

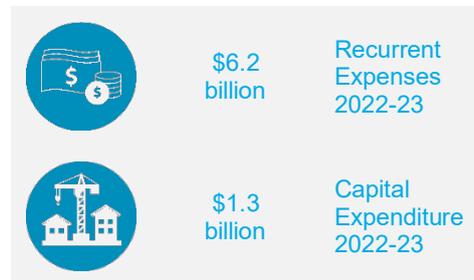
5. PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT CLUSTER

5.1 Introduction

The Planning and Environment Cluster is responsible for the stewardship of New South Wales' built and natural environment.

The Cluster's key areas of focus include: initiatives to support home ownership in NSW by unlocking housing supply and increasing the number of social and affordable dwellings; planning to enable development, the delivery of housing and infrastructure and help drive economic activity; managing and showcasing national parks; conserving heritage for the benefit of the community; protecting our native flora and fauna; and setting future directions for waste and sustainable materials.

The Cluster is also responsible for creating better public and open spaces; improving the use and management of government-owned land and property; securing and improving the State's water supply; and improving outcomes for First Nations people across the State, with a focus on land and housing.



State Outcomes to be delivered by the Planning and Environment Cluster

State Outcomes What the Cluster is delivering for people and business	Key Programs underway to support delivery of Outcomes
<p>1. Create a strong and liveable New South Wales</p> <p>Unlocking infrastructure and a diverse housing mix aligned to the needs of communities. Integrating environmental sustainability, good design, greener places, and safe and inclusive public spaces to bring communities together. Planning for great places that create the conditions for prosperity, economic development, innovation, and jobs.</p> <p><i>2022-23 investment: \$1.1 billion in recurrent expenses & \$27.2 million in capital expenditure</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimise the planning system to enable the delivery of infrastructure and housing • Make strong, fair, and quick planning assessments driving balanced outcomes • Delivering better outcomes for place, design, public spaces, and green infrastructure
<p>2. Maximise community benefit from government land and property</p> <p>Delivering a coordinated, strategic approach to the use of government-owned property. Maximising community benefits by delivering quality public spaces and diverse housing outcomes.</p> <p><i>2022-23 investment: \$2.2 billion in recurrent expenses & \$663.7 million in capital expenditure</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowering First Nations people for independent social and economic futures • Greater access to and choice of housing • Optimise benefits of Crown Land • Better use of government-owned land and property
<p>3. Connecting communities to resilient and sustainable local environments and heritage</p> <p>Protecting and preserving the quality of our environment and heritage through active stewardship to support a resilient and sustainable New South Wales.</p> <p><i>2022-23 investment: \$1.8 billion in recurrent expenses & \$501.9 million in capital expenditure</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation, effective management, and improved community enjoyment of national parks • Supporting biodiversity and private land conservation • Celebrating, protecting, and conserving heritage • Waste and sustainable materials initiatives

State Outcomes

What the Cluster is delivering for people and business

4. Sustainable, secure, and healthy water resources and services

Providing confidence to communities and stakeholders through the transparent stewardship of water resources, provision of services, and reforms that support sustainable and healthy environments, economies, and communities across New South Wales.

2022-23 investment: \$997.0 million in recurrent expenses & \$140.4 million in capital expenditure

Key Programs

underway to support delivery of Outcomes

- Improved water sustainability, water access and water health
- Improved water regulation
- Improved water management efficiency and asset management (Water Administration Ministerial Corporation)

5.2 Overview of Cluster expenses by State Outcome

A summary of expenses by State Outcome is provided in the charts below.

Chart 5.1: Recurrent expenses by Outcome 2022-23 (dollars and %)

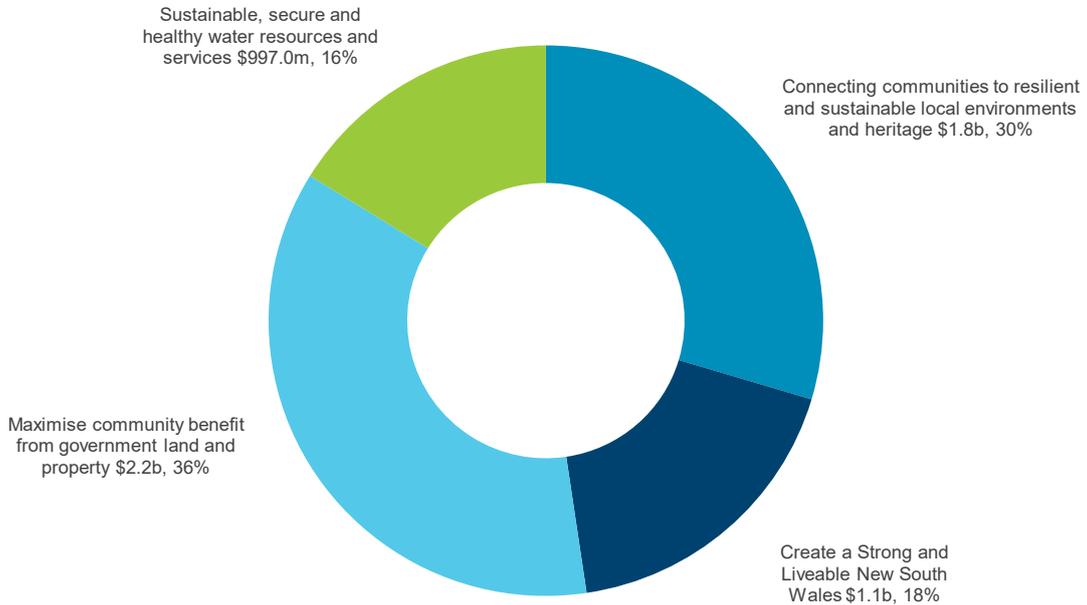
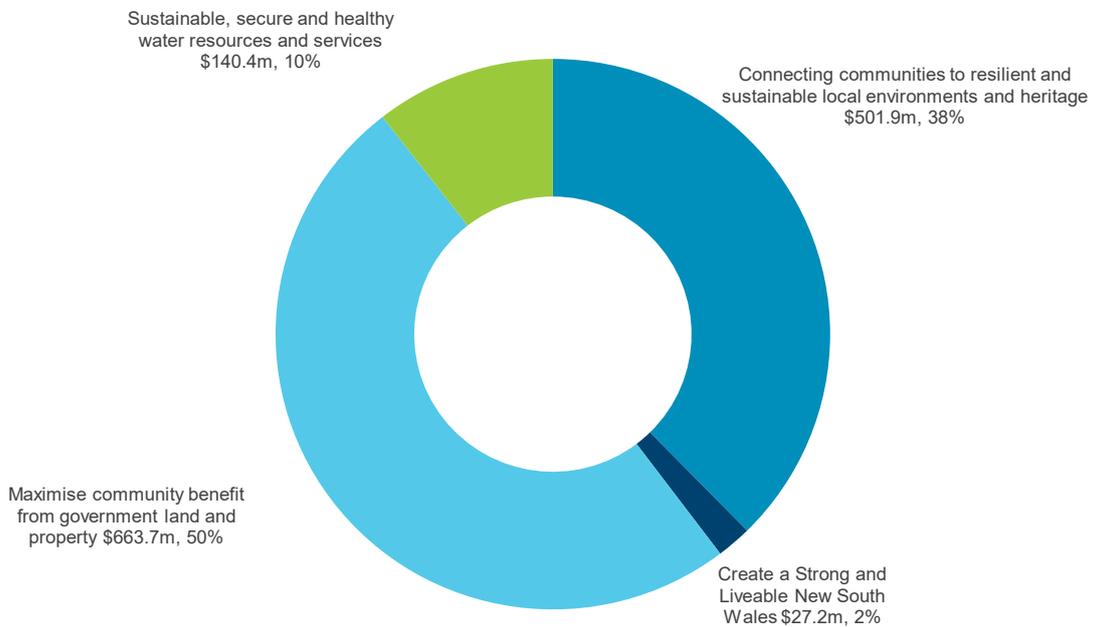


Chart 5.2: Capital expenditure by Outcome 2022-23 (dollars and %)



Note: The sum of percentages may not equal one hundred due to rounding.

5.3 Outcome 1: Create a strong and liveable NSW

State Outcome overview and 2022-23 investment

Planning for great places that create the conditions for prosperity, economic development, sustainability, innovation, and jobs. Unlocking infrastructure and a diverse housing mix aligned to the needs of communities, integrating environmental sustainability, good design, greener places, and safe and inclusive public spaces.



\$1.1 billion

Recurrent Expenses 2022-23



\$27.2 million

Capital Expenditure 2022-23

This State Outcome comprises initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life of people and communities across New South Wales by unlocking metropolitan and regional housing supply; enhancing open, green, and public spaces; delivering planning reforms to accelerate assessments; enabling infrastructure delivery across and creating healthy, sustainable, connected, and prosperous places across the State.

2022-23 State Outcome Budget highlights

In 2022-23, the Planning and Environment Cluster will invest \$1.1 billion (\$1.1 billion recurrent expenses and \$27.2 million capital expenditure) in this Outcome, including:

- \$149.2 million (\$300.0 million recurrent expenses over four years) additional funding for the Accelerated Infrastructure Fund to support the delivery of priority infrastructure projects to unlock new housing supply in high growth areas of New South Wales, including regional and local roads, transport infrastructure, water and sewer infrastructure, and stormwater infrastructure. This investment includes \$120.0 million for infrastructure to unlock new housing in regional areas
- \$78.5 million (\$314.0 million recurrent expenses over four years) to continue existing pensioner council rate concessions and assist councils to ease cost of living pressures
- \$35.8 million (\$87.8 million recurrent expenses over two years) to continue building a more productive and responsive planning system, working with councils and industry to cut the time it takes to unlock land and secure the approvals needed to build new homes
- \$31.3 million (\$73.5 million recurrent expenses over four years) for additional State-led re-zonings to support the delivery of more than 70,000 extra new dwellings across the State and provide industry with certainty
- \$11.2 million (\$32.0 million recurrent expenses over three years) additional funding for the Roads to Home Program, to deliver planning and infrastructure upgrades to First Nations communities, and support access to essential services. This brings the Government's total investment in the Roads to Home Program to \$140.9 million since 2019-20
- \$8.9 million (\$33.8 million recurrent expenses over four years) to implement the recommendations of the Regional Housing Taskforce, to provide more 'development ready' housing land for regional areas and unlock the housing pipeline faster through an Urban Development Program supporting 127,000 new homes over 10 years.

Key performance insights

This section provides analysis and insights on key Outcome Indicators for this State Outcome.

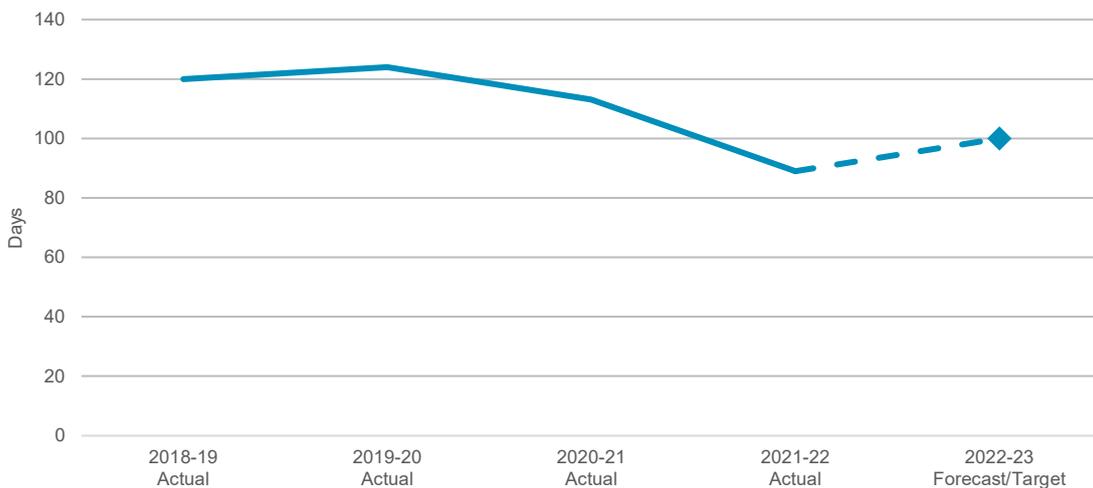
Ensure a 17 per cent reduction in State significant development assessment times from 120 to 100 days by June 2023

During 2022, the Cluster focused resources on closing long standing legacy applications and increasing delivery, monitoring, and reporting of assessment timeframes for determinations of State significant projects. Performance against this indicator has improved and overall assessment timeframes are now trending below the 30 June 2023 target of 100 days.

The number of applications is expected to increase consistent with the last four years to the end of 2020-21, which saw an average increase in determinations of 7 per cent. Despite this, the Government remains on track to meet the June 2023 target.

The Cluster has introduced several key reforms including the Rapid Assessment Framework (effective from July 2021 with the Registered Environment Assessment Practitioner Scheme to be effective from July 2022) and enhanced case management which will continue to ensure timeframes remain at or below 100 days, despite an increasing number of applications.

Chart 5.3: Number of days to complete State significant development assessments



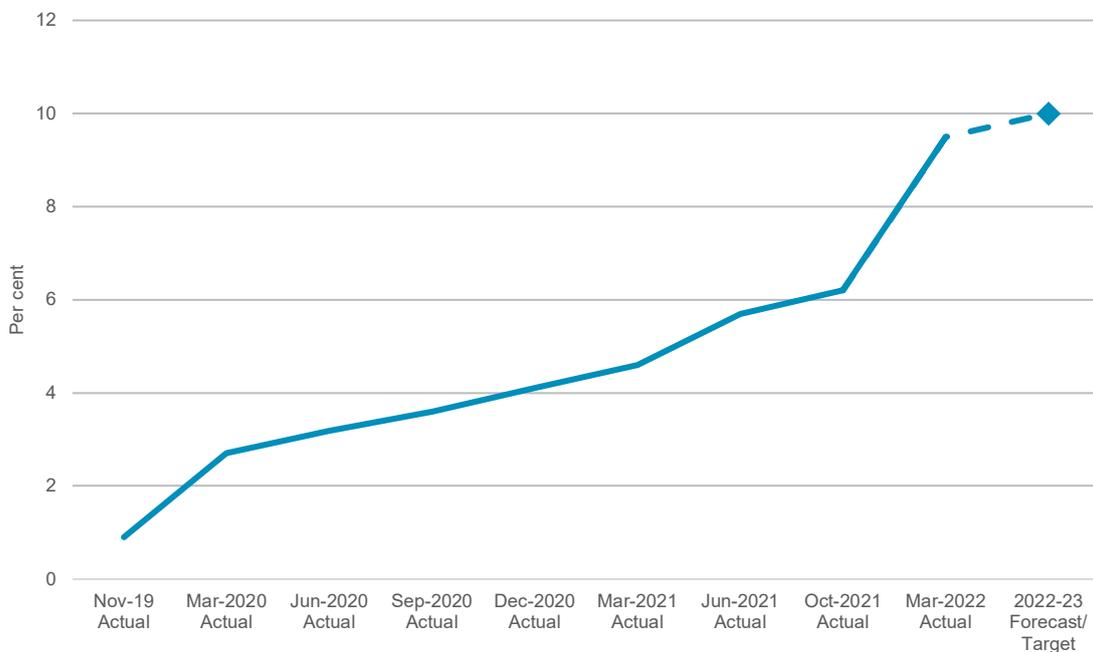
Increase the proportion of homes in urban areas within 10 minutes' walk of quality green, open and public space by 10 per cent by 2023

As at 31 March 2022, new or improved NSW Government public space projects had increased walkable, 10-minute access to quality green, open and public spaces for 218,640 homes across urban areas of New South Wales.

Performance against this indicator is ahead of forecast and is on track to exceed the target of 230,000 homes (a 10 per cent increase) by 30 June 2023.

Cluster programs that have contributed to this achievement include partnering with local government through the *NSW Public Spaces Legacy Program*, the *Parks for People Program*, *Everyone Can Play* and the recently created *Places to Swim, Play and Roam* programs, the *Parramatta Road Urban Amenity Improvement Program*, the *Precinct Support Scheme*, and the *Metropolitan Green Space Program*.

Chart 5.4: Percentage increase of homes in urban areas within 10 minutes' walk of new or improved public space

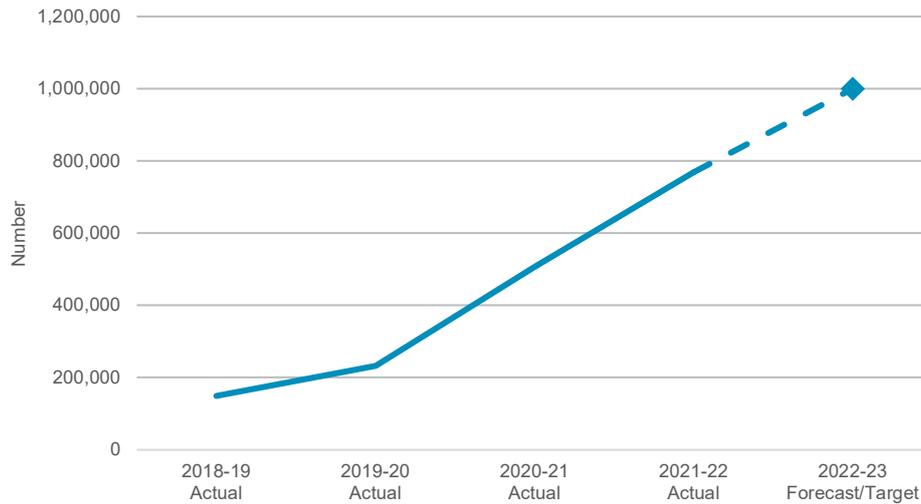


Plant one million trees across Greater Sydney by 2022

This Premier's Priority is on track to meet the target of one million trees, with 785,984 trees planted as at May 2022 and a further 178,747 trees procured to be planted by December 2022.

The achievement of this target has been supported by the implementation of new partnerships with community organisations and industry, as well as targeted support for Greater Sydney councils.

Chart 5.5: Number of trees planted across Greater Sydney



Performance indicators for this Outcome

Outcome Indicators	Units	2021-22 Actual ^(a)	2022-23 Forecast
100 per cent of precincts delivered within publicly stated timeframes	%	42.0	50.0
Ensure a 17 per cent reduction in state significant development assessments (including State Significant Development or State Significant Infrastructure) from 120 to 100 days by June 2023	no.	89.0	100.0
Increase the proportion of homes in urban areas within 10 minutes' walk of quality green, open and public space by 10 per cent by 2023	%	9.5	10.0
Plant one million trees across Greater Sydney by 2022	no.	785,984 ^(b)	1,000,000

Notes

(a) Figures as at March 2022.

(b) Figure as at May 2022

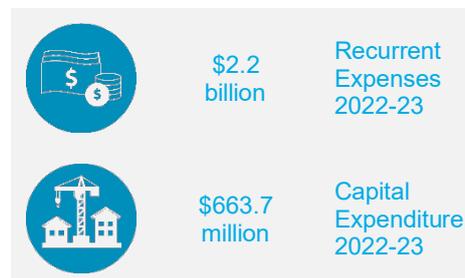
5.4 Outcome 2: Maximise community benefit from government land and property

State Outcome overview and 2022-23 investment

Delivering a coordinated, strategic approach to the use of government-owned property, quality public spaces and diverse and affordable housing outcomes to maximise community benefit.

This State Outcome comprises: the development and maintenance of social housing; the management of Crown land and key precincts; increasing the supply of housing for Aboriginal communities; improving public spaces and activities aimed at improving the management of government and community assets.

Delivery is shared by the Department of Planning and Environment (the Department), Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC), Aboriginal Housing Office (AHO), Property NSW, Sydney Olympic Park Authority (SOPA), and the Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation (HCCDC).



2022-23 State Outcome Budget highlights

In 2022-23, the Planning and Environment Cluster will invest \$2.9 billion (\$2.2 billion recurrent expenses and \$663.7 million capital expenditure) in this Outcome, including:

- \$300.0 million for maintenance and upgrades to more than 15,800 social housing properties, improving living conditions for tenants and reducing future maintenance costs
- \$26.2 million (\$9.7 million recurrent expenses and \$20.0 million capital expenditure over four years) for critical repairs and upgrades across the State's property portfolio addressing safety issues, improving accessibility, and extending the useful life of assets
- \$25.4 million (\$29.6 million recurrent expenses and \$125.8 million capital expenditure over four years) for the construction of 200 new homes for First Nations people, and 260 upgrades, delivered through the Aboriginal Housing Office and Aboriginal Community Housing Providers. This investment also includes climate resilience and energy saving upgrades to 4,400 homes and will help reduce overcrowding and improve the quality of life of tenants
- \$20.3 million (\$67.2 million recurrent expenses four years) to continue and expand the Strong Family, Strong Communities program, providing home ownership opportunities and tenancy support to First Nations families, delivering housing support to First Nations students completing tertiary studies, and promoting the viability of the Aboriginal community housing sector through workforce training and resourcing for maintenance and operating activities
- \$20.1 million (\$29.3 million recurrent expenses and \$20.3 million capital expenditure over four years) for repairs and upgrades to aging Crown Lands infrastructure, supporting rural and regional communities, economic activity, and tourism
- \$11.9 million (\$16.7 million recurrent expenses and \$9.5 million capital expenditure over four years) to support housing and land rights for First Nations people, including additional support for Aboriginal Community Housing Providers to deliver essential services to First Nations tenants, developing culturally responsive building standards for housing, and improving land transfer arrangements for First Nations communities

- \$11.1 million to continue the existing Services Our Way program, providing a critical connection between government and non-government services for First Nations people, including skills development and wrap-around services for First Nations families with complex needs
- \$5.3 million (\$25.4 million recurrent expenses over four years) for bushfire hazard protection work on Crown Land, to mitigate bushfire risks and protect people, property, and vital community infrastructure.

Key performance insights

This section provides analysis and insights on key Outcome Indicators for this State Outcome.

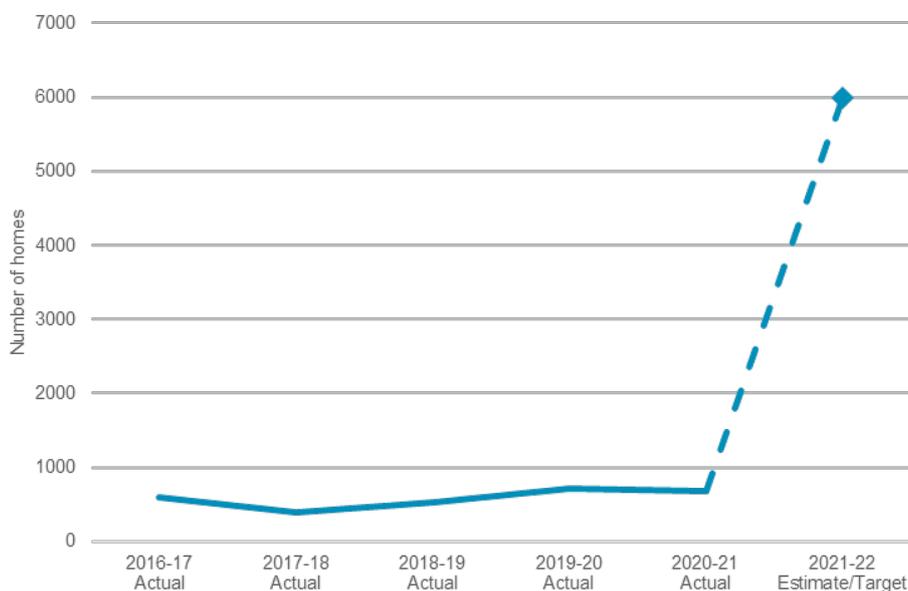
Number of additional and upgraded homes completed for Aboriginal housing

The NSW Government is investing in social and affordable housing in priority First Nations communities, providing diverse housing options in areas where it is needed through the construction of new homes and upgrades.

Performance against this indicator has increased in comparison to prior years as a result of investments delivered throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

As at March 2022, the Aboriginal Housing Office (AHO) has completed 3,802 new homes and upgrades in 2021-22. The AHO is on track to deliver a target of 5,993 new homes and upgrades by 30 June 2022.

Chart 5.6: Number of additional and upgraded homes completed for Aboriginal housing



Note: Estimate is the estimated total from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 and includes both business-as-usual Capital Upgrades and Supply, and the Stimulus Capital Upgrades program.

Performance indicators for this Outcome

Outcome Indicators	Units	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Forecast
Amount of new and enhanced public spaces in the 1 – 3-year pipeline in precincts being developed	m ²		
HCCDC		51,510 ^(a)	55,250
SOPA		131,917 ^(b)	131,917
Amount of new and enhanced public spaces that have commenced construction in precincts being developed	m ²		
HCCDC		57,000 ^(c)	57,000 ^(e)
SOPA		55,200 ^(d)	55,200 ^(e)
Number of additional homes commenced and under construction in NSW by the Aboriginal Housing Office	no.	102 ^(f)	120
Number of additional homes completed in NSW by the Aboriginal Housing Office	no.	51 ^(f)	120
Number of upgraded homes completed in NSW by the Aboriginal Housing Office	no.	3751 ^(g)	375 ^(h)
Aboriginal households purchasing a home with assistance from the AHO	no.	67 ⁽ⁱ⁾	100
Number of reviews completed on NSW Government land and property in strategic precincts and/or portfolios	no.	1.0	2.0
Adaptive reuse of Government owned land (annualised quantum of Government land repurposed for social, economic, and environmental use)	m ²	25,018,700 ^(j)	110,000
Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing in NSW	%	94 ^(k)	n.a. ^(l)
NSW landmass subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's legal rights or interests	km ²	49,131 ^(m)	n.a. ^(l)
Area in NSW covered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's legal rights or interests in the sea	km ²	20 ^(m)	n.a. ^(l)
Proportion of Crown land claims that are granted	%	71.3 ⁽ⁿ⁾	n.a. ^(l)
Proportion of Crown land claims, prioritised at the request of Local Aboriginal Land Councils, that are granted	%	55 ^(o)	n.a. ^(l)

Note:

- (a) Figure is the cumulative total from 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2022.
- (b) Figure is the cumulative total from 1 July 2019 to 31 March 2022.
- (c) Figure is the cumulative total from 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2022. This includes 5,490 sqm of new and enhanced public space which commenced construction in 2021-22.
- (d) Figure is the cumulative total from 1 July 2019 to 31 March 2022. This includes 44,200 sqm of new and enhanced public space which commenced construction in 2021-22.
- (e) Due to profiling and scheduling of works, no new and enhanced public spaces are due to commence construction in 2022-23, with construction of additional new and enhanced spaces scheduled to commence in future years.
- (f) Figure is the total from 1 July 2021 to 31 March 2022.
- (g) Figure is the total from 1 July 2021 to 31 March 2022 and includes both business-as-usual Capital Upgrades and supply, and the Stimulus Capital Upgrades program.
- (h) The decrease in the 2022-23 forecast from the 2021-22 actual is due to the Stimulus Capital Upgrades program finishing 30 June 2022.
- (i) Figure is the cumulative total from 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2022.
- (j) Significant increase in 2021-22 actual due to the settlement of one large property.
- (k) Indicator 2021-22 actual is for public housing (94 per cent). State-Owned and Managed Indigenous Housing is 93 per cent and Community Housing is 91.9 per cent, as at 31 March 2022.
- (l) 2022-23 forecasts are still in development for this Outcome Indicator.
- (m) Figures as at 31 March 2022.
- (n) 2021-22 actual is for the period 01 July 2022 – 31 March 2022.
- (o) 2021-22 actual is for the period 01 Jan 2022 – 31 March 2022.

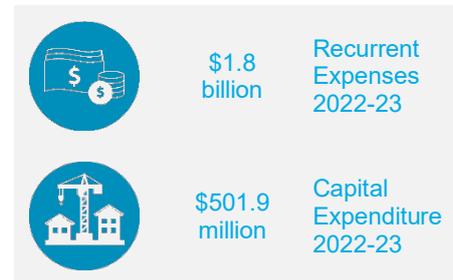
5.5 Outcome 3: Connecting communities to resilient and sustainable local environments and heritage

State Outcome overview and 2022-23 investment

Protecting and preserving the quality of our environment and heritage through active stewardship to support a resilient and sustainable New South Wales and build a brighter future for all.

This State Outcome comprises activity across: biodiversity protection including habitat conservation, activating natural capital, threatened species and aquatic habitats; nature-based experiences in national parks and zoos; private land conservation; activation and protection of heritage; and human and environmental health through regulation.

Delivery is shared by the Department, the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Natural Resources Commission (NRC), the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT), Zoological Parks Board, and the Environmental Trust.



2022-23 State Outcome Budget highlights

In 2022-23, the Planning and Environment Cluster will invest \$2.3 billion (\$1.8 billion recurrent expenses and \$501.9 million capital expenditure) in this Outcome, including

- \$206.2 million over 10 years to enhance the State's natural capital by rewarding farmers who opt-in to a Sustainable Farming accreditation program to improve carbon and biodiversity outcomes on their land, while maintaining or enhancing productive land use
- \$139.4 million (\$148.4 million recurrent expenses over two years) to manage the clean-up and removal of flood and storm related damage, debris and green waste resulting from the February and March 2022 floods
- \$82.1 million (\$3.2 million recurrent expenses and \$176.4 million capital expenditure over four years) for national parks to meet the growth in demand for nature-based tourism and continue to deliver improved conservation outcomes by:
 - establishing and activating national parks in areas with low levels of reservation and protection of habitat for threatened species
 - delivering a new Dorrigo Escarpment Great Walk and Arc Rainforest Centre – this new multi-day walk through World Heritage rainforest will include a new visitor centre, elevated tree top walkway and new visitor accommodation
 - providing treatment to up to 10,000 wombats to curb the spread of wombat mange, including collaborative research on the prevalence and ongoing treatment of mange in the wombat population.
- \$52.4 million (\$286.2 million recurrent expenses over four years) to protect the community and environment from waste pollution, support the transition to using materials more sustainably and reduce carbon emissions:
 - this includes implementing the *NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041* and *NSW Plastics Action Plan*. Littering, illegal dumping and hazardous wastes will also be targeted to promote a healthier environment and keep our community safe.

- \$33.6 million (\$106.7 million over three years) to establish a new Biodiversity Credits Supply Fund. The Fund will buy biodiversity credits upfront to re-sell to public and private proponents, then use the proceeds to buy more credits, facilitating more than \$200 million in credit purchases. The operation of the Fund will benefit the environment and landholders while supporting economic activity and the delivery of infrastructure projects
- \$10.8 million (\$158.2 million recurrent expenses and \$48.6 million capital expenditure over four years) as part of the Government's continued response to the 2021 NSW Bushfire Inquiry Recommendations in national parks. This includes:
 - establishing 200 additional permanent firefighter roles to deliver increased hazard reduction targets in high-risk areas and boost capacity to respond to bushfires
 - establishing 50 additional permanent roles to protect and manage Assets of Intergenerational Significance including through fire management and feral animal control
 - upgrading the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) firefighting fleet with safety measures to protect firefighters
 - upgrading NPWS radio infrastructure to enable firefighters to gain critical access to the NSW Public Safety Network.
- \$42.9 million over four years (\$7.4 million recurrent expenses and \$35.5 million capital expenditure) for further remediation work on Me-Mel (Goat Island) to prepare the island to be transferred back to traditional owners. This will include delivering improved access, repairing seawalls and buildings, and removing contaminants like asbestos and lead. This builds on the Government's previous commitment of \$9.5 million to support the remediation and transfer of the island
- \$4.9 million (\$32.9 million recurrent expenses over four years) to the Lord Howe Island Board to implement a comprehensive and robust biosecurity regime for ongoing protection of the island's ecosystem from invasive species, maintaining the natural wonder of this unique UNESCO World Heritage listed site
- \$5.3 million (\$15.3 million recurrent expenses and \$11.1 million capital expenditure over four years) for essential environmental monitoring to meet community demand for daily air quality forecasting and alerts. This funding also expands the existing coastal-based Beachwatch program to deliver water quality monitoring to more swim sites across New South Wales, including inland and regional councils
- \$0.6 million (\$22.3 million recurrent expenses over three years) to support the development and implementation of additional coastal management programs across high priority councils to mitigate risks associated with coastal hazards and the impacts of climate change.

Key performance insights

This section provides analysis and insights on key Outcome Indicators for this State Outcome.

Number of hectares managed for conservation, including national parks and reserves, and private land

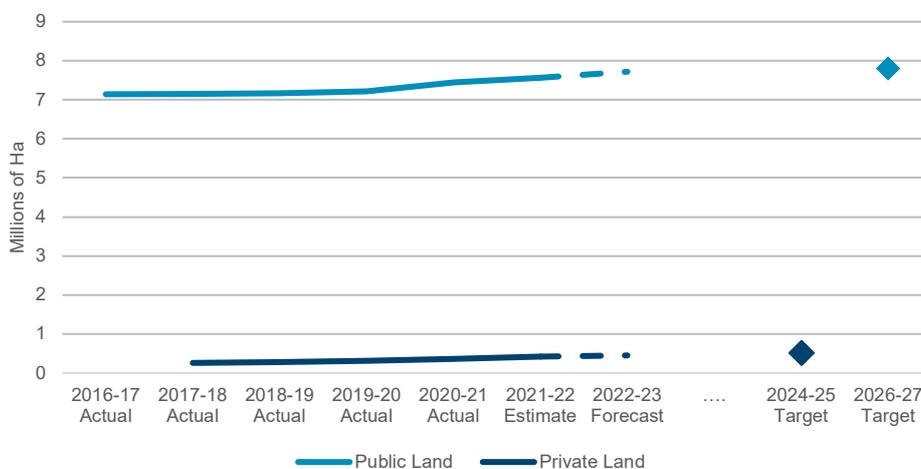
Managing land for conservation is fundamental for the protection of terrestrial habitat and supporting biodiversity.

Ongoing investment to expand the national parks estate is driving improved performance against this indicator, with 7.564 million hectares of land expected to be reserved as national park in 2021-22 (up from 7.142 million hectares in 2016-17). This figure is expected to increase to 7.721 million hectares in 2022-23 through additional land acquisitions already secured by NPWS.

There is strong landholder interest in protecting private land through participation in the BCT's programs. This has also resulted in an increase in the amount of private land in New South Wales under effective management for conservation.

The BCT has set a target of an additional 200,000 hectares of private land under management by 2024-25 (from 354,266 hectares in 2020-21), bringing the total area under management to 554,266 hectares. As at 31 March 2022, the total amount of private land managed for conservation was 409,083 hectares.

Chart 5.7: Number of hectares managed for conservation



Number of threatened species and ecological communities on track to be secure in the wild

Saving our Species is the NSW Government's flagship program for threatened species conservation which aims to secure threatened species in the wild and control key threats facing threatened plants and animals.

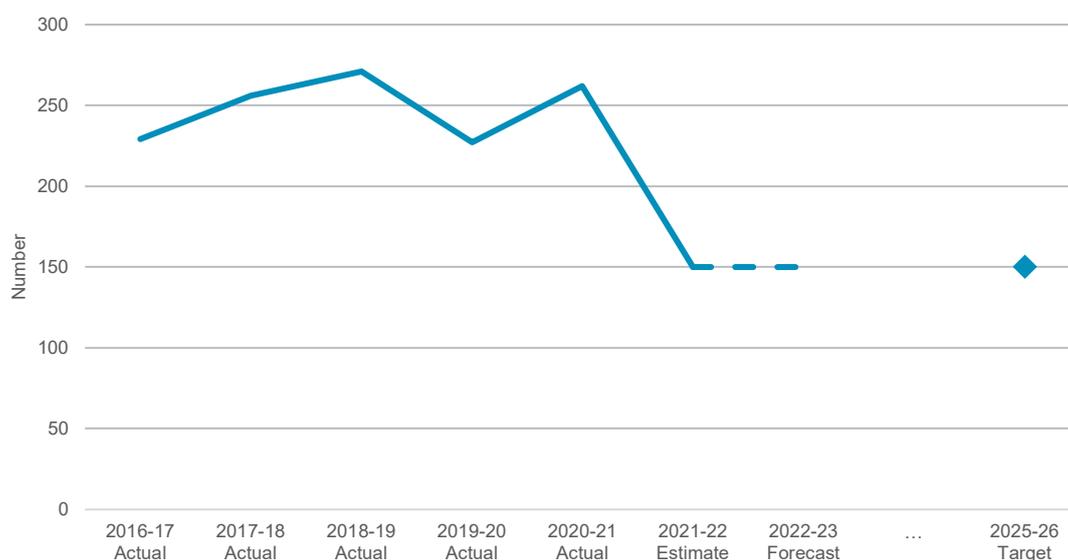
As a result of the 2017-19 drought and 2019-20 bushfires, there has been an increase in the number of threatened species and ecological communities in New South Wales. This, combined with other factors, has led to the 2025-26 target number of threatened species and ecological communities on track to be secure in the wild being reduced to 150.

At the end of 2020-21, 262 species were on track to be secure in the wild. While the number is declining; program outcomes will continue to arrest the decline to meet the revised target. Through the investment of \$75 million from 2021 to 2026, the program will actively manage 307 threatened species and 30 threatened ecological communities.

In addition to this work, the NSW Koala Strategy is also investing \$193.3 million over five years (2021 to 2026) to deliver the targeted conservation actions under the strategy. These actions work towards the long-term goal of doubling koala numbers in New South Wales by 2050.

In our national parks, the National Parks and Wildlife Service is establishing a network of large feral-free areas to enable the historic return of locally extinct mammals. To date, 10 mammal species have been returned including bilbies, bridled nailtail wallabies, numbats, and golden bandicoots as part of a globally significant rewilding program. Four new feral predator-free areas are being established which will triple the size of the feral predator-free area on our national parks, delivering a measurable conservation benefit for a further 50 threatened species.

Chart 5.8: Number of threatened species and ecological communities on track to be secure in the wild



Reduction in overall litter

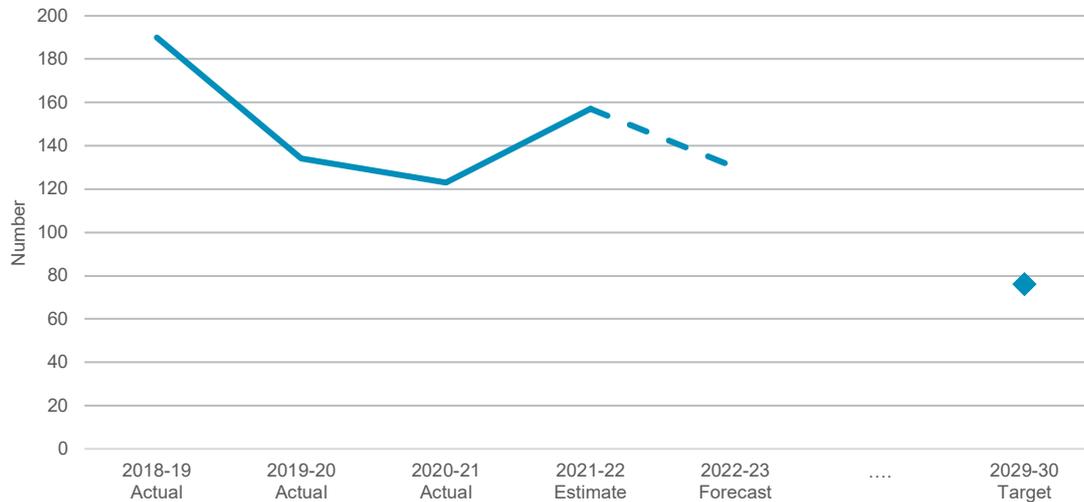
Observing the reduction in litter helps measure NSW’s transition to a circular economy (an economy that values resources by keeping products and materials in use for as long as possible).

The target to reduce overall litter by 60 per cent from the 2018–19 baseline by 2030 (190 items per 1,000 m²) reflects community expectations to live in a clean, healthy, and safe environment. As part of *NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041*, an additional \$37.5 million from 2022 to 2027 has been allocated to achieve this target.

Performance against this indicator has improved in 2020-21, with total littered items reducing by 35 per cent compared to the 2018–19 baseline. This was likely impacted by COVID-19 restrictions on community activity and consumption behaviour.

It is expected that 2021–22 data for this indicator will provide a more accurate insight while the community transitions back to activities as they were prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the EPA is forecasting that litter rates will initially increase slightly in 2021-22 compared to 2020–21 (forecasting 157 items per 1,000 m² in 2021-22), prior to decreasing again in 2022-23 (130 littered items per 1,000 m² in 2022–23).

Chart 5.9: Number of total littered items per 1,000m²



Performance indicators for this Outcome

Outcome Indicators	Units	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Forecast
Number of environmental incidents impacting human health and the environment	no.	5,950 ^(a,b)	6,500
Number of hectares managed for conservation, including national parks and reserves, and private land			
Public Land	ha. million	7.565 ^(a,c)	7.720 ^(c)
Private Land	ha. million	0.422 ^(a,c,d)	0.454 ^(c,d)
Number of visitors each year to national parks	no. million	63.0 ^(a)	n.a ^(e)
Number of visitors each year to zoos	no.	825,335 ^(a,f)	1,428,502
Number of threatened species and ecological communities on track to be secure in the wild	no.	150 ^(a)	150
Proportion of prioritised aquatic habitats receiving environmental water in NSW	%	75.0 ^(a,g)	50.0
No. of plastic littered items per 1,000m ²	no.	131.0 ^(a)	100.0
No. of total littered items per 1,000m ²	no.	157.0 ^(a)	130.0
Resource recovery rate	%	65.5 ^(a)	65.0
Percentage of fire prone NPWS reserves (>9 months old) managed under an approved Reserve Fire Management Strategy	%	100.0 ^(a)	100.0
Proportion of customers who have their Heritage Act applications determined within statutory timeframes	%	50.0 ^(a,h)	75.0

Notes:

- Data is a forecast as financial year is not complete.
- The recent decline in the number of environmental incidents reported is due to a change in the way data is captured where similar reports are now linked into one incident. While the aspiration is to have fewer environmental incidents overall, the EPA seeks to improve reporting and management of incidents which may lead to increases in reported incidents.
- These figures are reported to three decimal places, due to the magnitude of the numbers.
- Performance will depend on individual outcomes of tenders and fixed price offers, as well as available budget.
- 2022-23 forecast available after the biennial Park Visitor Survey is completed, early 2023.
- COVID-19 related restrictions will continue to impact visitation in 2021-22 (and beyond).
- High rainfall events over the State and wetter conditions in 2021-22 have positively influenced the year end estimate for 2021-22.
- An increase in volume of complex approvals has impacted performance against this measure.

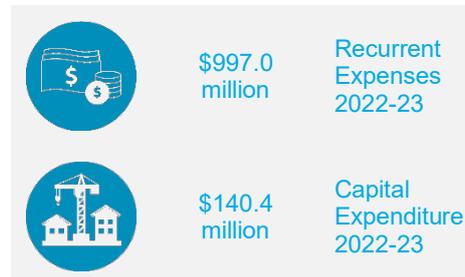
5.6 Outcome 4: Sustainable, secure, and healthy water resources and services

State Outcome overview and 2022-23 investment

Water security is critical to provide confidence to communities and stakeholders. This is delivered through the transparent stewardship of water resources, and the provision of services and reforms that support sustainable and healthy environments, economies, and communities across New South Wales.

This State Outcome comprises activities aimed at improving the security, quality, and resilience of our water resources; providing more efficient, effective, and affordable water resource management activities; improving water regulation; reducing risk to communities and lifting the performance of the broader water sector; and increasing the safety of New South Wales dams.

Responsibility for delivery of this State Outcome is shared by the Department, Water Administration Ministerial Corporation (WAMC), and the Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR).



2022-23 State Outcome Budget highlights

In 2022-23, the Planning and Environment Cluster will invest \$1.1 billion (\$997.0 million recurrent expenses and \$140.4 million capital expenditure) in this Outcome, including:

- \$184.4 million (\$160.7 million recurrent expenses and \$25.7 million capital expenditure over four years) from the Commonwealth Government for delivering projects and new planning effort to drive towards the targets set in the Murray Darling Basin Plan mainly through the Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism (SDLAM) and the Northern Basin Toolkit Programs
- \$151.6 million (\$642.4 million recurrent expenses over four years) for water rebates to low-income households to support families with cost of living pressures
- \$111.7 million (\$369.6 million recurrent expenses over four years) for initiatives through the Safe and Secure Water Program, including new funding of \$90.0 million over two years to support regional towns dealing with town water supply, quality, and safety risks
- \$102.3 million (\$400.0 million recurrent expenses over four years) to deliver water management and rural bulk water services as part of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's final price determinations
- \$75.6 million (\$101.6 million recurrent expenses over two years) from the Commonwealth to deliver water efficiency measures through the Off-farm Efficiency programs including \$70.0 million for Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited (\$124.0 million over three years) and deliver water savings by improving water delivery infrastructure
- \$37.4 million (\$138.7 million recurrent expenses over four years) to investigate suspicious activities and alleged breaches to water regulations in New South Wales and manage dam safety, including \$5.3 million (\$12.4 million recurrent expense over three years) additional funding for regulating non-urban metering and to prepare for the implementation of new floodplain harvesting regulations
- \$33.9 million (\$82.2 million recurrent expenses over three years) to improve critical water supply infrastructure for the towns of Wilcannia and Cobar, as part of a total commitment of \$92.5 million from the Commonwealth and NSW Government

- \$7.5 million (\$14.8 million recurrent expenses over two years) to integrate and modernise water licensing and approval processes
- \$7.0 million (\$19.8 million recurrent expenses over three years) to deliver Aboriginal Water and Groundwater Strategies and to develop a Southern Basin Floodplain Management Plan to realise a strategic and integrated approach to water resource management for the State
- \$1.9 million (\$8.9 million recurrent expenses over four years) additional funding to maintain the Hunter Valley Flood Mitigation Scheme to help minimise flood risk across the Newcastle and Hunter regions.

Key performance insights

This section provides analysis and insights on key Outcome Indicators for this State Outcome.

Number of water strategy actions implemented across New South Wales

The NSW Water Strategy sets the overarching vision for twelve regional strategies, the Aboriginal Water Strategy, the Ground Water strategy and two metropolitan water strategies, tailored to the individual needs of each region in NSW. Together, the strategies and the actions arising from them seek to improve the resilience of NSW’s water services and resources.

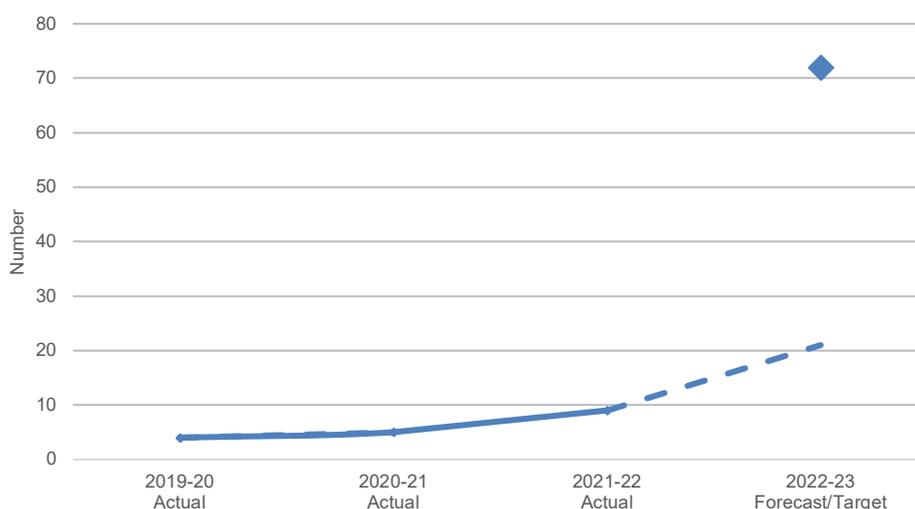
This indicator monitors the number of actions from completed water strategies implemented across New South Wales.

Performance against this indicator is currently challenging, with nine actions completed at the end of Quarter 3, 2021-22. Current progress against this indicator has been impacted by limitations to public engagement as a result of COVID-19 and recent flooding events.

Most regional water strategies are expected to be finalised throughout 2022-23.

One regional water strategy is at implementation stage and nine actions from this strategy will be completed by the end of Quarter 3, 2021-22. Actions currently being implemented relate to the Greater Hunter Regional Water Strategy, with key initiatives including strategic business case reviews for the Lostock Dam to Glennies Creek Dam two-way pipeline, and a potable water pipeline from Hunter Water Corporation’s network to Singleton.

Chart 5.10: Number of water strategy actions implemented across New South Wales



Note: This target was set in 2019 prior to the strategies being developed and the number of actions having been set. The target assumed strategies would have been delivered by June 2021 and that an average number of actions would be delivered per strategy per year. The target will be reviewed and reset in 2023 following the completion of all strategies which will include actual number of actions to be delivered over time.

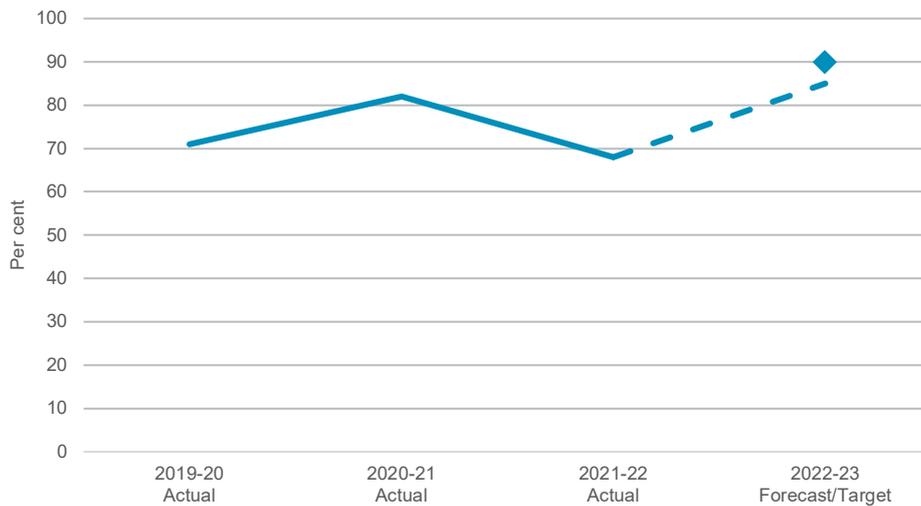
Proportion of reports of alleged breaches of water law assigned a risk rating and allocated for action on time

This indicator drives confidence in the water management framework through improved compliance and enforcement, and aims to demonstrate improvements in the efficiency, effectiveness, and prudence of NRAR’s activities.

Performance against this indicator is running below its 2023 target of more than 90 per cent of cases triaged within five days. On average, 68 per cent of cases have been triaged within five days during 2021-22, which is consistent with the baseline from 2019-20.

The new funding being announced in the 2022-23 NSW Budget will enable additional regulatory activity in relation to the Non-Urban Metering reforms and new Flood Plain Harvesting (FPH) Licensing compliance. This additional regulatory activity aims to increase this indicator.

Chart 5.11: Proportion of reports of alleged breaches of water law assigned a risk rating and allocated for action on time



Note: In the 2020-21 Budget Paper, the 2020-21 Actual was reported as 93 per cent, which was correct to 31 March 2021. The 2020-21 Actual in the above chart is the full year result to 30 June 2021 and has been updated to 82 per cent.

Performance indicators for this Outcome

Outcome Indicators	Units	2021-22 Actual ^(a)	2022-23 Forecast
Proportion of NSW water utilities with improved services as shown through reduction of customer complaints (environmental, water quality, and affordability)	%	46.0	65.0
Proportion of reports of alleged breaches of water law assigned a risk rating and allocated for action on time	%	68.0	85.0
Percentage of Water Strategies across NSW completed and at consultation	%	27.0	100.0
Number of water strategy actions implemented across NSW (from completed strategies)	no.	9.0	21.0
Water investment spent (actuals) annually \$	\$m	168.7	631.0
Number of water sharing plans identified for audit and/or reviews completed within legislated timeframes	no.	3.0	12.0
Number of water sharing plans (WSPs) where action is required to bring water use within plan limits. (Limited to WSPs where data is available)	no.	2.0	<10.0
Number of water sharing plans where long-term take is within 90% and 100% of long-term average annual extraction limit (LTAAEL)	no.	7.0	<10.0
Number of enforcement actions that result from high rated Alleged Breach Notification (where a breach is proven to have occurred)	no.	234.0	>350.0
Proportion of high rated Alleged Breach Notifications that result in enforcement actions (where a breach is proven to have occurred)	%	75.0	80.0
Average time to investigate and close (days) high rated Alleged Breach Notifications	no.	107.0	110.0
Number of projects by phase of the project lifecycle per quarter	no.	0.0	1.0
Improved water quality for Aboriginal communities as shown by proportion of water tests free from E. Coli	%	99.0 ^(b)	99.0
Aboriginal employment rate among the contracted providers delivering ongoing water and sewerage services to NSW's Aboriginal communities	%	n.a. ^(c)	3.5 ^(d)

Notes:

- (a) Figures as at 31 March 2022
- (b) Refers to 62 eligible Aboriginal communities in the Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewerage Program (ACWSP). Three of these communities do not wish to have chlorinated water, therefore 100% is unlikely to be achieved
- (c) This is a new indicator reported for the first time in 2021-22. The ACSWP team is reviewing data sources and engaging with stakeholders to ensure a robust data set is available on an ongoing basis. Data is anticipated to be available in 2023
- (d) The employment rates in local government areas where the ACWSP is active will be collected and aggregated to provide an average figure for where the ACWSP has ongoing contracts. Across NSW the ATSI population is 3.5 per cent (2021 ABS) and the initial target is to see the employment rates of contractors engaged by the ACWSP to meet or exceed this average NSW population rate