response: Fair

To ensure good governance and leadership, Council undertakes both internal and external audits on all of its management systems.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

State: Fair

Council has appointed a permanent Environmental Education Officer and provided funding for Environmental Education annually through its capital works budget.

Pressure: Increasing

Environmental Education is moving from simply awareness raising to environmental issues to developing more labour intensive education programs aimed at changing behaviour in the community.

Response: Good

Council is developing an Environmental Education Strategy and is involved in many partnerships with other environmental education providers on the Central Coast to undertake more coordinated efforts towards environmental education.



HUMAN SETTLEMENT AT A GLANCE

SOLID WASTE

State: Improving

The total volume of solid waste being landfilled is decreasing. The level of domestic recycling and waste diversion is increasing. The life of existing landfill sites has been extended.

Pressure: Increasing

Population increases result in higher volumes of solid wastes to be managed.

Response: Good

Council has introduced an extensive domestic waste management service to the community. This incorporates an expanded commingled recycling service and a new garden organics service. Council has also resolved to implement resource recovery (recycling/diversion of soils, green waste and construction/demolition waste) at its two-landfill depots and introduced financial incentives to encourage more sustainable disposal practices. This will significantly extend the life of the existing landfill sites and provide Council with adequate timeframes to address long-term waste management solutions.

HERITAGE

State: Declining

Not all significant sites are adequately protected. Council is currently in the process of transferring items of Environmental Heritage listed in Development Control Plan No. 34 to the Draft Heritage Local Environmental Plan.

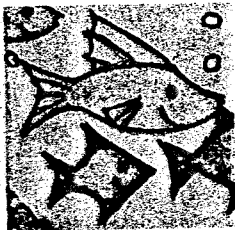
Pressure: Increasing

Legislation provides protection for environmental heritage listed items, and the pressures on heritage resources include:

- increasing land values resulting in a push to maximise development potential of sites; and
- development reflecting current trends rather than the existing character of the area. These have resulted in the loss of context and the degradation of streetscapes where consistent older style streetscapes have given way to a mixed variety of residential designs with little relationship to each other.

Response: Good

The Draft Heritage Local Environmental Plan, which includes items identified in Stage II of the Heritage Study and Development Control Plan No. 34 - Items of Environmental Heritage Conservation, is to be re-advertised. Those items identified in the Heritage Review in the Gosford City Centre and existing heritage items are to be included in the Gosford City Centre draft Local Environmental Plan which is currently being advertised.



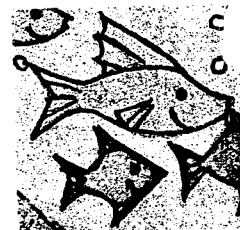
HUMAN SETTLEMENT AT A GLANCE

NOISE

State:	Reasonable	Council is unaware of any substantial unreasonable noise issues in Gosford.
Pressure:	Increasing	It is expected that noise pressures will increase with increased population densities.
Response:	Reasonable	Council registers and investigates a range of noise complaints as they are reported.

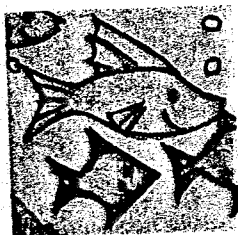
ODOUR

State:	Reasonable	Odour issues in Gosford are generally confined to a relatively small number of localised 'hot spots'.
Pressure :	Stable	There is no notable change in odour pressures in Gosford at the present time.
Response:	Good	Council has an odour task force that is addressing odour issues associated with its sewerage system. Council also responds to localised odour complaints.



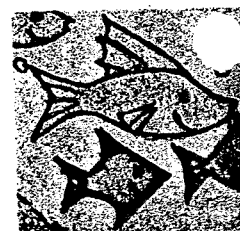
Responses identified in the 2004 Sustainability Report
for consideration in development of Council's Corporate Plan

RESPONSE	ACTION TO DATE	NEW ACTIONS FOR COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION
SOLID WASTE	<p>Council has implemented a three-bin system (garbage, recycling and garden organics) for domestic waste management services. This has dramatically reduced the domestic waste streams to landfill by over 50%.</p> <p>Council has an adopted and commenced a full resource recovery operation at both of its landfills. Council has instigated price incentives at the landfills to encourage higher levels of recycling and processing of mixed residual waste on the part of industry in lieu of landfill disposal.</p>	Investigate opportunities at its landfill sites, for identifying recycling waste diversion, for construction demolition waste and green waste as is consistent with the Waste Disposal Strategy.
HERITAGE		
Review of Heritage Items	The number of nominated potential heritage items is now sufficient to warrant a Heritage Review.	Forward to suitably qualified heritage consultants a brief for them to quote on conducting a heritage review on the nominated properties.
Interpretative Signage	Council has conducted negotiations with stakeholders on locations and styles.	Allocation of funds to cover interpretative signage for significant sites which are not necessarily heritage items.
Indigenous Heritage	Council has participated in discussions conducted by Premier's Department and key stakeholders to create a Protocol in relation to Indigenous Heritage.	To continue discussions and negotiations.
Small Grants Funding	Council has funded a multiple of projects.	When Protocol re: Indigenous Heritage has been adopted, consider expanding small grants scheme to include Indigenous Heritage.



Responses identified in the 2004 Sustainability Report
for consideration in development of Council's Corporate Plan

RESPONSE	ACTION TO DATE	NEW ACTIONS FOR COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION
NOISE AND ODOURS		
Noise	Council continues to investigate noise complaints.	
Odours	Council has implemented a sewer system septicity program. This system is currently being optimised.	



ATMOSPHERE AT A GLANCE

GREENHOUSE

State: Poor

Levels of Greenhouse Gas emissions continue to rise.

Pressure: Increasing

Greenhouse pressures have been forecast to increase in line with population growth.

Response: Fair

Council is developing a more coordinated program of energy and greenhouse gas reduction.

AIR QUALITY

State: Satisfactory

Air quality monitoring data is now available. Initial data showing that bushfire incidents are problematic to air quality standards.

Pressure: Increasing

There is a continuing trend towards greater vehicle use in Gosford due to population increases, the expansion of urban areas, and social and economic factors.

Response: Limited

Council is implementing some transport initiatives to minimise the trend. An air quality monitoring station has been installed in Gosford to obtain information about the state of the air quality of the area.

TRANSPORT

State: Uncertain

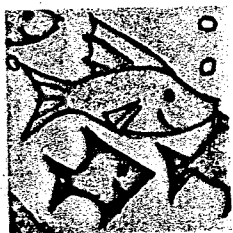
Travel by motor car continues to increase as a result of population increases.

Pressure: Increasing

Overall congestion levels have increased due to the limited capacity of the Transport System. A limited road network can result in significant congestion levels and lead to extensive delays for bus services. The high congestion levels also increase the level greenhouse gases emitted.

Response: Fair

Council is investigating strategic road network improvements that relieve congestion along key corridors. An action includes the development of additional bus priority measures.



Greenhouse pressures have been forecast to increase in line with population growth.

Responses identified in the 2004 Sustainability Report
for consideration in development of Council's Corporate Plan

RESPONSE	ACTION TO DATE	NEW ACTIONS FOR COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION
GREENHOUSE		
Energy Performance Contract	Council has combined its energy reduction programs and is undertaking development of an Energy Performance Contract.	Council provide further funding for the Stage 2 studies from the consultant's report.
AIR QUALITY		
Air Quality Monitoring	Central Coast Health is monitoring local air quality and liaising with Council.	Investigation of feasibility for woodsmoke reduction program to be implemented.
Investigation of Air Pollution Complaints	Council continues to investigate air pollution complaints.	
Transport Initiatives	<p>Council will continue to implement transport initiatives consistent with the Shaping the Central Coast Action Plan.</p> <p>Council's Fleet Services Unit are continuing to implement initiatives as part of the Corporate Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy.</p>	



Council has combined its energy reduction programs and is undertaking development of an Energy Performance Contract.

LAND AT A GLANCE

LAND DEGRADATION

State: Reasonable Gosford is not known to be suffering from large scale land degradation of any real significance, however urban erosion and sediment control is an ongoing management issue. Coastal erosion is an ongoing natural process.

Pressure: Increasing Development is increasing the pressures on land, which can result in land degradation due to poor management practices.

Response: Reasonable Council is currently reviewing its policies on Erosion and Sediment Control and integrating these principles into an integrated Water Cycle Management Development Control Plan.

CONTAMINATED LAND

State: Reasonable The data within Council's Contaminated Sites Register has been imported into Council's database.

Pressure: Increasing The pressures on contaminated land are increasing with the redevelopment of land throughout the city.

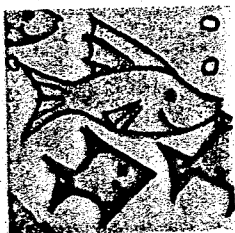
Response: Good Council is implementing the Contaminated Sites Register and is adhering to the provisions of SEPP No 55 and EPA Guidelines for remediation and assessment of contaminated sites within Gosford LGA.

LAND USE

State: Stable Medium density residential areas are being increasingly developed to accommodate future growth. Many town centres are in need of revitalisation. Rural areas on the plateau are generally prosperous and diversifying.

Pressure: Increasing Sydney's continued population growth and Gosford's relative affordability of housing results in continuing migration pressure on services and the environment.

Response: Reasonable Council implements a variety of strategies to address land use pressures. Council has regard to the principles of ecologically sustainable development when improving existing strategies and developing new strategies for the Local Government Area.



Gosford is not known to be suffering from large scale land degradation of any real significance.

Responses identified in the 2004 Sustainability Report
for consideration in development of Council's Corporate Plan

RESPONSE	ACTION TO DATE	NEW ACTIONS FOR COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION
LAND DEGRADATION Erosion and Sediment Control	Council is currently reviewing its policies on Erosion and Sediment Control and integrating these principles into an integrated DCP. Council Officers conduct regular random compliance audits.	Employment of an additional Environment Officer to target compliance issues.
CONTAMINATED LAND Contaminated Land Unauthorised Illegal Fill	Council has engaged a consultant who has completed a detailed contaminated sites assessment of the former nightsoil depot known as Snake Gully. Council has implemented a proactive strategy designed to notify all landowners that the placement of fill without development consent is illegal.	Allocation of funds towards the implementation of the remediation, rehabilitation and post closure management of Snake Gully. Scheduled aerial reconnaissance to detect major unauthorised illegal fill.
LAND USE Urban Design Framework Comprehensive Local Environmental Plan for the City	Seven of the city's eight precincts have been completed in the urban design framework study, which seeks through its implementation to improve the built outcome of new development. Council has received State Government funding to assist in the process of preparing a Comprehensive City Local Environmental Plan (LEP).	Completing the urban design framework study for the remaining precinct of the city, and preparing DCP guidelines for cottage areas and reviewing DCP 100 - Medium Density Residential Development. To prepare a strategy based upon relevant issues and studies leading to preparation of the LEP over the next three years.



WATER AT A GLANCE

DRINKING WATER

State: **Increasing** Adequate supplies of good quality drinking water are available for the near future if the community continues to conserve water.

Pressure: **Stable** Drinking water supply catchments are well protected. There may be a slight increase in demand as population increases, however, this may be offset by reductions in consumption on a per capita basis.

Response: **Good** Council is implementing water conservation initiatives and is carefully managing its water supply catchments to maintain clean, healthy water supplies. Gosford-Wyong Councils' Water Authority introduced Level 2 water restriction in May 2004 to ensure adequate supplies through the recent period of low rainfall and are exploring alternate water sources.

WASTE WATER ON-SITE TREATMENT

State: **Stable** The impacts of waste water caused by on-site sewage systems is stabilising with the implementation of Council's On-Site Sewage Management Strategy.

Pressure: **Increasing** Increased population pressures have resulted in an expansion in residential development and occupancy rates in unsewered areas, the building of large houses on sites that are small and/or difficult to manage and the expectation of residents to reuse treated wastewater on their properties all put pressure on the sustainability of wastewater generated by on-site sewage management throughout the Gosford LGA. In addition, with diminishing town water supply resources there is an increasing pressure to reuse treated wastewater for such purposes as irrigation and toilet flushing in sewer areas.

Response: **Good** Council is continuing to implement the On-Site Sewage Management Strategy. This incorporates a program of inspection, monitoring, licensing and educating owners in the responsible use of on-site sewage management systems. As a result of Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program funding opportunities administered by (DEUS), Council and Sydney Water has formed a steering group to investigate an integrated approach on an expansion of the sewerage scheme to some remote river frontage communities.

WASTE WATER TREATMENT SYSTEM

State: **Excellent** Council's two sewerage treatment plants continue to operate effectively and efficiently and well within DEC licence and Council requirements.

Pressure: **Increasing** Increasing population Pressures are resulting in increasing hydraulic loads being placed on plants.

Response: **Good** Council continues to respond to all concerns of the community and DEC.



WATER AT A GLANCE

GROUNDWATER

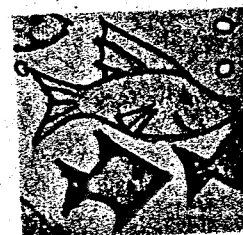
State:	Uncertain	DIPNR have developed water sharing plans that assume that groundwater on the Gosford Plateau is being used sustainably, however, there is insufficient data to confirm the ongoing status of this natural resource.
Pressure:	Increasing	An increasing number of property owners are seeking consent for the extraction of ground water.
Response:	Fair	Water Sharing Plans will establish a management framework that aligns both entitlements and use with the sustainable yield of each groundwater system or zone, as well as ensuring that local impacts are minimised.

RECREATIONAL WATER

State:	Good	Overall the water quality within Brisbane Water and the coastal lagoons is good, although the water quality of some of the tributary creeks may be poor after a rainfall event.
Pressure:	Increasing	Increased urbanisation and pressure to develop more land within the catchments will potentially deteriorate the ecological health of our waterways.
Response:	Reasonable	Council continues to monitor water quality and initiated a series of studies that will quantify how urbanisation is impacting on waterways.

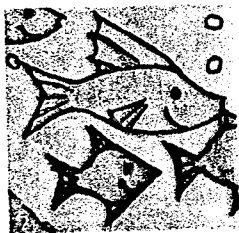
FLOODING AND DRAINAGE

State:	Improving	The number and extent of urban flooding problems are decreasing with the introduction of the Drainage Levy.
Pressure:	Increasing	<p>As Council is progressing its Drainage Levy Strategy, it is gradually relieving flooding pressures to existing development throughout the city, however with less suitable land remaining for future development pressures are now being placed on Council to allow development in problem areas.</p> <p>To reinstate and maintain natural watercourses in an ecologically sustainable manner additional funds are required for each drainage and flood mitigation project, therefore fewer projects are being performed each year with the available funds. In particular annual maintenance recurrent funds are unable to address the required maintenance issues for working in or adjacent to watercourses.</p>
Response:	Fair	Council spends in the order of \$4million per year on flood mitigation and drainage proposals, however this is insufficient to address the \$150 million plus of outstanding works, which is growing each year as more studies of old areas of Gosford City reveal the need to upgrade the drainage for these areas. Council also needs to seriously investigate Water Sensitive Urban Design principles to assist in reducing the amount of stormwater run-off and thus flooding problems.



Responses identified in the 2004 Sustainability Report for consideration in development of Council's Corporate Plan

RESPONSE	ACTION TO DATE	NEW ACTIONS FOR COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION
DRINKING WATER Environmental Flows Water Supply Catchment Management Water Conservation	<p>Council is responding to environmental flow issues in accordance with recommendations by the Healthy Rivers Commission of NSW.</p> <p>Increasing catchment security and ensuring quality water supply resources into the future in accordance with legislation.</p> <p>Council is undertaking water conservation initiatives in the areas of demand management and public education.</p>	<p>Council should consider the overall effect of land use in catchments and application of any future legislation and regulation.</p> <p>Allocation of funding to progress drought contingency planning, public education and other initiatives in demand management of water supplies.</p>
WASTEWATER TREATMENT Wastewater and Biosolid Reuse Effluent Reuse Sewage Discharges On-Site Sewage Management Strategy (OSSM)	<p>Council continually services the operational requirement of the sewer system. Council currently reuses biosolids in mine site rehabilitation and investigates options for long-term beneficial reuse.</p> <p>Council continues to investigate new technologies to allow for effluent reuse.</p> <p>Council continues to manage sewage discharges to the environment.</p>	<p>Investigating alternative technologies and methodologies for beneficial biosolids reuse.</p> <p>Funding of future investigations to ensure that there are no potentially adverse environmental impacts from effluent reuse.</p> <p>Council reviews the role in its current notification protocol to include affected stakeholders, and fund an Incident Management Plan to address all the relevant issues.</p> <p>Council should consider increased funding to the OSSM budget to enable complete implementation of Council's On-Site Sewage Management Strategy. Council should consider expansion of the existing reticulated sewer service system.</p>
RIPARIAN REHABILITATION Narara and Kincumber Creeks	<p>Council to date has assisted in preparing the plan and performing some of the more urgent works identified under the plan. It has also included some of the works to be funded from contributions plans and its Financial Strategy.</p>	<p>Allocate resources to undertake riparian rehabilitation plans and works along Narara and other priority creeks.</p>



Responses identified in the 2004 Sustainability Report for consideration in development of Council's Corporate Plan

RESPONSE	ACTION TO DATE	NEW ACTIONS FOR COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION
RECREATIONAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING Environmental Water Quality Monitoring Environmental Protection Community Water Quality Monitoring Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) Stormwater Management Nutrient Control	<p>Council monitors sites in Brisbane Water and the Coastal Lagoons for physical and chemical parameters. Council has received State Government funding to assist in the process of preparing a Comprehensive City Local Environmental Plan (LEP).</p> <p>Environment Officers are currently undertaking catchment crawls to identify potential environmental issues.</p> <p>Council supports Waterwatch on an ad-hoc basis where funds are available.</p> <p>Council has continued to implement the Gosford City Stormwater Management Plan and address stormwater quality issues.</p> <p>Council is currently reviewing its Nutrient Control Policy and best practice guidelines and integrating these principles into an integrated Water Cycle Management DCP.</p>	<p>Increase funding to include biological monitoring to adequately assess the environmental health of our waterways. To prepare a strategy based upon relevant issues and studies leading to preparation of the LEP over the next three years.</p> <p>Allocation of funds to review industries of potential high environmental risk such as nurseries.</p> <p>Allocate recurrent funding to support Waterwatch.</p> <p>Allocate funds to employ a consultant to develop WSUD DCP.</p> <p>Allocating funds to the further implementation of the Stormwater Management Plan.</p> <p>Allocation of funds towards an education program focused on the control of pollutants from various sources such as development sites, agricultural areas, nurseries, industrial areas etc.</p>
URBAN FLOODING Floodplain and Drainage Management Plans Development Restrictions Maintenance Management Plans Streambank Protection	<p>Council continues to follow DIPNR guidelines when preparing plans. Progress on works continues.</p> <p>Council has strategies in place to restrict development on flood liable land which will be continually revised.</p> <p>Council continues to prepare Maintenance Management Plans to address the control of vegetation regrowth, provision of access tracks and maintenance of adequate flood capacity for local creeks.</p> <p>Council works closely with DIPNR, Rivercare, NSW Fisheries and local community groups to achieve the most ecologically sustainable outcomes for streambank protection.</p>	<p>Allocating additional staff resources to prepare and review flood related studies to be able to apply for mitigation work grants and therefore address the extensive number of outstanding flood and drainage problems whilst grant funding is available.</p> <p>Modifying its Water Cycle and Stormwater Policies and provide resources to address the retention of stormwater to overcome the potential increase in run-off of stormwater created by more impermeable hard surfaces.</p> <p>Allocating recurrent funding to maintain flood mitigation and drainage works, including gross pollution traps. Funding for additional staff resources to develop and oversee the implementation of specialised maintenance plans and fund the identified works.</p> <p>Liaising with the relevant government authorities in an attempt to clearly define the environmental considerations when implementing important flood and drainage mitigation related public projects.</p>



ERRATUM

BIODIVERSITY AT A GLANCE

BIODIVERSITY

State: Declining

Quantifying the extent and condition of biodiversity is difficult. Actions to measure the extent and condition of biodiversity included:

1. A systematic and targeted biodiversity survey 2000/01
2. Comprehensive local scale vegetation mapping
3. Photogramatic analysis of estuarine vegetation through time as a component of the Brisbane Water Estuary Process Study. Preliminary results suggest expansion of mangroves at the expense of saltmarsh.
4. Targeted threatened species investigations (Yellow-bellied Glider, Green and Golden Bell Frog, Bush Stone-Curlew, Somersby Mintbush, Tranquillity Mintbush).

Pressure: Increasing

Pressures are increasing as a result of increased urbanisation of many parts of the City. Pressures include clearing/underscrubbing and associated impacts such as fragmentation and land and water degradation, feral and domestic animals, weed invasion, increasing fire frequency, and climate change. Urbanisation and associated changes to foreshore habitats impact on the quality of receiving waters and hence estuarine biodiversity.

Response: Improving but needs to be across all Council activities and responsibilities

Council is responding to the challenges to conserve and manage biodiversity in Gosford City. Responses include ongoing programs such as Council's Bushcare Program and employment of a Noxious Weeds Officer.

Council plans to employ a full-time Corridors Project Officer and Fire Management Officer in the near future. In addition, Council continues to expand its Coastal Open Space System (COSS) and has recently commenced fox baiting in several of these reserve areas.

Other actions include implementing specific threatened species programs and the commencement of the Brisbane Waters Estuary Processes Study, which will provide guidance for the Brisbane Waters Estuary Management Study and Management Plan to address development pressure on Brisbane Water estuary.



In Gosford City LGA there are almost 88,500 hectares of native vegetation remaining, this includes wetlands.

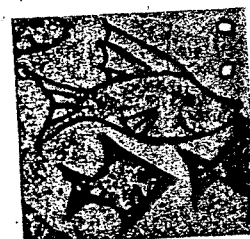
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RESPONSE	ACTION TO DATE	NEW ACTIONS FOR COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION
TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY	Draft Biodiversity Action Plan high and medium priority actions identified and implemented.	Allocation of funds to implement Regional Biodiversity Strategy actions.
	Commencement of Biodiversity Management Plan.	Active participation by Council in Catchment Management Authority programs.
	Contribution to Regional Biodiversity Strategy developed by LHCCREMS	
	Gosford City Vegetation Mapping Project 2003/04.	Allocation of funding to ensure regular updates of vegetation mapping and digital aerial photography.
	Pilot Corridors Project 2002/04.	
	Funding for permanent corridors position.	Employment of a bush regeneration gang to improve reserve management.
		Plans of management prepared and/or finalised for all reserves/community land.
		Development of biodiversity planning provisions and contrc
	Threatened Species Profiles for use in development assessments.	Funding allocation for targeted Biodiversity Survey.
	Community Wildlife Survey: What Can You Find In Your Backyard?	Appointment of Waterways Officer to enable active management of the City's creeks and waterways.
	Review and endorsement of threatened species Recovery Plans.	
	Funding committed for ongoing fox management program.	
	Successful grant application for Green and Golden Bell Frog Habitat ponds.	



Responses identified in the 2004 Sustainability Report
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RESPONSE	ACTION TO DATE	NEW ACTIONS FOR COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION
ESTUARINE BIODIVERSITY		
Brisbane Water Estuary Biodiversity Study	Engagement of the University of Newcastle to undertake a comprehensive study of the benthic macroinvertebrate community structure. This study will link with the Brisbane Water Estuary Processes Study and be an important indicator for estuarine health.	Continued commitment to providing environmental research grants. Allocation of funds to include monitoring of macroinvertebrate community assemblages as part of Council's Water Quality Monitoring Program.
Brisbane Water Estuary Plankton Study	Council has commissioned the University of Newcastle to study relationships between nutrient loads and plankton communities. This study will link with the Brisbane Water Estuary Processes Study and be an important indicator for estuarine health.	
Brisbane Water Estuary Processes Study, Management Study and Management Plan	Council has commissioned the Brisbane Water Estuary Processes Study. This study will be used to revise the Brisbane Water Estuary Management Plan.	Revision of the Coastal Lagoons Management Plan. Patonga Creek Estuary Processes Study, Management Study and Management Plan Development of a strategy for the remediation, conservation and management of all creeks and rivers in Gosford LGA.
Brooklyn Estuary Processes Study, Management Study and Management Plan	The Brooklyn Estuary Processes Study was completed in May 2003. Gosford City Council, in partnership with Hornsby Shire Council and State Government has now commissioned the Brooklyn Estuary Management Study and Management Plan.	Development of a strategy for the remediation, conservation and management of all creeks and rivers in Gosford LGA.



Responses identified in the 2004 Sustainability Report
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RESPONSE	ACTION TO DATE	NEW ACTIONS FOR COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION
ESTUARINE BIODIVERSITY <i>continued</i> Handover of Saltmarsh to National Parks No Mow initiative	Council has finalised the transfer of approximately 25 hectares of Saltmarsh to DEC. Council contractors and volunteers are using bush regeneration methods to restore foreshore vegetation along sections of Brisbane Water, Avoca Lagoon and Terrigal Lagoon	Extension of No Mow trials to other foreshore areas within the LGA.
NATURAL RESERVES	Initiation of walking track improvements in Rumbalara Reserve. Completion of water study platform in Katandra Reserve. Appointment of consultant to prepare natural area signage policy. Initiation of natural area asset identification criteria. Rock stabilisation works undertaken in natural Areas.	Appointment of Natural Area Reserve Asset Officer, and development of a natural area asset strategy. Appointment of a bush regeneration gang. Preparation of City wide instability mapping. Resourcing of a Natural Area Asset Data Capture program.
COASTAL OPEN SPACE SYSTEM (COSS)	Completion and adoption of Western COSS Study. Transfer of COSS lands to the Department of Environment and Conservation.	Development and review of COSS Acquisition Strategy. Development and implementation of planning provisions to protect and preserve COSS system values.
TREES	Tree works undertaken in each asset area.	Establishment of a Tree Management Unit to manage all tree matters (public and private trees).



Responses identified in the 2004 Sustainability Report
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RESPONSE	ACTION TO DATE	NEW ACTIONS FOR COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION
BUSHFIRE	<p>Establishment of a permanent Natural Areas Bushfire Management Officer position.</p> <p>Completion of programmed hazard reduction burns.</p>	<p>Establishment of Bush Regeneration/hazard Reduction Gang.</p> <p>Assess and manage bushfire hazards on natural area reserves and COSS lands.</p>
VERTEBRATE PEST CONTROL	<p>Coastal Reserve fox baiting program.</p>	<p>Develop and implement a Pest Animal Policy.</p> <p>Undertake and extend pest animal control works in natural area reserves and on COSS lands.</p> <p>Prepare a Companion Animals Education Program.</p>
BUSHCARE	<p>Inaugural Bushcare Forum hosted in 2003.</p> <p>Local and Regional Environmental Training Calendar implemented.</p> <p>Work For the Dole teams involved in bush regeneration works across the City.</p>	<p>Establishment of a Bush Regeneration Gang to undertake regeneration works in natural area reserves and COSS lands.</p>



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AT A GLANCE

MAJOR EMPLOYMENT GENERATING DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

State: Good

A dedicated team of town planners is assigned to assessing major employment generating development applications (DA).

Pressure: High

There is a need for Council to approve major employment generating DAs as quickly as possible.

Response: Improving

The time taken to approve employment generating DAs should be improved as a result of the pending restructure to the Development and Health Directorate.

SOMERSBY INDUSTRIAL PARK (SIP)

State: Improving

A taskforce is working towards assisting Somersby Industrial Park to reach its full potential.

Pressure: High

There is a need to continue to create additional job opportunities.

Response: Good

Council is working with the Premier's Department and the SIP Taskforce to develop the Somersby Industrial Park Plan of Management. This Plan will assist the Park reach its full employment potential.

BUSINESS CENTRAL COAST, CENTRAL COAST TOURISM, BUSINESS MENTOR SERVICES

State: Good

Council continues to work closely with the staff at Business Central Coast, Central Coast Tourism and the Business Mentor Services to foster local economic and tourism growth.

Pressure: High

There is a need for the creation of additional local job opportunities.

Response: Good

Council actively works in partnership with the expertise of these organisations to achieve job creation and promotion of the City as the first choice for business, tourism and investment.



Responses identified in the 2004 Sustainability Report
for consideration in development of Council's Corporate Plan

RESPONSE	ACTION TO DATE	NEW ACTIONS FOR COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
Tourism	Council continues to support the operations of Central Coast Tourism Inc. together with Wyong Shire Council.	
Major DA Process	Council continues with a process for major employment generating developments.	
Business Mentor Service	Council continues to contribute to the funding of Central Coast Business Mentor Services.	
Somersby Industrial Park	Council continues to work closely with other Government and non-government organisations to develop a strategic approach for the management of the area.	
Business Central Coast	Council continues to contribute to the funding of the organisation together with Wyong Council.	



SOCIETY AND CULTURE AT A GLANCE

COMMUNITY IDENTITY

State:	Uncertain	Council and the community is committed to fostering a vibrant and healthy community.
Pressure:	Increasing	<p>Influx of new residents and shifting population trends and impact on social infrastructure and community identity.</p> <p>40,000 people commute to other centres each day for work.</p> <p>Desire of residents to engage in more diverse cultural activities.</p> <p>Need for programs and facilities that facilitate community engagement and reflect the unique character of Gosford.</p>
Response:	Fair	<p>Council is reviewing its Community Plan in 2004-2005 to take account of the changing needs of the population base.</p> <p>Cultural and social programs are being developed to include the commuting public in community development activities.</p> <p>Implementing the recommendations in the Cultural Plan will facilitate a wider, more cohesive reflection of the character and identity of the Gosford community.</p> <p>Implement public and community art programs, festivals and events, to feature the natural environment.</p> <p>Implement major projects for the Regional Library and the Peninsula Regional Leisure Centre.</p>

EQUITY

State:	Uncertain	Council is committed to achieving an accessible environment catering for the social needs and expectations of the community.
Pressure:	Increasing	Provision of community and cultural and recreational facilities to meet the changing needs of the population. Provision of information on community and cultural events, services and programs to community members and visitors. Access by community members to Council's business services.
Response:	Fair	<p>New community centres being built at Lisarow, Kariong and Kincumber; and the Peninsula Regional Leisure Centre being constructed.</p> <p>Lifesaving facilities are being improved at beaches.</p> <p>Gosford City Council is refurbishing their current customer service area to improve access.</p>



SOCIETY AND CULTURE AT A GLANCE

Council is developing cultural and community directories and newsletters in partnership with peak bodies and residents for web access as well as print distribution.

Implementing the Customer Service strategy increasing customer service through extended hours and telephone services.

BUILDING SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES

State: **Uncertain** Gosford will be a safe and supportive place to work, live and play.

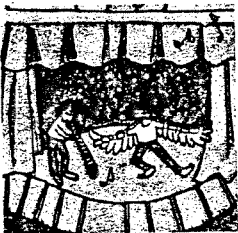
Pressure: **Increasing** Community safety.
Developing infrastructure to keep pace with changing needs of population.
Implement varied social, cultural and community programs to meet the diverse needs of the population.

Response: **Fair** Seek resources for a Community Safety Officer to complete the implementation of the Safety Plan.
Complete scheduled community facilities identified in the Corporate Plan.
Expand the range of education, information and training programs offered through Council facilities in partnership with community, business and other levels of government.



Responses identified in the 2004 Sustainability Report for consideration in development of Council's Corporate Plan

RESPONSE	ACTION TO DATE	NEW ACTIONS FOR COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION
COMMUNITY IDENTITY		
Developing the Five Lands walk to promote walking tracks between coastal villages and conduct a linked program of small community celebrations	Funds committed to development of Five Lands Walk in 2004-05.	
A Cultural Festival Program	\$100,000 funds committed in 2004-05.	Propose an annual commitment.
SpikeFest	\$10,000 committed in 2004/05.	Seek funding to support SpikeFest in 2005-2008
Continue cultural and Community Grants Program	\$98,000 in Community Grants and \$124,000 in Cultural Grants allocated annually.	Propose 10% increase.
Develop and implement a public art strategy that is compatible with the Gosford CBD Public Domain Plan and planning strategies for other major centres	Prioritised for implementation through Cultural Plan.	Seek funding of \$75,000 per annum.
Develop an annual outdoor program in Gosford Regional Gallery precinct	Prioritised for implementation through Cultural Plan.	Seek funding of \$30,000 per annum.
Provision of grants to recreation groups	\$40,000 grants provided on annual basis.	
Review the Community Plan	Review proposed in 2004/05.	
Complete Peninsula Regional Leisure Centre		
Manage Gosford City Council Community facilities	Need for a Community Facility Assets Management program identified.	Seek funds to resource a Community Facility Assets Management program to ensure sustainability of community centres and facilities in the long term.



Responses identified in the 2004 Sustainability Report for consideration in development of Council's Corporate Plan

RESPONSE	ACTION TO DATE	NEW ACTIONS FOR COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION
EQUITY continued		
Cultural Awareness training	Prioritised for implementation through Cultural Plan.	Seek \$1,500 per annum to implement training.
Disability Access Awareness training	Prioritised for implementation through the Cultural Plan.	Seek \$1,500 per annum to implement training.
Conduct an annual arts exhibition with the indigenous community	Prioritised for implementation through Cultural Plan.	Seek funding for an annual Ar Program with \$7,000.
Establish an arts and culture broadsheet to promote cultural engagement and vigorous debate	Prioritised for implementation through Cultural Plan.	Seek funding for an annual program with \$10,000.
Increase hours for the Disability Services Officer from part-time to full-time to enhance the support and resource provided to people with disabilities	Prioritised through Capital Works Program.	Seek funding in Capital Works Program in 05/06.
Demographic Data Project - To develop in collaboration with regional stakeholders a Social Atlas for the Central Coast	Social Atlas researched and produced.	Precinct profiles containing localised data to be produced.
Develop an Affordable Housing Strategy to identify a framework for Council to increase housing choices for residents	Establish an Affordable Housing Reference Group, conduct consultation with local community to identify issues and responses and prepare a draft strategy for Council's consideration.	Funding in future Capital Works Programs for the implementation of Affordable Housing Strategy recommendations.
Conduct a Community congress in collaboration with the community sector to identify the challenges and solutions for the Central Coast and to foster stronger working relations.	Necessary funding attained and the Community Congress established and held every two years.	



Responses identified in the 2004 Sustainability Report for consideration in development of Council's Corporate Plan

RESPONSE	ACTION TO DATE	NEW ACTIONS FOR COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION
Develop and implement a program of minor works to upgrade selected GCC community facilities for cultural purposes (such as the provision of sound system modular stage)	Prioritised for implementation through Cultural Plan.	\$35,000 funds to be sought.
Develop local community and cultural project at a precinct level that focuses on local assets and strengths	Prioritised in Council Capital Works Program.	Seek funding through Capital Works Program.
Social Capital Project to research and measure how communities are going in relation to quality of life and social cohesion	Prioritised in Capital Works Program.	Seek funding through Capital Works Program.
EQUITY		
Development of a cultural program: mini art film showing at Kincumber, Mooney Mooney, Woy Woy, drama or readings at Kincumber	Planning for film screenings has been completed.	Screening in the summer.
Improving literacy in the community: seminars, book clubs, author talks, story time, newsletters, web page	A regular program has been implemented.	
Developing multimedia facilities: to enable better use by disabled and greater access by the community to new technology	Planning completed and equipment purchased for multimedia facility in Erina.	Operations to commence in 2005.



Responses identified in the 2004 Sustainability Report
for consideration in development of Council's Corporate Plan

RESPONSE	ACTION TO DATE	NEW ACTIONS FOR COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION
BUILDING SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES		
Surf clubs upgrade – Umina, Ocean Beach, Copacabana, Avoca Beach and Wamberal	Tenders for completion of Avoca have been called with construction proposed late in 2004.	
Complete Peninsula Regional Leisure Centre		
Complete Ozanam Recreation Area Development	Stage One has been finalised.	Funds will be sought through Capital Works Program for \$1.5million for Stage 2.
Saratoga Oval redevelopment	Oval redevelopment work has been completed.	Construction of the Board Walk to be undertaken.
Implementation of Skateboard strategy	Narara.	
Playground upgrades	Bronzewing and Riviera have been completed.	Overall strategy being addressed.
Improve Beach safety in cooperation with Central Coast Lifesaving	Purchase of equipment for shared use and provision of training through the Water Safety Levy and Community Grants.	
Implement the Community Safety Plan	Intergenerational projects and public space projects implemented.	Seek resources for a Community Safety Officer to complete the implementation of the Safety Plan.
Children's Services Upgrade Program to initiate major works across Council Child Care Centres to ensure compliance with changing legislation	Prioritised through Capital Works Program.	Seek funding in Capital Works Program in 05/06.

