

Media Release

For immediate release

Parramatta River Masterplan wins National Stormwater Award

The Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG) is thrilled to announce that our Masterplan for the Parramatta River has been awarded the 2021 Stormwater National Awards for Excellence in Strategic or Master Planning.

Duba, Budu, Barra: Ten steps to a living river – the Parramatta River Masterplan is a comprehensive strategy based on evidence-based science, cultural sensitivity, community engagement and collaborative decision making.

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

The award reflects the considerable research, planning and engagement that went into the development of the Masterplan by the PRCG's member agencies, including the 11 member councils in the Parramatta River catchment, Sydney Water, NSW Environment Protection Authority, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, and more than 20 affiliated organisations and community groups.

PRCG Chair, Cr Mark Drury, said the award is a fitting recognition of the significant contribution and collaboration by our member organisations.

"The development of the Masterplan would not have been possible without the shared vision, cooperation and commitment by our member councils, government agencies and community groups to make the Parramatta River swimmable again by 2025," Cr Drury said.

"I would also like to acknowledge the former PRCG Coordinator, Sarah Holland Clift, who led the Masterplan development, securing the support of 35 partner agencies and raising awareness of the *Our Living River* initiative through her advocacy on issues affecting the river and catchment."

Launched in October 2018, the Masterplan delivery is being led by Sydney Water. Over the past two years, significant progress has been made on the construction of new swim sites, development of a Riverwatch water monitoring program, and establishment of a whole of catchment land use policy and statutory planning mechanisms. The PRCG also continues to engage with the community to raise awareness of issues affecting the river through initiatives such as the *Get the Site Right* education and compliance campaign, Changemakers Course, and Litter Prevention Strategy for Greater Sydney Harbour.

About the Parramatta River Catchment Group

The Parramatta River Catchment Group is an alliance of local councils, state government agencies and community groups who, through the *Our Living River* initiative, is working to make the Parramatta River swimmable again by 2025.

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