

MEDIA RELEASE

13 January 2025

Putney Beach: new swimming spot on the Parramatta River, with more to come

As Sydney continues to experience above-average summer temperatures, a new swimming spot on the Parramatta River opens this weekend, providing residents with an additional place to cool off.¹

Putney Beach, located in the City of Ryde, will officially open to the public on Saturday, 18 January. To mark the occasion, a community celebration is being held from 10am to 1pm, featuring a Welcome to Country and Smoking/Water ceremony, official opening and plaque unveiling, 'Splash and Play' prize giveaway, beach trivia, floaty races, live music, and much more.

The new swim site includes a netted swim enclosure, outdoor shower facilities, and easy access to the foreshore. It complements the popular Putney Park, which offers lush grassy areas and restored bushland, picnic spots, walking tracks, and children's playgrounds.

Putney Beach is the result of years of research and planning by the Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG) to improve the health of the Parramatta River. In 2018, the PRCG launched a comprehensive ten-step masterplan to address key issues affecting waterway health such as litter prevention, stormwater management, water-sensitive urban design, and land-use planning.

Over the past several years, the City of Ryde has collaborated with Sydney Water, NSW Health, and the NSW Environment Protection Authority to conduct extensive water quality testing and monitoring, ensuring the site is safe for swimming and other aquatic activities.

Swimmers can check the daily water quality forecast for Putney Beach via the PRCG's [Our Living River website](#), the City of Ryde's [interactive water quality dashboard](#), or Sydney Water's [Urban Plunge website](#).

It is recommended to avoid swimming in the Parramatta River or other local waterways for up to three days following heavy rainfall.

PRCG Coordinator Alexi Gilchrist said the opening of Putney Beach is a major step forward in the mission to make the Parramatta River swimmable again.

“We are working to create a world-class river for Sydney – one with clean, safe water that offers free places for swimming and other recreation, supports thriving ecosystems, and contributes to a more liveable and sustainable city for future generations,” Mr Gilchrist said.

“We are also committed to providing more accessible swim spots for the residents of Western Sydney. Community research conducted during our masterplanning process showed that 54% of those surveyed would prefer to swim in the Parramatta River if it was half as far away as the beach,” he added.

Plans are already underway for more swimming opportunities, with construction soon to begin on swimming baths at Bedlam Bay in Gladesville. Additionally, new swim sites are being considered for Callan Park in Lilyfield and Mort Bay in Birchgrove.

Putney Beach has been jointly funded by the NSW Government's [Places to Swim program](#) in association with the City of Ryde.

¹<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/outlooks/>

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About the PRCG

The PRCG is an alliance of local and state government agencies and community groups that are working together to improve the 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 Council, Hunter's Hill Council, Inner West Council, Strathfield Municipal Council, Sydney Water, and NSW Environment Protection Authority. For more information, visit: www.ourlivingriver.com.au.