

# Holroyd City Council

## State of Environment Report 2006/2007

Supplementary Report to the 2003/2004 State of Environment Report

Including the annual report on  
**Living Holroyd: A Sustainable Future**



**Council Contact Details**

*Postal Address:* PO Box 42, Merrylands NSW 2160  
*Street Address:* 16 Memorial Avenue, Merrylands NSW 2160  
*DX:* 25408 Merrylands 2160  
*Phone:* (02) 9840 9840  
*Fax:* (02) 9840 9734  
*Email:* [hcc@holroyd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hcc@holroyd.nsw.gov.au)  
*Web:* [www.holroyd.nsw.gov.au](http://www.holroyd.nsw.gov.au)

*Council Meetings:* 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 6.30pm

**Councillors (12)**

*Mayor:* Clr Dr. John H Brodie  
*Deputy:* Clr Josie Moncreiff

Clr Doug Bouchier, Clr Elizabeth Culgan, Clr Greg Cummings, Clr Allan Ezzy, Clr Ken Morrissey, Clr Mark Pigram, Clr Yvette Whitfield, Clr Mal Tulloch, Clr David Van Brussel, Clr Eddy Sarkis

**Senior Staff**

*General Manager:* Mr Merv Ismay  
*Director Corporate & Financial Services:* Mr Tim Butler  
*Director Engineering Services:* Mr Stan Antczak  
*Director Environmental & Planning Services:*  
*Director Library & Community Services:* Ms Diane Jogia

**Acknowledgments**

The 2006/2007 State of Environment Report has been prepared by Council's Environmental Health Unit, with the assistance of Council staff, other government agencies and the community.

# CONTENTS

---

	PAGE
<b>1.0 INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.1 Overview	1
1.2 About State of Environment Reporting	1
1.3 Holroyd City Management Plan 2006-2010	1
1.4 Living Holroyd: A Sustainable Future	3
1.5 Community Consultation	3
1.6 State of Environment 2006/2007 Format	3
1.7 State of Environment 2006/2007 Highlights	3
<b>2.0 HUMAN SETTLEMENT</b>	
2.1 Overview	4
2.2 Population & the Social Environment	4
2.2.1 The Issue	
2.2.2 State	
2.2.3 Responses to the issues	
2.3 Urban Development	5
2.3.1 The Issue	
2.3.2 State	
2.3.3 Responses to the issues	
2.4 Water Consumption	7
2.4.1 The Issue	
2.4.2 State	
2.4.3 Responses to the issues	
2.5 Energy	8
2.5.1 The Issue	
2.5.2 State	
2.5.3 Responses to the issues	
2.6 Waste Management	9
2.6.1 The Issue	
2.6.2 State	
2.6.3 Responses to the issues	
2.7 Amenity	10
2.7.1 The Issue	
2.7.2 State	
2.7.3 Responses to the issues	
2.8 Future Actions	12
<b>3.0 BIODIVERSITY</b>	
3.1 Overview	13
3.2 The Issue	13
3.3 State	13
3.4 Responses to the issues	13
3.5 Future Actions	16

<b>4.0</b>	<b>STORMWATER</b>	
4.1	Overview	17
4.2	The Issue	17
4.3	State	17
4.4	Responses to the issues	20
4.5	Future Actions	21
<b>5.0</b>	<b>ATMOSPHERE</b>	
5.1	Overview	22
5.2	The Issue	22
5.3	State	22
5.4	Responses to the issues	23
5.5	Future Actions	23
<b>6.0</b>	<b>SOIL LANDSCAPE</b>	
6.1	Overview	24
6.2	Contaminated Land	24
	6.2.1 The Issue	
	6.2.2 State	
	6.2.3 Responses to the issues	
6.3	Salinity	24
	6.3.1 The Issues	
	6.3.2 State	
	6.3.3 Responses to the issues	
6.4	Soil Erosion	24
	6.4.1 The Issues	
	6.4.2 State	
	6.4.3 Responses to the issues	
6.5	Acid Sulfate Soils	25
	6.5.1 The Issues	
	6.5.2 State	
	6.5.3 Responses to the issues	
6.6	Future Actions	25
<b>7.0</b>	<b>HERITAGE</b>	
7.1	Overview	26
7.2	The Issue	26
7.3	State	26
7.4	Responses to the issues	26
7.5	Future Actions	26
<b>8.0</b>	<b>TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY</b>	
8.1	Overview	27
8.2	How is Holroyd working towards a Sustainable Future?	27
8.3	The Pillars of Sustainability	28
	8.3.1 Ecological Sustainability	
	8.3.2 Social and Cultural Sustainability	
	8.3.3 Economic Sustainability	
8.4	Future Actions	28
<b>9.0</b>	<b>REFERENCES</b>	29

## 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 2006/2007 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 Supplementary State of Environment Reports should be consulted. The 2006/2007 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 twelfth State of Environment Report for the Holroyd City Council area and satisfies the requirements of the Local Government Act for the 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 reporting period.

### 1.3 Holroyd City Management Plan 2006-2010

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.

<b>TABLE 1.1: LINKING 2006-2010 MANAGEMENT PLAN ACTIONS TO THE STATE OF ENVIRONMENT REPORT</b>		
<b>Management Plan Action</b>	<b>Status/Outcome</b>	<b>Link to SoE</b>
Coordinate annual Clean Up Australia Day	Council coordinated over 100 volunteers at 25 sites in March 2007.	<b>Human Settlement</b>
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.	
Review, assess and implement new recycling contract	Completed.	
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.	

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	Ongoing	
Preparation of Council policies regarding planning, environmental and development issues	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	Ongoing	
Coordinate the implementation/update of relevant Council plans and publications i.e. Access and Equity, Social, City Health and Cultural Plans and the Community Profile	Refer to Chapter 2.2	
Provide cultural and public art programs and opportunities to raise awareness of local artists	Refer to Chapter 2.2	
Prepare a City Wide Bushland Management Plan	Consultants engaged and draft report expected to be completed September 2007	<b>Biodiversity</b>
Prepare Plans of Management for Jones Park, Graeme Park, Greystanes Woodland Parks and sportsgrounds	Awaiting funding	
Review the Landscape Masterplan to include additional areas of open space & new initiatives for greening Holroyd	Awaiting funding	
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	
Liaison and involvement with projects initiated by the Upper Parramatta River Catchment Trust	Trust ceased operation in December 2006	<b>Stormwater</b>
Develop and implement floodplain management strategies and stormwater management plans	Refer to Chapter 4	
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)	Refer to Chapter 5	Atmosphere
Monitor and review the impact of the Liverpool-Parramatta Transitway	Ongoing	
Develop Cycleway Masterplan for Holroyd	Awaiting funding	
Implement transport study recommendations short-term to long-term	In progress	
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	Ongoing	Towards Sustainability
Encompass Triple Bottom Line reporting in the Management Plan	Ongoing	

#### 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 2006/2007, including twenty-one park committees.

#### 1.6 State of Environment Report 2006/2007 Format

Similar to the 2004/2005 & 2005/2006 State of Environment Reports, the 2006/2007 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 2006/2007 Highlights

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

- Progress in relation to 25 strategies within the Holroyd Social Plan 2005-2009
- Adoption of a new Cultural Plan 2006-2011
- Adoption and implementation of the City Health Plan 2006-2010
- Preparation and submission of Energy Savings Action and Water Savings Action Plans
- Active involvement of bushcare volunteers, resulting in the planting of over 9,500 plants as part of revegetation programs

## **2 Human Settlement**

### **2.1 Overview**

Population increases and demographic changes detailed in the 2003/2004 State of Environment Report, 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**

There have been no significant changes to the issues associated with Population and the Social Environment during the reporting period.

#### **2.2.2 State**

The 2005/2006 State of Environment Report provides a detailed description of the population and social environment from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2001 census. The results of the census undertaken on 8 August 2006 were still being processed at the time of writing.

#### **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 2006/2007 steady progress has been made in relation to twenty-five (25) strategies within the Holroyd Social Plan 2005-2009. This includes:

- securing funding to enhance the Domestic Violence resource kit through the provision of training for local services on local needs
- supporting volunteer community groups and organisations in accessing additional funding for community activities
- implementation of actions within the Holroyd City Health Plan in partnership with Sydney West Area Health Service
- delivery of community development training for volunteer community groups and organisations
- advocacy and lobbying on behalf of services for increased funding to the Holroyd LGA for services for carers, people with disabilities, seniors, women and children
- working in partnership with other Councils and Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils to explore affordable housing policies and continuing contributions to developing the WSROC Housing Impact Assessment document
- completion of development application assessments to increase access for people with disabilities to public facilities
- provision of education and training for people from CALD backgrounds on a range of Australian governance issues
- continuing implementation of the Local Government Framework for Women

▪ **Cultural Plan**

Holroyd City Council's Cultural Plan creates and enhances opportunities for our communities to participate in cultural expression and increase cultural vitality in Holroyd City. This involves celebrating the diversity of interests in our community, promoting creativity, and embracing our collective values to work toward the community's aspirations for Holroyd City.

**Cultural vitality** is supported through:

- Providing opportunities for and encouraging active community participation in cultural initiatives
- Promoting creative arts practices as a medium for cultural expression
- Showcasing the identity, diversity and distinctiveness of our communities
- Developing creative and artistic talent in the community
- Facilitating local and regional partnerships that contribute to arts and cultural development
- Facilitating employment, skills and training opportunities for artists and communities in Holroyd City
- Arts focused urban redevelopment strategies
- Increasing access to cultural activities, facilities and services
- Encouraging cultural and social harmony and pride in the community

▪ **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 will focus on the key health issues of; Childhood Obesity, Mental Health, Tobacco Control and Physical Activity. The grant program is due for completion in the 2007/2008.

## **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 approved (received) by Council during the reporting period compared to previous reporting periods. As indicated in the table, there was a slight decrease in the number of applications received and an increase in the number of applications approved. Measures

to reduce the backlog of development applications continue to be successful resulting in more applications being approved than received again this year.

<b>TABLE 2.1: DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS APPROVED (RECEIVED)</b>				
<b>Development Type</b>	<b>2003/2004</b>	<b>2004/2005</b>	<b>2005/2006</b>	<b>2006/2007</b>
Residential	1168	1051	968	1003
Commercial	106	84	81	92
Industrial	104	120	96	74
Other	183	105	52	66
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1561 (1374)</b>	<b>1354 (1272)</b>	<b>1197 (1167)</b>	<b>1235 (1129)</b>

### **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.

- **Building Sustainability Index (BASIX) assessment tool**

Changes to the Building Sustainability Index (BASIX) during the reporting period include:

- The BASIX energy target increased for most new homes – meaning all new homes in NSW will use up to 40% less potable water and produce up to 40% fewer greenhouse gas emissions than the average home.
- The BASIX energy target will vary according to building type and location – with the maximum targets applying to more than 80% of all new homes.
- The BASIX Completion Receipt came into effect – a user-friendly system that will identify completed and occupied BASIX-compliant homes.

The Completion Receipt is a mandatory component of the reporting process for all principal certifying authorities once an occupation certificate has been issued. The BASIX Energy targets are due to be reviewed in 2008.

Since October 2006, the Building Sustainability Index (BASIX) has applied to new home alterations and additions valued at \$100,000 or more and swimming pool of 40,000 litres capacity or more, which required planning approval. From 1 July 2007, the threshold for alterations and additions requiring BASIX certificates will fall from \$100,000 to \$50,000.

- **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, will be lead by the Department with a strategy for every subregion currently being prepared. A draft is expected for consideration by October 2007. Subregional strategies will 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.

▪ **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 has commenced. It is anticipated that a draft of the new LEP will be exhibited in mid-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 has elected to prepare a single DCP for the entire City. As a first stage, Council has prepared Draft Holroyd City Council DCP 2007, which consolidates all its current DCPs into one document. Draft DCP 2007 will be exhibited in June-July 2007. 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 mid-2008.

▪ **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 a new Local Environmental Plan and a new Development Control Plan.

## **2.4 Water Consumption**

### **2.4.1 The Issue**

Once again, Sydney recorded below average rainfall during the reporting period and most of the rain did not fall in the catchment area. As at 9 August 2007, the water storage for the Sydney Water catchment was 57.6%, up from 41.5% at 10 August 2006.

### **2.4.2 State**

Data from Sydney Water shows that in 2006/2007, houses in Holroyd local government area consumed an average of 216kL/dwelling, decreasing by 5kL/dwelling in the last reporting period and flats/units consumed 164kL/dwelling, decreasing by 2kL/dwelling in the last reporting period. On average, houses in Holroyd consume less than the Sydney wide average (222kL/dwelling), however units in Holroyd consume more/less than the Sydney wide average (152kL/dwelling). This trend is consistent with previous reporting periods.

As an organisation, Holroyd City Council consumed an average of 373 321 litres a day, which is a 3% 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**

Water Restrictions remain at Level 3 only allowing hand-held hosing of lawns and gardens and drip irrigation on Wednesdays and Sundays before 10 am and after 4 pm.

- **Water Savings Action Plan**

Under the *Energy Administration Amendment (Water and Energy Savings) Act 2005* Council is required to prepare and implement a Water Savings Action Plans to improve its water efficiency.

During the reporting period Council was notified by the Minister for the Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability (DEUS) that the Water Savings Action Plan had been approved. Actions that Council implemented during the reporting period include replacing single flush cisterns with dual flush cisterns, replacing urinal cisterns with sensor controlled cisterns and retro-fitting water saving showerheads.

Further information on the implementation of the Water Savings Action Plan will be provided in future State of Environment Reports.

## **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 development 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**

Under the *Energy Administration Amendment (Water and Energy Savings) Act 2005* Council is required to prepare and implement an Energy Savings Action Plan to improve its energy efficiency.

During the reporting period Council continued the preparation of a Draft Energy Savings Action Plan which contained actions to improve the energy efficiency at Council's highest energy consuming facilities. The Draft Energy Savings Action Plan was submitted to the Department of

Energy, Utilities and Sustainability (DEUS) on 4 April 2007 for approval by the Minister for DEUS.

Although the Energy Savings Action Plan is yet to be approved by the Minister for DEUS, Council has commenced implementation of the cost-effective energy efficient initiatives identified in the plan, including installing non-return dampers on vents at Guildford Pool, enabling Energy Smart settings on computers, upgrading air-conditioning controls at Council's Administration Building and installing power factor correction devices.

Further information on the approval and implementation of the Energy Savings Action Plan will be provided in future State of Environment Reports.

## 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 28,355 tonnes of general waste for transport to landfill and 7,389 tonnes of recyclable waste. As indicated in the Table 2.2 below, this represents a current diversion rate of 20.75%, a decrease of 1.62% on the previous reporting period.

**TABLE 2.3: AMOUNT AND TYPE OF WASTE COLLECTED IN THE HOLROYD LGA – 1/7/03 TO 30/6/07**

Period	Garbage (Tonnes)	Recyclables (Tonnes)	Total (Tonnes)	Diversion Rate (%)
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
2003/2004	27,502	6,318	33,820	18.68
<b>Average diversion rate over four years</b>				<b>19.99</b>

### 2.6.3 Responses to the issue

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

#### ▪ New Recycling Service

During the reporting period Council implemented a new recycling service. All households now have a yellow lidded recycling bin which is collected every 2 weeks by Council's recycling contractor, J.J Richards & Sons.

The service is now a co-mingled recycling service, which means that all recyclables can be placed in the bin together. The new service was introduced due to the expiration of the previous contract and to facilitate increasing recycling rate. The trend is showing an increase in per capita recycling rates.

▪ **Clean Up Australia Day**

Council registered and coordinated 25 sites for Clean Up Australia Day on 4 March 2007 including the following locations:

- Merrylands CBD
- Long Street, Smithfield
- Civic Park, Pendle Hill
- Nancy Street, Pendle Hill

Over 100 local volunteers took part in the nation's largest community based environmental event, cleaning up at the 25 sites with 100 bags of rubbish collected. This year 17 local schools in the Holroyd City Council area took part in the Clean Up Schools Day.

An estimated 1 million people across Australia took part in the day at more than 7000 sites. Some of the more unusual finds around the country were a parking meter, half a boat and a maintenance leg. Feedback from site supervisors around Australia, which was supported by collections in the Holroyd City Council area, shows beverage containers are one of the most commonly found items.

▪ **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 2,845 tonnes of clean up material was collected by Council, comprising of 2,744 tonnes of general waste, 25 tonnes of white goods and 76 tonnes of garden waste.

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

During the reporting period, the RID Squad investigated illegal dumping incidents in the Holroyd City Council area and issued Environmental Protection Notices and Penalty Infringement Notices for these incidents.

**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 three years for the purposes of comparison.

<b>TABLE 2.4: SUMMARY OF NOISE ASSESSMENTS TAKEN THROUGHOUT HOLROYD LGA</b>			
<b>Period</b>	<b>Number of sites monitored</b>	<b>Number of sites with 55dBA&gt;LA90&lt;60dBA</b>	<b>Number of sites with LA90&gt;60dBA</b>
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 recommended noise level for suburban residential areas during the day. In addition, during the reporting period there was a slight increase in background noise levels. Table 2.5 provides a comparison of noise complaints for the reporting period and the three previous reporting periods.

<b>TABLE 2.5: SUMMARY OF NOISE COMPLAINTS</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Pollution Line (DEC)</b>	<b>Complaints</b>
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*

Council received 160 complaints about noise during 2006/2007, significantly increasing on the complaints received in the previous reporting period. The significant increase in complaints is considered to be attributable to the increasing density of the area.

Council has also introduced new Computer Request Management software to record complaints. The functionality of this software may also have led to a more reflective recording of complaints received.

#### *Odour*

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

<b>TABLE 2.6: SUMMARY OF ODOUR COMPLAINTS</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Pollution Line (DEC)</b>	<b>Complaints</b>
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*


During the reporting period Council received 37 complaints regarding air pollution, which was an increase from the previous reporting period, but comparable to the 2004/2005 reporting period.

As indicated above, Council has introduced new Computer Request Management software to record complaints. The functionality of this software may also have led to a more reflective recording of complaints received.

#### **2.7.3 Responses to the issue**

No new responses were initiated during the reporting period.

## **2.8 Future Actions**

1. Implementation of the Holroyd Social Plan 2005-2009
  2. Implementation of the Cultural Plan
  3. Implementation of the City Health Plan 2006-2010
  4. 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
  5. Continue preparation of the Holroyd Local Strategy
  6. Continue current waste management strategies and implement new strategies in order to improve the rate of diversion from waste from landfill
  7. Implementation of the Water and Energy Savings Action Plans
  8. 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

There has been no known change to the state of biodiversity during the reporting period.

#### 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 9,738 plants were planted as part of revegetation programs.

**TABLE 3.1: NUMBER OF SHRUBS, TREES AND GRASSES PLANTED AND AREA OF LAND SUBJECT TO BUSH REGENERATION ACTIVITIES DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD**

Location	Number	Area
Central Gardens	6,500	2 ha
Hyland Road	878	900 m <sup>2</sup>
Pendle Hill Creek	2,000	400 m <sup>2</sup>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,738</b>	

The following provides an overview of each of the Bushcare Groups activities for the reporting period.

##### *Greystanes Creek*

During the reporting period, the following activities were completed in the Greystanes Creek Reserve:

- 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 to revegetation areas.
- Ongoing maintenance across the reserve by Council employed staff and contractors.
- Monitoring is continuing on an ongoing basis to prevent weed competition with regenerating natives and revegetated areas.

### *Alpha Park Bushland*

During the reporting period, volunteers and Holroyd City Council staff undertook the following activities in the Alpha Park Bushland Corridor:

#### **Zone T/S/O**

- Seed Collection for revegetation project – Widemere Reserve corridor extension.
- Secondary work in Zone T/S removing woody weeds.
- Secondary and further primary removal of woody weeds has been carried out in a mosaic pattern in Zone T and adjoining area, Zone S. Follow-up works are continuing in these areas.
- Monitoring of 2 quadrats @ 10m X 10m each in Zone T/S has been hindered due to continuing drought conditions.
- Good Bush Neighbours Booklet continues to be a valuable resource in promoting bushland generally in the local government area.
- Illegal dumping of rubbish at corridor edges continues to be a problem. Rubbish and fill are removed as soon as possible after detection.

#### **Zone K/J/Widemere Reserve**

- Indigenous grasses, ground-covers, shrubs and trees grown to tube stock size and planted in corridor extension at Widemere Reserve.
- Installation of further bollards to widen vegetative corridor by 2-6 metres. Bollards also guide tractor operators maintaining asset protection zone.
- Further interpretive signs have been fixed to bollards promoting the Woodland as an endangered ecological community.
- Secondary and follow up work is continuing in Zone K and J.
- Secondary work continuing with Volunteers, Contractors and Council employed staff.
- Regenerating native species in zone K and J 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*. *B. spinosa* germination has increased in 2006.

### *Lower Prospect Canal Reserve*

During the reporting period, volunteers and Holroyd City Council staff undertook the following activities in the Lower Prospect Canal Reserve:

- The Landscape Plan of Management is currently being updated, with this reserve being included in Holroyd City Council's City Wide Bushland Management Plan.
- A Fire Management Plan is also being developed, together with vegetation mapping.
- 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 City Council area, generated after a fire west of Cumberland Highway, Woodpark.
- Renewed fencing around *Acacia pubescens* east of Sherwood Road, Guildford. This fencing will also help curb disturbance by undirected foot traffic and erosion.
- 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 are currently being mapped and will be incorporated into the Fire Management Plan.

▪ **National Tree Day**

National Tree Day was held on 30 July 2006 at Central Gardens. 72 volunteers helped to establish a new planting bed (720m<sup>2</sup>) that will serve as a vegetation buffer zone between Merrylands Road and the Parkland.

Approximately 400 trees, 400 shrubs and 500 native grasses were planted. All these species, including *Eucalyptus tereticornis* (Forest red Gum), *Eucalyptus mollucana* (Grey Box), *Melaleuca linarifolia* (Paperbark), *Acacia falcata* (Sickle wattle), *Acacia parramattensis* (Sydney Green Wattle), *Dodonea debilis* (Hop Bush), *Eremophila debilis*, *Corex spp.*, *Indigofera australis* (Native Indigo), *Dianella spp* (Flax Lily) and *Lomandra spp* (Mat Rush) are typical plants found in the bushlands of the Cumberland Plain.

Residents from the local community including representatives from the Girl Guides, the Mayor Dr. John H Brodie, fellow Councillors, Council staff and even residents from adjoining Councils volunteered at the event. At the end of the day the Lions Club provided a barbeque and free drinks for all the dedicated volunteers.

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

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

- Basic regional mapping of Alligator Weed, Ludwigia, Salvinia, Senegal Tea and Water Hyacinth.
- Organisation of Mapping workshop for the Sydney Region to foster the use of national weed mapping guidelines and encourage the collection of consistent regional mapping data.
- Securing of funds from the Sydney Metro CMA to undergo comprehensive weeds density mapping for priority weeds in the Sydney Metro catchment for 2007-2008.
- On-ground regional works for the control of Ludwigia, Salvinia, Senegal Tea and Water Hyacinth, Willows, Gorse and Broom.
- Preparation of funding applications to DPI to continue works on; Aquatic weeds, willows, gorse and brooms and green cestrum
- Involvement in the Sydney Metro CMA funded weeds education program including;
- development of a bilingual education program / package for all to use, for more info visit <http://www.sydneyweeds.org.au/>

- Development of Weeds Education Display Material for the shared use of Committee members.
- Implementation of the Sydney Metro CMAs Weeds Strategy

▪ **Bushcare Grants**

In the reporting period, two EnviroTrust grants were awarded to the Pendle Hill Creek Bushcare Goup and Hyland Road Reserve Bushcare Group. Details of the completed projects are as follows:

*Pendle Hill*

Creek bank restoration works and follow up revegetation using endemic grasses, herbs, sedges, rushes and trees. \$25,000

*Hyland Road Reserve*

Bush regeneration / revegetation & creekline restoration works. \$31,513.00.

▪ **Acquisition of No Development Strip**

During the reporting period, Council was still in negotiations with the owners of the development strip at the rear of the premises in Woodpark, Smithfield. It is anticipated that the purchase will be completed in 2007/2008.

▪ **Catchment Management Authorities**

The Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority (SMCMA) has been established to provide leadership on key natural resource issues in Sydney Harbour, Georges River Botany Bay and Hacking River Catchments.

During the reporting period, the SMCMA reviewed its draft Catchment Action Plan (CAP). The CAP will guide the activities of the SMCMA while forming the basis for partnerships with the community, business, industry and government. The CAP will assist the SMCMA in ensuring that natural resource management projects are undertaken in priority areas within the catchment and that these projects lead to the best outcomes for the environment and the community. The CAP is based on five themes of Water, Land, Biodiversity, Coastal and Community.

The initial draft CAP was reviewed by the Natural Resources Commission. The SMCMA will submit the revised draft in August 2007 following further input regarding the Catchment Targets and Management Targets. It is expected that the NRC will recommend conditional approval of the CAP later in 2007.

### **3.5 Future Actions**

1. Continue negotiations with the land owner to acquire the no development strip in Woodpark Road Smithfield
2. Continue to support bushcare activities
3. Identify opportunities to work with other government and private agencies, and voluntary groups to extend, enhance and preserve green corridors
4. 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
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 the year 2006/2007 has increased significantly due to the following reasons:

1. Sydney Water's GPT in Ringrose Park, which was commissioned in August 2006, has been cleaned recently. Data is included in this report.
2. The GPT in Elizabeth St has been cleaned by Sydney Water and data is included in this report.

The data indicates that these type of devices installed by Sydney Water are more effective than the other designs.

Council has recently undertaken the cleaning of Civic Park wetland. Since it was last cleaned in September 2000, an enormous amount of sediment was accumulated. When cleaned from September 2006, the total silt/soil removed was estimated at 880,000 kg.

The removal of silt from the silt trap will be undertaken again in 2007/2008.

The figures listed above are the recorded litter and silt removed from the traps throughout the Holroyd City Council area. However, there are sites where material has been removed from devices that has not been recorded leading to an incomplete picture of the pollution loading.

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.

<b>TABLE 4.2: GPTS IN THE HOLROYD LGA – 2006/2007</b>				
<b>Location</b>	<b>Type of Device</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>No of Devices</b>	<b>Rubbish Collected (tonnes)</b>
<b><i>Upper Parramatta Catchment</i></b>				
<b>Greystanes Creek</b>				
Portia Road	Trash Screen	HCC	1	Device cleaned – data not recorded
Oklahoma Ave	Litter Boom Silt Trap	HCC	1 1*	0.66
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*	0.12
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
<b>Pendle Hill Creek</b>				
Civic Park	Wetland Silt Trap Boom	HCC	1 1* 1	880 (material removed from wetland)
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
<b>Finlaysons and Coppers Creeks</b>				
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

Location	Type of Device	Owner	No of Devices	Rubbish Collected (tonnes)
Ringrose Park	GPT	SW	2	63 (15 tonne litter & 48 tonne silt)
Greystanes Shopping Centre	Pit Baskets	HCC	5	Device cleaned – data not recorded
<b>Domain Creek</b>				
Sydney Smith Park	Retention/ Detention Basin CDS Unit	HCC	1 2	6.6
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
<b>Duck River Catchment</b>				
A'Becketts Creek	Litter Boom Silt Trap	HCC	1 1*	2.85
Holroyd Garden Wetland	Wetland	Private	1	Maintained by developer
Elizabeth St	GPT	SW	1	36.70 (22 tonne litter & 15 tonne silt)
Merrylands Road (Shopping Centre)	Pit Basket		5	Device cleaned – data not recorded
<b>Prospect Creek Catchment</b>				
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
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>47,230 kg (Rubbish) 943,000 kg (Silt)</b>

\* 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 DEC's Pollution Line and Council over the past four years.

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

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

During the reporting period Council received and investigated 47 stormwater complaints, a similar number in comparison to the number complaints received in the previous reporting period.

Council has introduced a new Computer Request Management software to record complaints. The functionality of this software may also have led to a more reflective recording of complaints received.

#### **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:

- a) Implementation of Council's Floodplain Management Program
- b) Stormwater Education Program
- c) Stormwater Quality Improvement Devices (SQIDs)

##### **SQIDs completed by other Government Agencies**

The RTA has installed SQIDs along the proximity of the Bus Transitway from Hyland Road to Cumberland Highway. Although they are not included in the SMP, they help protect the water quality of the catchment.

Similarly, Sydney Water has completed the installation of a GPT in Ringrose Park, Wentworthville which became operational in August 2006. Sydney Water has advised that in the 10 months of operation, a total of 63,000 kg of pollutants have been removed (15,000 kg of litter and 48,000kg of sediment).

The responsibility for maintenance of these devices remains with those agencies.

**TABLE 4.4: SUMMARY OF COMPLETED SMP ACTIONS**

Category	Number of Council Actions	Number of Joint Actions	Total Number Completed to Date	Total Completed (%)
Policy & Management (PM)	5	20	13	48
Education (E)	1	18	16	79
Nutrient Reduction (NR)	-	-	-	-
Litter (L)	23	-	12	52
Sediment, Oil & Grease (SOG)	4	1	1	20
Monitoring & Auditing (MA)	2	11	10	77
Public Health (PH)	-	-	-	-
Urban Stream Rehab & Management (USR)	8	3	4	36
<b>TOTAL ACTIONS</b>	43	53	56	58

The common actions undertaken are as follows:

- Floodplain Management Program – The nomination of delegates to Council’s Floodplain Management Committee was completed. There were eight delegates nominated and each Council Ward will be represented by two delegates. The first Committee meeting was held on 3 May 2007.
- Cleaning and maintenance of Stormwater Quality Improvement Devices (SQID)

The specific actions are as follows:

**Upper Parramatta River Catchment**

Completed Projects

- Darling St Park Car Park – The filtration system component was completed in September 2006.
- Ringrose Park Gross Pollutant Trap (GPT) – (under Sydney Water’s SMP) has been completed.
- Pemulwuy GPTs – Nine underground GPTs in Pemulwuy were recently handed over by the developer to Council for maintenance (this is not included in the SMP as an action but relates to the water quality of the catchment).

**Duck River Catchment**

No specific actions implemented on this catchment at this stage.

**Prospect Creek Catchment**

- Bus Transitway GPT - The RTA has installed SQIDs along the proximity of the Bus Transitway from Hyland Road to Cumberland Highway.

**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 education and enforce the provision of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 through Council’s Environmental Assessment Program

## 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

Table 5.1 below shows the air monitoring results for the south-west Sydney region in 2006-2007.

**TABLE 5.1: NUMBER OF HIGH POLLUTION INSTANCES RECORDED IN THE SOUTH WEST REGION – UPDATE**

Month	Time Period	02/03 – No. of high pollution incidents	03/04 – No. of high pollution incidents	04/05 – No. of high pollution incidents	05/06 – No. of high pollution incidents	06/07 – No. of high pollution incidents
July	AM	6	2	0	1	0
	PM	0	0	0	0	0
August	AM	1	0	0	4	6
	PM	0	0	0	0	2
September	AM	1	0	0	1	0
	PM	3	0	0	1	0
October	AM	0	0	0	1	0
	PM	4	1	0	0	0
November	AM	0	0	0	1	4
	PM	1	1	1	0	5
December	AM	3	0	1	4	2
	PM	3	1	0	0	2
January	AM	3	2	3	4	3
	PM	3	1	2	3	4
February	AM	0	3	1	3	0
	PM	0	1	1	3	0
March	AM	0	0	0	0	1
	PM	1	0	0	0	0
April	AM	0	0	0	0	1
	PM	0	0	2	0	1
May	AM	0	0	1	0	0
	PM	0	0	1	0	0
June	AM	0	0	0	0	0
	PM	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		27	29	12	26	31

Note: Morning Period - 3pm the previous day to 6am, Afternoon Period - 6am to 3pm.

Source: EPA web site – [www.epa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au)

As can be seen in the table above, the number of high pollution days has slightly increased in comparison to the number of high pollution in the previous reporting period, however is similar to the number of high pollution days in the 2003/2004, 2002/2003 & 2001/2002 reporting periods. The cluster of high pollution days between November and January is

consistent with previous years and is representative of pollution caused by smoke from bushfires and from dust storms. Interestingly this year, there was a cluster of high pollution days in August and September.

#### **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**

Council continued to work towards achieving Milestone 4 of the Cities for Climate Protection Program.

A summary of activities completed in the 2006/2007 financial year has been submitted to International Council Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) for verification. The activities include actions taken under the Energy Savings Action Plan and community based actions.

##### ▪ **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 4 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



## **6 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 local government 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 four 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 1,100 inspections were conducted resulting in 146 Environment Protection Notices and 17 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. 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**

Eleven applications for financial assistance under the 2006 Local Heritage Grants Program were received, 3 more than the previous year. Council considered each application as worthy of receiving grants and subsequently awarded all eleven recipients financial assistance, totalling \$11,489. Council also recognised and commended four 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	216kL/dwelling (houses) & 164kL/dwelling (units)	σ σ
	Percentage compliance with ANZECC Water Quality Guidelines	Data not available – refer to Chapter 4	√
	Amount of waste to landfill per capita	332 kg	τ
	Amount of waste recycled per capita	86 kg	σ
	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	31	τ
SOCIAL & CULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY	Number of meeting places and opportunities for meeting places	31 (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	√
	Number of public art projects	9	√
	Number of art groups/networks	10	√
	Number of registered/listed items in the Holroyd local government area	Refer to Chapter 7	√
Number of participants in community events	>50,000	√	
ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY	Unemployment in Holroyd local government area	7.5%	√

**KEY:**    ⬆ Movement Towards Sustainability  
          √ No change

          ⬆ Movement away from Sustainability

### 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 31 identified meeting places or opportunities for community members to meet, decreasing by one from the previous year.

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 2003-2006**

Type of Offence	2003	2004	2005	2006
Homicide	8	3	4	1
Assault	895	857	948	803
Sexual Offences	114	95	119	76
Robbery	270	164	127	62
Break and enter – dwelling	949	1050	955	647
Motor Vehicle Theft	665	676	668	459
Steal from motor vehicle	827	807	905	702
Steal from person	200	161	140	90

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, [www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/bocsar](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/bocsar)

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 8<sup>th</sup> for robbery, 21<sup>st</sup> for break and enter – dwelling, and 21<sup>st</sup> for steal from motor vehicle, 18<sup>th</sup> for steal from person.

#### 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

## 9 References

### Council Documents

- Holroyd City Council, 2006, Holroyd City Council Management Plan 2006-2010
- Holroyd City Council, 2005, Holroyd City Health Plan 2006-2010
- Holroyd City Council, 2004, Holroyd Social Plan 2005-2009
- Holroyd City Council, 2003, Public Art Policy 'Distinctive Lifestyle Environments'
- Holroyd City Council, 2003, Living Holroyd: A Sustainable Future
- Holroyd City Council, 2004, Greenhouse Reduction Local Action Plan
- Holroyd City Council, 2004, State of the Environment Report 2003/2004
- Holroyd City Council, 2005, Supplementary State of the Environment Report 2004/2005
- Holroyd City Council, 2005, Supplementary State of the Environment Report 2005/2006
- Holroyd City Council, 2006, Water Savings Action Plan
- Holroyd City Council, 2007, Draft Energy Savings Action Plan

### Legislation

- Energy Administration Amendment (Energy and Water Savings) Act 2005

### Other References

- Clean Up Australia, [www.cleanup.org.au](http://www.cleanup.org.au)
- Duck Creek Catchment Stormwater Management Plan 1999
- NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, [www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/boscar](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/boscar)
- NSW Department of Environment and Conservation, [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)
- Prospect Creek Catchment Stormwater Management Plan 2004
- Upper Parramatta River Catchment Stormwater Management Plan 2002
- Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils, [www.wsroc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.wsroc.nsw.gov.au)
- NSW Department of Infrastructure, Planning & Natural Resources, 2004, Meeting the challenges – Securing Sydney's water future
- Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority, [www.cma.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cma.nsw.gov.au)
- Sydney West-Blue Mountains Regional Weeds Committee, [www.sydneyweeds.org.au](http://www.sydneyweeds.org.au)
- NSW Department of Planning, [www.basix.nsw.gov.au](http://www.basix.nsw.gov.au)