

## Media Release

23 March 2023

### **Parramatta River Catchment Group welcomes NSW Labor Party's pledge to fund key elements of the Parramatta River Masterplan**

The Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG) has welcomed the announcement by Shadow Minister for Water, Rose Jackson, to pledge \$2.6 million over the next four years to fund essential work to improve water quality in the Parramatta River and other waterways across NSW.

The funding consists of \$1.8 million for the PRCG to accelerate the delivery of several key projects that feed into the Parramatta River Masterplan. These include:

- supporting stormwater compliance and education
- providing funding for riverbank naturalisation.

A further \$800,000 will be provided to citizen science water testing programs Steamwatch and Waterwatch to support additional water quality monitoring in urban and regional waterways across NSW, including the Parramatta River.

In 2018 the PRCG launched a ten-step Masterplan working closely with partner councils and state government agencies to address different aspects of ecological and waterway health, in areas such as stormwater management, litter prevention, water sensitive urban design, and land-use planning.

PRCG Chair, Cr Mark Drury, said that an investment of this size is needed if we are to progress our mission to make the Parramatta River swimmable again.

“Stormwater runoff is a major contributor to pollution in the Parramatta River,” Cr Drury said.

“Increasing tighter controls and raising awareness of the effects of stormwater runoff on water quality is critical if we want to improve the health of the river for wildlife and the community to thrive.”

“Providing more opportunities for community engagement through citizen science programs such as Streamwatch is also essential if we want people to care for their local waterways and environment.”

The PRCG urges other parties to announce a similar proposal to invest in the future of the Parramatta River and our other urban rivers and waterways.

### **About the Parramatta River Catchment Group**

The PRCG is an alliance of local and state government agencies and community groups that are working together to improve health of the Parramatta River and its tributaries. Members include: Blacktown City Council, Burwood Council, City of Canterbury-Bankstown Council, City of Canada Bay Council, City of Parramatta Council, City of Ryde Council, Cumberland City Council, Hunter's Hill Council, Inner West Council, Strathfield Municipal Council, Sydney Water, Department of Planning and Environment, and Environment Protection Authority. For more information visit: [www.ourlivingriver.com.au](http://www.ourlivingriver.com.au).

– ENDS –

### **Parramatta River Catchment Group media enquiries:**

Nadia Young  
PRCG Coordinator (Acting)  
Phone: 0415 231 339  
Email: [Nadia.young@ourlivingriver.com.au](mailto:Nadia.young@ourlivingriver.com.au)