

Holroyd City Council

State of Environment Report 2007/2008

Supplementary Report to the 2003/2004 State of Environment Report

Including the annual report on
Living Holroyd: A Sustainable Future



Holroyd City
Built Around People



Living Holroyd

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Acknowledgments

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1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

Local Government plays an important role in managing its local environment. In preparing a State of Environment Report, information on the local environment is collected, analysed and presented to assist Council and the community to have a clear understanding of the pressures exerted by human activities on our immediate environment. This in turn reflects the impact those pressures have on the state of the environment and helps define responses not only implemented by Council, but government agencies, organisations and the community.

As most environmental conditions do not change dramatically over the short term, the 2007/2008 State of Environment Report is designed to supplement the comprehensive 2003/2004 State of Environment Report and subsequent supplementary reports. Should more information be required about environmental and sustainability issues pertinent to the Holroyd City Council area, the 2003/2004 State of Environment Report and 2004/2005, 2005/2006 & 2006/2007 Supplementary State of Environment Reports should be consulted. The 2007/2008 State of Environment Report informs Council, the community and interested parties about notable changes which occurred during the reporting year.

1.2 About State of Environment Reporting

The requirements for State of Environment Reporting are outlined in the Local Government Act 1993. This document is the thirteenth State of Environment Report for the Holroyd City Council area and satisfies the requirements of the Local Government Act for the 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 reporting period.

1.3 Holroyd City Management Plan 2007-2011

To continue in providing direction to Council's Management Planning process, Table 1.1 below details status/outcome of management plan actions that are linked to the themes reported in the State of Environment Report.

TABLE 1.1: LINKING 2007-2011 MANAGEMENT PLAN ACTIONS TO THE STATE OF ENVIRONMENT REPORT		
Management Plan Action	Status/Outcome	Link to SoE
Coordinate annual Clean Up Australia Day	Council coordinated over 100 volunteers at 6 sites in March 2008.	Human Settlement
Educate community to reduce waste to landfill by composting putrescibles; using free mulching service; buying worm farm kits from Council	Ongoing through free composting and worm farming courses and Council events.	
Implement and monitor new recycling contract	Ongoing	
To work within policies of Department of Environment & Conservation & in particular to require compliance with Council's DCP No 35 to maximise waste avoidance during development and construction activities	Ongoing – Council's Environmental Health & Waste Education Officer conducts audits of constructions and demolition sites.	
Implementation of Water Savings Action Plan (WSAP) and Energy Savings Action Plan (ESAP)	Program Underway	

Investigate water initiatives	Ongoing - Report prepared for water storage in parks	
Preparation of Local Environmental Plans, Development Control Plans and Section 94 Contribution Plans under the provisions of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and its Regulation	Requirement met and ongoing	
Preparation of Council policies regarding planning, environmental and development issues	Requirement met and ongoing	
Review Council's strategies and policies for effective land use planning to ensure the efficient, economic, social and sustainable use of land in Holroyd for the benefit of its residents, owners and workforce	Requirement met and ongoing	
Implement the Public Art Strategy	Public Art Policy being reviewed	
Implement the Cultural Plan	Implementation strategy being developed	
Develop and coordinate the implementation of plans, reports, research and publications i.e. Access and Equity, Social, City Health and Cultural Plans to respond strategically to current and emerging community priorities	Implementation strategies being developed	
Promote bushcare groups	Ongoing	Biodiversity
Develop improved maintenance procedures for bushland areas	Ongoing	
Develop planting/propagation program with local schools	Ongoing – Considered as part of Bushland Regeneration Strategy	
Implement City Wide Bushland Management Plan	Adopted by Council. Bushland regeneration program commenced	
To preserve, wherever possible, the existing tree stock within the City, to promote the planting of trees & to improve the public's general awareness of the importance of tree preservation	Ongoing – through Tree Management Order, National Tree Day	
Implement Council's Tree Preservation Order/Tree Management Plan and Tree Management Policies	Ongoing	
Develop and implement floodplain management strategies and stormwater management plans	Ongoing through Floodplain Management Committee	Stormwater
Seek government grants for drainage, flood mitigation and water quality projects	Opportunities are continually monitored	
As the 'ARA' under the POEO Act 1997 accept responsibility for non-scheduled industrial premises including those not licensed by the EPA	Ongoing – through environmental assessments of industry and the investigation of complaints.	

Implementation of Greenhouse Reduction Local Action Plan (CCP Program)	Program Underway - Refer to Chapter 5	Atmosphere
Monitor and review the impact of the North-West Transitway	Ongoing	
Develop Cycleway Masterplan for Holroyd	Draft Masterplan on Public Exhibition	
Facilitate establishment of the commuter carpark in Wentworthville with State Government	Funding Deed between Minister of Transport and Council signed. Land transfer from Railcorp completed. Demolition works completed. Tender stage.	
Review Motor Vehicle Strategies	Refer to Chapter 5	
Implement transport study recommendations short-term to long-term	Awaiting funding	
Continue to record oral histories of local residents	Ongoing	Heritage
Ensure statutory controls and policies exist for the effective management of Holroyd's heritage, integration of heritage issues into the planning framework for Holroyd and heritage education and promotion programs	Ongoing	
Review and enhance Local Agenda 21 Program	Program Underway	T o w

1.4 Living Holroyd: A Sustainable Future

Following on from the previous State of Environment Reports, the progress of Council's Local Agenda 21 action plan, Living Holroyd: A Sustainable Future continues to be monitored through this State of Environment Report. A summary of the indicators and further detail is provided in Chapter 8, Towards Sustainability.

1.5 Community Consultation

During the reporting period, Council provided several avenues for facilitating community involvement in decision-making, including public meetings, special committees, and Council meetings. Thirty-seven committees were active in 2007/2008, including twenty-eight park committees.

1.6 State of Environment Report 2007/2008 Format


Similar to the previous years State of Environment Reports, the 2007/2008 State of Environment Report addresses environment, social and economic issues in seven chapters being:

- Human Settlement
- Biodiversity
- Stormwater
- Atmosphere
- Soil Landscape
- Heritage
- Towards Sustainability

1.7 State of Environment Report 2007/2008 Highlights

Major achievements for the Holroyd City Council area during the reporting period include:

- Achieving Milestone 4 of the Cities for Climate Protection program

- Implementation of the Energy Savings Action and Water Savings Action Plans which will save 304,800kWh or 283 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions and 10,925kL of water per year with an annual saving of approximately \$28,000
 - Acquisition of the no development strip at the rear of a property in Woodpark Road, Smithfield
 - Development of a CityWide Bushland Management Plan
 - Implementation of the Erosion and Sediment Control Program with 1,079 inspections of construction sites resulting in 160 Environment Protection Notices and 37 Penalty Infringement Notices
- 

2 Human Settlement

2.1 Overview

Population increases and demographic changes continue to place demands on infrastructure, services and resources, such as housing, community and health facilities, energy, water and waste disposal.

2.2 Population & the Social Environment

2.2.1 The Issue

Movements in population and demographic profiles of an area provide an indication of the pressures exerted on demands for housing and services such as community and health facilities and energy, water and waste disposal resources. Monitoring these changes is essential in ensuring that the services and facilities provided for the community by Council and other organisations remain relevant.

Holroyd is continuing to experience changes in the dynamics of its social environment. This is due to an increasing population, and declining housing affordability and household occupancy.

2.2.2 State

As indicated in Table 2.1 below, Holroyd in the 2006 Census had a population of 89,291, of which 49% are men and 51% are women. In the 5 years previous to the 2006 Census there has been a population increase of almost 4%.

YEAR	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL POPULATION	CHANGE	% CHANGE
1991	-	-	79,088	-	-
1996	39,664	40,806	80,470	+ 1,149	1.5%
2001	42,430	43,330	85,760	+ 5,523	6.9%
2006	44,357	45,515	89,872	+ 4,112	4.8%

Source: ABS, 1991, 1996, 2001 & 2006 Census Data

Holroyd has an aging population with the largest group aged 35-49 years comprising 21.1% of the population. The next largest groups are those aged 25-34 years (16.7% of population), followed by 65 years and older (16.5%) and 50-59 years (11.3%).

YEAR	AUSTRALIAN BORN	TOTAL BORN OVERSEAS	PLACE OF BIRTH NOT STATED
1991	53,747	23,325	2,060
1996	51,251	26,358	2,861
2001	48,467	30,991	6,302
2006	47,397	35,212	6,684

Source: ABS, 1991, 1996, 2001 & 2006 Census Data

The increasingly multicultural nature of the Holroyd City Council area is reflected in Table 2.2 above. In the 2006 Census, 35,212 residents were born overseas, representing 39% of the total population of the City compared with 36% of the population in 2001 and 33% in 1996.

Of those born overseas, the three main countries of birth in the 2006 Census were:

1. Lebanon (4,221 people or 4.7%)
2. India (3,447 people or 3.9%)
3. China (2,289 people or 2.6%)

In addition, Holroyd has large established communities of post World War II migrants, i.e. Maltese and Italians and a small indigenous population.

The increasingly multicultural nature is also reflected in the increase in the number of residents who speak a language other than English as highlighted in Table 2.3 below. Major non-English languages spoken at home are Arabic, Cantonese, Tamil, Mandarin & Hindi.

YEAR	SPEAKS ENGLISH ONLY	SPEAKS ANOTHER LANGUAGE & ENGLISH NOT WELL	SPEAKS ANOTHER LANGUAGE & ENGLISH WELL OR VERY WELL	SPEAKS ANOTHER LANGUAGE & ENGLISH PROFICIENCY NOT STATED	NOT STATED
1996	7,188	3,998	14,468	216	112
2001	7,693	4,663	18,319	243	80
2006	7,470	5,253	22,131	236	119

Source: ABS, 1996, 2001 & 2006 Census Data

* Residents aged 5 years and older

2.2.3 Responses to the issues

During the reporting period, the following new responses were initiated to address changes in the dynamics of Holroyd's social environment.

▪ Social Plan

During 2007/2008 ongoing progress has been made in relation to twenty-five (25) strategies within the Holroyd Social Plan 2005-2009. This includes:

- Council constructed a fully accessible and shaded playground at Holroyd Gardens which was opened in December 2007.
- Council's Youth Services held it first camp in April 2008
- Increased Youth activities including the Talent Quest held in Stockland Mall and Culture in the Chambers, Youth Week Events, HSC Art Exhibition plus participation in events such as Australia Day, City Fest, and the annual Movies under the stars.
- The Holroyd Homeless Policy is currently under review.
- Healthy Ageing Forum held in April 2007.
- The following service types targeting at older people, people with disabilities and their carers have been funded in part, during the period of 2007/2008: Social Support, Nursing Care, individual transport, Allied Health – Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy and Home modifications.
- Council's Community Education Program targeting emerging communities continues to be successful and well received amongst the newer members of the community.
- Increased recreation opportunities for People with Disabilities with the funding of the SportsAbility Kit through a partnership between Pioneer and Councils Community Assistance Program funding.

▪ **City Health Plan**

Holroyd Council's first City Health Plan was launched in 1996 and reviewed, amended and re-adopted in 2000 and most recently, 21 March 2006.

Whilst the City Health Plan is a Council document it is in fact a product of collaboration between a number of key stakeholders. Including Sydney West Area Health Service, Merrylands Community Health Centre, Holroyd Local Area Command and the community.

During the reporting period, Council was successful in obtaining a \$20,000 grant from the Local Government and Shires Association (LGSA) as part of the Healthy Local Governments grant program. The funding focused on the key health issues of; Childhood Obesity, Mental Health, Tobacco Control and Physical Activity.

The Projects main objectives were to increase Council's capacity to respond to health priorities and enhance co-ordination and collaboration in planning for a healthy community, thus resulting in improved health outcomes for priority communities.

Preliminary evaluation of the projects implemented reveal that the project was successful in meeting these outcomes. This is demonstrated by the enhanced awareness and understanding amongst both human services providers and sections within Council on the way in which they are able to confront key health issues. All of the stakeholders involved demonstrated a greater awareness of how they are able to confront key health issues. All of the stakeholders involved demonstrated a greater awareness of how they are able to build the local community's capacity to address health concerns. The project also demonstrated the ways in which programs which incorporate physical activity could serve as a method of reducing isolation.

Projects included:

- Children's Services Healthy Eating project
- Boot camp for Kids
- Hilltop Road Healthy Lifestyles for Families
- Sport and Swim Clinic
- Active Ability Day
- Mental Health Training
- Tobacco Control Information Project
- Stepping On Seniors Falls Prevention Program

The strong strategic partnerships developed by the project meant that a wide range of expertise, input and resources were shared. Using a holistic approach to address health concerns and involving Council Sections, non-profit organisations and local businesses in both the implementation and planning stages of the project has resulted in the ability to reach hard to access priority groups. Each project was implemented in venues which target groups frequent and comfortable. This maximised the positive health impacts these communities.

2.3 Urban Development

2.3.1 The Issue

There has been no significant change to the issues associated with Urban Development during the reporting period.

2.3.2 State

During the reporting period, changes to the landscape of the Holroyd City Council area continue to be observed as the construction of dwellings on the Boral site and the former CSIRO site, and the old brickworks site in the suburb of Holroyd nears completion.

Table 2.1 below summarises the number and type of development applications determined (received) by Council during the reporting period compared to previous reporting periods. As indicated in the table, the number of applications determined is comparable to the previous year and fewer applications received. Measures to reduce the backlog of development applications continue to be successful resulting in more applications being determined than received again this year.

TABLE 2.1: DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED (RECEIVED)				
Development Type	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008
Residential	1051	968	1003	898
Commercial	84	81	92	158
Industrial	120	96	74	77
Other	105	52	66	103
TOTAL	1354 (1272)	1197 (1167)	1235 (1129)	1236(1065)

2.3.3 Responses to the issues

During the reporting period, the following new responses were initiated to ensure urban development continues to meet the needs of the Holroyd community and reduce the pressure it places on finite water and energy resources and waste disposal and community and health facilities.

▪ **Subregional Strategies**

Subregional planning was recognised as a way to effectively implement the planning aims and directions of the Metropolitan Strategy throughout 43 local government areas. In order to facilitate subregional planning, the Department of Planning has arranged Sydney into ten subregions that combine local government areas with similar issues and challenges. The purpose of this arrangement is to ensure that planning and change management is undertaken in a cohesive and coherent manner. Subregional planning will essentially translate the Metropolitan Strategy into strategies for each grouping of local government areas (LGA).

Subregional planning, in consultation with Councils, is being lead by the Department with a strategy for every subregion being prepared. The sub-regional strategies address issues including urban renewal, transport, infrastructure, housing and employment and provide details on the future role of the subregion and relevant centres.

Holroyd comprises part of the West Central subregion, with the local government areas of Auburn, Bankstown, Fairfield and Parramatta also contained within this subregion. The Metropolitan Strategy stipulates that the West Central subregion will provide 95,500 new dwellings and 35,000 additional jobs from 2004. The West Central Sub-regional Strategy was placed exhibition from 24 December 2007 – 28 March 2008.

▪ **Local Environmental Plans and Development Control Plans**

Holroyd Local Environmental Plan 2009

Under the State Government's planning reforms, Council is required to prepare a new Local Environmental Plan (LEP) by March 2009. All new LEPs are to be consistent with the

Government's Standard LEP Template. Preparation of the new LEP is nearing completion. It is anticipated that a draft of the new LEP will be exhibited by the end of 2008.

Holroyd Development Control Plan 2009

Under the State Government's planning reforms, Council is required to have only development control plan (DCP) applicable to any land. This is effective from the introduction of a new LEP in 2009. To comply with this requirement, Council elected to prepare a single DCP for the entire City. As a first stage, Council prepared the Holroyd City Council DCP 2007, which consolidates all its current DCPs into one document. DCP 2007 came into effect on 24 April 2008. The second stage, a thorough review of Council's development controls, will inform preparation of a Draft Holroyd DCP 2009. This will be exhibited in conjunction with the Draft Holroyd LEP 2009.

▪ **Holroyd Residential Development Strategy**

Council is preparing a Residential Development Strategy (RDS) to guide future housing development. The RDS will ensure future residential development:

- is sustainable;
- promotes social well-being;
- provides the type of housing needed by the future population;
- allows good access to shops, services, parks and public transport;
- protects urban character and scenic values.

The RDS will inform the preparation of other land use planning documents, including the new Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan. Preparation of the RDS is near completion and the Draft RDS will be exhibited in the second half of 2008.

2.4 Water Consumption

2.4.1 The Issue

This year, Sydney recorded above average rainfall during the reporting period. As at 3 July 2008, the water storage for the Sydney Water catchment was 66.5%, up from 57.6% at 9 August 2007.

2.4.2 State

Data from Sydney Water shows that in 2007/2008, houses in Holroyd local government area consumed an average of 206kL/dwelling, decreasing by 10kL/dwelling in the last reporting period and flats/units consumed 165kL/dwelling, increasing by 1kL/dwelling in the last reporting period. On average, houses in Holroyd consumed slightly less than the Sydney wide average (209kL/dwelling), however units in Holroyd consumed more than the Sydney wide average (149kL/dwelling). This trend is consistent with previous reporting periods.

As an organisation, Holroyd City Council consumed an average of 302.17kL/day, which is a 19% decrease on the last reporting period.

2.4.3 Responses to the issues

During the reporting period, the following new responses were initiated to reduce the demand on finite water resources.

▪ **Water Restrictions**

During the reporting period, water restrictions were eased slightly meaning residents can now wash cars, boats, caravans, trucks, trailers and other vehicles at their home as long as a trigger nozzle is fitted. The remainder of the Level 3 Water Restrictions continue to apply.

▪ **Water Savings Action Plan**

In 2005, the NSW State Government introduced the *Energy Administration Amendment (Water and Energy Savings) Act* which required Council to prepare a Water Savings Action Plan for Council's top 10 Water consuming facilities and develop a list of actions that would reduce the water used across Council. This plan was submitted to the Minister for Water Utilities and was approved on the 2 January 2007.

The actions contained in this plan range from actions that can be introduced in homes such as the installation of low flow showerheads to highly technical computerised irrigation systems that can measure the atmospheric and soil conditions to ensure the appropriate amounts of water is applied to a sporting field.

Over the previous two financial years Council has outlaid \$36,511.98 for the implementation of actions identified in the plan resulting in annual water savings of 10,925kL or over 4 Olympic sized swimming pools every year.

▪ **Community Water Grants**

Holroyd Council was successful in receiving funding under Round 3 of the Australian Governments, Community Water Grants for 5 projects and in conjunction with the Guildford Leagues Club a sixth project with the total amount funding coming to \$211,210. The works funded by this money include the installation of rainwater tanks at Hyland Road Youth Centre, Pendle Hill Park, Sidney Smith Park, McCredie Park, and the Gipps Road Sports Ground. In addition to the installation of rain water tanks a portion of the funding will go into upgrading a computerised central irrigation system at Darling Street, Roberta Street and Bathurst Street Parks.

Following the completion of these works Council is expecting reduce its water usage by more than 2.5 million litres per year.

2.5 Energy

2.5.1 The issue

There has been no significant change to the issues associated with Energy during the reporting period.

2.5.2 State

During the reporting period, Council was unable to obtain residential consumption data from energy suppliers for the Holroyd City Council area. Council continues to address its own energy use through participating in the Cities for Climate Protection program (Refer to Chapter 5 Atmosphere) and through the implementation of the Energy Savings Action Plan.

2.5.3 Responses to the issue

During the reporting period, the following new responses were initiated to reduce the demand on energy resources.

▪ **Energy Savings Action Plan**

In 2005, the NSW State Government introduced the *Energy Administration Amendment (Water and Energy Savings) Act* which required Council to prepare an Energy Savings Action Plan for Council's top 10 Energy consuming facilities. This plan reviewed the amount of energy used by Council and created a list of over 50 specific actions designed to minimise Council's electricity and gas consumption. This Plan was then submitted to the Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water and was approved on 10 July 2007.

To date Council has outlaid \$61,496 to implement actions that have reduced Council's energy consumption by 304,800kWh annually which has inturn reduced CO₂ emissions by 283tonnes annually and saved \$19,400 in annual energy bills.

2.6 Waste Management

2.6.1 The Issue

There has been no significant change to the issues associated with Waste during the reporting period.

2.6.2 State

During the reporting period, Council collected 30,455 tonnes of general waste for transport to landfill and 8,072 tonnes of recyclable waste. As indicated in the Table 2.2 below, this represents a current diversion rate of 20.96%, a slight increase of 0.21% on the previous reporting period.

TABLE 2.3: AMOUNT AND TYPE OF WASTE COLLECTED IN THE HOLROYD LGA – 1/7/04 TO 30/6/08

Period	Garbage (Tonnes)	Recyclables (Tonnes)	Total (Tonnes)	Diversion Rate (%)
2007/2008	30,445	8,072	38,517	20.96
2006/2007	28,355	7389	35,744	20.75
2005/2006	26,394	7,073	33,467	21.13
2004/2005	27,933	6,720	34,653	19.40
Average diversion rate over four years				20.56

It should be noted that although a slight increase of the diversion rate has been observed, the amount of waste per capita has increased (339kg – up from 332kg) and the amount of recycling has also increased (90kg – up from 86kg). To continue to improve on the diversion rate, strategies need to be implemented to decrease the amount of waste per capita collected and conversely increase the amount of recycling per capita collected.

2.6.3 Responses to the issue

During the reporting period, the following new responses were initiated to reduce waste generation and manage waste.

▪ **Clean Up Australia Day**

Council registered and coordinated 5 sites for Clean Up Australia Day on 2 March 2008 including the following locations:

- Merrylands CBD
- Civic Park, Pendle Hill
- Guildford CBD
- Nancy Street, Pendle Hill
- Carolyn Street Park, Greystanes

Over 100 local volunteers took part in the nation's largest community based environmental event, cleaning up at the 5 sites. Approximately 15 truckloads of rubbish were collected on the day from roadsides, parks and local waterways.

An estimated 800,000 people across Australia took part in the day at more than 6000 sites.

▪ **Annual Clean Up Service**

Council provides residents with two annual clean up services, including the collection of garden waste and white goods. During the reporting period 2,362 tonnes of clean up material was collected by Council, comprising of 2,225.58 tonnes of general waste, 7.6 tonnes of white goods and 129 tonnes of garden waste.

▪ **Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) Squad**

Council is coming up to its tenth year of membership of the Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) Squad. The squad continues to be active in the Holroyd City Council area investigating illegal dumping, discovering the offender and issuing penalty notices for offences.

▪ **Schools Education Program**

The Schools Education Program was conducted targeting both primary and secondary students in the Holroyd City Council area.

The Primary Schools program delivers information on a range of topics in order to provide students with comprehensive understanding of waste management issues, these topics include:

- How to reduce, reuse, recycle and compost
- Identify waste minimisation techniques
- Identify what can and cannot be recycled
- To learn about recycling processes

The Secondary Schools program demonstrates:

- That recovery of materials from recycling occurs within Holroyd
- The complexity of the recovery process, emphasising the need for correct compliance by residents as to what can and cannot be recycled
- Students then educate their local schools and community networks to improve compliance

This program has been conducted in lieu of the Waste Watchers program.

▪ **MRF Visits**

As part of National Recycling Week, Council with the assistance of Visy Industries and EnviroCom, conducted tours of the Visy Recycling Facility, Smithfield. The purpose of the tours was to allow residents to follow their recyclables from the kerbside to the facility where they are taken for sorting and ultimately distribution to relevant industries.

Feedback from the tours was positive with most participants agreeing that they had increased their knowledge and motivation about recycling as a result of participating in the tour.

▪ **Litter Prevention Grants**

During the reporting period, Council received two \$5,000 Council Litter Prevention Grants from the Department of Environment and Climate Change.

The first campaign will be aimed at reducing the dumping of rubbish in the Holroyd shopping precincts. This will be achieved through the production and installation of anti-dumping signage, bilingual educators speaking with local shop keepers and RID squad audits of the targeted areas.

The second campaign will focus on reducing littering from motor vehicles across Holroyd. To achieve this Council will produce materials such as personal ashtrays and bumper stickers with the “*Don’t be a Tosser*” branding. In addition the campaign will involve a littering from motor vehicle blitz by Council Officers, media releases and corporate page articles.

Materials are currently being developed and purchased for both campaigns. It is expected that both campaigns will be completed by December 2008.

2.7 Amenity

2.7.1 The Issue

There has been no significant change to the issues associated with amenity during the reporting period.

2.7.2 State

Noise

During the reporting period, 58 sites were monitored as part of Councils background noise monitoring program to assess the general noise levels throughout the Holroyd City Council area compared to NSW EPA guidelines. Results of the sites monitored are presented in Table 2.3, together with the results for the previous four years for the purposes of comparison.

Period	Number of sites monitored	Number of sites with 55dBA>LA90<60dBA	Number of sites with LA90>60dBA
2007/2008	58	1	0
2006/2007	58	0	0
2005/2006	58	0	0
2004/2005	37	12	0
2003/2004	57	7	4

The Department of Environment & Conservation’s recommended acceptable noise level for suburban residential areas during the day is 55 dbA and the recommended maximum level is 60dbA (EPA 2000 – Industrial Noise Policy). As illustrated in the table above, of the sites monitored in the 4 years prior to the reporting period, no sites were above the maximum noise level for suburban residential areas during the day.

Table 2.5 provides a comparison of noise complaints for the reporting period and the three previous reporting periods.

TABLE 2.5: SUMMARY OF NOISE COMPLAINTS		
Year	Pollution Line (DEC)	Complaints
2007/2008	1	136
2006/2007	7	160
2005/2006	9	82
2004/2005	Not Available*	74
2003/2004	0	79

* The Department of Environment & Conservation was unable to provide data for the reporting period

Note: Council investigates complaints and may take action under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act and Regulation made there under by way of Prevention Notice, Noise Control Notice or Noise Abatement Notice.

Council received 136 complaints about noise during 2007/2008, decreasing on the complaints received in the previous reporting period. The decrease in noise complaints received is attributed to residents being more aware of the impact of their activities on their neighbours. In addition, Council is diligent when assessing development applications in recommending the location of air-conditioners, pool pumps and other similar noisy equipment away from receivers.

Odour

Table 2.6 provides a comparison of odour complaints for the reporting period and the three previous reporting periods.

TABLE 2.6: SUMMARY OF ODOUR (AIR) COMPLAINTS		
Year	Pollution Line (DEC)	Complaints
2007/2008	5	29
2006/2007	14	37
2005/2006	16	24
2004/2005	Not Available*	44
2003/2004	23	23

* The Department of Environment & Conservation was unable to provide data for the reporting period

Note: Council investigates complaints and may take action under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act and Regulation made there under by way of Prevention Notice or Smoke Abatement Notice.


During the reporting period Council received 29 complaints regarding air pollution, which was a decrease from the previous reporting period, but comparable to the 2005/2006 reporting period.

2.7.3 Responses to the issue

No new responses were initiated during the reporting period.

2.8 Future Actions

1. Continue to implement actions identified in the Holroyd Social Plan 2005-2009
2. Implementation of the City Health Plan 2006-2010

3. Continue to assess development applications in accordance with relevant planning instruments and legislation, to ensure sustainable use and development of land , and safeguard the urban character of the area
 4. Prepare Holroyd Local Environmental Plan 2009 and Holroyd Development Control Plan 2009
 5. Continue current waste management strategies and implement new strategies in order to improve the rate of diversion from waste from landfill
 6. Continue to implement actions identified in the Water and Energy Savings Action Plans
 7. Continue to increase public awareness of air and noise issues
- 

3 Biodiversity

3.1 Overview

Biodiversity in the Holroyd City Council area continues to be under threat from continuing fragmentation and degradation of aquatic and terrestrial habitats, the impact of pollutants, weed invasion and introduced species. Council has yet to develop a method of recording local biodiversity and as such relies on local knowledge, regional reports and biodiversity reports which are often submitted with large Development Applications to prioritise responses to protecting and enhancing the biodiversity of Holroyd.

3.2 The Issue

There has been no significant change to the issues associated with biodiversity during the reporting period.

3.3 State

During the reporting period, Council was provided with a report titled 'Bird Habitat Management within Holroyd Local Government Area' prepared by Merops Services. This report identified a total of seventy bird species that have been detected so far within the three reserves being studied (Greystanes Creek Reserve, Hyland Road Reserve and the Lower Prospect Canal Reserve).

The report notes that several of the species identified are bush birds that are declining within the urban area of Sydney, but have been able to persist in low numbers within the reserves. Much of the bird diversity within these reserves within these reserves is concentrated in structurally diverse areas of vegetation, many of which are dominated by weeds. This structural diversity and dense cover of weeds provides the scarce shelter required by many bush bird species.

3.4 Responses to the issue

During the reporting period, the following new responses were initiated to protect and enhance biodiversity in the local government area.

▪ **Bush Regeneration Activities**

Council continued to support local bushcare groups active in the local government area. During the reporting period, no new groups were established. And 2,700 plants were planted as part of revegetation programs.

The following provides an overview of the bush regeneration works for the reporting period.

Alpha Park Bushland

During the reporting period, bush regeneration work addressed the following issues in the Alpha Park Bushland Corridor:

- Habitat and land degradation.
- Bushland corridor fragmentation.
- Elimination of weed seed source.
- Community participation.
- Reduction of weed biomass.
- Vandalism.

These issues were addressed through the following ongoing and promotional activities:

- Good Bush Neighbours Booklet continues to be a valuable resource in promoting bushland generally in the LG Area. The brochure is now available on Council's website.
- Secondary work continuing with Volunteers, Contractors and Council employed staff.

- Regenerating native species include *Bursaria spinosa*, *Sida spinosa*, *Dianella longifolia* var. *longifolia*, *Paspalidium distans*, *Microlaena stipoides*, *Brunoniella australis*, *Wahlenbergia gracilis*, *Dichondra repens*, *Pratia purpurascens*, *Asperula conferta*, *Glycine clandestina*, *Glycine microphylla*, *Glycine tabacina*, *Einadia hastata*, *Eucalyptus moluccana* and *Einadia hastata*.
- Continued maintenance through hand weeding to protect *Pimelea spicata* population. Monitoring is continuing on an ongoing basis to prevent weed encroachment from Reserve edge, and bird dispersed weed seed

Greystanes Creek

During the reporting period, bush regeneration work addressed the following issues in the Greystanes Creek Reserve:

- Habitat and land degradation.
- Bushland corridor fragmentation.
- Elimination of weed seed source.
- Community participation.
- Reduction of weed biomass.
- Vandalism.

These issues were addressed through the following ongoing and promotional activities:

- Seed Collection on site for riparian revegetation works along a tributary stream.
- Preparation of area for buffer planting along tributary.
- Primary work along tributary to remove noxious and environmental weeds.
- Regeneration works to allow native plant regeneration adjacent revegetation area.
- Ongoing maintenance across the reserve by Council employed staff and contractors.
- Mowing & whipping to maintain creek line for flood mitigation purposes.
- Monitoring is continuing on an ongoing basis to prevent weed competition with regenerating natives and revegetated areas.

Gum Tree Reserve

During the reporting period, weed bio-mass was significantly reduced in this reserve. Maintenance weeding is carried out when required to manage edge effects, wind and bird dispersed weeds.

Significant increases in native species have been recorded between 1989 and 2008. Cessation of mowing has resulted in significant regeneration of native species from rootstock and the soil seed bank. The reserve is small however contains at least approximately 68 native species providing a significant contribution to biodiversity conservation within Holroyd LGA. (*Reference Flora Survey – Gum Tree Reserve, Guildford prepared by T James*)

Lower Prospect Canal Reserve

During the reporting period, bush regeneration work addressed the following issues in the Lower Prospect Canal Reserve:

- Habitat and land degradation.
- Bushland corridor fragmentation.
- Elimination of weed seed source.
- Community participation.
- Promotion and awareness.
- Reduction of weed biomass.
- Vandalism.
- Arson.

These issues were addressed through the following ongoing and promotional activities:

- A Fire Management Plan has been adopted by Council.
- Maintenance works in revegetation zones – mainly the eastern end of the reserve and entrance points.

- Secondary and follow-up work in area located adjacent the Aqueduct along Boothtown Creek.
- Monitoring of quadrat @ 5m X 5m in first Primary weed control site along creek-line. Initial monitoring has been hindered due to continuing drought conditions.
- Secondary works are being carried out by Volunteers, Contractors and Council employed staff in all sections of the reserve.
- Blackberry thickets are being phased out over a long period of time to protect small bird and reptile habitat.
- Monitoring will continue on an ongoing basis in those areas where arson fire has occurred.
- A second population of *Lotus australis*, previously unrecorded for Holroyd LGA, generated after fire west of Cumberland Highway, Woodpark.
- Fencing around *Acacia pubescens* east of Sherwood Road, Guildford has alleviated some erosion and assisted in recruitment of *A. pubescens* sucker plants.
- Ongoing weed control around populations of threatened species – *Pimelia spicata* and *Acacia pubescens*.
- Herbicide treatment to blackberry thickets, commencing with small populations. Large thickets will be phased out in a mosaic pattern over a longer period of time.
- Follow up weeding and spot spraying after arson burns.
- Arson burns have been mapped and are incorporated in the Fire Management Plan.

Hyland Road Reserve

This reserve is subject to an ongoing restoration and preservation project funded by the Environmental Trust and Holroyd City Council.

The project aims to carry out corridor restoration works in the northern section of the corridor to improve and enhance a valuable support to core and riparian habitat, which links to other support to core and core habitat vegetation areas both regionally and locally.

Works include: -

- Control of non-indigenous species affecting remnant vegetation.
- Remove impacts of mowing to allow existing indigenous plant species to regeneration, which will increase habitat area.
- Carry out buffer revegetation works where natural regeneration will not take place to expand habitat area.
- Bush Regeneration works.
- Promote and encourage community groups (Alpha Park Bushcare / Lower Prospect Canal Bushcare) to participate in the project and promote ownership with local residents who live adjacent to the Reserve.

The proposed outcomes for the project are:

- Reduction in weed biomass to increase flora & fauna biodiversity.
- Protect endangered ecological community and surrounding corridors providing habitat for endangered flora & fauna species i.e. *Pimelea spicata* and *Meridolum corneovirens*.
- Improve support for core vegetation to protect core and other support for core vegetation communities.
- Expand, enhance and preserve habitat areas which will further improve corridor links.
- Remove key threatening processes such as mowing and eradicate Chilean Needle Grass invasion to allow natural regeneration.
- Carry out seasonal fauna and flora surveys for long term monitoring.
- Ensure future, ongoing protection works upon completion of the project.

▪ **National Tree Day**

A community tree planting event was organised at Central Gardens for National Tree Day on 29 July, 2007. Trees were planted along the Merrylands Road frontage of Central Gardens.

▪ **Sydney West-Blue Mountains Regional Weeds Committee**

In the reporting period, the following activities were commenced or undertaken by the Sydney West-Blue Mountains Regional Weeds Committee:

- On-ground control works for Alligator Weed, Ludwigia, Salvinia, Senegal Tea and Water Hyacinth.
- Update of the Willows regional plan.
- Seeking the declaration of African Olive as a noxious weed throughout the region.
- Regional mapping of Alligator Weed, Ludwigia, Salvinia, Senegal Tea and Water Hyacinth.
- Seeking funds for the control of Green Cestrum.
- Development of a Regional Weeds Brochure

For more information visit www.sydneyweeds.org.au

▪ **Acquisition of No Development Strip**

During the reporting period, Council acquired the development strip at the rear of the premises in Woodpark Road Smithfield. As such, the care and maintenance of this site is now the responsibility of Council.

▪ **CityWide Bushland Management Plan**

During the reporting period, Council prepared a CityWide Bushland Management Plan in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 and the Commonwealth's Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

The aim of the CityWide Bushland Management Plan is to provide a working document for the sustainable management, restoration, protection and rehabilitation of native vegetation and associated habitats in the Holroyd City Council area.

▪ **Draft Noxious Weed Policy**

During the reporting period Council prepared a Draft Noxious and Environmental Weed Management Policy and Class 4 Weeds Management Plans.

The Policy outlines Council's weed management philosophy in respect to relevant legislation and provides guidance for various Council programs.

3.5 Future Actions

1. Continue to support bushcare activities
2. Implement the CityWide Bushland Management Plan
3. Adopt and implement the Draft Noxious Weeds Policy
4. Identify opportunities to work with other government and private agencies, and voluntary groups to extend, enhance and preserve green corridors
5. Continue to raise community awareness of the value of local biodiversity

4 Stormwater

4.1 Overview

Human induced actions continue to place pressure on our urban waterways and the preservation of water quality continues to be an ongoing challenge for Council and the community.

4.2 The Issue

There has been no significant change to stormwater issues during the reporting period.

4.3 State

Table 4.1 below presents information regarding the amount of litter and silt which has been collected from GPTs maintained by Council and Sydney Water during the reporting period. The data does not present a complete picture of the extent of pollutants diverted from the local creek systems as some devices are managed by other agencies and the data is not available. However it does provide an indication of the enormous amount of rubbish and debris which is not disposed of properly.

TABLE 4.1: KILOGRAMS OF AQUATIC LITTER /SILT REMOVED FROM GROSS POLLUTANT TRAPS

Period	Kg removed from GPTs	Kg removed from silt traps/wetland
2007/2008	51,170	156,000
2006/2007	47,230	943,000
2005/2006	34,000	48,000
2004/2005	16,260	65,460
2003/2004	20,180	52,690

The litter removed from the GPTs for this year should have increased significantly since the commissioning of Sydney Water's GPTs in Ringrose Park and in Elizabeth Street Guildford. Unfortunately, the breakdown of the booms in Civic Park, CV Kelly Park, Herbert Place and A'Beckett's Creek, affected the captured rubbish reported.

To compliment the data presented above, Table 4.2 provides the details of the location, type and number of GPTs in the Holroyd City Council area, including those managed by other agencies.

TABLE 4.2: GPTS IN THE HOLROYD LGA – 2007/2008				
Location	Type of Device	Owner	No of Devices	Rubbish Collected (tonnes)
<i>Upper Parramatta Catchment</i>				
Greystanes Creek				
Portia Road	Trash Screen	HCC	1	Device cleaned – data not recorded
Oklahoma Ave	Litter Boom Silt Trap	HCC	1 1*	2.15
Fox Hill Golf Course	Trash Rack Silt Trap	HCC	1	Device cleaned – data not recorded
CSIRO Basin	Trash Rack Wetland	Private	1 1*	Maintained by Lakewood Estate Developer
Greystanes Estate	Underground GPT Screen	HCC	9 1	Turned over to Council recently
Girraween Park	Trash Rack Silt Trap	HCC	1 1*	Device cleaned – data not recorded
C V Kelly Park	Litter Boom Silt Trap	HCC	1 1*	0.05
Toongabbie SC	Pit Basket	HCC	3	Device cleaned – data not recorded
M4, opp Toongabbie Rd	GPT	SWR	1	Device cleaned – data not recorded
M4, opp Toongabbie Rd	Wetland	SWR	1	Device cleaned – data not recorded
M4, opp Toongabbie Rd	GPT	SWR	1	Device cleaned – data not recorded
Pendle Hill Creek				
Civic Park	Wetland Silt Trap Boom	HCC	1 1* 1	5.97 (material removed from the Boom)
M4, Behind Finch Pl	GPT	SWR	1	Device cleaned – data not recorded
M4, near Sapphire St	GPT	SWR	1	Device cleaned – data not recorded
M4, near Opal Pl	GPT	SWR	1	Device cleaned – data not recorded
Finlaysons and Coppers Creeks				
M4, behind 411 Gt Western Hwy	GPT	SWR	1	Device cleaned – data not recorded
M4, behind 431 Gt Western Hwy	GPT	SWR	1	Device cleaned – data not recorded
M4, behind 433 Gt Western Hwy	GPT	SWR	1	Device cleaned – data not recorded
M4, behind Crosby St	GPT	SWR	1	Device cleaned – data not recorded
M4, behind Gregory St	GPT	SWR	1	Device cleaned – data not recorded
Wentworthville SC	Pit Basket	HCC	7	Device cleaned – data not recorded
Ringrose Park	GPT	SW	2	101 (18 tonne litter & 83 tonne silt)
Greystanes Shopping Centre	Pit Baskets	HCC	5	Device cleaned – data not recorded
Domain Creek				
Sydney Smith Park	Retention/ Detention Basin CDS Unit	HCC	1 2	16 (11 tonne litter & 5 tonne silt)
Alexandra Ave	GPT	HCC	1	No Data Available
Bailey St	GPT	HCC	1*	No Data Available
Oakes St	GPT	HCC	1*	No Data Available
M4, near Frances St	GPT	SWR	1	Device cleaned – data not recorded
M4, near Richmond St	GPT	SWR	1	Device cleaned – data not recorded
M4, near Gt Western Hwy	GPT	SWR	1	Device cleaned – data not recorded
M4 near Allen St	GPT	SWR	1	Device cleaned – data not recorded

Location	Type of Device	Owner	No of Devices	Rubbish Collected (tonnes)
Duck River Catchment				
A'Becketts Creek	Litter Boom Silt Trap	HCC	1 1*	1.2
Holroyd Garden Wetland	Wetland	Private	1	Maintained by developer
Elizabeth St	GPT	SW	1	82 (14 tonne litter & 68 tonne silt)
Merrylands Road (Shopping Centre)	Pit Basket		5	Device cleaned – data not recorded
Prospect Creek Catchment				
Herbert Place	Wetland Boom Silt Trap	HCC	1 1 1*	Device cleaned – data not recorded
Long Street GPT (near Britton Street)	Litter Boom Silt Trap	HCC	1 1*	Negligible
Long Street GPT (near Gipps Road)	Litter Boom Silt Trap	HCC	1 1*	Negligible
Liverpool-Parramatta Transitway near Hyland Rd, Greystanes	Transitway CDS 1	RTA	1	No Available Data
Liverpool-Parramatta Transitway between Gipps & Tarlington	Transitway CDS 3	RTA	1	No Data Available
Liverpool-Parramatta Transitway near Hume Rd, Smithfield	Transitway CDS 4	RTA	1	No Data Available
Liverpool-Parramatta Transitway near Sammut St, Smithfield	Transitway CDS 5	RTA	1	No Data Available
Liverpool-Parramatta Transitway west of Dupas St, Smithfield	Transitway CDS 6	RTA	1	No Data Available
Liverpool-Parramatta Transitway east of Dupas St, Smithfield	Transitway CDS 7	RTA	1	No Data Available
Liverpool-Parramatta Transitway north of Britton St, Smithfield	Transitway CDS 8	RTA	1	No Data Available
Liverpool-Parramatta Transitway near Percival Rd, Smithfield	Trash Rack	RTA	1	No Data Available
TOTAL				51,170 kg (Rubbish) 156,000 kg (Silt)

* Designed to be cleaned every 2-3 years; SW – Sydney Water; HCC – Holroyd City Council; SWR – Statewide Roads

Table 4.3 below provides a summary of the number, of water pollution complaints received by DECC's Pollution Line and Council over the past four years.

TABLE 4.3: SUMMARY OF STORMWATER COMPLAINTS		
Year	Pollution Line (DEC)	Council Complaints**
2007/2008	2	45
2006/2007	8	47
2005/2006	28	48
2004/2005	Not Provided*	67
2003/2004	50	30

* The Department of Environment & Climate Change has been unable to provide data for the reporting period

** Does not include sewerage complaints

Note: Council investigates complaints and may take action under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act and Regulation made there under by way of Prevention Notice or Clean Up Notice.

During the reporting period Council received and investigated 45 stormwater complaints, a similar number in comparison to the number complaints received in the previous reporting period.

4.4 Responses to the issue

During the reporting period, the following new responses were initiated to address stormwater issues in the local government area.

▪ Stormwater Management Plans

Council has implemented several long-term actions in the SMP. Long-term actions are those activities which involve continuing consultation with the community and other agencies. The following are examples of long-term actions that Council has previously implemented and is continuing:

- Implementation of Council's Floodplain Management Program – this program is a long term action and continues yearly. A Floodplain Management Committee (FMC) has now been established for the Holroyd City Council area
- The cleaning and maintenance of Stormwater Quality Improvement Devices (SQIDs) – this program is a long term action will continue throughout the year

Council was unable to implement new actions identified in the Stormwater Management Plans during the reporting period and therefore the percentage of completed actions remains the same as reported in the 2006/2007 State of Environment Report.

▪ Water Quality Monitoring Program

As previously reported, Council has undertaken a review of the Water Quality Monitoring Program and made changes to the program to ensure that the program can effectively contribute to the management of waterways in the Holroyd City Council area. The revised Water Quality Monitoring Program is due to commence operation in January 2009.

4.5 Future Actions

1. Continue to implement strategies from the Stormwater Management Plan
2. Recommence Council's Water Quality Monitoring Program
3. Continue to respond to stormwater pollution events to minimise the impact on local waterways

5 Atmosphere

5.1 Overview

Human activity and the combustion of fossil fuels continue to impact on urban air quality and increasing the levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Council continues to be committed to improving urban air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions through its participation in the Cities for Climate Protection program.

5.2 The Issue

There has been no significant change to the issues associated with urban air quality and greenhouse gas emissions during the reporting period.

5.3 State

The information regarding the air-monitoring results for south-west Sydney region previously reported in Council's State of Environment Reports is no longer available. However, daily air quality information is available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/aqms.aqi.htm

5.4 Responses to the issue

During the reporting period, the following new responses were initiated to respond to urban air quality and greenhouse gas issues.

▪ **Cities for Climate Protection Program**

In July 2003, Council resolved to participate in the Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) program, which is an international campaign initiated by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) in response to the widespread scientific agreement that the global climate is changing as a result of human-induced greenhouse emissions. The campaign is aimed at collectively encouraging local governments to adopt practices and policies that limit greenhouse gases emitted within the local government area and is based on undertaking work to achieve 5 Milestones.

In July 2005, Council adopted the *Greenhouse Reduction Local Action Plan*, which is a strategic document that outlines the broad approaches that Council and the community can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. By implementing actions outlined in this plan such as introducing 4 cylinder vehicles and LGP vehicles into Council's passenger fleet, Council achieved *Milestone 4* during the reporting period.

A summary of activities completed in the 2007/2008 financial year has been submitted to International Council Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) for verification. These activities and estimated abatement of greenhouse gas emissions are outlined in Table 5.1 below.

Table 5.1: Summary of Activities 2007/2008

Activity	Estimated CO ^e (tonnes) Abatement	Estimated Cost Savings
Installation of heat pumps at Depot	14.50	\$1,324
Sustainable Futures for Western Sydney Program	66.50	\$5,802
Upgrade Holroyd Centre lighting	6.40	\$785
Upgrade Administration Building lighting	1.90	\$143
Upgrade Depot Sign Shop lighting	2.41	\$182
Upgrade Depot Workshop lighting	5.63	\$425
Upgrade Wentworthville Library lighting	0.58	\$66
Diversion of paper and green waste products from landfill	12,246.05	\$467,375
Replace of Council Fleet Vehicles with more fuel efficient models	9.27	\$3,992
Landfill Recovery – Portion of waste disposed to Eastern Creek AWT	5810.00	-
TOTAL	18163.24	\$480,094

Council is now working to achieve *Milestone 5* of the program, which is a re-inventory of Council's corporate and community greenhouse gas emissions.

▪ **Western Sydney Alliance**

The Western Sydney Alliance continues to lobby on the second Sydney airport issue at both levels of Government and with the appropriate agencies.

5.5 Future Actions

1. Implement the Greenhouse Reduction Local Action Plan and achieve Milestone 5 of the Cities for Climate Protection Program
2. Continue to educate the community on air quality and greenhouse issues
3. Continue to participate in the Western Sydney Alliance in opposing the second Sydney Airport at Badgery's Creek



Soil Landscape

6.1 Overview

Impacts of land degradation occur over a period of time. During the reporting period, Council continued to implement suitable strategies for managing problems such as contamination of land, dryland salinity, soil erosion and acid sulfate soils.

6.2 Contamination Land

6.2.1 The Issue

There has been no significant change to issues associated with contaminated land during the reporting period.

6.2.2 State

There is no new data available.

6.2.3 Responses to the issue

There were no new responses initiated during the reporting period.

6.3 Salinity

6.3.1 The Issue

There has been no significant change to issues associated with salinity during the reporting period.

6.3.2 State

There is no new data available.

6.3.3 Responses to the issue

There were no new responses initiated during the reporting period.

6.4 Soil Erosion

6.4.1 The Issue

There has been no significant change to issues associated with soil erosion during the reporting period.

6.5.2 State

There is no new data available.

6.5.3 Responses to the issue

▪ Sediment and Erosion Control

Council considers erosion and sedimentation to be a significant risk to our environment and is detecting many instances of companies and persons allowing the local government area's stormwater drains to be polluted.

Most soil erosion problems in the Holroyd City Council area stem from the poor site practices of builders and developers, including removal of more grass and other vegetation than is necessary, failure to erect sediment barriers and construct proper vehicle access to sites and failure to protect gully traps from escaping sediment.

During the reporting period, Council continued with the Erosion and Sediment Control Program through the use of a consultant. The inspection program has now been active for approximately five years. The consultant has continued to progressively visit building sites to determine the degree of compliance and issue Environment Protection Notices and/or Penalty Infringement Notices depending on the circumstances. During the reporting period, approximately 1,079 inspections were conducted resulting in 160 Environment Protection Notices and 37 Penalty Infringement Notices.

6.5 Acid Sulfate Soils

6.5.1 The Issue

There has been no significant change to issues associated with acid sulfate soils during the reporting period.


6.5.2 State

There is no new data available.

6.5.3 Responses to the issue

There were no new responses initiated during the reporting period.

6.6 Future Actions

1. Continue to assess potential contaminated sites in accordance with Council's Contamination Land Policy
 2. Review Council's Contaminated Land Policy
 3. Continue to enforce sediment and erosion requirements
- 

7 Heritage

7.1 Overview

Heritage comprises of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal and takes physical and/or non-physical forms. In the Holroyd City Council area there are places of heritage significance for both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities.

7.2 The Issue

There has been no significant change to issues associated with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage during the reporting period.

7.3 State

There is no new information available.

7.4 Responses to the issue

▪ Heritage Initiatives

Ten applications for financial assistance under the 2007 Local Heritage Grants Program were received, 1 less than the previous year. Council considered all but two of the applications worthy of receiving grants and subsequently awarded eight recipients financial assistance, totalling \$7,408. Council also recognised and commended five owners for their efforts in conserving and maintaining local heritage items.

7.5 Future Actions

1. Continue to promote an understanding and recognition of Aboriginal culture and heritage
2. Continue to promote community awareness of issues of heritage significance
3. Continue to encourage heritage conservation through the Local Heritage Grant Program

8 Toward Sustainability

8.1 Overview

Holroyd City Council continued to demonstrate its commitment to working with the community at the local level to progress towards achieving a sustainable community through implementation of actions identified in *Living Holroyd: A Sustainable Future*.

8.2 How is Holroyd working towards a Sustainable Future?

Table 8.1 below provides a summary of the trend of the indicators, showing whether we are moving towards sustainability or away from sustainability.

TABLE 8.1: SUMMARY OF INDICATORS FROM LIVING HOLROYD: A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR 2006/2007

	INDICATOR	DATA	MOVEMENT TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY
ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY	Water use per capita	206kL/dwelling (houses) & 165kL/dwelling (units)	σ τ
	Percentage compliance with ANZECC Water Quality Guidelines	Data not available – refer to Chapter 4	√
	Amount of waste to landfill per capita	339 kg	τ
	Amount of waste recycled per capita	90 kg	τ
	Energy use per capita	Data not available	-
	Area of indigenous vegetation as a percentage of the local government area	6%	√
	Number and diversity of indigenous birds and animals	Data not available	-
	Background noise levels	Refer to Table 2.4	√
	Number of high pollution incidents for the region	Data not available	-
SOCIAL & CULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY	Number of meeting places and opportunities for meeting places	27 (does not include Churches or Parks)	τ
	Number and types of social and leisure activities available in the local government area	Precise data not available	Comparison not available
	Number and type of cultural activities available in the local government area	Precise data not available	Comparison not available
	Level and types of crime in Holroyd local government area	Refer to Table 8.2	σ
	Number of public art projects	11	σ
	Number of art groups/networks	15	σ
	Number of registered/listed items in the Holroyd local government area	Refer to Chapter 7	√
	Number of participants in community events	Participation in community events varies at each event - Can be as small as 10 for smaller more intimate event and to up to 20,000 for larger events (e.g. Pet Fest)	√
ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY	Unemployment in Holroyd local government area	6.9%	σ

KEY: σ Movement Towards Sustainability

τ Movement away from Sustainability

√ No change

8.3 The Pillars of Sustainability

8.3.1 Ecological Sustainability

There is no new information.

8.3.2 Social and Cultural Sustainability

Meeting places, social, sporting and leisure activities, public art and community events continue to play an important role in maintaining the social health of the community. There are 27 identified meeting places or opportunities for community members to meet managed by Council. This does not include the numerous parks, churches and other locations where community members may gather.

Community safety continues to be an important issue in the Holroyd City Council area. Table 8.2 provides a summary of recorded crime statistics for the Holroyd City Council area for the past four years. All offences have decreased during the reporting period.

TABLE 8.2: COMPARISON OF CRIME STATISTICS FOR THE HOLROYD LGA 2004-2007

Type of Offence	2004	2005	2006	2007
Homicide	3	4	1	1
Assault	857	948	803	981
Sexual Offences	95	119	76	60
Robbery	164	127	62	156
Break and enter	1386	1268	1175	1158
Motor Vehicle Theft	676	668	459	576
Steal from motor vehicle	807	905	702	761
Steal from person	161	140	90	105

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics, www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/boscar

In comparing the rate of crime to other local government areas in NSW, based on rate of crime per 100,000 population, Holroyd City Council was ranked 10th for robbery and motor vehicle theft, 21st for break and enter – dwelling, 26th for steal from motor vehicle, 29th for steal from person, and 41st for assault – domestic violence related.

8.3.3 Economic Sustainability

There is no new information.

8.4 Future Actions

1. Continue to implement strategies from Living Holroyd: A Sustainable Future
2. Encourage community empowerment in local sustainability issues and projects
3. Ensure the principles of ecologically sustainable development are incorporated into all of Council's operations
4. Continue to apply for grant funding to implement programs aimed at environmental and sustainability awareness

9 References

Council Documents

- Holroyd City Council, 2007, Holroyd City Council Management Plan 2007-2011
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Legislation

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- Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- Local Government Act 1993
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Other References

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