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Page 1 of 2

**Crackdown:** Developers polluting waterways caught in net

# BUILDERS REELED IN

## PARRAMATTA RIVER

### David Barwell

WATERFRONT developers who pollute local waterways have received heavy fines in a crackdown by the City of Sydney Council and other authorities.

More than 40 developers with sites all along the Parramatta River were pulled up by inspectors, including several within the City of Sydney council boundaries.

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.

» **Full report page 4**



# Waterfront builders netted in crackdown

## Heavy fines for developers polluting waterways

**David Barwell**

WATERFRONT developers who pollute local waterways have received heavy fines in a crackdown by the City of Sydney Council and other authorities.

More than 40 developers with sites along the Parramatta River were pulled up by inspectors during the environmental blitz.

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

Figures obtained by *The Courier* showed 48 of the 700 sites inspected along the Parramatta River received fines during the month-long blitz in November last year.

recorded sites with poor maintenance, build-up of waste and unmanaged stockpiles of building material.

Despite the results, the PRCG has been an 11 per cent improvement in compliance rates from the previous campaign last May.

NSW Environment Protection Authority's acting regional director Peter Bloem said the improvement would go some way to addressing the impact sediment can have on Sydney waterways.

"If not properly managed, sediment cannot only affect the water quality and amenity of the waterway, but smothers aquatic vegetation, clog fish gills and even block waterways during times of storm and flood," Mr Bloem said.

Of these, nine received the maximum \$8000 infringement, including three sites in the City of Sydney and two in the City of Canada Bay municipalities.

One developer, who had eight non-compliant sites across the local government areas, was handed two fines for insufficient sediment controls.

A Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG) spokeswoman said inspections across the local government areas also

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fish gills**

Peter Bloem

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