



# PARRAMATTA RIVER CATCHMENT GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



Parramatta River  
Catchment Group



LET'S MAKE OUR RIVER  
SWIMMABLE AGAIN BY  
2025



## RECOGNITION OF THE RIVER'S TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS

We would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Parramatta River catchment area and pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. Their lore, traditions and customs have led to the bountiful land and waterways we all enjoy today.

## THE PARRAMATTA RIVER CATCHMENT GROUP

The Parramatta River Catchment Group is an alliance of councils, government agencies and community groups that are working together to improve the Parramatta River and the tributaries that flow into it.

In 2014, we launched the *Our Living River* initiative with a new vision, purpose and mission:



### OUR VISION

We believe Sydney deserves a world-class river.



### OUR PURPOSE

To make Parramatta River a living river.



### OUR MISSION

To make Parramatta River swimmable again by 2025.

Cover images (clockwise from top left): Biodiversity and Education Subcommittee Workshop, Walk on Country site visit of Bayview Park, Get the Site Right council inspection, Clean Up Australia Day event at Toongabbie Creek, Sydney Water microbial monitoring, Duck Creek community clean-up, Bayview Park foreshore clean-up.

## A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR



As the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and severe wet weather impacted our planning this year, it was gratifying when we were finally able to hold postponed events and meet face-to-face again.

Following a brief hiatus during the local government election period, we were pleased to

welcome back many old faces and introduce several new ones to the PRCG Full Group. We are also delighted that Strathfield Council will rejoin the group in the new financial year and are looking forward to working with their councillors and staff again.

The PRCG team and partner agencies have made considerable progress on the Masterplan delivery in the last financial year. Swimming in the Parramatta River at new swim sites will be fast-tracked with three of our member councils receiving funding through the NSW Government's 'Places to Swim' program. Bayview Park will be completed for the 2022-23 swim season, while Putney Park and Bedlam Bay are expected to open at the end of 2023. Lake Parramatta was also awarded a grant to upgrade the swim site entrance to improve accessibility.

This year we have continued to engage with the community through three of our key initiatives, Love Your Waterways, Get the Site Right, and Riverfest.

Love Your Waterways kicked off in July as an online campaign with an Instagram photo competition that encouraged the community to post a photo of themselves demonstrating one of the five simple actions to prevent litter and other waste from polluting our waterways. The campaign was rolled out across the Sydney Basin in conjunction with our partner catchment and coastal groups, Cooks River Alliance, Georges Riverkeeper and Sydney Coastal Councils Group.

Get the Site Right continues to expand across NSW with six new regional councils and WaterNSW joining the campaign in 2022. The importance of best-practice erosion and sediment controls was highlighted following the deluge that occurred across parts of the state and the impact of stormwater runoff, much of it containing sediment runoff from building sites, on our waterways.

Due to COVID-19, Riverfest 2022 was held completely online. The theme for this year's event was 'Caring for Our Catchment', which offered an ambitious program of 20 activities run over 10 days in October. We engaged with 18 external organisations that provided expertise on our iconic species, climate change, citizen science and swimming in the river. I congratulate the team on such a diverse and interesting program.

Along with our annual activities the PRCG took on extra projects in the areas of stormwater management, litter prevention and representing the catchment in the development of the Greater Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program.

The Stormwater Subcommittee initiated a project to investigate the condition of stormwater devices, including on-site detention, gross pollutant traps, and more natural systems such as rain gardens, on privately-owned and managed properties. The project findings have highlighted the need for consistent policy and practices across all catchment councils and education for property managers. The group has made this a priority for the coming year.

In addition to collaborating across our catchment, working regionally with other catchments is a key focus for the PRCG. Partnering with the Sydney Coastal Councils Group to implement two strategic projects in the last 12 months has seen the development of the Regional Litter Prevention Strategy and the initial development of a Coastal Management Program for Greater Sydney Harbour. The CMP is focused on improving water quality from stormwater runoff, which will help us to sustain a swimmable Parramatta River.

The PRCG is committed to recognising and supporting Aboriginal cultural knowledge and heritage in the catchment and advocating for increased Aboriginal leadership in waterway governance. To help facilitate this goal, the Designing with Country project will develop a design framework to assist councils with creating cultural public works that offer the community more meaningful ways to connect with and care for Country.

As we look forward to the opening of our first new swim site at Bayview Park and reflect on what we have achieved to date, it is also time to start thinking about the future. Next year we will begin a new phase of planning for the Parramatta River and focus for the Parramatta River Catchment Group to 2035.

I would like to acknowledge the considerable work achieved this year by Nell Graham and her team and Nerida Taylor and the Delivery Engine. I also wish to thank Cr Penny Pedersen for her significant contribution during her time as Vice Chair. I also thank the City of Canada Bay Council for their generous offer to host the PRCG for a further two years, and all our partner agencies for their continued commitment to achieving our mission to make the Parramatta River swimmable again by 2025.

**Councillor Mark Drury**  
Parramatta River Catchment Group Chair





Putney Park foreshore steps

Ten steps to a Living River

Establishing the pathways to make the river swimmable again through the implementation of the Parramatta River Masterplan.

STEP 1: GET SWIMMING

Maintain, improve and promote the four current swim sites in the Parramatta River.



Following an \$8 million heritage renovation, Dawn Fraser Baths reopened on 8 September 2021. Upgrades to the baths included engineering works to lay new foundations and raise the floor level of the decking to mitigate the impact of rising sea levels.

Due to the COVID-19 public health restrictions in place at the time, access to the pool was limited to exercise purposes only. With the easing of restrictions, the 2021/22 swim season saw approximately 35,000 people enjoy the improved amenities.

During the 2021-22 summer, 13,204 people swam at Lake Parramatta, a 6 per cent decrease on the previous year. City of Parramatta was successful in the Places to Swim 2021-22 grant program, securing \$905,000 in funding for enhancements to the swimming area. Stage 1 works to the site will include the creation of a gentle, sloping entrance to the water to improve accessibility. Council is also seeking additional funding for other improvements such as shade umbrellas and showers. Work on the swim site will be undertaken during winter 2023.

STEP 2: KEEP WATCH

Agree and progress the establishment of the Riverwatch monitoring program for the Parramatta River.



Sydney Water continued to monitor recreational water quality during 2021-22 through its RiverWatch™ program, to support the opening of new swim sites at Bayview Park, Mcllwaine Park, Putney Park and Bedlam Bay.

The research work by UNSW to develop Bayesian network models to predict water quality at two of our swim sites is complete and these models are working well. Sydney Water is now operationalising the models and adapting them for other swim sites.

Water quality, weather and site information will be published on the PRCG website prior to the launch of the Bayview swim site, enabling the public to make an informed decision about when it is safe to swim.

Human Health Risk Assessments (HHRA) have now been completed for each of the four swim sites. Results from all assessments indicate that sites are suitable for the recreational use proposed. These reports will be made available on the Our Living River website.

STEP 3: CREATE NEW SWIMMING SPOTS

Establish three new swimming sites on the Parramatta River by 2025.



The Swim Site Activation Technical Working Group (SSATWG) is guiding the PRCG and swim site councils through the regulatory and approval processes required to open new swim sites. The group includes representatives from NSW Health, NSW EPA, UNSW, Sydney Water, PRCG, enRisks, DPE, City of Canada Bay, Hunter's Hill, Inner West and City of Ryde Councils, and provides councils with confidence that sites are safe and ready to open.

City of Canada Bay, City of Ryde and Hunter's Hill Councils were all successful grant recipients under the NSW Government's Places to Swim Program, jointly receiving more than \$1.95 million to support the delivery of infrastructure at new swimming sites.

The PRCG, City of Canada Bay and Sydney Water have been working together to develop communications collateral for the Our Living River website to support the opening of new swim sites, with Bayview Park on track to be launched in late 2022.

Construction is underway on the Mcllwaine Park site, but progress has been delayed due to supplier issues, extended wet weather and the COVID-19 pandemic.

New steps at Putney Park were opened in late 2021 providing access to the river, in preparation for a full swim site activation following construction of a swimming enclosure and finalisation of all risk assessments.

Ongoing water quality monitoring at Bedlam Bay, along with completion of risk assessments during 2021-22, has provided Hunter's Hill Council with the confidence to progress planning for new site infrastructure.

STEP 4: STANDARDISE THE STANDARDS

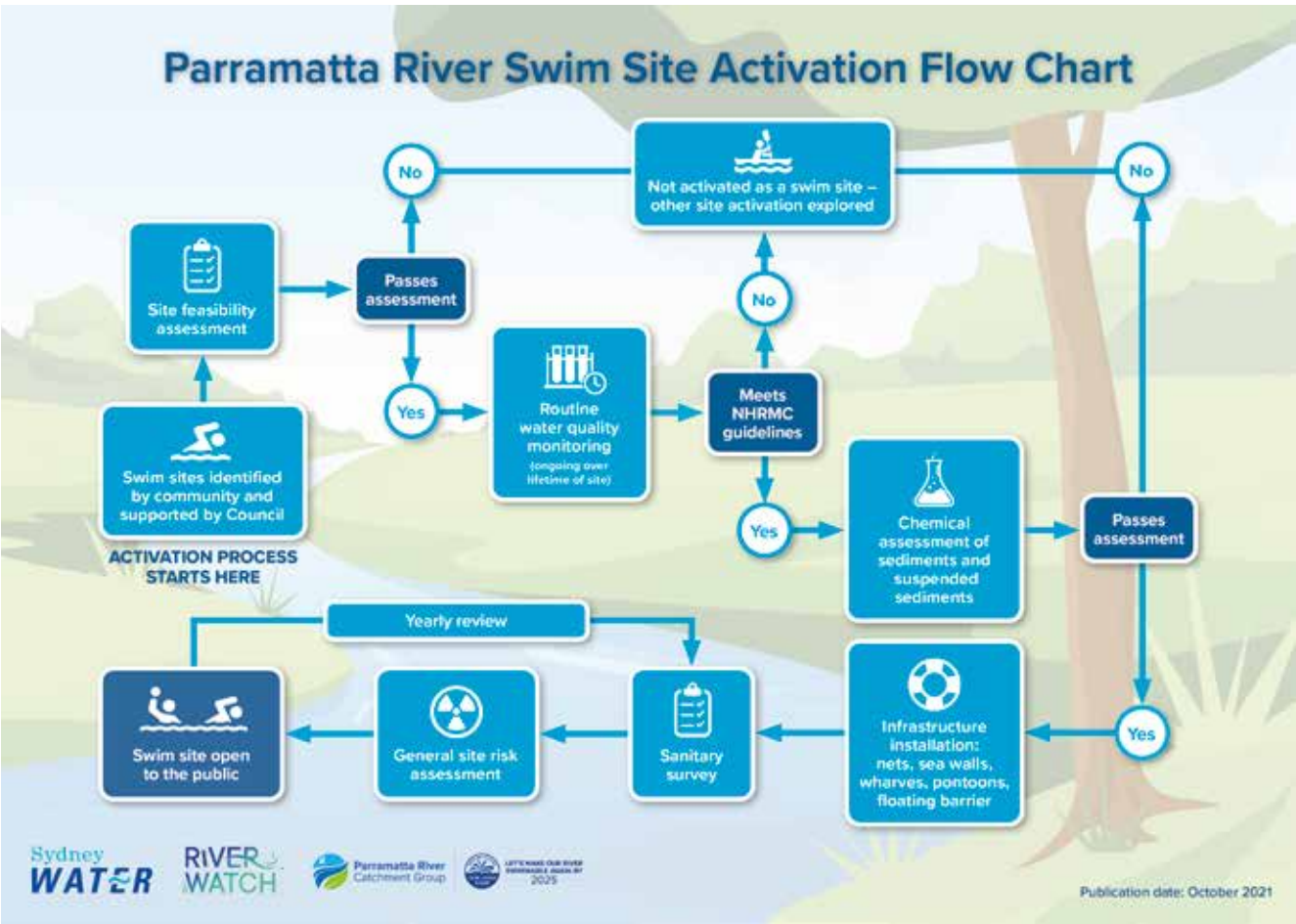
Establish a whole-of-catchment land use policy and statutory planning mechanisms.



Work has commenced on the development of a Blue-Green Index tool, a new framework to deliver blue-green infrastructure that meets waterway health and liveability goals.

The Blue Green Index is a key recommendation in our Step 4 planning reform paper, *Strategic and Statutory Planning Review to Create Our Living River*.

Stormwater requirements for development have been scoped, based on original water quality modelling undertaken for the Masterplan, as well as a review of best-practice case studies. These requirements will be tested in partnership with a developer to understand the feasibility, efficiency, timing and commercial opportunities from applying a river centric approach to planning and ensure any future tool is fit for purpose.





## STEP 5: REDUCE STORMWATER RUNOFF

**Adopt a regional approach to the installation, maintenance and reporting of stormwater infrastructure and water sensitive urban design (WSUD) infrastructure.**



The Stormwater Subcommittee continued to drive actions under Step 5, meeting bi-monthly to build capacity across partner agencies and address issues such as inadequate stormwater funding for councils and poor ongoing compliance and maintenance of WSUD.

In early 2022, an audit of private stormwater devices was completed. The purpose of the audit was to:

1. Understand how systems are being managed and maintained.
2. Gain insight into property owners/tenants' understanding of these stormwater management devices.



Fifty properties across seven LGAs were included in the audit, covering 254 assets. The audit report noted a number of specific issues, including poor property owner awareness of assets, poor design and construction and lack of ongoing maintenance.

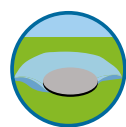
The committee has identified a number of priorities from the eight key recommendations in the report and will be working to address these in their updated workplan for 2022-23, starting with developing an education and awareness campaign for property owners.

Sydney Water is also continuing to identify and deliver projects in the catchment as part of its Waterway Health Improvement Program. The Milson Park Wetland project is currently under construction at Westmead and will be operational in late 2022, preventing vast quantities of pollutants from entering the river and providing a valuable asset for the community to enjoy. Several new water quality improvement projects are also being considered, including replacement of the concrete lined channel and new wetlands at Deakin Park, Silverwater and Surrey Street Chain of Parks, Guildford.

Councils have also been working to implement recommended changes to LEP and DCP provisions, another key outcome from the planning recommendations paper. The timing and nature of the updates vary from council to council, however these form a key component of a package of broader planning reform to meet waterway health objectives over the longer term.

## STEP 6: IMPROVE OVERFLOWS

**Overflows in the Parramatta River catchment meet all EPA licensing conditions.**



Sydney Water has continued to invest in a program of works to reduce the impact of wet weather overflows from the wastewater network on the Parramatta River. The works have been agreed with the NSW EPA and are regulated under Sydney Water's risk-based licence.

Works are split into three main components:

**Stage 1** (Inflow Reduction) – repairs/replacement of more than 200 emergency relief structures and 600 manholes to prevent stormwater entering the wastewater network. Expected completion by December 2022.

**Stage 2** (Infiltration Reduction) – inspection and relining of approximately 17km of pipes to prevent stormwater infiltration. Expected completion by August 2023.

**Stage 3** (Private Property Works) – identification and rectification of illegal sewer connections on private properties. More than 13,200 properties will be inspected across the mid and upper catchment. Expected completion of inspection and rectification is October 2023.

Sydney Water is installing sensors across the wastewater network to enable real-time monitoring of faults and leaks. The benefits of all works under this step will be assessed in future years and it is expected that performance impact will be fully evaluated by April 2024.

## STEP 7: INVOLVE THE COMMUNITY

**Undertake joint community education and compliance activities focused on reducing stormwater and source pollution where it is linked to community behaviour and actions.**



Joint community education efforts to help reduce source pollution in stormwater runoff continue through initiatives such as the 'Love Your Waterways' community awareness campaign and 'Get the Site Right' education and compliance blitz, now in its seventh year (see full report on page 17).



Community Clean-up at Duck Creek

Six groups emerged from the pilot phase of the Changemakers Course that focused on raising awareness of different aspects of waterway health, including litter prevention, biodiversity and sustainability. The groups presented their projects at the October PRCG Full Group meeting. Progress on some projects has been delayed to the ongoing impact of COVID-19 and wet weather.

The PRCG is working with Changemaker group Greener Gatherings and other partner agencies on the development of a behaviour change campaign around litter and sustainable outdoor gatherings, as part of the EPA's Community Litter Grant program.

The PRCG joined City of Canada Bay and local community groups for a clean-up of the Bayview Park foreshore. Volunteers moved bricks and other historic building waste from the shoreline at low tide in preparation for the construction of the new swimming enclosure.



Biodiversity and Education Subcommittee Workshop.

Clean Up Australia events were rescheduled due to extreme rain events. Riverkeeper Ambassadors Julia Strykowski (Plastic Pluckers) organised several events at Toongabbie Creek. Kellie Darley (ParraParents, Litter Free Parramatta) organised events at Silverwater Park, George Kendall Reserve and Duck Creek. (See report on Riverkeeper Ambassadors).

Riverkeeper Ambassador Charlene Bordley provided educational bike rides along Haslams Creek and Parramatta River.

The role of informed community members acting to protect the river and creeks cannot be underestimated. Charlene uses apps such as 'Snap Send Solve' to help community members act on their concerns about pollution and other issues along the creeks and rivers of our catchment.

## STEP 8: BRING IN NATURE

**Maintain, improve and create new habitats for the Parramatta River catchment's five iconic species mascots as indicators of water quality and catchment health.**



Community education on the habitat needs for our iconic species was delivered at eight community events, supported by educational social media campaigns. Additionally, Riverfest 2021 included three sessions on the bar-tailed godwit and three sessions on the eastern long-necked turtle for children, teachers and the general community. Capacity building for council staff on habitats and ecosystems health was provided by Vivce McGell and Jenny O'Meara at the Biodiversity Workshop in May 2022.





Petrina Nelson (City of Canada Bay) and local resident Christopher Anthony at the Bayview Park foreshore clean-up.

The catchment-specific citizen science biodiversity app using CyberTracker, developed by Dr Turak of DPE in collaboration with the PRCG in 2021, was made available for volunteers to record and monitor our five iconic species as well as other flora and fauna and habitat features across the Parramatta River catchment from August 2022. A webinar on the app was held as part of Riverfest 2021.

The Biodiversity and Education Subcommittee includes representation from all member councils (bushcare, biodiversity, catchment, education and sustainability officers), Sydney Olympic Park Authority and Local Land Services. As well as being a community of practice, the subcommittee provide oversight for PRCG programs on community engagement as well as biodiversity.

The subcommittee met three times to progress step objectives and develop a coordinated and prioritised workplan that identified capacity building and citizen science opportunities.

A workshop is currently being planned for council officers to roll out additional citizen science programs and use the data collected and recorded on SEED (Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data in NSW). A key priority for the remainder of 2022 is to review the mapping of key habitats and corridors.

## STEP 9: REPORT BACK REGULARLY

**Undertake regular monitoring and report annually to stakeholders and the community on progress towards the Parramatta River Masterplan.**



Progress on each of the Parramatta River Masterplan steps is updated regularly on the Masterplan Dashboard, located on the Our Living River website. The PRCG and Delivery Engine team also provide a report on the Masterplan delivery and other initiatives at the Reference Group, and PRCG Full Group and Officers' meetings that are held throughout the year.

## STEP 10: CREATE CLEAR LEADERSHIP

**Establish a more effective whole-of-government approach to the governance of the Parramatta River Masterplan, led by Sydney Water as the lead coordinating agency. Engage with Aboriginal leaders across the catchment to respect, protect and support Aboriginal cultural knowledge and heritage, and ensure their direct involvement in the planning, design and implementation of actions within the Masterplan.**



For the past seven years, the Parramatta River Reference Group has provided strategic guidance on the development and implementation of the Masterplan. The group met three times in 2021/22 to discuss a range of issues, including the launch of swim sites in the Parramatta River and a pilot site in Camelia for the Blue Green Index Tool.

Following the March meeting, the group resolved to continue meeting on an ad hoc basis to address issues and opportunities as they arise. The PRCG will work more closely with individual members of the group on specific projects.

Members of the PRCG and the Delivery Engine presented at the inaugural sydney.franc Conference in March 2022 on how cross-catchment collaboration, swim site activation and community engagement contribute towards improving stormwater management and waterway health. Sydney Water also submitted a paper for the 2022 OzWater Conference on the importance of recreation in urban waterways during COVID-19.

The PRCG was successful in obtaining a grant under the Metropolitan Greenspace Program in early 2021 to deliver the Designing with Country for the Parramatta River Catchment project.

The purpose of the project is to develop a design framework that will assist councils with creating cultural public works that offer the community more meaningful ways to connect with and help care for Country (see report on page 10).



Parramatta River Heritage Walking Tour.



Floating wetlands at Carnarvon Golf Club, Lidcombe

**Joint advocacy with our partners on issues affecting the river and catchment helps provide a united voice for our communities and waterways.**

During 2021-22, the PRCG made submissions on the planning of future policies impacting the environment and waterways, and advocated for funding to deliver the Parramatta River Masterplan:

### TECHNICAL SUBMISSIONS

- Marine Estate Management Authority (MEMA): Draft Marine Estate Education Strategy. The submission was prepared as a joint submission by the Sydney Coastal Councils Group, Cooks River Alliance, Georges Riverkeeper and the Parramatta River Catchment Group.
- Joint letter with Cooks River Alliance, Georges Riverkeeper and Sydney Coastal Councils Group, to Minister Stokes and Minister Hancock, requesting that DPE provides a briefing on the implications of the Draft State Environmental Planning Policy (Water Catchments) 2021 on the development and implementation of CMPs.
- Combined catchment and coastal groups submission on the intended effect of the Design and Place SEPP – providing feedback on its ability to greatly strengthen protections for our coastal and estuarine environment and assist in delivering well-designed and sustainable built environments.
- Combined catchment and coastal groups submission to the Draft Management Plan for the NSW Mainland Marine Park Network 2021-2031.

### ADVOCATING FOR FUNDING

- Joint letter of support with Sydney Coastal Councils Group for the Sydney Institute of Marine Science: Sediment Restoration Project – Demonstration Study funding application.
- Letter of support for the Carnarvon Golf Club, application for a 'Responsible Gambling Grant' as offered through the NSW Government Infrastructure Grant program, to improve water quality in their dams by installing floating wetlands. The club was successful in obtaining the grant and has installed three floating wetlands in each of the two dams.

- Letter of support for the Carnarvon Golf Club application for a 'Greater Cities Sport Facility Fund' as offered through the NSW Government Office of Sport grant program, to improve their irrigation system achieving water consumption efficiencies.
- Letter of support for City of Canada Bay's EOI for the Parramatta River Swim Site Activation project at Bayview Park to DPE 'Places to Swim' grant funding.
- Letter of support for Hunter's Hill Council 'Places to Swim' grant application for the Bedlam Bay swim site.
- Letter of support for City of Ryde 'Places to Swim' grant application for the Putney Park swim site.
- Letter to Transport for NSW, Maritime to support the installation of a litter trap on Duck River.
- Letter of request to Minister for the Environment and Water, Tanya Plibersek, for further information on three election campaign programs: Urban Rivers and Catchments, Indigenous Rangers and Landcare Rangers programs.
- Letter of support for Carnarvon Golf Club – West Invest Grant Application for significant funding to upgrade failing stormwater infrastructure to improve overland flow and water quality entering Haslam's Creek.

### OTHER NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Stormwater NSW as a non-financial partner at the inaugural franc.sydney Conference in March 2022.
- Notice of Motion: Strathfield Council resolution to rejoin the Parramatta River Catchment Group in 2022-23 financial year.
- Presentations to councillor workshops at City of Canada Bay and Inner West Councils, to inform new councillors of the Parramatta River Masterplan and PRCG programs.
- Briefing meetings with Mayor of Cumberland Council, Cr Lisa Lake, and City of Ryde Councillor Shweta Deshpande to present on the Parramatta River Masterplan and programs relevant to their local government areas.





## DESIGNING WITH COUNTRY FOR THE PARRAMATTA RIVER CATCHMENT PROJECT

In 2021 the PRCG was successful in obtaining a grant under the Metropolitan Greenspace Program to deliver the Designing with Country for the Parramatta River Catchment project.

The purpose of the project is to develop a catchment-wide design framework that will assist councils with creating cultural public works that offer the community more meaningful ways to connect with and care for Country.

The framework will specify standards around the use of language, art, landscaping and other elements. It will also identify and recommend locations for future interpretive design projects. A project working group with partner agencies and community groups was established to steer the project.

Indigenous landscape designer Yerrabingin was selected as the project consultant.

A Walk on Country was held in both the lower and upper Parramatta River catchment, attended by representatives from our member agencies and the community. The group visited various sites along the Parramatta River and Duck River foreshore, Lake Parramatta and Blacktown Creek.

Yerrabingin also facilitated two 'Design Jams' that enabled participants to share their ideas on new ways to experience the catchment's waterways. The ideas from both workshops will contribute to the development of the design framework.

To support the project, a research paper on the Aboriginal history and culture of the Parramatta River catchment has been written.

The Designing with Country project supports the broader objectives of the Parramatta River Masterplan, which recognises the traditional custodians of the

Parramatta River, its tributaries and surrounding lands, and their significant and enduring cultural ties to Country. It also aims to increase Aboriginal leadership in waterway governance by strengthening relationships between local and state government agencies, Aboriginal groups and community members, to facilitate ongoing management and business opportunities.

Design concepts for some of the proposed sites will be made available for community consultation online and at Riverfest events. The project is expected to be completed in the second half of 2022.

*Clockwise from above: Bayview Park, Concord; Callan Park, Rozelle; International Peace Park, Seven Hills; Design Jam 1 at Drummoyne Oval; Design Jam 2 group presentation.*







Bayview Park foreshore clean-up

**Coordinating collaborative efforts across our network to deliver positive outcomes for the Parramatta River in a more efficient and effective way.**

## JOINT DECISION MAKING

**Masterplan Reference Group:** Meetings were held in September and December 2021 and March 2022 to address issues including the launch of swim sites in the Parramatta River and development of a Blue Green Index tool. The group will continue to meet on an ad hoc basis to address issues and opportunities as they arise.

**Full Group and Officer Group:** Meetings are generally held quarterly with all PRCG member agencies and community representatives to discuss and agree upon actions and goals for the river and catchment and Masterplan implementation. However, due to the Local Government elections, only three meetings were held this financial year. The September meeting was rescheduled to October and the December meeting was cancelled. As a result of continuing COVID-19 health restrictions, two meetings were held online and a hybrid meeting was hosted by Blacktown City Council in June 2022.

**PRCG Executive Committee:** Five meetings and one planning workshop were held in 2021-22 to determine priorities for the PRCG and make key budget decisions and project proposals to the Full Group.

**Stormwater Subcommittee:** Managed jointly by the Sydney Water Delivery Engine and City of Parramatta, the subcommittee met eight times over the year to

develop and implement their stormwater work plan. WAVE Consulting Australia was engaged to audit the condition of private WSUD assets and recommend policy options that aim to increase the effectiveness, process and impact of these assets on private land.

**Swim Site Activation Technical Working Group:** This expert panel is made up of representatives from the swim site councils, PRCG, Sydney Water Delivery Engine, Beachwatch, NSW Health, NSW EPA, DPE and UNSW, who oversee the opening of new swim sites in the river. The group meets as required to progress the assessment needed to open the planned swim sites.

**Regulatory Subcommittee:** Met twice to discuss and plan the Get the Site Right education and compliance campaign and opportunities for training.

**Education and Biodiversity Subcommittee:** The group met twice online in 2021. A face-to-face workshop was held in May 2022 that focused on reviewing and prioritising actions for Step 8 – Bring in Nature, and taking a regional approach to waterway and environmental management and capacity building in councils.

**Places to Swim Guideline Advisory Panel:** Established by the Dept of Planning and Environment as part of the Places to Swim program, the Riverkeeper participated in a series of workshops on the development of guidelines that will assist councils with the selection and activation of suitable swim sites.

## CAPACITY BUILDING

**Changemakers Course:** The Changemakers Course enabled participants to gain skills and experience in developing and delivering projects that educate and empower the community to care for their waterways and local environment. While the ongoing impact of COVID-19 and wet weather prevented the progress of some projects, several Changemakers supported litter clean-ups and other events throughout the year. Interest in the Changemakers Course was also received from three Landcare networks as they seek to encourage community leadership in their area.

**Council regulatory staff training and education:** In May 2022 the PRCG arranged a half-day erosion and sediment control online workshop, which was delivered by SEEC (Strategic Environmental and Engineering Consulting). The PRCG also ran an introductory webinar on Get the Site Right for new regulatory staff in April 2022.

**Parramatta Litter Vacuum:** ORC (Our River Cleaner) was demonstrated to the Sydney Olympic Park team for use at events and along the seawall at the high tide mark and areas where litter is difficult to remove. The litter vacuum was also demonstrated at the Seaside Scavenge event at Blaxland Riverside Park in Sydney Olympic Park.



Nell Graham with other volunteers at the Carnarvon Golf Club tree planting event as part of the Landcare NSW's 'Creating Canopies' program.

**Get the Site Right:** WaterNSW and six new councils across NSW joined the Get the Site Right campaign in May 2022 (Blue Mountains, Fairfield, Goulburn, Lithgow, Shellharbour and Wollongong Councils).

**Habitat planting:** The PRCG partnered with Greater Sydney Landcare Network and Carnarvon Golf Club in April 2022 to plant 200 trees as part of the Landcare NSW's 'Creating Canopies' program, which aims to extend the local habitat corridor. This was the second event that built on the previous planting in 2021, which had a 97 per cent survival rate.

**Landcare NSW:** The Riverkeeper meets monthly with Local Landcare Coordinators in the Greater Sydney Region to share information and strategies to increase participation and community engagement in Landcare activities. PRCG is a member of the Greater Sydney Landcare Network and attends the highly informative AGM events. The Riverkeeper, PRCG members and volunteers participate in Landcare NSW conferences and workshops.

**Landcare Yarning on Country:** The PRCG team attended a 'Yarning on Country' event organised by Greater Sydney Local Land Services. The day provided an opportunity to learn from Aboriginal community leaders on the importance of working together to heal Country and foster a respectful and inclusive future for First Nations communities.

**Master Builders Association of NSW:** The PRCG assisted MBA NSW to produce a module on Get the Site Right as part of a self-paced eLearning program on erosion and sediment controls for MBA members.

**Reconciliation Week event:** In June 2022, the PRCG Coordinator and Communications Officer took part in a National Reconciliation Week event at the Muramba Dance Ground in Sydney Olympic Park. Local Aboriginal Elder of the Darug and Dhunghutti Nations, Aunty Kerrie Kenton, gave the Welcome to Country and shared her personal experiences and thoughts on ways to strengthen relationships with First Nations people to foster healing.



Sydney Water Delivery Engine Manager Nerida Taylor (far left) with other event organisers at the Stormwater NSW franc. sydney Conference.

## FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS

**franc.sydney 2022 Conference:** The PRCG was invited to be a partner of the inaugural Stormwater NSW franc. sydney 2022 Conference. The PRCG Coordinator co-presented with Sarah Joyce (SCCG) on the Coastal Management Program for Greater Sydney Harbour. The Riverkeeper also co-presented with Catarina Fraga Matos (City of Canterbury Bankstown), on the importance of changemakers for community engagement around environmental and waterway health.





*Sydney Water boat tour of the Parramatta River and laboratory services site visit.*

**Regen Melbourne:** Relationships established through the Biennale of Sydney events led to discussions with community-based platform Regen Melbourne on improved liveability and sustainability for our cities. In June, the PRCG and Sydney Water presented on the Parramatta River Masterplan at an online forum hosted by Regen Melbourne, which focused on swimmable cities and communities around the world.

**Strathfield Council:** In June 2022 Strathfield Council resolved to rejoin the PRCG as a financial member of the Full Group. We look forward to working with the councillors and staff on our continued efforts to improve waterway and environmental health for the catchment.

**Sydney Biennale:** The PRCG participated in *River Conversations* events on 22 and 23 April, as part of this year's Biennale of Sydney exhibition. The events brought together artists, First Nations people and organisations such as the Birrarung Council, a statutory body that advocates for the protection of the Yarra River in Victoria, to discuss rivers as living entities.

**Sydney Olympic Park 2050:** The PRCG participated in the stakeholder round table sessions on developing a vision for the Sydney Olympic Park precinct to 2050.



*Silverwater Park clean-up organised by Kellie Darley of Litter Free Parramatta River and ParraParents.*

**Sydney Water boat tour and laboratory services site visit:** The PRCG joined partner agencies on a boat tour of the Parramatta River and visit to Sydney Water's laboratory services site at West Ryde. The boat tour included visits to planned swim sites and a microbial monitoring demonstration. The site tour showcased the innovative work being done by Sydney Water around water quality monitoring and wastewater network management.

**Sydney Wetland Institute (SWI):** The PRCG participated in the SWI advisory panel to assist with the promotion and planning of wetland education programs.

**Transport for NSW:** Transport for NSW continues to be an active participant in the Stormwater Subcommittee and development of the Litter Prevention Strategy.

**University partnerships:** Macquarie University students conducted a riparian mapping project to provide information, assessment, and recommendations regarding the status of waterways and riparian areas in the Parramatta River catchment, with a focus on Toongabbie, A'Becketts, Hunts and Darling Mills Creeks.



*Aboriginal artist Leanne Tobin, Biennale of Sydney 2022 Curator (Programs and Learning), Leah Smith, and Nadia Young at the 'River Conversations' event.*

**Waterkeepers Alliance (Australia):** The Riverkeeper participates in monthly online gatherings with other paid and volunteer Riverkeepers/Waterkeepers to share information and resources that enable further protection of our rivers and waterways. The organisation is linked to a worldwide Waterkeepers Alliance based in the USA.

**Western Sydney Environmental Education Network:** This network was re-established in June 2022 thanks to Lisa Kollaras (City of Parramatta) and an organising team from other western Sydney councils. The network aims to connect sustainability workers across the region to share information and resources to enable greater efficiencies and mentoring of those new to the work.

## COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORTING

**Parramatta River Masterplan:** The Masterplan Dashboard reports on the progress against all steps of the Masterplan and is updated quarterly.

## COLLABORATING ACROSS CATCHMENTS

### Greater Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program

The Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG) and Sydney Coastal Councils Group (SCCG) have partnered to develop a Greater Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program (GSHCMP).

The GSHCMP involves the collaboration of 20 Sydney councils and several state government agencies to develop a strategic and integrated approach to waterway health management for the region.

In October 2021, the GSHCMP was successful in obtaining a Stage 2 planning grant to undertake three interrelated studies. Strategic design consultancy Civile was engaged to deliver studies 1 and 2, which involved surveying and interviewing all participating councils and relevant stakeholders to identify and prioritise council needs and actions to help improve stormwater discharge and waterway health in the whole catchment.

RPS Group consultancy was engaged in April 2022 to deliver Study 3. This work aims to review options for establishing a governance and sustainable funding structure to ensure the long-term health of Greater Sydney Harbour's waterways, including drainage from catchment sources. All three studies are due to be completed by September 2022.

### Regional Litter Prevention Strategy for Greater Sydney Harbour

The SCCG and PRCG have completed the development of the Regional Litter Prevention Strategy (RLPS) for the Greater Sydney Harbour catchment. Funded by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) in the Own It and Act: Round 6 Community Litter Grant funding stream, the strategy will create a unified and coordinated approach to litter prevention across Greater Sydney Harbour catchments.

The RLPS outlines the actions that aim to support litter reduction targets in the NSW Government's Waste and Materials Strategy 2041, including a 30 per cent reduction in plastic litter by 2025, and a 60 per cent reduction of all litter items by 2030.

The strategy will provide a regional approach to litter prevention, and embed litter reduction activities into council policy, strategy and programs, to help reduce the volume of litter entering Sydney Harbour and associated waterways.

In August 2021, a community perception survey around litter and littering behaviour was conducted with the results informing the priority actions for the RLPS. A community Litter Forum was held online in October 2021 to consult on the draft strategy.

A draft of the strategy was approved by the EPA in May 2022 and will be distributed to all stakeholders in the second half of 2022.

### NSW EPA Round 7 Community Litter Grant – Regional Litter Prevention Strategy Implementation

In February 2022, the SCCG and PRCG were successful in securing funding through Round 7 – Stream 2 of the NSW EPA Community Litter Grant program to continue to engage a Litter Prevention Coordinator to drive the implementation of the Greater Sydney Harbour Litter Prevention Strategy. Work has begun with councils and the community to adopt the RLPS targets and carry out litter prevention projects.

This regional project will also support the creation of a web-based litter prevention portal to showcase catchment-wide litter prevention achievements and case studies and provide links to litter prevention education and tools.



*Jasmine Payget with SCCG Regional Litter Coordinator, Cynthia Chan, at the Keep Australia Beautiful Litter Congress.*

### NSW EPA Round 7 Community Litter Grant – making a change for greener gatherings in parks

In February 2022, the PRCG also secured funding through Round 7, Stream 1 of the NSW EPA Community Litter Grant program to develop a litter prevention behaviour change project, focusing on litter caused by outdoor gatherings in public places. Benchmarking local litter checks have been undertaken in three parks: Reynolds (Toongabbie), Silverwater (Silverwater) and Blaxland Riverside (Sydney Olympic Park). Activities in partnership with the City of Parramatta, supporting agencies and community groups will be delivered from August 2022.





Clean Up Australia event at Toongabbie Creek

**Building support from the local communities that live, work and move through the catchment to help make the Parramatta River swimmable again.**

The success of our mission to make the Parramatta River swimmable again relies heavily on regular face-to-face and online communications and engagement with our communities.

Our communications and engagement strategy aims to:

- Increase community interest and involvement in our work to improve waterway health and open new swim sites along the river.
- Expand the Riverkeeper Program to support existing and new volunteers in undertaking activities that reduce pollution and enhance biodiversity.
- Celebrate events and activities along the Parramatta River and its tributaries that support the Our Living River initiative.

Our digital platforms play an important role in promoting PRCG and partner agency events and activities, educating the community on our iconic species, litter prevention and other related topics, and providing a forum for discussion and information sharing.

In 2021/22 our social media channels continued to grow with an average follower growth rate of 14 per cent and average engagement rate of 6 per cent.

Our plan to open more natural swim sites received considerable local and national media coverage, including radio interviews, this year with the reopening of Dawn Fraser Baths for swimming during lockdown. The regional expansion of the Get the Site Right campaign also generated several articles in local press.

During the extended COVID-19 restrictions in 2021, our digital platforms were essential to communicating and delivering several of our events and campaigns, including Riverfest 2021, and maintaining links with our communities.

Launched in July 2021, the *Love your Waterways* campaign (formerly River Aware) was expanded to include Sydney's other catchment groups and their waterways. The campaign featured an Instagram photo competition that encouraged the community to post a photo of themselves demonstrating one of the five simple actions to prevent litter and other waste from polluting our waterways.

The PRCG also engaged with our communities face-to-face this year through various events, including the Parramatta Riverside Scavenge, Sustainability Festival, NAIDOC Week and litter clean-ups.



**Get the Site Right campaign**

Following the COVID-19 lockdown period in 2021, the Get the Site Right campaign was delayed to November. A 'Blitz Week' was trialled for the first time to allow councils more flexibility to conduct inspections.

Of the sites inspected 63 per cent were compliant, down 4 per cent from the May campaign. A total of \$119,600 in fines was issued to non-compliant sites. Offences ranged from runoff migrating to stormwater pits, poorly stabilised site access, and sediment tracking off the site. The majority of site managers who were present at the time of inspection (88%) were considered to have a satisfactory understanding of erosion and sediment controls.

In 2022, Get the Site Right expanded across NSW with the addition of WaterNSW and six new councils, (Blue Mountains, Fairfield, Goulburn, Lithgow, Shellharbour and Wollongong Councils). The growth of the campaign was timely in the wake of the significant rainfall and flooding experienced across parts of NSW.

To support the campaign, educational resources were updated and expanded to highlight best-practice erosion and sediment controls.

In the May campaign, 22 councils inspected 785 sites. Of those sites where the compliance was recorded, 54 per cent were found to be compliant, down 9 per cent from the November 2021 campaign. A total of \$398,484 in fines was issued to non-compliant sites. For those sites that were inspected more than once, there was a 64 per cent improvement in compliance.

As part of the campaign, the Department of Planning, and Environment also undertook inspections of state significant developments including residential, commercial and industrial sites, schools, mines, waste facilities, rail and linear infrastructure projects.

NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) officers once again arranged joint inspections with council regulatory staff to observe and provide advice on compliance issues.

In May, SEEC (Strategic Environmental and Engineering Consulting) delivered a half-day, online workshop on erosion and sediment control for councils. The PRCG also ran an introductory webinar on Get the Site Right for new councils and regulatory staff.

Now in its seventh year, the Get the Site Right taskforce includes Cooks River Alliance, Department of Planning and Environment (DPE), Georges Riverkeeper, NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Parramatta River Catchment Group, Sydney Coastal Councils Group, WaterNSW and more than 20 councils. Our regulatory subcommittee meetings and cross-catchment planning group meetings continue to provide opportunities for collaboration and resource sharing between agencies.

The October 2022 campaign will focus on the forecast of more rainfall in late 2022, and the importance erosion and sediment controls play in preventing sediment runoff from impacting our stressed waterways.

**KEY RESULTS**

- 20+ community events
- 19 media items
- 2,692 Our Living River social media followers; 29 posts/tweets per month (averaged); 6% average engagement rate per post
- Our Living River website: 32,356 page views and 17,690 sessions by 14,181 users
- 1,055 e-newsletter subscribers
- 215 Riverkeeper Network Facebook followers
- 3 Riverkeeper Ambassadors

**KEY RESULTS**

1,280  
Sites inspected

54%  
Compliance rate  
(May 2021)

\$518,084  
Fines issued





Greater Sydney Local Land Services Yarning on Country event

## Riverkeeper Program

The Riverkeeper Program supports and connects council and community activities across the catchment. The Riverkeeper is employed by the PRCG and the role is 60 per cent funded by Local Land Services through Landcare NSW. Reporting of PRCG landcare projects can be found on the Landcare Gateway at: <https://landcare.nsw.gov.au/>

Our partnerships are key to the delivery of Masterplan projects and activities and achieving greater regional outcomes for waterway health and management.

The Riverkeeper Program is supported by the Biodiversity and Education Subcommittee, consisting of representatives from all member councils, Sydney Water, the Landcare NSW Regional Landcare Coordinator and Sydney Olympic Park Authority Biodiversity team.

The Biodiversity and Education workshop conducted in May addressed a regional approach to waterway and environmental management and capacity building in councils. Jenny O'Meara and Vivce McGell of Sydney Olympic Park Authority presented on their biodiversity conservation strategy.

Essential to community education and engagement are our Riverkeeper Ambassadors. Their considerable volunteer activities enable us to connect with the wider community in different ways such as outdoor recreation, habitat conservation, litter prevention and sustainability. They also provide valuable input and support for many of our projects (see report on next page).

Landcare NSW delivers training and support for Local Landcare Coordinators. At the Landcare NSW Conference in March, the PRCG Riverkeeper co-presented with Riverkeeper Ambassador Charlene

Bordley on 'Revitalising community leadership on river restoration'. The PRCG team also attended the 'Yarning on Country' cultural awareness day, organised by Local Land Services.

The PRCG is working with Sydney Coastal Councils Group in delivering a Regional Litter Prevention Strategy that aims to create a unified and coordinated approach to litter prevention across the Greater Sydney region.

Our annual Riverfest once again allowed us to partner with a diverse range of organisations on events and activities that connect with the wider community. PRCG and Riverkeeper Ambassadors also supported council and community events, including the Parramatta Riverside Scavenge at Blaxland Riverside Park in February 2022.

Other events the Riverkeeper participated in include:

- Landcare webinar: presentation on 'What does a Riverkeeper do?' (August 2021).
- franc.sydney Conference: presentation with Catarina Matos Fraga (City of Canterbury Bankstown) on the importance of changemakers programs to support environmental and waterway health (March 2022).
- Parramatta River Heritage Walking Tour: organised by the Parramatta Heritage and Visitor Information Centre, the Riverkeeper shared information on aspects of biodiversity and waterway management (May 2022).
- NSW Biodiversity Network: presentation on 'Biodiversity planning for Riverkeeper Program' (May 2022).
- City of Canada Bay Sustainable Schools and Childcare Network (SSCN): presentation on 'Junior Riverkeeping and the iconic species' (June 2022).

## RIVERKEEPER AMBASSADORS

Our Riverkeeper Ambassadors continue to run a wide range of community events and activities that encourage and empower the community to learn more about and contribute to improving waterway health.

### Charlene Bordley

(Addventagious, @Parramatta Bike Hub, Parramatta Bike Tours— social enterprise small business owner)

Charlene Bordley delivered two 'Cycling by Our Living River' bike tours that highlight the fish ladders in the Parramatta River as well as educating participants about bird species in the local area.

Charlene also designed and delivered the self-guided 'Ready Set Roll' cycling program for after school care children and their teachers. Key to the challenge was to observe at least one of the river's iconic species whilst cycling when limited to a 5km radius during lockdown.

Charlene has a strong focus on environmental citizenship, teaching participants about Birdlife Australia's apps, as well as the 'Snap Send Solve' app for environmental issues sighted while cycling along Haslams Creek and the Parramatta River.



Charlene Bordley (centre) with Nell Graham and Nadia Young at DPE's National Reconciliation Week event at the Muramba Dance Ground, Sydney Olympic Park.

### Kellie Darley

(ParraParents, Litter Free Parramatta)

Kellie Darley organised several community clean-ups at Silverwater Park, George Kendall Reserve and Duck Creek. In June, Kellie organised a corporate clean-up at Duck Creek with the Australian Turf Club (Rosehill Gardens) and removed more than 50 bags of litter.

'The Lollipop Ladies' was a project Kellie co-created as part of the Changemakers Course. It raised awareness about the littering of lollipop sticks and other single-use plastic packaging and highlighted the need for biodegradable alternatives.

Kellie was a community representative on the Regional Litter Prevention Strategy Steering Committee and promoted the community litter survey. She was elected as a Councillor for the City of Parramatta in December 2021 and nominated as the alternative Council representative for the PRCG Full Group. She also continues to serve as a community representative.



Kellie Darley (far right) with Nadia Young and Nerida Taylor (Sydney Water) at the Duck Creek clean-up.

### Julia (Julz) Strykowski

(The Plastic Pluckers, PluckFastic, Plastic Free Parramatta and Friends of Toongabbie Creek)

Through the Plastic Pluckers group, Julz organises regular litter clean-ups along Toongabbie Creek at Mons Road in Northmead. The May event was the largest of the year with 30 participants and 28 bags of rubbish collected.

In October 2021 Julz established the 'Friends of Toongabbie Creek' group with Rebecca Pickard which now grown to 233 members. The group will support monitoring and education at Reynolds Park in Toongabbie, as part of the NSW EPA Round 7 Community Litter Grant.

Julz's litter prevention work included seven sewing bees with 'Boomerang Bags' where volunteers made approximately 500 cloth alternatives to plastic bags and children's party decorations for sale at community events. Julz also represented the PRCG on her PluckFastic stand at this year's Ryde Sustainability Festival.

Julz received the People's Choice Award for her work, A to Z of Plastic Pollution (pictured below) in the 2021 City of Ryde Sustainable Waste 2 Art Exhibition.



Julz Strykowski (left) with volunteers on the PluckFastic stand at the Ryde Sustainability Festival.

### Hannah Chalmers

Junior Riverkeeper Ambassador

Hannah resigned as Junior Riverkeeper Ambassador to take up a school leadership role. We thank Hannah for her keen interest and advocacy to improve stormwater runoff and wish her every success for the future.





## Riverfest 2021

Due to COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, this year's Riverfest was held online from 15-24 October, and featured more than 20 events that supported this year's theme, 'Caring for our Catchment'. The events provided ways for people to learn more about their local green spaces, waterways and wildlife and also encouraged a greater sense of purpose and connection with local communities.

In an ongoing effort to connect with different audiences, we trialled several new events such as storytime sessions for preschoolers and families. We continued the focus on children and teachers with *Turtle-y-wild: Kids Connecting to Nature*, which was run by educators Laura Howell from PLC Sydney and Ryan Keith from the University of Sydney.

Webinars relevant to council officers included: Assoc Prof Theresa Jones (Urban Light Lab) on the impact of light pollution on our environment; Martin Bass (Sydney Weeds Network) on the use of drones in weed management; Peter McLean (Can Too Foundation) on swimming safety in natural water; and a presentation by the NSW Chapter of the River Basin and Management Society.

The Greater Sydney Harbour Litter Prevention Forum facilitated by Sue Burton (Sydney Coastal Councils Group) was well-attended as was the Turtle Talk with Dr Ricky Spencer (1 Million Turtles and Western Sydney University).

Dr Eren Turak (DPE) and Nell Graham discussed the research involved in the development of the Parramatta

River catchment biodiversity app and Climate Action Burwood/Canada Bay hosted a lively discussion on climate change and the Parramatta River.

Riverkeeper Ambassador Charlene Bordley from Addventagious live-streamed her bike ride along the Parramatta River to talk about the local wildlife. Julz Strykowski held a children's storytime and nature play session and also introduced us to the people and places of Toongabbie with fellow educator and co-creator of the 'Friends of Toongabbie Creek' community group, Rebecca Pickard.

Many thanks also go to the Blacktown, Canada Bay and Inner West Councils that ran events this year. The annual return of the bar-tailed godwits is always a highlight and City of Canada Bay's session with Birdlife Australia's Judy Harrington was very popular.

A strong recommendation we received in the event feedback was to continue including some online sessions in future Riverfest programs. In 2022, we hope to combine these with a diverse range of face-to-face events that allow the community to connect with the Parramatta River and its tributaries in different ways.

*Images (clockwise from top left): Bike ride along the Parramatta River with Charlene Bordley; Turtles and Friends storytime session with Laura Howell; Martin Bass demonstrates his drone; Turtle Talk with Dr Ricky Spencer.*

## MONITORING AND REPORTING



## PRCG Financial Report (2021-22)

INCOME	\$
Carryover funds 2020-21	78,228.00
Annual Membership Contributions	259,464.00
2021-22 Grant Funds (Local Landcare Coordinator)	57,315.00
Community Landcare mini grant (Citizen Science App)	2,772.00
Metropolitan Greenspace Grant – (\$140,000) all payments and contributions	112,000.00
NSW EPA Stream 1 Litter Prevention Grant	18,000.00
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$527,779.00</b>

EXPENSES	\$
Salaries and on-costs (Coordinator 1.0 FTE & Comms 0.8 FTE & Riverkeeper 0.8 FTE)	329,758.73
Materials (general, printing and signage)	4,000.00
Riverkeeper Program	9,117.42
Contractors (WSUD Audit Project) allocated from carryover funds	78,337.50
Metropolitan Greenspace Grant	29,159.83
Community Landcare mini grant – Citizen Science app development	189.77
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$450,563.25</b>

<b>NET OPERATING RESULT</b>	<b>\$77,215.75</b>
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The PRCG reports regularly on the progress of our Masterplan and other initiatives to our stakeholders and community through our website, Masterplan Dashboard, e-newsletter, social media channels and meetings.



# OUR REPRESENTATIVES

## PRCG CHAIR

Cr Mark Drury – Inner West Council  
(Nov. 2017 – present)

## PRCG VICE CHAIR

Cr Penny Pedersen – City of Ryde  
(Nov. 2017 – Dec. 2021)

## COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES

- Blacktown City Council: Cr Susai Benjamin, Cr Kathie Collins
- City of Canada Bay: Mayor Angelo Tsirekas, Cr Charles Jago
- City of Canterbury Bankstown: Cr Chris Cahill, Cr George Zakhia
- City of Parramatta: Cr Phil Bradley, Cr Kellie Darley, Cr Patricia Prociw
- City of Ryde: Cr Shweta Deshpande, Cr Penny Pedersen
- Cumberland City Council: Cr Glenn Elmore
- Hunter's Hill Council: Cr Jeff Saunderson, Cr Ross Williams
- Inner West Council: Cr Mark Drury, Cr Marghanita Da Cruz, Cr Phillipa Scott

## PARRAMATTA RIVER MASTERPLAN REFERENCE GROUP

- Cr Mark Drury – Co-Chair, Parramatta River Catchment Group
- Chris Gould – Co-Chair and General Manager Business Development, Sydney Water
- Steve Beaman – Director, Waste & Resource Recovery at NSW Environment Protection Authority
- Jim Bentley – Chief Executive, Water, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- Phillip Birtles – PRCG Executive Committee Member and Urban Water and Waterways Strategist, Sydney Water
- David Borger – Director, Business Western Sydney
- Steve Gal – Director, Partnerships and Operations, Aboriginal Affairs
- Nell Graham – Coordinator, Parramatta River Catchment Group
- Alex Campbell – Director, Central River City Transport for NSW
- The Hon. Dr (Geoff) Geoffrey Lee – Member for Parramatta
- Tracy Mackey – Chief Executive Officer, NSW Environment Protection Authority
- Andy Marks – Director, Centre for Western Sydney, Western Sydney University
- Peter Poulet – Central City & South Districts Commissioner, Greater Sydney Commission
- Prof Emer Bruce Thom – Chair, Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program (CMP) Steering Committee, University of Sydney
- Katrina Wall – A/Manager, Water Unit, Environmental Health, NSW Health
- John Warburton – Executive Director, City Assets & Operations, City of Parramatta

## STAFF REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBER AGENCIES

(Includes staff participating in the PRCG Full Group, subcommittees and technical groups)

- Blacktown City Council: Katrina Brown, Craig Bush, Camila Driberg, Mark Gibson, Kristy Good, Amanda Or, Julie Redhi, Amelia Tabrett
- Burwood Council: Pablo Barreto, Andrew McClure, Oliver Ellis, Tai Trinh, Ryan King
- City of Canada Bay: Ju'eta Amir, Kylie Burrows, John Earls, Joe Elkoury, Gregory Martin, Petrina Nelson, Jane Peacock, Daniel Wood
- City of Canterbury Bankstown: Catarina Fraga Matos, Nasi Laveta, David Lowery, Dean O'Mara, Asad Suman, Robyn Young
- City of Parramatta: Eric Brandao, Paul Graham, Paul Hackney, Glenn Haskins, Lisa Kollaras, Helen Papathanasiou, Stuart Pike, Bernadette Riad, Steven Ross
- City of Ryde: Katie Helm, Kylie McMahon, Ryan Moore, Sandra Payne, Tom Ramsey, Sean Simpson, Cameron Smith
- Cumberland City Council: Natalie Gray, Frances Hamilton, Joshua Hayden, Tim Nugyen, Stuart Nunn
- Department of Planning and Environment: Sally Anderson, Alfarid Hussain, Phoebe Laing
- NSW Environment Protection Authority: James Goodwin, Nathan Hale, Lisa Power, Phyllis Stylianou, Bernie Turner
- Hunter's Hill Council: Antonio Gigliotti, Jacqui Vollmer
- Inner West Council: Pilar Angon, Helen Knowles, Bang Le, Deborah Lennis, Luke Murtas, James Ogg
- Sydney Water: Phillip Birtles, Hannah McKnight, Veronica Mullane, Leanne Niblock, Lyndall Pickering, Nerida Taylor

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS AND KEY CONTRIBUTORS

- Birdlife Southern NSW: Judy Harrington
- Department of Primary Industries: Josi Hollywood
- Cooks River Alliance: Anston Ratnayake, Thomas Sinclair, Andrew Thomas, Claire Wheeler
- Georges Riverkeeper: Robert Dixon, Kalynda Georgiades, Marion Huxley, Scott Reyes, Beth Salt, Kirsten Spry
- Greater Sydney Local Land Services: Madeleine Florin
- Greater Sydney Coastal Management Program Chair: Prof Emer Bruce Thom
- Greater Sydney Landcare Network: Bev Debrincat
- Macquarie University: Dr Peter Davies
- Murama Healing Space: Mike Bartlett, Roberto Giunta, Dr John Hunter
- Office of Environment and Heritage: Daylan Cameron, Meredith Campey, Peter Freewater

- Parramatta Park and Western Sydney Parklands Trusts: David Kirkland
- Sydney Coastal Councils Group: Louise Castro, Cynthia Chan, Sarah Joyce, Jacqui McLeod, Ana Terrazas
- Sydney Olympic Park Authority: Mike Bartlett, Kerry Darcovich, Tina Hsu, Jenny O'Meara, Swapan Paul
- Transport for NSW (Maritime Services): Alex Campbell, Wayne Cartner, David Copley, Andrew Mogg
- University of Sydney: Dr Cameron Webb
- Western Sydney University: Dr Ricky Spencer

## COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

- Frank Breen – Ryde Hunter's Hill Flora and Fauna Preservation Society
- Dr Mark Clarton-Skinner – Burwood Canada Bay Climate Action Group, Canada Bay
- Kellie Darley – ParraParents
- Teresa Gustowski – Conservation Volunteers Australia, Bankstown
- Christina Rojas – Love your Place & Keen to be Clean, Canada Bay
- Julia Strykowski – The Plastic Pluckers, Parramatta

## OUR LIVING RIVER AMBASSADORS

- Dr Peter Davies – Macquarie University
- A/Prof Stuart Khan – University of New South Wales
- A/Prof Gavin Birch – University of Sydney
- Dr Ian Wright – Western Sydney University

## RIVERKEEPER AMBASSADORS

- Charlene Bordley – Addventageous
- Kellie Darley – ParraParents
- Julia Strykowski – The Plastic Pluckers

## PRCG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Craig Bush – Blacktown City Council
- Kylie McMahon – City of Ryde
- Luke Murtas – Inner West
- Petrina Nelson – City of Canada Bay
- Lyndall Pickering – Sydney Water
- Luke Wolstencroft – City of Parramatta

## SYDNEY WATER DELIVERY ENGINE

- Nerida Taylor – Delivery Engine Manager
- Leanne Niblock – Waterways Lead
- Hannah McKnight – Waterways Analyst
- Veronica Mullane – Western Sydney Development Graduate, Waterways

## PRCG STAFF

- Nell Graham, PRCG Coordinator
- Jasmine Payget, PRCG Riverkeeper
- Nadia Young, PRCG Communications Officer



# OUR THANKS

Thank you to all our members and supporters for their considerable efforts and commitment over the past year to make the Parramatta River swimmable again by 2025.

We also especially thank former City of Parramatta Council staff members Helen Papathanasiou and Paul Hackney for their commitment to the restoration of the Parramatta River and support of the Parramatta River Catchment Group since its inception in 2008. It is due to their vision and passion that we established the *Our Living River* initiative and developed the Parramatta River Masterplan. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

*Above (from left): Paul Hackney, Helen Papathanasiou, Nadia Young, Nerida Taylor, Nell Graham, Jasmine Payget, Leanne Niblock, Hannah McKnight, Phill Birtles.*

## FINANCIAL MEMBERS (2021-2022)



## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS AND OTHER KEY CONTRIBUTORS







**[ourlivingriver.com.au](http://ourlivingriver.com.au)**



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