

**MEDIA RELEASE****17 April 2025**

## **New swim site for Cockatoo Island welcomed by Parramatta River Catchment Group**

The Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG) has welcomed a major announcement by Federal Minister for the Environment and Water, Tanya Plibersek, regarding a new public swim site at Cockatoo Island (Wareamah).

Unveiled on Saturday 12 April, the proposed project will see a former shipyard slipway transformed into a safe swimming area and a launch point for kayaks and small boats. The initiative is part of a broader masterplan to revitalise the island, including relocating the campground to create a new waterfront park and draining a dock for light shows celebrating the island's industrial heritage.

The announcement comes as water quality continues to improve in the Parramatta River and Sydney Harbour, with increasing marine biodiversity a clear sign of progress. Minister Plibersek emphasised the importance of accessible, free public swim sites as part of a cleaner, healthier harbour.

PRCG Chair, Councillor Penny Pedersen, praised the announcement and reiterated the group's ongoing support for more swimmable locations along the Parramatta River.

"This is an important step toward making our waterways more accessible and enjoyable for everyone," Cr Pedersen said.

"Cockatoo Island is rich in history and cultural significance, and we're proud to work with the Harbour Trust and our partners to help revitalise this important river landmark. The PRCG believes Sydney deserves a world-class river, and a new swim site at Cockatoo Island is a key step toward making that vision a reality."

Known to Sydney's First Nations people as Wareamah, Cockatoo Island lies at the confluence of the Parramatta and Lane Cove Rivers. Once a convict penal establishment and shipyard, the island is now a significant cultural and historical landmark.

The PRCG looks forward to supporting the development of this new swim site and continuing its work to restore the health of the Parramatta River for current and future generations.

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**Parramatta River**  
Catchment Group



**LET'S MAKE OUR RIVER  
SWIMMABLE AGAIN BY  
2025**

**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 dedicated to improving the waterway and ecological health of the catchment. The PRCG focuses on initiatives that aim to improve water quality and stormwater management, promote water-sensitive urban design, regulate land-use planning, boost biodiversity, and prevent litter.

Current financial members: 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.

**Media enquiries:**

Nadia Young

Senior Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Officer

Phone: 0415 231 339

Email: [nadia.young@ourlivingriver.com.au](mailto:nadia.young@ourlivingriver.com.au)

Web: [ourlivingriver.com.au](http://ourlivingriver.com.au)