

Community

Use this section to find out more about the people in our district: who lives here, what we do, what we earn, our social diversity, how we manage our natural resources and what we think about the environment.

What is in this section?

This section contains a **Community Profile** of the people living in the Central Tablelands Landcare District of NSW. This district includes the Local Government Areas of Bathurst, Blayney, Cabonne, Evans, Oberon and Orange. It covers parts of the Upper Macquarie, Mid Macquarie and Lachlan slopes catchment areas.

Community Snapshot - Central Tablelands

People

- ***Our population is about 97 000.***
- ***92% of our population was born in Australia.***
- ***There are nearly 3 000 Indigenous Australians in our community.***
- ***One quarter of us have a gained a qualification after school.***
- ***About 90% of us say we are Christians.***

Economy

- ***Retail and Manufacturing are the biggest employers in our area.***
- ***12% of our workforce works in the Primary Industries. Only 5% of the entire Australian population is employed in this sector.***
- ***4 times as many women work in the Health sector than men.***
- ***Two-thirds of us work full time and one-third work part time.***
- ***4% of our workforce earns over \$1 500 per week.***
- ***5 times as many men earn over \$1 500 per week than women.***

Thoughts

- ***People identify Native Vegetation, Sustainable Agriculture and Riparian Health as being our three most important environmental issues.***
- ***Education of the public and increasing community capacity are seen as the two most important actions needed to address these issues.***
- ***40% of our community feels that business should sponsor environmental activities.***

Contents

2-1 History

- **Aboriginal History**
- **Early European**
- **Gold**
- **After the Gold**

2-2 Who we are

- **Population**
- **Age**
- **Gender**
- **Families and households**

2-3 Our social diversity

- **Where we come from**
- **Languages**
- **Education**
- **Religion**

2-4 How we live - our economy

- **Our work**
- **Our money**

2-5 How we run things - government and community

- **Introduction**
- **Federal Government**
- **State Government**
- **Local Government**
- **Community – Our Human Capital**
- **Community – Our Social Capital**

2-6 What we think - our environment

- **How much we care**
- **The issues that concern us**
- **What needs to be done?**

2-7 References and further information

- **Sources used**
- **Where to find more information**

2-1 History

Aboriginal

The district has been home to **the Wiradjuri people** for thousands of years. The Wiradjuri nation is the land of the Three Rivers and was the largest tribal group in NSW. The Kalare (Lachlan), the Wambool (Macquarie) and the Murrumbidjeri (Murrumbidgee) are the three rivers and their nation covered much of the Central West of NSW. As many as 12 000 people lived in the Wiradjuri nation. Our district was in the high, cooler parts of the Wiradjuri people's area.

The Wiradjuri people were semi-nomadic before European settlement, and they lived in an ecological balance with their landscape. The rivers and streams, forests and woodlands provided abundant food and materials for them to live.

Early European

In November 1813 the Europeans arrived. Surveyor George Evans was sent from the colony in Sydney to find a way west across the Blue Mountains. He reached as far as the Wambool River, which he named the Macquarie after the then Governor of the colony. Soon after, the construction of a road across the mountains commenced, built by William Cox and convicts. On May 7th 1815 the Governor of the colony, Lachlan Macquarie, arrived at what is now Bathurst and inaugurated the town. Bathurst was the first European settlement west of the Blue Mountains.

European settlers soon spread out over the district following the early explorers Oxley and Evans. They brought cattle and sheep and soon began to farm crops such as wheat and barley. The Bathurst area grew the first hops, used to make beer, in Australia.

The migration of European settlers into the area brought a conflict with the Wiradjuri people. There was a clash for the land as the Wiradjuri people were gradually displaced from the fertile land to the backcountry. From 1822 there was a war between the Europeans and the Wiradjuri people who were led by the warrior Windradyne. There were many deaths on both sides. In December 1824 Windradyne led the survivors of his people to Parramatta where they surrendered to the Governor. The struggle for the rights to their heritage, however, has continued until today for the Wiradjuri people.

In the following decades settlers spread in all directions out from Bathurst, finding new pasture and farming land. The village of Carcoar was gazetted in 1838, Blayney in 1843, and the Orange district was settled in the 1820's. Orange was proclaimed a town in 1846. Construction of the first church west of the Blue Mountains, Holy Trinity at Kelso, commenced in 1825. Then in 1851 the first payable gold was found and the gold era began.

Gold

Gold was initially found on the Fish River between Rydal and Bathurst in 1823 but John Lister, William Tom and Edward Hargraves made the first payable gold claim at Ophir in 1851. Other gold fields that followed Ophir include Hill End, Sofala, Trunkey Creek, Cargo, Rockley and Lucknow among others.

Over the next few decades gold brought an influx of people to the district, as well as the rest of NSW, leading to an expansion of the agricultural sector as farmers and businesses had a large new market to supply with food and commodities. The gold era also meant more capital in the district, resulting in increasing investment in industry as well as infrastructure such as roads and railways. In 1877 the railway reached Orange from Sydney. The gold industry has continued until today with gold mining still a significant contributor to the economy of our district.

After the Gold

The improvements in infrastructure led to further developments in industry in our district. The opening of the railways led to further expansion in the agricultural sectors as goods could now be shipped to Sydney and other markets more effectively. From the 1880s the orchard industry around Mount Canobolas grew rapidly as fruit could be sent fresh to the city for sale. The twentieth century saw the introduction of electricity and a further change in the industries and agriculture of our area. The dairy sector grew with the advent of mechanised milking and refrigeration.

A number of changes have occurred in the district over the last hundred years that have shaped our community and economy. Migration, two world wars, the Great Depression of the 1930s, and the political unrest of the 1960's brought new ideas and a new mix of people into the area.

In the past few decades, as our economy has increasingly opened up to the world, new agricultural industries have emerged. Grapes, which were grown around Orange from the 1850's, were for many years not grown in the district after the table grape industry collapsed in the 1920's. Since the early 1980's the viticulture industry has grown again around Orange and is now an important part of our local food and wine culture and economy.

2-2 Who we are

Population

In 1906 almost 50% of Australians lived in small towns and on farms. By 1996 this number had fallen to 18% and about 80% lived in large towns and cities. In our district about 70% of the population live in the main urban centres of Orange and Bathurst.

The population of the district is **97 927 people**, as estimated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in 2002. The majority of these people live in the cities of Orange and Bathurst and the towns of Blayney, Carcoar, Cudal, Molong, Manildra, Mandurama and Oberon. A relatively small proportion of our community live on rural properties, yet our rural residents manage much of our natural resources.

Since 1997 the population of the district has increased slightly. Evans Shire experienced the smallest increase in population while Oberon had the largest percentage population rise.

Table 2.2.1

Population of the Central Tablelands Landcare district by Local Government Area (LGA)* in 1997 and 2002, and population change in that time, compared with change in NSW overall in the same period. Also proportion of the total district population by LGA (2002) (ABS 2002).

LGA	Pop. 1997	Pop. 2002	% of total district pop. (2002)	% change (1997-2002)
Bathurst	29 316	30 930	31.6%	5.5%
Blayney	6 435	6 618	6.7%	2.8%
Cabonne	12 320	12 601	12.9%	2.3%
Evans	5 253	5 409	5.5%	2.9%
Oberon	4 650	5 077	5.2%	9.2%
Orange	35 126	37 292	38.1%	6.2%
NSW				1.0%

* Although there are currently (July 2004) uncertainties surrounding the future locations of shire boundaries, for ease of use this document will deal with the boundary and shire names and locations as they existed at the last census (2002), prior to the recent amalgamations.

Age

Since Federation the age of our population has increased. In 1901 the median age for Australians was 22.6 years while in 1999 it was 34.9 years.

The median age for people living in NSW is **35.5 years**. The Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Orange, Bathurst and Oberon have a younger median age than this. The other three mainly rural LGAs have older median ages. Cabonne Shire has the oldest median population in our district at nearly 40 years.

Table 2.2.2

Local Government Areas and the median age of their populations in years, compared with median age of overall NSW population (ABS 2002).

Local Government Area	Median age (years)
Bathurst	32.4
Blayney	37.9
Cabonne	39.5
Evans	38.5
Oberon	34.9
Orange	33.9
NSW	35.5

In NSW about 20% of the overall population is under the age of 15 years. 23% of our district's population are 15 years old or younger. Nearly 13% of people who live in NSW are over 65. Our district is close to the state average with 12% of people being over 65 years.

Almost one third of our community is under the age of twenty. One fifth are between 20 and 34 years old and one third are aged between 35 and 59 years. The remainder (less than one fifth) are older than 60. Only 1% of the people who live in the district are older than 90 years of age.

Table 2.2.3

Age groups, their populations and their percentage of our total population (ABS 2002).

Age group (years)	Population	Percentage of population
< 20	29 123	31%
20 to 34	18 068	19%
35 to 59	30 509	33%
60 to 89	14 891	16%
> 90	473	1%
Total	93 064	100%

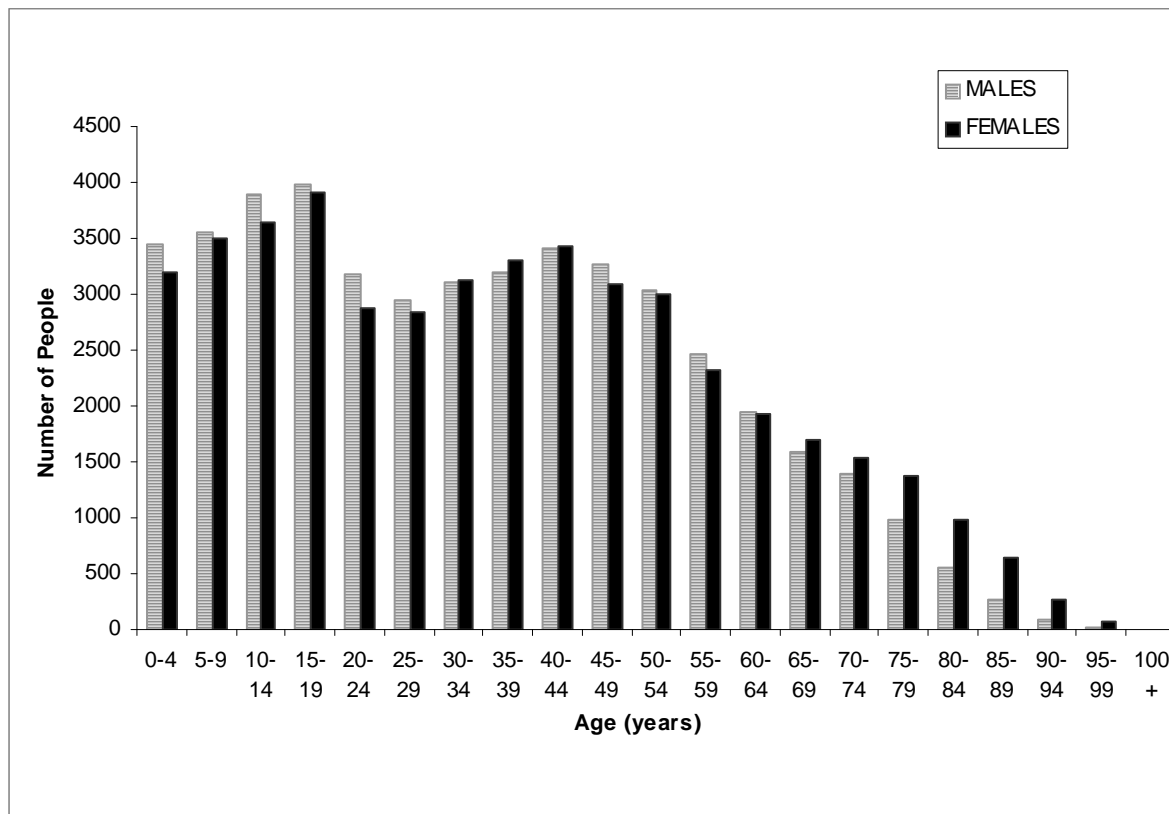
Gender

At present there are approximately the same number of men and women in Australia up to the age of 65. Older than that age there are more women, as they live longer. This trend is reflected in our district.

In the district there are **99.2 males for every 100 females**. In NSW overall there are 98.9 males for every 100 females.

Up to the age of 30 there are slightly more men than women in our district. Between the ages of 30 and 65 there are some age groups with more men and some with more women. Over the age of 65 the number of women compared to men increases significantly.

Figure 2.2.1
Structure of our Landcare district's population by age and gender (ABS 2002).



Families and households

Residents in the Central Tablelands Landcare district live in a variety of household situations; some live in family situations, with one or two parents, and other people live in share households or alone.

Cabonne Shire has the highest proportion of couple families, either with or without children, which are the more 'traditional' family and living situations. This figure is higher in Cabonne Shire than that of either NSW or Australia as wholes.

Cabonne Shire has the lowest proportion of one-parent families in this Landcare district, while Orange and Bathurst shires have the greatest proportion of one-parent families.

Table 2.2.4
Household types in the Central Tableland Landcare district, as compared with NSW and Australia (ABS 2002).

LGA	Family households*				Other households [#]	
	Couple families		One-parent families	Other families	Group households	Lone person households
	With Children	Without Children				
Bathurst	46.6%	34.4%	17.3%	1.7%	1 216	2 582
Blayney	48.1%	35.1%	15.9%	0.9%	48	545
Cabonne	50.9%	41.3%	7.1%	0.7%	37	170
Evans	48.9%	40.1%	10.1%	0.9%	66	351
Oberon	49.6%	38.6%	11.0%	0.9%	64	332
Orange	47.0%	34.0%	17.4%	1.6%	906	3 252
NSW	47.8%	34.9%	15.5%	1.8%		
Australia	47.0%	35.7%	15.5%	1.8%		

* The ABS family counting unit is currently based on 'people who are both related and co-resident'. These figures are expressed as a percentage of the total number of families living in 'occupied private dwellings'.

[#] Expressed as the number of individuals in the particular sampling area (LGA).

2-3 Our social diversity

Where we come from

Australia overall is a very diverse society with about one quarter of our citizens being born in another country. In our district, however, less than 10% of people were born overseas. Our ancestors come from all over the world. Just over 3% of people in the district are Aboriginal Australians.

For those of us not born in Australia the most common place of birth in our district is Europe, with nearly 5% our district's population born there.

Table 2.3.1

Birthplace by region, number of people and percentage of total population for the residents of our district. Compared to the whole of Australia (ABS 2002).

Region	Population	Central Tablelands	Australia wide
Australia	81 555	92.3%	77%
N-W Europe	3 265	3.7%	8%
Oceania	1 098	1.2%	3%
S-E Europe	875	1.0%	4%
S-E Asia	397	0.4%	3%
N-E Asia	385	0.4%	2%
Americas	270	0.3%	1%
Sub Saharan Africa	213	0.2%	1%
S and Central Asia	172	0.2%	1%
N. Africa and Middle East	161	0.2%	1%

80% of people in the district had parents who were both born in this country, much higher than the proportion of the total number of Australians with both parents born in Australia, which is less than 57%. 20% of people in our district have at least one parent who was born in another country. The most common countries that our parents came from are England, Ireland, Germany and Scotland.

Table 2.3.2

The proportion of different ancestries in our community based on our parents' birthplace (ABS 2002).

Ancestry of parents	Central Tablelands	Australia
Both born in Australia	80%	57%
One born overseas	11%	12%
Both born overseas	9%	31%

There are **almost 3 000 people** in our district who are **Indigenous Australians**, meaning that one or more of their ancestors come from pre-European Australia. They make up about 3% of the people in our community, which is slightly more than for the total Australian population, in which Aboriginal people make up about 2% of the population.

Most Indigenous people in our district (more than 80%) live in the Bathurst and Orange shires. Only 2% of our Indigenous community live in the Evans Shire.

Table 2.3.3

Local Government Areas, the numbers of Indigenous people and their percentage of the total indigenous population of this Landcare district (ABS 2002).

Local Government Area	Indigenous population	% of total indigenous population
Bathurst	1 012	35%
Blayney	100	3%
Cabonne	218	8%
Evans	65	2%
Oberon	103	4%
Orange	1 393	48%
Total	2 891	100%

Languages

Many Australians speak a second language at home, reflecting the cultural diversity of our nation. The majority of these people speak English as well as another language but some, however, only speak a foreign language. About 16% of Australians speak another language. In the Central Tablelands district just over 2% of our community speak another language.

30% of all Australian-born Australians speak another language. In the Central Tablelands district about 43% of all people who speak another language were born in Australia. Italy, China and Germany are the next most common birthplaces for those of us in the Central Tablelands who speak a second language. For Australia as a whole these countries are Italy, China and Vietnam.

In our district only 1% of the population who speak another language were born in Vietnam, whilst this is the case for more than 5% of the entire Australian population. Nearly 5% of people who speak a second language in our community were born in Germany, which is more than double the proportion of that of the Australian population. There are more than three times as many Dutch-born people who speak another language in our area compared to the rest of Australia.

Table 2.3.4

Birthplace, the number of people who speak a second language in our district and the proportion that speak a second language in our district (as a percentage of the total number of people who speak another language) compared to the Australian population (ABS 2002).

Birthplace	People	Central Tablelands (%)	Australia (%)
Australia	915	42.7	30.5
China	128	6.0	4.8
Germany	103	4.8	1.7
Hong Kong	50	2.3	2.1
Italy	157	7.3	6.4
Lebanon	54	2.5	2.4
Netherlands	81	3.8	1.1
Philippines	81	3.8	2.7
Poland	55	2.6	1.6
Other	519	24.2	46.7
Total	2 143	100%	100%

Less than 1% of our Aboriginal community speaks an indigenous language, although about 12% of the total Australian indigenous population speak an indigenous language. Just over 1 000 non-Aboriginal people can speak an indigenous language in Australia, but no non-Aboriginal people speak an indigenous language in our district.

Education

51% of people aged between 15 and 64 in Australia have attained a non-school qualification. 17% of these people have a bachelor degree or higher from a university. Less than half (42%) of the Australian population has completed school to year 12.

In our district 24% of the population has attained a non-school qualification such as a Trade Certificate, Bachelor degree or a Diploma. Only 7% (6 157 people) have a university degree or higher qualification. This proportion is less than half that of the entire Australian population. Almost half the people aged between 15 and 64 in our district have not completed Year 12 at school.

Bathurst has the highest proportion (9%) of people who have a university qualification in our district, but this might be expected in an LGA with a large university campus. 8% of people between the ages of 15 and 64 years in both the Orange and Evans Shires have a university qualification, but less than 1% of the Cabonne population in that age group have a university degree or higher.

In our LGAs about 17% of people aged between 15 and 64 years have a vocational qualification such as a Certificate, Trade or Diploma. The exception is Cabonne, where this is the case for only 2%, but has the greatest number of people who finished school before Year 12 (69%). Overall, in our district, 49% of the population finished school before Year 12.

Table 2.3.5

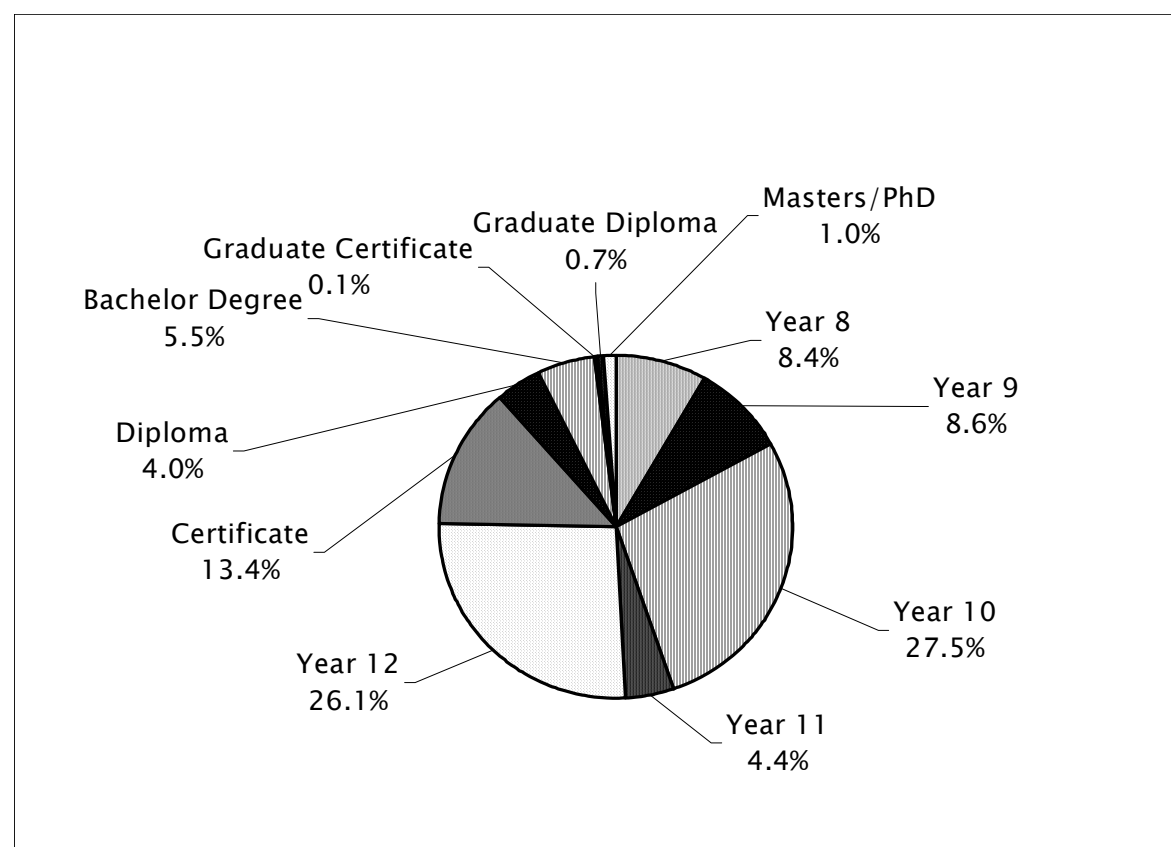
Highest education levels attained in our district. The percentage of people at each level of education for each Local Government Area in our district, expressed as a percentage of the total of each LGA population. Compared to our district as a whole (ABS 2002).

LGA	School to Year 12	Year 12	Vocational Education	University
Oberon	53%	22%	20%	5%
Bathurst	42%	30%	19%	9%
Orange	49%	24%	19%	8%
Blayney	55%	20%	19%	6%
Evans	44%	26%	22%	8%
Cabonne	69%	28%	2%	0.4%
Central Tablelands	49%	26%	17%	7%

In our district about 5% of people have a bachelor degree and about a quarter have completed their education to Year 12 at school. About a quarter (27%) have completed education to Year 10 at school. Only 1% of the Central Tablelands Landcare district's population have attained the postgraduate university degrees of Masters or PhD.

Figure 2.3.1

The highest levels of education achieved as a proportion of the Central Tablelands Landcare district's population (ABS 2002).



Religion

Of the major religions in Australia, 77% of people are affiliated with Christianity. 20% of the Australian population do not follow any religion. In our district about 90% of people believe in some form of Christianity and less than 10% of people do not follow any religion.

In our district Evans Shire has the highest proportion of people who have no religion and Cabonne has the smallest.

Evans Shire also has the smallest percentage of Christians compared to the other LGAs and Cabonne the largest. 87% of the community are Christians in Evans Shire and 92% of people in Cabonne Shire are Christians. The other major religions each make up less than one percent of the total population in all the Local Government Areas in our district.

There are a greater proportion of Christians in our district's population than there are in the entire Australian population (90% compared to 77%), but we have smaller proportions of the other main religions compared to the nation as a whole. We have ten times fewer Muslims and more than six times fewer Hindus as a proportion of our whole community than Australia does overall.

Table 2.3.6

Numbers of people following different religions by Local Government Areas in our district, and the proportions for our entire district and Australia as a whole, represented as percentages of the total populations (ABS 2002).

LGA	Buddhism	Christianity	Hinduism	Islam	Judaism	Australian Aboriginal	No religion
Bathurst	141	23 740	59	66	16	4	2 743
Blayney	15	5 093	0	6	3	0	473
Cabonne	21	10 084	6	3	3	0	855
Evans	11	3 912	0	0	0	0	565
Oberon	15	3 705	3	39	0	0	417
Orange	113	29 549	40	30	4	3	2 889
Cent T'lands	0.4%	90%	0.1%	0.2%	0.03%	0.01%	9%
Australia	2%	77%	1%	2%	1%	0.03%	18%

2-4 How we live - our economy

Our work

Nearly 40 000 of us, about 40%, in the Central Tablelands work full time. The rest of us are either at school, retired, too young, work part-time or are unemployed. In Australia people are employed across a range of industry sectors. The biggest employers in Australia are the Retail Trade and Manufacturing sectors, which employ about 15% and 12% of the workforce respectively.

In our district the Retail and Manufacturing sectors are the largest, each employing about 15% of the population. The second biggest employers after Manufacturing and Retail are the Health and Primary Industries sectors, employing 11% and 12 % of our workforce respectively. Communications and Electricity sectors employ the least number of people employing only 1% of the workforce each. The education sector employs 9% of working people.

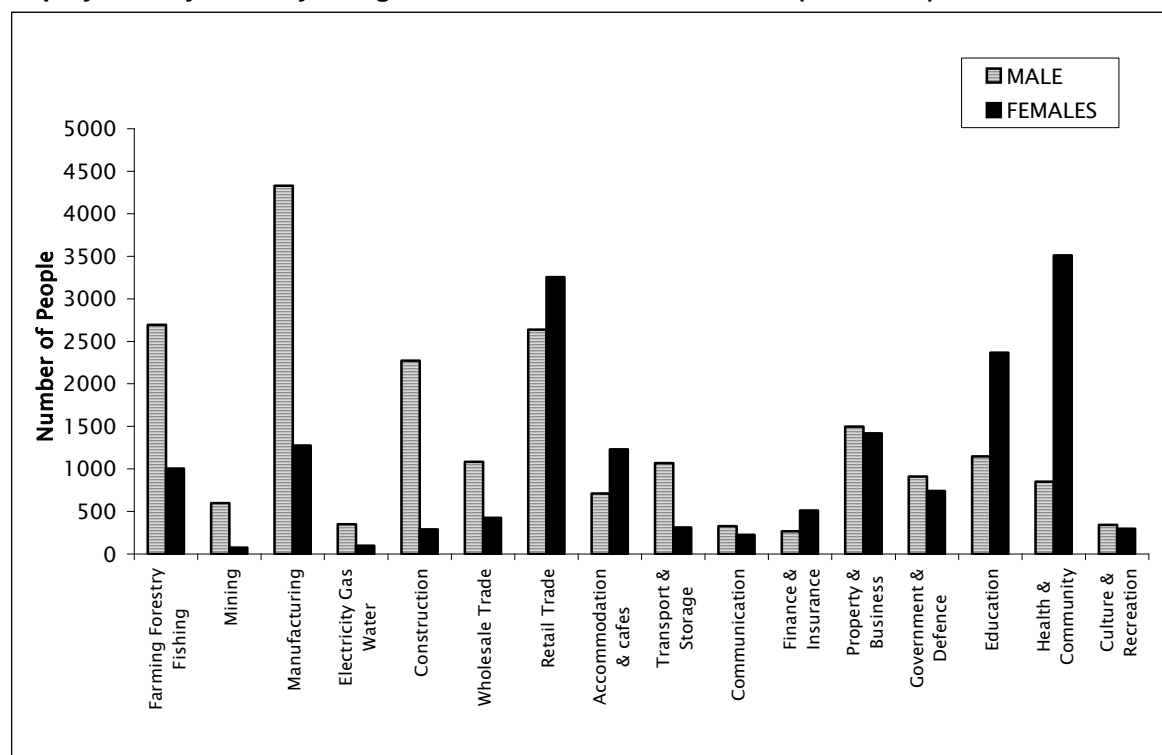
With 12% of our population employed in the Primary Industries sector, our district employs four times as many people as a proportion of the population than the rest of NSW as a whole (3%), and more than twice that of the Australian population (5%) in that sector. This can be expected with agriculture and mining being so important to our local economy. We also employ slightly more of our population in Manufacturing than the state as a whole. The proportion of employment in our Finance and Insurance sector is less than half that of the state average and our Property and Business sector is also smaller, employing 8% of our workforce compared to 12% for all of NSW.

Table 2.4.1
Percentage of employment in different industry sectors as percentages of total workforce: comparison between Central Tablelands and NSW (ABS 2002).

Industry	Central Tablelands	NSW
Retail Trade	15%	15%
Manufacturing	15%	12%
Farming Forestry Fishing	10%	3%
Health and Community	11%	10%
Education	9%	7%
Property and Business	8%	12%
Construction	7%	7%
Accommodation and Cafes	5%	5%
Wholesale Trade	4%	6%
Transport and Storage	4%	5%
Government and Defence	4%	4%
Finance and Insurance	2%	5%
Culture and Recreation	2%	3%
Mining	2%	1%
Communication	1%	2%
Electricity Gas Water	1%	1%

In our district there are more men than women employed in the Farming, Manufacturing, Construction and Transport industries. More than 3 times as many men are employed in Manufacturing than women. On the other hand, more women than men work in the Education, Health and Retail sectors. In the Health industry there are more than 4 times as many women employed than men.

Figure 2.4.1
Employment by industry and gender in the Central Tablelands (ABS 2002).



Nearly 30% of our working community have Clerical and Service type jobs. There is a fairly even distribution among other types of occupations in our district.

Our district's workforce is very similar to that of Australia overall. We have about 4% less people who work in Clerical, Service and Sales type jobs compared to Australia and we have about 5% more people working in Production and Transport type jobs.

Table 2.4.2
Percentage of Landcare district's total workforce employed in each occupation, compared with total Australian workforce (ABS 2002).

Occupation	% of total workforce Central Tablelands	% of total workforce Australia
Clerical, Sales and Service	29%	33%
Professionals	16%	18%
Tradespersons	12%	12%
Managers and Administrators	11%	9%
Associate Professionals	10%	12%
Labourers	9%	8%
Other	13%	8%

About two thirds of Australia's workforce work full time and the other third part time. This is reflected in our district, which has the same proportion of people employed full time and part time as Australia as a whole. This ratio is also reflected fairly closely in each of our individual Local Government Areas. Oberon has the highest proportion of full-time employed people and Bathurst the lowest.

Table 2.4.3

Percentage of workforce in full and part time work, by Local Government Area, Central Tablelands and Australia overall (ABS 2002).

Local Government Area	% Full time	% Part time
Bathurst	64%	36%
Oberon	71%	29%
Orange	68%	32%
Blayney	70%	30%
Evans	65%	35%
Cabonne	69%	31%
Central Tablelands	67%	33%
Australia	67%	33%

Our money

In 2001 - 2002 the average weekly income of individual Australians working full-time was just over \$850. 10% of Australians working full-time earn less than \$200 per week and 7% earn more than \$1 500 per week.

In our district only 4% of full-time workers earn more than \$1 500 per week. About 11% earn less than \$200 per week. In the other income categories our district is close to the national figures. Over 60% of people working full time in our district earn between \$200 and \$800 per week.

Table 2.4.4

The number of people and percentages for each income category in the full-time workforce in our district and Australia (ABS 2002).

Weekly Income	Total workforce Central Tablelands	% of workforce Central Tablelands	% of workforce Australia
< \$200	4 074	11%	10%
\$200 - \$500	11 635	31%	29%
\$501 - \$800	11 940	31%	31%
\$801 - \$1 500	8 843	23%	23%
> \$1500	1 537	4%	7%

31% of Blayney Shire's full-time workforce earns more than \$800 each week, making it the Shire with the greatest proportion of people in the 2 highest income brackets in our district. Cabonne Shire has the smallest proportion of people in the 2 higher income brackets.

Nearly 20% of Evans Shire's full-time workforce earns less than \$200 each week, while for Cabonne this figure is 14% and about 10% for each of the other Local Government Areas.

Table 2.4.5

The percentage of the full-time working population in our Local Government Areas for each income category (ABS 2002).

Weekly Income	Bathurst	Blayney	Cabonne	Evans	Oberon	Orange
< \$200	11%	10%	14%	19%	10%	9%
\$200 - \$500	30%	30%	39%	37%	31%	29%
\$501 - \$800	30%	29%	28%	24%	31%	34%
\$801 - \$1 500	25%	26%	15%	17%	24%	23%
> \$1500	3%	5%	4%	3%	4%	5%

There are many more men than women in the higher earning income brackets in our district. More than 5 times as many men than women earn more than \$1 500 per week and there are double the numbers of men than women who earn more than \$800 each week. More than twice as many women than men are in the lowest income bracket.

Table 2.4.6

The number of full time workers in each income category for our district and the proportion of men and women in each as a percentage of the total full-time workforce (ABS 2002).

Weekly Income	Number of people	% Men	% Women
< \$200	4 074	36%	64%
\$200 - \$500	11 635	42%	58%
\$501 - \$800	11 940	58%	42%
\$801 - \$1 500	8 843	69%	31%
> \$1500	1 537	85%	15%

The incomes of people working in our district differ greatly according to what industry they work in. Mining, Electricity and Gas and Education appear to be the highest paid sectors, with the largest proportion of people earning more than \$800 each week. Farming, Accommodation and the Retail industries have the smallest proportion of our full-time workforce earning in the highest two income brackets.

Table 2.4.7

The three sectors with the largest percentage of their workforce earning more than \$800 per week and the three industries with the smallest proportion of workers in the highest income brackets in our district (ABS 2002).

Industry	% of workforce earning >\$800/week
Mining	75%
Electricity, Gas and water	62%
Education	50%
Farming, Forestry and Fishing	20%
Retail Trade	15%
Accommodation and Cafes	13%

Accommodation, Retail Trade and the Farming industries have the largest percentage of their workforce earning less than \$200 per week. Nobody in the Electricity and Gas industry earns less than \$200 per week and few in Mining and or Government sectors fall into this income bracket.

Table 2.4.8

The three industries with the largest proportion of people who earn less than \$200 per week and the three industries with the smallest proportion of the workforce in our district earning in the lowest income bracket (ABS 2002).

Industry	% of workforce earning <\$200/week
Accommodation and Cafes	18%
Retail Trade	14%
Farming Forestry Fishing	11%
Government and Defence	2%
Mining	1%
Electricity, Gas and water	0%

2-5 How we run things - government and community

Introduction

The environment is a crucial part of our society. It provides the natural resources we need for our economy. But it is also important because it provides our water, air and keeps our natural ecosystems functioning so we can live in a healthy world. Finally we need the environment as it provides us with enjoyment and inspiration. It forms a vital part of our culture.

Often when we think of managing our natural resources we think of our **government** and the various government departments and agencies. In Australia there are three levels of government and each of these levels have responsibilities for managing our natural resources:

- **Federal Government**
- **State government**
- **Local Government**

It is not just the government, however, that manages our natural resources. Within our community there is a wide range of knowledge, skills and education that helps us to manage our environment. This collection of our individual human abilities is sometimes called our **Human capital**.

There are also many community organisations and networks of people who share information, work together and take responsibility for looking after our landscape at a local or regional level on a daily basis. These networks and this community cooperation are known as our **Social capital**.

Government

Government departments at both State and Federal levels work to manage our environment;

- supporting the primary industries such as agriculture, forestry and mining which use the natural resources,
- developing policies to protect these resources, and
- regulating the activities of our community so that the environment can be maintained in the long term.

The Federal government departments tend to work on issues of national significance, such as salinity or biodiversity. The State departments work on natural resource matters within the State but there are often areas where both Federal and State departments and agencies work on the same issues.

Our Local governments are also responsible for looking after the environment. They develop Local Environment Plans that regulate how we develop and use our natural resources. Local governments are also responsible for waste and sewage management. They play an important role in educating the community to live sustainably in our environment and they develop programs to help residents recycle garbage and compost.

Federal Government

Federal Electorates

The Federal electorate covering our District is **Calare**.

Federal departments and agencies

There are **three main Federal government departments** that deal with our natural resources. Within these are a number of agencies and authorities that manage different aspects of the environment. The departments and some of their important natural resource agencies are listed below.

Table 2.5.1
Federal government departments, agencies and their roles.

Name	Natural Resource Roles
<p>Department of Environment and Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Greenhouse Office • Bureau of Meteorology • National Oceans Office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure the environment, especially aspects that are matters of national environmental significance, is protected and conserved. • To manage Australia's meteorological and related sciences and services. • To manage Australia's interests in Antarctica.
<p>Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land and Water Australia • Bureau of Rural Sciences • ABARE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop national initiatives to address issues of sustainable resources management and use. • To conduct research to build an information base and encourage information sharing. • To administer programs that promote widespread adoption of sustainable natural resource management practices.
<p>Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geoscience Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop policy and administer legislation covering Australia's resources and energy industries and plays an important role in formulating Australia's response to climate change issues.

State Government

State electorates

The state electorates of our district are:

- **Bathurst**, represented by Mr Gerard Martin (Australian Labor Party), and
- **Orange**, represented by Mr Russell Turner (National Party).

State departments and agencies

There are **six main NSW state government departments** that deal with our natural resources. Within these are a number of key agencies such as the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Environmental Protection Authority. These departments are summarised in the Table 2.5.2.

The other key authority for dealing with our landscape is the local Rural Lands Protection Board (RLPB). RLPBs are statutory bodies that operate under the requirements of the *Rural Lands Protection Act 1998* (RLP Act).

Table 2.5.2

State government departments, agencies and their roles with respect to natura resources.

Name	Natural Resource Roles
Department of Natural Resources (DNR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To drive, coordinate and streamline land-use, infrastructure development and natural resource management in New South Wales.
NSW Department of Primary Industries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mineral Resources • NSW Agriculture and Rural Assistance Authority (RAA) • State Forests of NSW • NSW Fisheries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formed in July 2004 from the amalgamation of NSW government departments related to primary industries. • Support of and research into food and fibre industries in NSW. Sustainable management and research of mineral, forestry and fisheries resources.
Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) • National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) • Resource NSW • Botanic Gardens Trust 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To conserve biodiversity and protect our cultural heritage. • To continue to improve our reserve system. • To restore our rivers and sensible use of water, the reduction in pollution and the promotion of waste avoidance. • To champion business and community sustainability and develop long term, innovative solutions that also create jobs in rural and urban New South Wales. • Also links with the Sydney Catchment Authority.
Department of Lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To administer and manage Crown Lands.

	<p>This includes land leases and licences, reserves and State Parks, caravan parks and other uses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide Land and Property Information including titling, valuation, surveying and other spatial information. • To deal with Native Title and Aboriginal Land Claims. • To provide Soil Services including soil conservation earthworks and consultancy services, farm water supplies, soil and water testing and education and training.
<p>Rural Lands Protection Boards (RLPB)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out the frontline management of animal health, pest animal and insect control, travelling stock reserves, stock movement, stock identification and natural disaster relief.
<p>Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 CMAs in NSW. • To engage regional communities in the management of natural resource issues facing their catchment. • Vehicle for the delivery of incentive programs for sustainable land management funded by the State and Commonwealth governments.

Local Government

Local governments play a role in managing our environment by activities such as waste collection, disposal and recycling, sewage treatment and water drainage control. They also have responsibility for planning and development of domestic buildings and commercial areas as well as parks and recreational spaces.

Local governments are responsible for developing plans to help ensure the land in their districts is managed sustainably. These plans include Local Environment Plans. Councils produce a State of the Environment report every year.

There are **six Local Government Areas (LGAs) in our district***. Cabonne extends beyond the boundaries of the Central Tablelands Landcare district but the other 5 Local Government Areas are almost entirely within our district.

Table 2.5.3
Local Government Areas in the Central Tablelands Landcare district (2002).

Name	Population	Number of towns/localities/suburbs
Bathurst	30 930	31
Blayney	6 618	40
Cabonne	12 601	82
Evans	5 409	92
Oberon	5 077	46
Orange	37 292	24

Council services

Councils provide a range of services to their residents to help manage our environment. Each council may differ slightly in the names they call their departments but they generally deal with similar issues. Contact your council for further details.

Table 2.5.4
Local government departments and services

Department	Services
Planning and Building	Development of land and buildings.
Environmental Services	Waste management and septic tanks.
Engineering Services	Infrastructure, parks, gardens and recreational areas.

* Although there are currently (July 2004) uncertainties surrounding the future locations of shire boundaries, for ease of use this document will deal with the boundary and shire names and locations as they existed at the last census (2002), prior to the recent amalgamations.

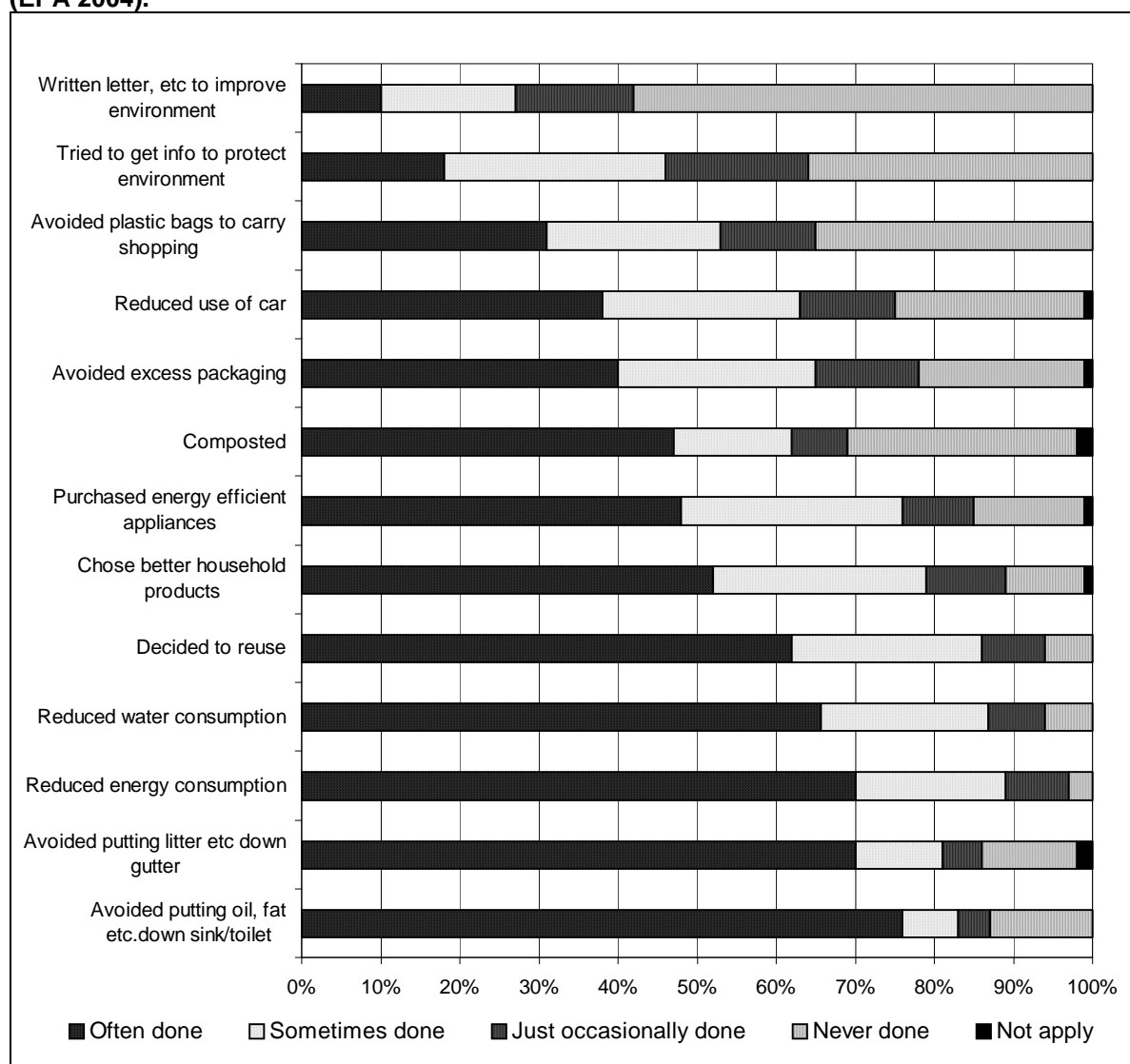
Community - Our Human Capital

As individuals living in the Central Tablelands we also contribute to managing our environment. The actions we take at home and at work impact greatly on waterways and other parts of our landscape. By being environmentally aware in our day-to-day lives, the **human capital** in our community actively helps to keep our natural resources healthy for future generations.

There are many actions that people carry out each day that help look after our environment. The many ways that individuals, families and businesses take action to look after our natural resources include recycling garbage, saving water in our homes or joining a community group such as Landcare to help in our local area.

In the EPA's 2003 survey of environmental behaviour, knowledge and attitudes in NSW it was found that the most common environmentally friendly behaviour practised was the avoidance of putting oil and other wastes down the sink.

Figure 2.5.1
Frequency of environmental friendly behaviour in the last twelve months in NSW in 2003 (EPA 2004).



In rural areas many landholders conduct activities like controlling weeds and feral animals, cleaning up dumped garbage and maintaining remnant bushland. All of these actions help to maintain our landscape.

According to a Central Tablelands Landcare survey, people involved in managing natural resources in our district address natural resource issues in a number of ways. Being part of a community group or doing practical activities such as planting trees are the most common ways people help to manage our environment. About two thirds of the surveyed population take action in either or both of these two ways. Other ways people contribute is by educating other people, donating money or by lobbying to help address an issue.

Table 2.5.5

Actions undertaken to address environmental and social issues in the Central Tablelands, as a percentage of the survey respondents (Central Tablelands Landcare and Community survey 2003).

Action	% of survey respondents
Actively participate in groups	28.0%
Do practical activities	28.0%
Educate	12.5%
Lobbying	7.0%
Through my job	6.5%
Financial donation	3.0%
Other	15.0%

Community - Our Social Capital

Successful communities are more than just individuals, families and the government. They are also about people coming together to live, share interests and to get things done collectively. Within our community many of us belong to community groups. Of the people who responded to the Landcare survey in 2003, over 60% belonged to at least 2 community groups of some kind and nearly 20% belonged to more than 5 groups. In rural Australia around 40% of farmers belong to a Landcare group.

The Landcare survey also found that people think two of the most important qualities for a successful community are cooperation and social diversity. Other important qualities include good leadership and strong communication.

Table 2.5.6
Important qualities of a successful community, expressed as a percentage of survey population (Central Tablelands Landcare and Community survey 2003).

Quality	% of survey respondents
Cooperation	14.7%
Social diversity	12.6%
Goodwill	7.8%
Shared goals	6.9%
Economic viability	5.9%
Strong communication	5.2%
Good leadership	4.2%

There are many groups of people and networks that come together to tackle environmental problems and look after our landscape. These include Landcare and Bushcare groups, farmers groups, the Rural Bushfire Service and environmental groups such as the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Bird Atlassers of Australia.

Schools, businesses and government agencies form partnerships with these groups. Together these networks share information and resources and they make up an important part of our **social capital**, helping us to look after our natural resources.

There are a number of community groups in our district that help to manage our local natural resources and landscape. Examples include Landcare, the Rural Fire Service, Greening Bathurst, and the National Parks Association.

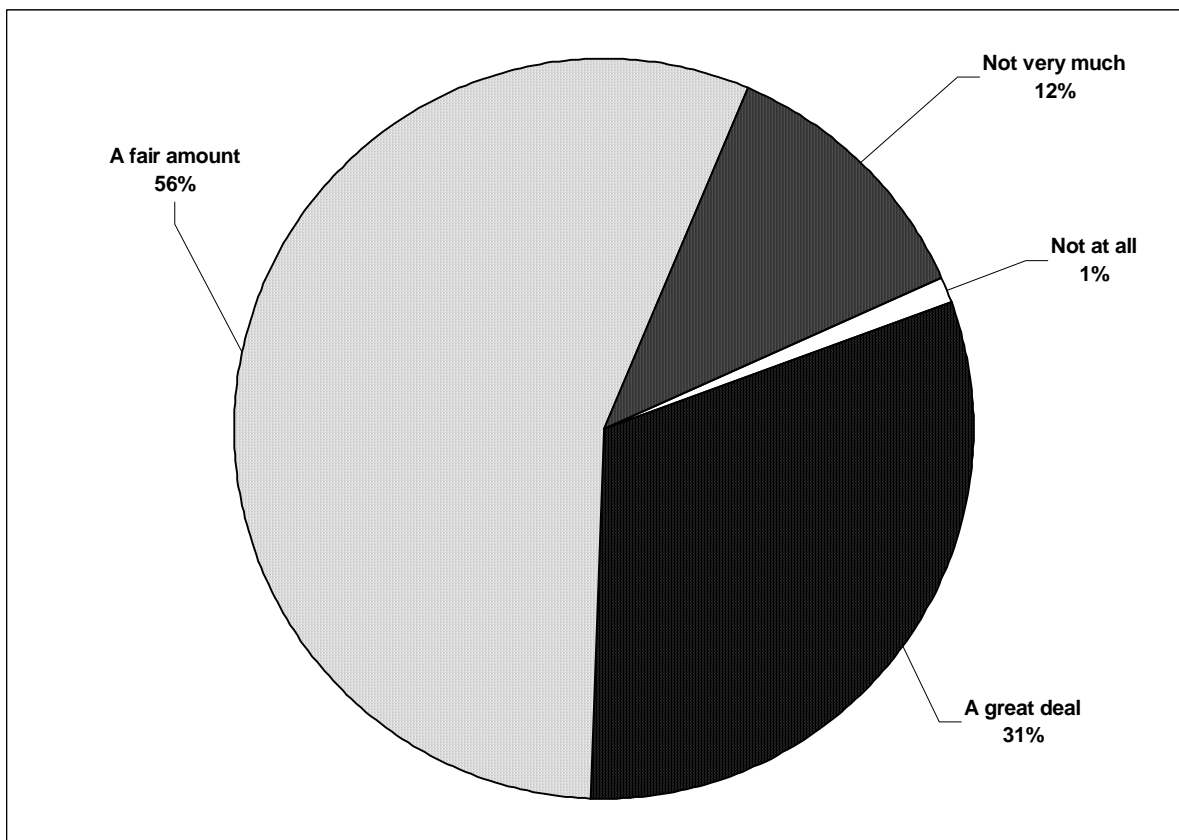
2-6 What we think - our environment

How much we care

Most Australians feel the environment is important and needs to be looked after. We express this care through living sustainably and through our participation in the community.

According to an Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) survey conducted in NSW in 2000, most of us have a fair amount of concern and awareness for our environment. Only 1% expressed no concern for the environment at all.

Figure 2.6.1
Level of concern for the environment, % of NSW population in 2003 (EPA 2004).



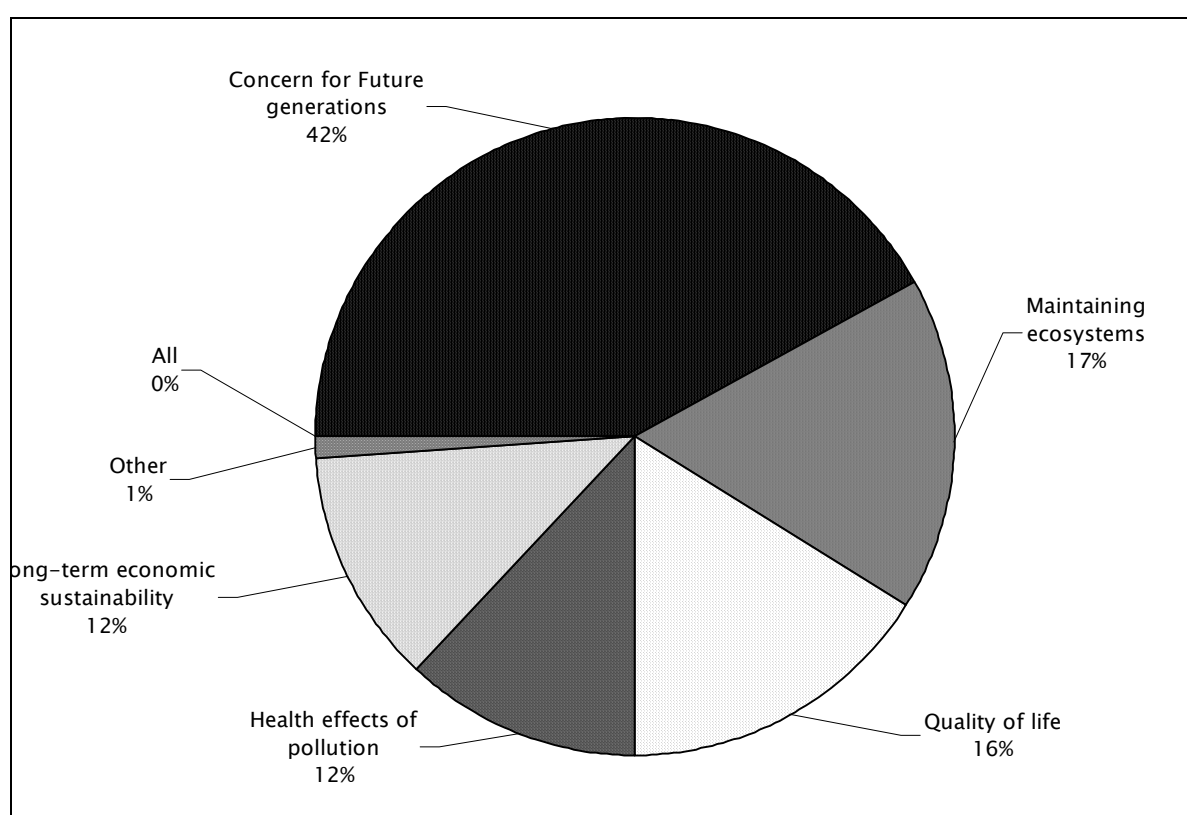
The survey found differences in the level of environmental concern between different ages. 35% of people over the age of 35 showed a great deal of concern, whilst only 25% of people younger than that age expressed the same level of concern for the environment.

The issues that concern us

There are different types of environmental issues, such as those dealing with water, pollution, our biodiversity or long-term sustainability. Some are urban and industrial issues whilst others involve the rural sector. These issues can be at a local scale whilst others are larger, state and national issues.

In NSW concern for future generations is the most important environmental aspect of concern. One-fifth of people in our state consider quality of life to be the most important aspect. 1% of the survey participants feel that all the aspects are equally important.

Figure 2.6.2
Major aspects of concern for the environment - % of NSW population in 2003 (EPA 2004).



In our Central Tablelands district there a number of natural resource issues that people are particularly concerned about. According to the Central Tablelands Landcare survey the most important issue is native vegetation and 21% of people identified this issue as being in the top three most important issues. The next is the issue of sustainable agriculture and the third most important is riparian (river systems) health.

Table 2.6.1
Environmental issues in the district and percentage of survey respondents who identified them as being in the top three most important (Central Tablelands Landcare and Community Survey 2003).

Issue	% of survey respondents
Native vegetation	21.0%
Sustainable agriculture	16.0%
Riparian health	15.3%
Soil degradation	10.2%
Weeds	8.7%
Subdivision of land	8.5%
Salinity	7.9%
Water quality	7.5%
Feral animals	4.3%
Other	0.4%

What needs to be done?

In our district there are many issues to be addressed. Individuals and groups can solve some of these issues locally, whilst others are broader regional issues that need a wider perspective. At all levels partnerships between governments, businesses and communities are essential for natural resource issues to be dealt with effectively.

According to the Central Tablelands Landcare and Community survey there are a number of general actions that people feel are needed in order to address environmental issues. 25.5% of respondents felt the most important action needed was to increase people's awareness about environmental issues to help solve them. It is interesting to note that actions involving capacity building, awareness and education were seen to be more important than on ground action.

Table 2.6.2
Opinions on the actions needed to address environmental issues in our district (Central Tablelands Landcare and Community Survey 2003).

Actions needed	% of respondents
Increasing awareness and education of public	25.5%
Increasing community capacity	20.3%
Implementing on-ground solutions	13.9%
Obtain funding	6.2%
Lobby	5.0%
Develop solutions	4.7%
Show leadership	2.8%
Planning	2.1%
Employ consultants	1.2%
Other	18.3%

Results from the same survey indicate that our community also thinks that government and businesses need to play a part in natural resource management in the district. 35% of people felt that it is one of the roles of governments to provide funding and other resources to the community. Interestingly, about 9% of people thought government should regulate the environment and the same proportion thought they shouldn't. It was also found that nearly 40% of people think that our business community has a responsibility to provide sponsorship for natural resource initiatives. 21% think its role is to provide partnerships and 17% feel that the role of business is to act sustainably and ethically.

Table 2.6.3

Opinions on the roles of government in natural resource management in our district (Central Tablelands Landcare and Community Survey 2003).

Role of governments	% of respondents
Provide funding and resources	35.0%
Educate	11.0%
Provide incentives	10.2%
Regulate the environment	8.6%
Don't regulate the environment	8.6%
Provide leadership	7.5%
Participate in on-ground works	5.7%
Other	13.4%

It is clear that the community feels that partnerships with government and the business community are essential for the education of the wider community and capacity building of groups and individuals in order to develop solutions to the environmental and natural resource issues in the Central Tablelands.

References and Further Information

Sources used

The following are sources used in the writing of the Community section of the Central Tablelands Landcare Natural Resources Toolkit:

Australian Bureau of Statistics (2002). 2001 Census of population and housing. Commonwealth of Australia.

Central Tablelands Landcare Management Committee (2003). Central Tablelands Landcare and Community Survey. Unpublished.

Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW) (2004). Who cares about the environment in 2003. A survey of people's environmental knowledge, attitudes and behaviours. NSW Government, Sydney.

Where to find more information

The following references and website addresses will provide more detail about the topics outlined in the Community Section of this Toolkit:

History

Information about our local history can easily be found in our local libraries and visitors centres.

Who we are, Our social diversity, and How we live - our economy

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has good information about the population dynamics, social diversity and economy of Australia by states and territories and LGAs, comparing these statistics with those for the whole country. Some of this information is available by downloading from;

www.abs.gov.au

How we run things - government and community

The websites and offices for each of the particular government departments and agencies (federal, state or local) will provide more detailed information about their roles and responsibilities with respect to natural resource management. See the following websites;

- ***Federal departments and agencies;***
 - Department of Environment and Heritage, includes;
 - Australian Bureau of Meteorology **www.bom.gov.au**
 - Australian Greenhouse Office
 - Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, includes;
 - Land and Water Australia **www.lwa.gov.au**
 - Bureau of Rural Sciences
 - ABARE
 - Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources

- **NSW state departments, recognised boards and authorities;**
 - Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
www.dipnr.nsw.gov.au
 - Department of Primary Industries (DPI) **www.dpi.nsw.gov.au**
 - Department of Environment and Conservation;
www.environment.nsw.gov.au
 - Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)
 - National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)
 - Resource NSW
 - Botanic Gardens Trust
 - Department of Lands **www.lands.nsw.gov.au**
 - Rural Lands Protection Boards
 - Central West Catchment Management Authority
www.cw.cma.gov.au
 - Lachlan Catchment Management Authority
www.lachlan.cma.gov.au
- **Local Government;**
 - Bathurst Regional Council **www.bathurst.nsw.gov.au**
 - Orange City Council **www.orange.nsw.gov.au**
 - Blayney Shire Council **www.blayney.nsw.gov.au**
 - Cabonne Shire Council **www.cabonne.nsw.gov.au**

What we think - our environment

Every 3 years the NSW State Government (Department of Environment and Conservation) publishes the results of surveys expressing the views of the NSW population regarding environmental issues, concerns and behaviours;

Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW) (2004). Who cares about the environment in 2003. A survey of people's environmental knowledge, attitudes and behaviours. NSW Government, Sydney.

Copies can be obtained by calling **131 555** or taking a look at the website;

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whocares