

31 August 2017

Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001

Sydney Water's submission to Department of Planning and Environment on Greater Parramatta Interim Land Use and Infrastructure Implementation Plan

To who it may concern

We welcome the opportunity to provide a submission to the Department of Planning and Environment's Greater Parramatta Interim Land Use and Infrastructure Implementation Plan (the Plan).

Sydney Water strongly supports the collaborative work of the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE), the City of Parramatta Council and Greater Sydney Commission (GSC) in producing this Plan. We are appreciative of what has been delivered, and what can be achieved through collaboration and a focus on city / catchment outcomes.

Sydney Water is committed to providing the water infrastructure, and supporting the vision of GSC and DPE, to accommodate more jobs, homes and essentials in the proposed Greater Parramatta Priority Growth Area.

As outlined in this submission, we are extremely keen to work with the Department of Planning and Environment to further improve the Plan, and deliver key elements of the Plan. Sydney Water looks forward to providing feedback to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Sydney Region Growth Centres).

If you need any further information about this submission please contact Paul Mulley at paul.mulley@sydneywater.com.au, or 8849 5327.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Port
Head of Development and Infrastructure Portfolio Services

Attachment: Sydney Water's detailed submission on the Draft District Plans

Introduction and summary of our submission

Sydney Water supports the DPE's Interim Plan and vision for Greater Parramatta.

Water is essential to achieving the Plans' vision for a productive, liveable and sustainable city and to accommodate more jobs, homes and essential services in Greater Parramatta. This submission also confirms our continued commitment to a stronger working relationship between Sydney Water, GSC, Department of Planning and Environment and City of Parramatta Council.

We offer our expertise and leadership in strategic water planning and management to realise the Plan's vision for our future Sydney.

1. Delivering services to existing and new customers

Sydney Water are committed to planning and providing the high-quality water services that will support Sydney's growth including the Greater Parramatta Priority Growth Precinct.

We are investing \$2.2 billion between 2016 and 2020 to upgrade, maintain and expand assets so we can cater for new customers and emerging communities. A significant part of this investment - a commitment of \$800 million - is dedicated to supporting new growth. Over the same four years, we will spend \$3.9 billion operating our network across Sydney, the Illawarra and Blue Mountains.

2. Evolving to meet the challenges of a growing city

As Greater Parramatta grows and becomes more densely populated we will face increasingly significant challenges related to water management. These include:

- improving waterway health in the face of development impacts
- making healthy waterways and high-quality greenspaces more accessible to communities
- better managing flood risk
- enabling urban cooling and greening
- building networks that are resilient when considering climate change
- continuing our essential business of maintaining high quality drinking water
- Creating sustainable and efficient cities.

Sydney Water is committed to working with DPE, GSC and City of Parramatta to address and overcome these challenges.

3. Greater Parramatta planning

We have summarised the challenges, opportunities and results of recent planning for Greater Parramatta in the table below.

Challenges	Opportunities	Results
<p>Challenges in the Greater Parramatta area include high rates of infill development and population growth, transformation and increasing density of existing suburbs, the likely need to augment water services, and a strong community desire to improve water quality in the Parramatta River.</p>	<p>There are opportunities to create new urban precincts in Greater Parramatta that encourage and deliver smarter use of water. We are planning an integrated servicing solution encompassing water supply, wastewater and stormwater, and exploring opportunities to use stormwater and recycled water for providing greater benefits to the community. To support these contemporary and innovative servicing solutions, we are investigating a range of funding solutions to enable this. We are leading waterway health investigations and strategy. We will work with GSC, local government, and other agencies to find exciting ways of linking waterways and greenspaces to form important elements of the blue green grid.</p>	<p>Implementing our preferred options, will deliver a more liveable central city, cost effective deferral of water and wastewater augmentation (which reduces bill pressure for customers), the availability of alternative water sources to create green public spaces, and delivery of important parts of the blue green grid.</p> <p>Good strategic planning will maximize recreation opportunities in the Parramatta River.</p>

4. Water sensitive capacity building and planning

To meet the ongoing challenges of water management in Sydney we are funding a Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) capacity building program called SPLASH.

SPLASH is improving the ability of planners in government agencies and local councils to apply Water Sensitive Urban Design principles. Better technical knowledge gives planners and regulators greater confidence in the performance and costs of solutions, making it more likely that innovative approaches are designed and funded.

We also look forward to participating in the NSW Government’s Water Smart Cities partnership project, and using its practical learnings to continually improve and refine our water planning.

5. Contribution to the blue green grid

Sydney Water strongly supports the blue green grid. Our approach to managing our network of stormwater trunk drains, canals and pipes, seeks to enhance community access, provide opportunities for recreation and active transport, improve riparian habitat, and provide flood protection.

We have identified opportunities in the Greater Parramatta catchment area including working with key stakeholders to identify opportunities to improve waterways and public access to Duck Creek, Duck River, Haslams Creek, and identified swimming sites in the Parramatta River.

To realise the benefits of greening and cooling during hot weather, Sydney Water is collaborating with the City of Parramatta and the Western Sydney Parklands Trust to develop concepts for an irrigation scheme supplying non-drinking water to areas of community amenity.

We commit to strengthening existing partnerships with City of Parramatta Council, GSC, and Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) to investigate, shape and deliver these valuable opportunities.

6. Conserving drinking water

By 2050, Greater Parramatta residents could be consuming 44 billion litres of water each year. We can minimise the impacts on precious drinking water resources by providing recycled water that can be used in new developments for toilet flushing, laundry and other non-drinking water uses. We could also help to create healthy and resilient community amenity by providing water for irrigation of green spaces.

7. Integrated Resource Recovery Hub

At the same time as re-shaping the spatial structure of Greater Sydney, the urban regeneration of Greater Parramatta presents a once in a generation opportunity to change the way that Sydney's water resources in the landscape are managed. We are planning to shift away from reliance on coastal treatment and ocean discharge of treated wastewater and would like to explore the opportunity to provide a new facility in the urban services area of Greater Parramatta.

We envisage that through collaboration and strategic partnerships, we can develop a hub where this valuable resource is managed and recycled locally. This could become a high technology integrated resource recovery facility, producing recycled water, co-digesting domestic bio-solids and food waste to generate sufficient energy to be a net electricity exporter to the grid.

Consistent with the vision for Greater Parramatta, we would seek to collaborate with industry and academic institutions to leverage opportunities for research and development and to drive innovation in waste management and resource recovery – Western Sydney will be a world leader in this area.

Questions and clarification

We would also like to submit the following questions and clarifications:

1. SP67 and link to resource recovery hub

We note that the draft land use plan shows 10,000 homes to be provided by 2036 in the Camellia Precinct. Sydney Water would like to highlight that the proposed Camellia Town Centre clashes with Sydney Water's SPS067 wastewater pumping station. Early decision on Camellia precinct's development needs would help Sydney Water to plan and upgrade SPS067 to be available to service GOP developments. About 60% of the proposed new growth in GOP would be serviced by SPS067

2. Boundary questions

The boundary shown for Greater Parramatta Priority Growth Area (PGA) is not consistent with the boundary GSC has been communicating. Can you clarify if the SEPP for the Priority Growth Area aligns with the GPOP boundary or the boundary shown in the Greater Parramatta PGA.

3. Monitoring

Sydney Water supports the principle of monitoring the delivery of the plan. However, Sydney Water would advocate for broader monitoring of infrastructure delivery as well as housing approvals and job growth. Monitoring approvals and job creation numbers in isolation runs risk infrastructure failing to deliver the outcomes required to ensure the growth centre is successful.

4. Relationship of this plan to the GSC and District Plans

Sydney Water would like to understand how DP&E's interim land use and infrastructure implementation plan dovetails with the Greater Sydney Commission's District Plans and the Growth Infrastructure Compact.

5. Development controls

To achieve the Greater Sydney Commission's Living River Vision for GPOP and to gain recreational outcomes on the river identified by local government and community, substantial controls will need to be included to manage stormwater quality and runoff volumes from new development. Sydney Water would advocate inclusion of these controls as defined within the release of the Parramatta River Masterplan are into the statutory planning instruments including a specific direction in the expanded Sydney Region Growth centres SEPP as well as the District Plan (GSC). Sydney Water would welcome the opportunity to work directly with the Department to help identify these requirements.