



Lower Parramatta River Estuary

What is the Purpose of this Survey? – Parramatta City Council is currently leading a team of local Council's working towards developing a management plan for the Lower Parramatta River. We are asking for your feedback on what features of the Lower Parramatta River are important to you so that we can make sure that management of the river is in line with the community's expectations and values.

As a user of the Lower Parramatta River, you may feel that some things could be improved upon. Alternatively, you may wish to ensure that some locations along the river retain their characteristic features. Feedback from the community, Councils' and other stakeholders will form the basis of the objectives and actions developed for the Lower Parramatta River Estuary Management Plan.

Estuary Management – Whilst estuaries such as the Lower Parramatta River are enjoyed by many, their proximity to urban and residential areas means that they are easily impacted by activities that occur on the land. This includes activities on private properties, as well as on Council-owned lands, and areas where businesses and industry are located. To effectively manage the Lower Parramatta River, measures that aim to both maintain and improve upon the existing quality of the estuary will be investigated.

Estuary Characteristics – The Lower Parramatta River is the largest river entering Sydney Harbour. The tidal portion of the river, between the Charles Street weir at Parramatta and the commencement of the river at Cockatoo Island, forms an estuary where freshwater and seawater mix.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is an estuary? An estuary is the downstream, tidal portion of a river and is the interface between the terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments.

What areas are included in the Data Compilation Study? The tidal reaches of the Lower Parramatta River, between Cockatoo Island and the weir at Parramatta, including all embayments, islands and adjacent foreshore areas. Key sites include Cockatoo and Spectacle Islands, Iron Cove, Hen and Chicken Bay, Homebush Bay, Millenium Parklands and Duck River. However, the wider Lower Parramatta River catchment (i.e. the land draining to the river) will also be considered. Catchment processes, such as flooding, stormwater runoff and land use can have a significant impact on the river.

What is meant by the term "estuary values and significance"? The attached survey asks for your feedback on what features of the estuary are important to you. In terms of their value and significance, the features of an estuary may fall into several categories. For example, Water Quality may address each of the following components:

- Aesthetics (as it relates to the visual appearance of the waterway),
- Recreational water quality, for swimming or boating, or
- Maintenance of aquatic ecosystem health.

You may find that you find that one of these components is especially important to you, while other components are less so. The information you provide will be used to rank the list of management issues for the Lower Parramatta River.

What is the outcome of the Data Compilation Study? The study aims to identify and review all historic and current studies, reports and data relating to the Lower Parramatta River. Once this information has been compiled, any data gaps will be identified. This study will be used, in conjunction with any further estuary processes studies, to develop an understanding of how the estuary functions and how it is used by the public and industry. In addition, a preliminary list of management issues will be identified.

More Details? Contact Anthony Collins at Parramatta City Council on 9806 5558.

Community Feedback

Local residents' knowledge is very valuable; please take the time to fill in this feedback form.

Please return by **FRIDAY 16 MAY 2008.**

Could you please provide us with the following details? We may wish to contact you to discuss some of the information with you. Please be assured your details will remain confidential.

Name: _____ Daytime Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Postcode: _____

As a local resident and (probably) having been a frequent visitor to the Lower Parramatta River foreshore and regularly used the facilities located there, you are likely to have some ideas about what features of the River are important to you. Please allocate a priority to each of the features listed below according to how you rate the value or significance of that particular feature. Please also provide comments where required.

Estuary Features	Priority (Please Circle)			Comments
	High	Medium	Low	
Public access to the Lower Parramatta River foreshores.	High	Medium	Low	
Aesthetic water quality (i.e. how it looks).	High	Medium	Low	
Provision of foreshore and aquatic vegetation (e.g. saltmarshes) as habitat for animals.	High	Medium	Low	
Passive recreational use of foreshore open spaces (e.g. for walking or picnicking).	High	Medium	Low	
Further promotion of the history of the Parramatta River.	High	Medium	Low	
Preservation of iconic views or features along the river.	High	Medium	Low	
Protection of foreshore lands from inundation and/or projected sea level rise.	High	Medium	Low	
Use of the waterway as a transport corridor (e.g. by the RiverCat or private vessels).	High	Medium	Low	
Water quality for aquatic ecosystem health.	High	Medium	Low	
Active recreational use of foreshore open spaces (e.g. for cycling or fishing).	High	Medium	Low	
Promotion of the Parramatta River as a tourist destination.	High	Medium	Low	
Maintaining and enhancing areas of natural vegetation.	High	Medium	Low	
Management of pollutants and sedimentation associated with creeks and stormwater outlets.	High	Medium	Low	



Lower Parramatta River Estuary Data Compilation Study

Community Information Guide and Feedback Form

April 2008



Estuary Attribute or Feature	Priority (Please Circle)			Comments
	High	Medium	Low	
Water quality for recreational purposes, such as fishing, swimming or boating.	High	Medium	Low	
Promotion of the natural features of the river.	High	Medium	Low	
Use of the waterway for private boating activities.	High	Medium	Low	
The provision of boating facilities such as boat ramps, moorings and dinghy storage areas.	High	Medium	Low	
Protection of parts of the foreshore and waterway for ecological conservation.	High	Medium	Low	
Adequacy of foreshore facilities and infrastructure (e.g. public toilets, pathways, picnic/BBQ areas, etc.)	High	Medium	Low	
Management of pest species (e.g. weeds, foxes) as a part of an overarching conservation strategy.	High	Medium	Low	
Mitigation of bank erosion and protection of both public and private property.	High	Medium	Low	
Balanced recreational and commercial usage of the Parramatta River and it's foreshores.	High	Medium	Low	
Enhanced promotion and conservation of heritage sites along the foreshore, both European and Aboriginal.	High	Medium	Low	
Maintenance of natural foreshore areas.	High	Medium	Low	

We would also be grateful if you could provide some general information about your use of the Lower Parramatta River:

	(Please Circle)			Comments
	Never	1-3 visits per month	3+ visits per month	
Do you visit the Lower Parramatta River?				
If yes, for what purpose?	Picnic Boating Transport	Swimming Admire the View Other (provide details)	Walk/Run/Bike Fishing	

Additional comments are also welcome. Please attach additional pages as required.
Please fill out, tear off and return by Friday 16th May 2008 to:

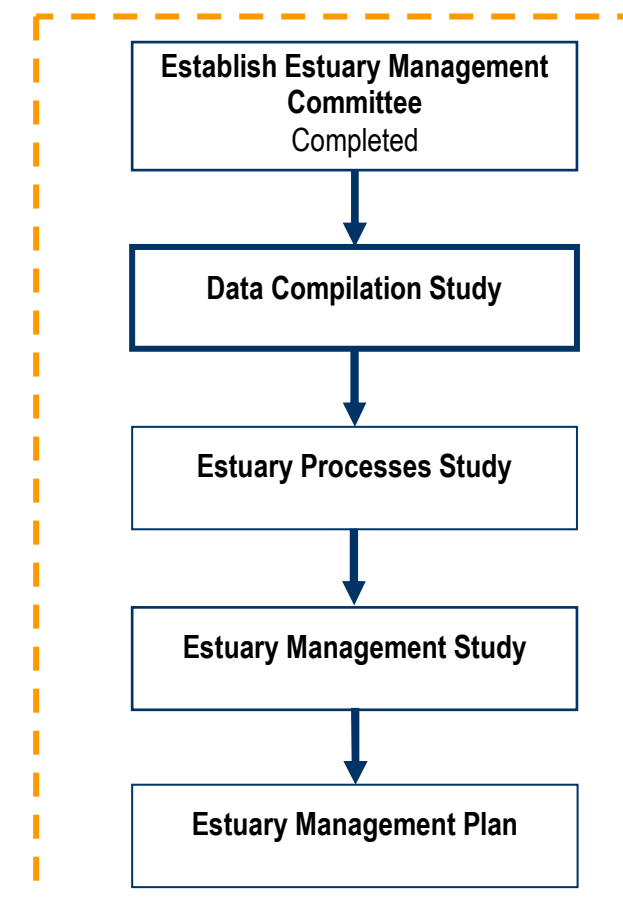
Cardno Lawson Treloar
910 Pacific Highway, Gordon NSW 2072
Fax: 9499 3033

OR email your comments to: acollins@parracity.nsw.gov.au.



Lower Parramatta River Estuary Data Compilation Study

Parramatta City Council is leading a Data Compilation Study and Review in relation to the Lower Parramatta River, with support provided by the other Councils located on the river foreshores. This study is being conducted as part of the estuary management process, which is part of the NSW State Government's Rivers and Estuaries Policy and is comprised of the following stages:



As part of this process, Council has engaged **Cardno Lawson Treloar** Pty Ltd to prepare the Data Compilation Study for the Lower Parramatta River.



This study is being prepared under the guidance of the **Parramatta River Estuary Management Committee**, which is convened by Parramatta City Council, and consists of community representatives, technical staff from all the Councils with foreshore frontage, as well as those from the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change, and other key stakeholders who operate on the Lower Parramatta River foreshores or waterways.

The Data Compilation Study will review the available data relating to the Lower Parramatta River and recommend further studies as required.