

# STORMWATER NSW

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12 February 2015

UrbanGrowth NSW,  
Parramatta Road Urban Renewal  
PO Box 237, Parramatta NSW 2124

**Re: Draft Parramatta Road Strategy.**

I am writing to you on behalf of Stormwater NSW, on the draft Parramatta Road Strategy.

Stormwater NSW is a peak industry association with membership including most of the councils in the Greater Sydney Region, as well as numerous consulting and manufacturing companies. The aim of Stormwater NSW is to enable local practitioners and the broader community to learn about available stormwater management and quality technologies. Stormwater NSW is supported by the National Association and a strong network of state associations in Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.

Stormwater NSW is concerned by the lack of consideration of the increasing development on the waterways that drain to the Parramatta River, and the missed opportunity in managing the stormwater runoff from this redevelopment. If unchecked this densification will have a significant impact on the water quality of the local waterways, as well as the aesthetics and amenity provided by those waterways and associated open space areas.

A key issue for the Stormwater Industry is the pollution from the vehicles and densification of urban development that will lead to increasing stormwater pollution flowing to the nine waterways that cross Parramatta Road, including:

- Johnstons Creek
- Hawthorne Canal
- Iron Cove Creek
- Powells Creek
- Saleyrd Creek
- Haslams Creek
- Duck River
- Duck Creek
- A'Becketts Creek

Increase in urban area and the densification of existing areas via a traditional urban form will have a detrimental impact on liveability, particularly as pressure is placed on the remaining natural systems. The role of vegetation and green space in urban areas, whether in the form of constructed parklands or natural bush remnants, has long been understood to contribute to improved health and wellbeing.

Open spaces of Sydney are already under significant pressure from an increase in residents and apartment living. There is an opportunity for clever urban design focused around the urban water cycle to maintain, improve and re-discover the liveability outcomes from these spaces. Some examples include:

- Maintaining recreational sports areas to a high standard facilitated by alternate irrigation water sources.

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- The significant overlap with forested open space and the rivers and creek corridors. Management of stormwater impacts is essential to create safe, beautiful spaces. Public access to natural vegetation and green space are contributors to liveability (West and Jones 2009).
- Integrated servicing creates opportunities to create new open space, irrigated from alternate water services
- WSUD encourages greenspace within the city context to shade and cool the city via the integration of water systems such as raingardens, urban wetlands and, vegetated roof and walls and the incorporation of vegetation in streetscapes.

This approach is consistent with the Plan for Growing Sydney (December 2014), which creates a vision for 2031 for Sydney to become a strong global city, a great place to live. Further the superseded Draft Metro Strategy (2013) called for the application of Water Sensitive Urban Design to integrate urban water cycle considerations with the planning and urban design for growth centres and urban renewal.

Water Sensitive Urban Design is also consistent with the broadening community call for improved waterways and environment across the Sydney Region. In both the Parramatta and the Cooks Rivers there is strong community support for swimming in the River. This support is based on the knowledge of the community swimming in those areas over 100 years ago, and witnessed by the Lord Mayor of Parramatta Council launching a program to bring back swimming to the Parramatta River.

We call on UrbanGrowth NSW to have clear consideration of the impacts of the proposed development on the water cycle and the local waterways. In the first instance there needs to be clear **Water Sensitive Urban Design** planning controls on all development to address their impact on the urban water cycle and treat stormwater pollution. These strategies should be linked to a regional stormwater and integrated water management strategy for all elements of the urban water cycle, and be developed in consultation with local government.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 0413 609 722 or [richard.mcmanus@stormwater.asn.au](mailto:richard.mcmanus@stormwater.asn.au).

Yours sincerely,



Richard McManus  
President  
**Stormwater NSW**