



GRCCC EXECUTIVE GROUP

- During 2015-16, the Executive Group focused on delivery of the Committee's programs in accordance with the GRCCC Management and Implementation Plan consistent with state wide NRM targets.
- The Executive oversees issues such as staffing, financial, operational and governance matters through regular monthly meetings, bi-monthly Committee meetings, and an AGM rotated across the catchment. This has increased member Councillors engagement with the GRCCC.
- The Executive Group continues to plan for the long term strategic needs of the Committee and its programming.
- The Executive continues to support GRCCC advocacy and lobbying efforts including meetings with State and Federal members, submissions and events and media engagement
- GRCCC Governance framework is in accordance with the GRCCC Rules "Constitution" and Terms of Reference and regular Executive Outcomes Reports are produced

ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

GEORGES RIVER COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PLAN (CZMP)

- Georges River Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) gazetted on the 10 July, 2015. Member Councils were briefed by the GRCCC and have been actively implementing the CZMP Action Plan
- Four Councils have successfully attracted grant funding for 6 projects to improve the health of the estuary

GRCCC INPUT INTO STRATEGIC POLICY DEVELOPMENTS:

- Marine Estate Management Authority Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion discussion paper: The GRCCC made a submission on the eight (8) suggested management initiatives to enhance marine biodiversity conservation. The bioregion includes the Georges River estuary.
- State Government Coastal reforms: The GRCCC has attended workshops and kept members abreast of upcoming policy reforms. The CZMP will still be relevant during the 5 year transitional period to 2021.
- Submission on the NSW Biodiversity reforms
- Contributed to meetings of the Greater Sydney Commission as part of the district planning process regarding waterways and biodiversity.

GRCCC ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING ON POLICIES AND DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDING:

- Moorebank Intermodal Terminal presentation of the GRCCC concerns to the Planning Assessment Commission public hearing.
- Economics Forum with Federal Treasurer Scott Morrison and Member for Banks David Coleman: the GRCCC spoke with the Treasurer and advocated for a National Stormwater Initiative as per the Senate Committee's Stormwater management Inquiry
- Submission to the Senate Inquiry on Marine Plastic pollution
- Submission on the Container Deposit Scheme & representation on a Working Group
- Letters to Environmental Protection Authority & Roads and Maritime Service on safety concerns for kayakers & sewerage overflows
- Joint submission to I-Parts hearing into SW pricing with the CRA & PRCG

Sydney Water in collaboration with the GRCCC delivered a Healthy Waterways workshop to member Councils. Also in partnership with Councils, SW identified on ground water quality improvement projects to form part of the Georges River Waterway Improvement Plan (GRWIP).



ANNUAL REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 2015 - 2016

www.georgesriver.org.au

Georges River





GRCCC ACHIEVEMENTS



The GRCCC's strength continues to grow as we deliver core programs on behalf of our eight member Councils. We have delivered substantial on

ground work over the year through a number of grants and programs. These include our River Health Ecological Health Monitoring and Riverkeeper Programs. We saw significant resources delivered in the field with teams working across the Georges River catchment to rehabilitate bushland. These teams included the Australian Government's grant for the Aboriginal Riverkeeper Team and three Green Army Teams in addition to a team working to deliver a Greater Sydney Local Land Services grant. Member Councils and our partners and stakeholders who share the collective responsibility for protecting and improving the Georges River are working together to ensure we fulfill our vision and mission:

VISION: For the Georges River to be a balanced ecosystem that an engaged community can enjoy

MISSION: For the GRCCC to be an effective not-for-profit organisation which advocates by developing programs and partnerships, and by lobbying government organisations and other stakeholders to protect, conserve and enhance the Georges River

The GRCCC thanks all member Councils for providing funding to support our programs. We also thank our community representatives, volunteers and stakeholders for their continued support of the GRCCC and development of partnerships and also our Australian Government and State Government funding partners.

Councillor Peter Scaysbrook
GRCCC Acting Chairperson



RIVERKEEPER PROGRAM

- Collection of 108.5 tonne of rubbish from Georges river catchment
- 71.4 hectares of primary bush regeneration
- 16,432 plantings
- 43,507 community volunteer hours contributed to Councils
- A total of 59.5 hours of community engagement via education and promotional activity such as Clean Up Australia Day
- Graduation of the 1st round of the Aboriginal Riverkeeper Team
- Ongoing successful delivery of the \$1.78 million Australian Governments Biodiversity grant project incorporating the Aboriginal Riverkeeper Team and related contractors
- Ongoing delivery of three Green Army teams
- 155 work sites approved by Corrective Services NSW
- Release of Annual Riverkeeper Report Card
- Coordination and contract management of multiple on ground teams including Corrective Services NSW

RIVER HEALTH PROGRAM

- 50 sampling sites in the Georges River both freshwater and estuary
- Collecting ecological data over a 46 km transect along the Georges River estuary
- Alignment of estuary monitoring with state wide OEH estuary monitoring program
- Release of the 2014-15 River Health Report Card and Technical Report in December 2015
- Over 700 hours of community engagement
- School engagement in the program with 7 schools and over 100 Year 5/6 students
- New partnership with Western Sydney University, through joining the Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Management – Greater Western Sydney and co-supervision of students
- Two River Health cluster Group workshops
- Implementation of review recommendations
- Partnerships with Australian Museum, Office of Environment and Heritage and Georges River Environment Education Centre
- Research and paper presentation to the 8th Australian Stream Management Conference

COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Delivery of the 2014/15 Annual Report and Executive Summary
- Issue of seven media releases and attraction of positive media attention
- Numerous speaking events, public presentations to diverse community groups and schools, workshops and attendance at Council events by all GRCCC staff
- Volunteer days organized and attended by the GRCCC eg River Health Monitoring
- Increased Aboriginal community engagement with Local Aboriginal Land Councils and representatives
- GRCCC organised ecosystem services/Traditional Aboriginal Ecological Knowledge workshop
- GRCCC website maintenance and Facebook page