



LET'S MAKE OUR RIVER
SWIMMABLE AGAIN BY
2025



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Builders and developers urged to prioritise sediment runoff control checks to protect Sydney's waterways

As the construction industry picks up the pace following the recent COVID-19 lockdown and rainfall surge, results from the November *Get the Site Right* inspection blitz show that more effort is needed by builders and developers to improve erosion and sediment controls on their sites.

Seventeen councils across Sydney and the Hunter Coast took part in the week-long education and compliance campaign with officers inspecting almost 500 residential and commercial sites.

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.

As a part of the campaign, the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) also undertook site inspections of state significant developments, including residential sites, schools, rail and linear infrastructure projects.

Parramatta River Catchment Group Coordinator, Nell Graham, said that with the increase in building activity and forecast of more rain in coming months, it is vital that builders and developers install and maintain appropriate controls on their sites.

"We appreciate the significant challenges experienced by the construction industry over the last six months," Ms Graham said.

"However, it's important that builders and developers understand the ongoing role they play in preventing sediment laden runoff from polluting local waterways and harming marine life. We'll continue to work with councils, the EPA and DPIE to educate and encourage builders and developers on best-practice erosion and sediment controls."

Now in its sixth year, Get the Site Right is a joint campaign between the Cooks River Alliance, Department of Planning, Industry & Environment, Georges Riverkeeper, NSW Environment Protection Authority, Parramatta River Catchment Group, Sydney Coastal Councils Group, local Sydney councils, and Lake Macquarie Council.

In 2022 the campaign will be joined by Wollongong City and Shellharbour City Councils.

Members of the public are encouraged to report pollution incidents, including poor sediment control, to their local council or the EPA's 24/7 Environment Line on 131 555.

– ENDS –

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Get the Site Right November 2021 inspection results

Participating agencies: 18

Sites inspected: 495

Compliant sites: 311 (63%)

Non-compliant sites: 184 (37%)

Fines issued: \$119,600

Site managers present at time of inspection with a satisfactory or higher understanding of erosion and sediment controls: 88%

Participating agencies: Blacktown City Council, City of Canada Bay, City of Canterbury-Bankstown, City of Parramatta, City of Ryde, Cumberland City Council, Georges River Council, Inner West Council, Lake Macquarie City Council, Liverpool City Council, Northern Beaches Council, North Sydney Council, Strathfield Council, Sutherland Shire Council, Waverley Council, Willoughby City Council, Woollahra Municipal Council, Department of Planning, Industry & Environment.