

## MEDIA RELEASE

1 December 2020

### **Regional litter prevention strategy creates a cohesive approach to cleaning up Greater Sydney Harbour**

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group (SCCG) and Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG) have been successful in securing a \$90,000 grant from the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) in the *Own It and Act: Round 6 Community Litter Grant funding stream*.

The grant will fund the development of a Regional Litter Prevention Strategy (RLPS) for the Greater Sydney Harbour catchment.

Over the next five years, the strategy aims to reduce litter to Greater Sydney Harbour and the Parramatta and Lane Cove Rivers by 50 per cent – equivalent to half the 2,150 cubic metres of marine debris collected by the Maritime Environmental Services in 2019 which would fill almost half an Olympic-sized swimming pool.

The strategy will create a unified and coordinated approach to litter prevention across the Greater Sydney Harbour catchments, by establishing clear actions and programs that can be embedded in all participating councils and community organisations.

Community engagement and involvement are also a key part of the strategy, through the development of training and riverkeeper ambassador programs, foreshore clean-ups, and litter enforcement campaigns.

Actions within the strategy will be tested with community organisations and businesses in three pilot council areas, before being rolled out to all remaining member councils of the SCCG and PRCG across the Greater Sydney Harbour region.

SCCG Chair, Councillor Lindsay Shurey, said that the Regional Litter Prevention Strategy will provide clear leadership, planning and commitment in key areas where there is currently little or no consistency.

“Several of our member organisations and community groups have achieved some great work in litter reduction over the past few years,” Cr Lindsay Shurey said.

“By developing a Regional Litter Prevention Strategy, we have a unique opportunity to create a single vision and business case for litter prevention activities and resourcing across the catchments to achieve long-term and sustainable outcomes for our waterways.”

PRCG Chair, Councillor Mark Drury, said that the Regional Litter Prevention Strategy is an excellent example of organisations working together to address this common issue.

“Much of the litter that is not removed from the Parramatta River ends up in Sydney Harbour, so it is essential that we take a joint approach to developing a litter prevention strategy,” Cr Drury said.

“The strategy also aligns well with the Parramatta River Masterplan, particularly in relation to reducing the litter and other pollution carried by stormwater runoff, and educating and empowering the community to assist with litter reduction.”

The Regional Litter Prevention Strategy will be coordinated by a project officer who will collaborate with key stakeholders and develop the strategy under the direction of the RLPS Steering Committee. The project is expected to commence in early 2021.

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