

MEDIA RELEASE

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Community litter grant to help put litter in its place for Greater Sydney Harbour

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group (SCCG) and Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG) have been successful in securing \$130,000 in grant funding through the NSW Environment Protection Authority's Community Litter Grants Program. This project is a NSW Environment Protection Authority, Waste Less Recycle More initiative funded from the waste levy.

The program provides support for local councils and community groups to deliver on-ground and strategic litter prevention projects, including initiatives to target littering hotspots and the materials that contribute most to littering in NSW.

The program also aims to assist litter reduction targets in the NSW Government's Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041, including a 30% reduction in plastic litter by 2025, and a 60% reduction of all litter items by 2030.

The grant funding will support two initiatives as part of the Greater Sydney Harbour Litter Prevention Strategy:

1. Regional Coordinator for the Greater Sydney Harbour Litter Prevention Strategy: A regional coordinator will be appointed to work with local councils, state government agencies and community groups on the implementation of litter prevention strategies and actions that were developed in the first stage of the strategy.

2. Making a Change for Greener Gatherings in Parks: The initiative will engage local community group 'Greener Gatherings' to help raise awareness about sustainable alternatives to single-use plastics for picnics, parties and other events. The program will be trialled at three parks in the Parramatta River catchment. Greener Gatherings was launched in 2021 as part of the Parramatta River Catchment Group's inaugural Changemakers Course.

SCCG Executive Officer, Sarah Joyce, said that the appointment of a regional coordinator for the implementation of the Greater Sydney Harbour Litter Prevention Strategy was an important next step in progressing the holistic approach to reducing litter and its impact on our waterways.

"In order to achieve real and lasting environmental benefits for Greater Sydney Harbour, it is essential that local and state government agencies and the community work together on an integrated plan to address the common issue of litter reduction and prevention."

PRCG Coordinator, Nell Graham, said that on-ground projects such as Greener Gatherings are essential to achieving positive behavioural change around litter and littering.

“A key part of encouraging the community to take responsibility for their litter is through raising awareness of the impact of littering on wildlife and the local environment, empowering them to take pride in their local area, and suggesting easy and inexpensive ways to reduce their reliance on single-use plastics.”

The Greener Gatherings on-ground litter prevention project will be rolled out in mid-2022. The Greater Sydney Harbour Litter Prevention Strategy is expected to be implemented by 2030.

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