

Media release

24 July 2018

Developers need to skill up on erosion and sediment control to help protect Sydney's waterways

With a high level of construction expected to continue across Sydney over the next few years, ongoing education of developers and builders about erosion and sediment control is critical to protecting our city's waterways.

Results from the May 2018 *Get the Site Right* compliance blitz show that there was a 75% compliance rate on sites where site managers had a good understanding of erosion and sediment control. This contrasted with sites where the site managers' understanding was poor and compliance was only 9%.

Education was also a factor in the improvement seen between repeat site inspections, where the compliance rate was only 42% at sites on first visit compared to 75% on the repeat visit.

Results also revealed that there were a number of developers with multiple sites across several local government areas (LGAs) that were given warnings to clean up most of their sites.

During the month-long campaign, a total of 746 sites were inspected across Sydney and the Central Coast, with \$212,412 in fines issued. On the one-day compliance blitz held on 16 May, more than 100 council officers were out in force and 498 sites were inspected.

Launched by the Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG) in 2016, *Get the Site Right* is supported by the Cooks River Alliance, Georges River Riverkeeper, Sydney Coastal Councils Group, Lake Macquarie City Council, NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Department of Planning & Environment, and 20 councils.

The campaign targets erosion and sediment control on construction and building sites, and also aims to raise awareness about the effects of sediment laden run-off on our waterways.

NSW EPA Regional Director Metropolitan Giselle Howard said the results from the latest campaign highlight the value of working together to raise awareness of erosion and sediment control and target large-scale offenders.

"When the next rain event arrives, the combined sediment that will stay on site instead of becoming a muddy slick in the nearest waterway smothering aquatic life, is a significant outcome of this campaign. Continued education and awareness will ensure that even more developers will maintain good practices," Ms Howard said.

PRCG Chair Mark Drury said that due to the high level of development in the Parramatta River catchment, it is vital that we implement measures to protect our waterways.

"*Get the Site Right* now covers almost two thirds of Sydney and parts of the Central Coast. By working across so many council areas, we can now see who the large-scale offenders are and take action as required," Mr Drury said.

"*Get the Site Right* is a great example of practical ways in which we can improve the health our local rivers and creeks to make them clean and safe places for everyone to enjoy."

"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 again by 2025."



LET'S MAKE OUR RIVER
SWIMMABLE AGAIN BY
2025



Members of the public can report pollution incidents, including poor sediment control, to the EPA's Environment Line on 131 555. More information on erosion and sediment control is available at:

www.ourlivingriver.com.au/getthesiteright

ENDS

Parramatta River Catchment Group media enquiries:

Nadia Young, PRCG Communications Officer

Phone: 9806 8241 / 0415 231 339

Email: nyoung@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au

EPA media enquiries:

Phone: (02) 9995 6415 (24-hour Media Line)

Email: publicaffairssection@epa.nsw.gov.au