



1 Co-operative approach to rescue river

BIRDS, bees, bugs and trees don't pay rates but they are important residents of the Parramatta River catchment.

To meet the special environmental needs of these, and other residents, 11 councils and six NSW Government agencies have joined forces to improve the health of the Parramatta River.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by members of the Parramatta River Catchment Group setting out how to co-ordinate natural resource management on a catchment-wide basis.

Member organisations of the Parramatta River Catchment Group are the councils of Ashfield, Auburn, Bankstown, Blacktown, Canada Bay, Holroyd, Hunters Hill, Leichhardt, Parramatta, Ryde and Strathfield, as well as Sydney Water, Parramatta Park Trust, NSW Maritime, NSW Fire Brigades, Office of Water and the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority.

Representatives from indigenous and environmental community groups have been involved, too. The benefits of working

together on a catchment-wide basis include cost-efficiencies; pooling of resources such as staff time and technical expertise; exchange of professional information; a stronger collective voice; an effective basis to apply for funding; and closer links with affiliated agencies.

A combined approach will also assist councils and agencies to meet their obligations towards targets for natural resource management as outlined in the NSW State Plan and the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority's Catchment Action Plan.

The group will undertake projects that assist in addressing one or more issues affecting the local environment, such as stormwater pollution, enhancing biodiversity corridors or environmental education initiatives.

Many natural resource management issues exist across the catchment and a collaborative approach is essential.

For more information on the group visit parramattariver.org.au

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