



# ANNUAL REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 2013 - 2014

[www.georgesriver.org.au](http://www.georgesriver.org.au)

 Georges River







# A summary of achievements by the **GRCCC** and its partners



The GRCCC continued its solid performance over the year in delivering core programs. It is great to see continued investment in improvements to the overall health of the Georges River and the broader catchment. The GRCCC received widespread recognition for its programs and was nominated as a finalist in the 25th Banksia Sustainability Water Award 2013.



The GRCCC was one of only five finalists across Australia and the only finalist from NSW. Also, the GRCCC in partnership with Corrective Services NSW won the Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Clean Beaches Environmental Protection Award 2013 for the Sydney/Illawarra Region. These nominations and awards are a strong reflection of the strength of the GRCCC's core programs. I would like to extend my appreciation to all our member Councils, stakeholders and partner organisations for their continued support working with us and sharing responsibility for the management of the Georges River.



I commend this Executive Summary document to you and invite you to participate enthusiastically in GRCCC programs.

**Councillor Naji Peter Najjar**  
GRCCC Chairperson



Category Finalist







## Riverkeeper Program

- 70 + tonnes of rubbish removed from river catchment
- 155 work sites approved by Corrective Services NSW
- 2,785m<sup>2</sup> in bush regeneration area
- 17,316 volunteer hours contributed to Councils
- Riverkeeper Report Card released October 2013
- NSW Keep Australia Beautiful Clean Beaches Award Win 2013
- Successful Australian Government grant application for an Aboriginal Riverkeeper Team. Contracts signed with Eco Logical Australia, Team recruited and start up June 2014
- Secured 12 Green Army Teams to extend the work of the Riverkeeper Program
- 60 hours of community engagement including:
  - National tree day planting
  - Corporate – Schneider Electric



## River Health Program

- 670 community volunteer hours contributed
- 48 sampling sites in the Georges River
- 10 schools engaged
- Incorporates data from 5 real time water quality buoys from BBWQIP
- Partnerships with Australian Museum, Georges River Environmental Education Centre, Cooks River Alliance
- River Health report Card released September 2013
- Program review report delivered June 2014



## Communications & Engagement Program

- Media releases x7
- Grant and Award applications- Australian Banksia Awards – finalist and NSW Keep Australia Beautiful Clean Beaches Award Win 2013
- Georges river current newsletter
- Volunteer days, events and presentations - Oately Lions, Campbelltown Riverfest, Food and Groove Festival
- Design of 2012/13 Riverkeeper Report Card, Annual report and executive summary
- Website maintenance and facebook page

## GRCCC Estuary Management program

- Georges River Estuary Management grant finalised and Georges River Coastal Zone Management Plan (GRCZMP) adopted and being implemented by seven participating member Councils
- The GRCZMP was supported by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) Estuary Management grant program
- Five State agencies have provided support for the GRCZMP
- Six GRCCC Member Councils submitted estuary Management Grant Applications in 2014
- 12 month contract with Greater Sydney Local Land Services for the servicing and maintenance of the GS LLS Botany Bay monitoring buoys finalised

## GRCCC Executive Group

The 2013-14 Executive Group comprised of returning members including Councillors Naji Peter Najjar (Bankstown City Council, Chairperson), Peter Scaysbrook (Sutherland Shire Council, Vice- Chairperson) and Peter Ristevski (Liverpool City Council, Treasurer) and Alison Hanlon host Council Manager . This stable governance structure continued to focus on the financial, business and operational management and delivery of the GRCCC programs. This included:

- Advocacy and lobbying- including meeting with Federal MPs and Government Agencies on key issues such as:
  - i. National Container Deposit scheme,
  - ii. access to the Green Army programme
  - iii. representing Councils on the Moorebank Intermodal Terminal proposal and Sydney Water overflow incident
- Event participation and media engagement
- Ensuring good governance, accountability and transparency including:
  - Updated Code of conduct
  - Updated Executive terms of reference
  - Improved Councillor engagement on the Executive Group and monthly meetings
- Coordinated Review of River Health program

