

Media Release

For immediate release

Western Sydney 'rivers report' timely ahead of more swim sites for Parramatta River

The release of Business Western Sydney's *Our Rivers* report, calling for more river swimming and aquatic recreation sites in Western Sydney, coincides with the upcoming openings of two new swim sites on the Parramatta River in late 2024.

Hunter's Hill and City of Ryde Councils are progressing the construction of netted enclosures for their swimming baths at Gladesville and Putney, respectively.

The new swim sites will cap off celebrations for the 10th anniversary of the Parramatta River Catchment Group's 'Our Living River' mission to make the Parramatta River swimmable again.

Over the past decade, the PRCG has worked with local and state government agencies and community groups to improve water quality in the river, leading to the openings of Lake Parramatta in 2015 and Bayview Park Baths in 2022. Lake Parramatta will reopen for this year's swim season on 26 October, following extensive upgrades to enhance access and amenities that highlight its value to the local community.

The PRCG will soon commence work on planning its next masterplan focusing on climate change adaptation and strengthening connections to Country. Swimming remains a key priority with two additional swim sites planned at Callan Park in Lilyfield and Mort Bay in Birchgrove over the next few years.

PRCG Coordinator, Alexi Gilchrist, welcomes Business Western Sydney's efforts to extend the conversation around creating more places for Western Sydney communities to swim.

"Healthy waterways are the backbone of resilient communities. With the dual pressures of climate change and a growing population, equitable access to swim sites is vital for liveability in Western Sydney. However, this can only be achieved with significant investment in the governance, environment, and infrastructure of the region," Mr Gilchrist said.

"As the Parramatta River Catchment Group prepares for another exciting decade, we look forward to collaborating with our member agencies and Western Sydney Rivers Taskforce to advocate for better outcomes for our waterways and communities."

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About the Parramatta River Catchment Group:

The Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG) is a member-based alliance of local and state government agencies and community groups that are working together to improve the waterway and ecological health of the catchment. The PRCG delivers projects and activities that aim to improve water quality and biodiversity, stormwater and wastewater management, water sensitive urban design, land-use planning, and litter prevention.