

We're working together

Collaborating across our network to deliver positive outcomes for the Parramatta River and community

Established in 2008, The Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG) is an alliance of local and state government agencies and the community who are working together to make the Parramatta River swimmable again. Our financial members include:



The PRCG provides an overarching strategic and coordination role for the catchment, primarily focusing on events and activities where a collaborative effort can achieve better outcomes for the catchment rather than each agency working individually.

The PRCG's key areas of responsibility include:



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



JOINT DECISION MAKING

Since the PRCG's inception, our stakeholders and the community have been regularly involved in the decision making process, supported by evidence-based science. This method enables a wholistic approach to catchment and river management and fosters a culture of engagement, accountability and transparency.



COLLABORATING ACROSS CATCHMENTS

Cross-catchment projects such as the education and compliance campaign, *Get the Site Right*, enable us to share local knowledge, practices and resources to deliver greater catchment management outcomes. Joint advocacy on common issues aims to achieve strategic, long-term and sustainable regional improvements.



FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS

Building strong relationships with like-minded organisations, community groups and individuals, such as Murama Healing Space, allows us to advocate and collaborate on common projects and issues, and draw on a wide range of expertise and resources, so we can deliver comprehensive and sustainable solutions for the Parramatta River.



COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORTING

The PRCG offers its member agencies a strategic, consistent and transparent approach to catchment and river management, by delivering leadership in multi-agency collaboration, providing a cohesive voice for advocacy at all levels of government, prioritising projects and actions, and sourcing opportunities for funding.



BUILDING CAPACITY

As part of the services we provide to our member agencies, community groups and volunteers, we offer opportunities for training, networking and access to best practice research, publications, tools and resources. This approach aims to build knowledge, engagement and support for our mission to make the Parramatta River swimmable again.



ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITIES

Through hosting, supporting and promoting events and activities in the Parramatta River catchment, such as our annual *Riverfest* and Riverkeeper Network, we aim to educate, encourage and empower the community to connect with their local waterways and surrounding environment and contribute to their conservation and sustainability.



The Parramatta River Masterplan

The Parramatta River has seen significant changes over time. While advances in regulation and technology have led to improvements in the river's condition, projected population growth and development could see these improvements reversed unless a proactive, catchment-wide approach is implemented.

Launched in October 2018, *Duba, Budu, Barra: Ten Steps to a Living River – the Parramatta River Masterplan* is a comprehensive strategy based on robust science, collaboration, cultural sensitivity and community decision making.

The 'ten steps' include improvements in stormwater runoff, planning controls, sewer overflows and community education – raising awareness through leadership and stakeholder engagement.

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|  1. Get Swimming |  6. Improve Overflows |
|  2. Keep Watch |  7. Involve the Community |
|  3. Create New Swimming Spots |  8. Bring in Nature |
|  4. Standardise the Standards |  9. Report Back Regularly |
|  5. Reduce Runoff |  10. Create Clear Leadership |

Development of the Masterplan has been led by the PRCG with substantial input and support from stakeholders and community members across the catchment. Sydney Water has been appointed as the lead agency to drive delivery of the Masterplan and has provided significant additional resources to accelerate implementation within the delivery timeframe.

The Masterplan is specifically referenced in several local council plans as well as key state planning documents, including the three relevant District Plans and the EPA Strategic Plan. It is also consistent with the OEH/EPA Risk-based framework for considering waterway health outcomes in strategic land-use planning decisions.

The Parramatta River belongs to all of us

Our mission to make the Parramatta River swimmable again is dependent on the continued support from our valued member agencies and the broader community.

As we progress with the delivery of our Masterplan, we welcome all organisations and individuals who would like contribute to this significant and worthwhile project.

You can help in all sorts of ways from:

- Taking the 'River Aware' pledge
- Becoming a Riverkeeper Ambassador
- Volunteering at one of our events
- Partnering with us on a project or event
- Joining the Riverkeeper Network
- Becoming a PRCG member organisation



Benefits for organisations

Being a PRCG member organisation or partnering with us on one of our projects or events offers a unique opportunity to contribute to the improvement of one of Australia's most iconic waterways. Partnerships enable collaboration and resource sharing to deliver mutually strategic outcomes for the catchment, provide professional development and networking opportunities and foster goodwill with the community.



Benefits for community groups

We're always interested to hear from relevant community groups in the Parramatta River catchment who would like to get involved. Many of our events and projects, including our annual *Riverfest*, can provide opportunities to promote your activities, attract new members, obtain resources and support and improve your long-term sustainability.



Benefits for individuals

Whether you're passionate about the river and local environment, love being outdoors or just want to try something new, there's so many reasons to get involved! Volunteering is a great way to learn new skills, help your community, make friends and have fun!

Your contribution, no matter how small, will help make the Parramatta River a safe and enjoyable place for everyone. To find out more, visit:



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The Parramatta River Catchment Group

