

## PARRAMATTA

# Fines flow for builders

Developers along river targeted in blitz to prevent contamination

### Stacy Thomas

DEVELOPERS are ignoring hefty fines and continuing to allow building material to flow into the Parramatta River, threatening wildlife and making the river unsafe for swimmers.

Waterfront builders and developers who polluted the river were fined more than \$210,000 during a recent compliance blitz.

Council officers inspected more than 746 sites and handed down \$212,412 in fines.

A one-day blitz during the campaign saw more than 100 council officers inspect 498 sites.

Results from the Get The Site Right compliance campaign show many developers still ignore strict sediment and erosion controls which are designed to stop pollution entering local waterways.

The sediment can then

smother aquatic vegetation, clog fish gills and block waterways during storms and floods.

Parramatta River Catchment Group chairman Mark Drury said it was vital to implement measures to protect waterways with the high level of development in the Parramatta River catchment.

"By working across so many council areas we can now see who the large-scale offenders are and take action as required," he said.

"As we work towards completing our Parramatta River masterplan, campaigns such as these play an important role in helping us achieve our mission to make the Parramatta River swimmable by 2025."

Where managers had a good understanding of erosion and sediment control, there was a 75 per cent compliance rate.

•Report pollution: 131 555