

# ABORIGINAL RIVERKEEPER TEAM

The first full year of the Australian Government funded "Building Indigenous Knowledge and Skills in Restoring Urban Waterways" project and the Aboriginal Riverkeeper Team has been exciting and successful for everybody involved. The Team have obtained Certificate 2 in Conservation Land Management, are currently studying Certificate 3 in Indigenous Land Management and have been working with Local Aboriginal Land Councils on Traditional Ecological Knowledge training.

The project's success was highlighted by Nathan Moran, CEO of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC): "Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council is proud to be a partner in the Aboriginal Riverkeeper Team project as this project can be a template for others on how Aboriginal and Non Aboriginal people can work together to improve our understanding and appreciation of our natural environments and their value to us all now and into the future".



“Completing this traineeship has made my whole family proud because not only am I learning about my culture but I am also making a difference to the environment.”

Larissa Cooper



“During cultural learning, we have learnt many ways Aboriginal people have utilised the bush and land, such as what to use for medicine, food and weapons.”

Shannon Bealle-Bogg

# GREEN ARMY TEAMS



The Green Army is supported by the Australian Government's Green Army Programme. The GRCCC has three teams working across the upper, mid and lower Georges River catchment. Each Green Army Team comprises young people between the ages of 17 and 24 and a team leader, all of them are employed and trained by Conservation

Volunteers Australia. The Green Army initiative taps into local knowledge and supports grassroots action to help GRCCC member Councils meet their local priorities. The teams have provided 13,700 hours of labour, regenerated 3.6 ha of bushland, planted over 6,000 plants and collected 15.3 tonne of rubbish across the Georges River catchment.



“At the end of each day it's encouraging to see the changes and it makes me want to do more bush regeneration. The Green Army has provided me with training and taught me how to work cooperatively with other people.”

William Feng



“Doing this program, I have learnt to identify weeds and native plants. I feel very proud to be part of the Green Army program, because the work we do is protecting the environment from a decline in biodiversity.”

Rohini Kumarasamy

# CORRECTIVE SERVICES



Justice  
Corrective Services

Teams of Corrective Services NSW offenders on Community Correction orders make up the backbone of the Riverkeeper Rubbish Collection Program and have a long relationship with the Georges River catchment and the Riverkeeper Program. During the past year GRCCC Chairperson Cr.

Naji Peter Najjar had the opportunity to meet with the State Attorney General, Brad Hazzard and the local State Member for East Hills, Glenn Brookes to discuss the program and to highlight the significant community outcomes with teams collecting over approximately 83 tonnes of rubbish.



# ABOUT THE GRCCC

The GRCCC represents Local Government in the Georges River Catchment of NSW. Member councils include Bankstown City, Campbelltown City, Fairfield City, Hurstville City, Kogarah City, Liverpool City, Rockdale City, Sutherland and Wollondilly Shire Councils. The Riverkeeper

Program is an initiative of GRCCC member Councils with a collective responsibility for the health of the Georges River catchment. The GRCCC is currently hosted by Hurstville City Council.

© GRCCC Riverkeeper Program Report Card 2014-15.



# TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE DAY

The Aboriginal Riverkeeper Team has been studying Aboriginal Traditional Ecological Knowledge from LALC Elders and had the opportunity to share some of the knowledge and the work they have been conducting at Oatley Point, Oatley with the local community.

Attendees learnt how Aboriginal people lived along the river and how people on both sides of the river interacted with each other, inspected Aboriginal Heritage on site and asked questions about pre European heritage on the river.



GRCCC  
Georges River Combined Councils' Committee Inc.

RIVERKEEPER PROGRAM  
REPORT CARD  
2014 - 2015



# 2014 - 2015 TOTAL CATCHMENT RUBBISH COLLECTION

Riverkeeper Program teams provide broad-scale removal of rubbish from the river's foreshores, creeks and tributaries. Member councils identify rubbish 'hotspots' on the river.

**99,432 TOTAL Kg**  
**19,481 TOTAL HOURS**



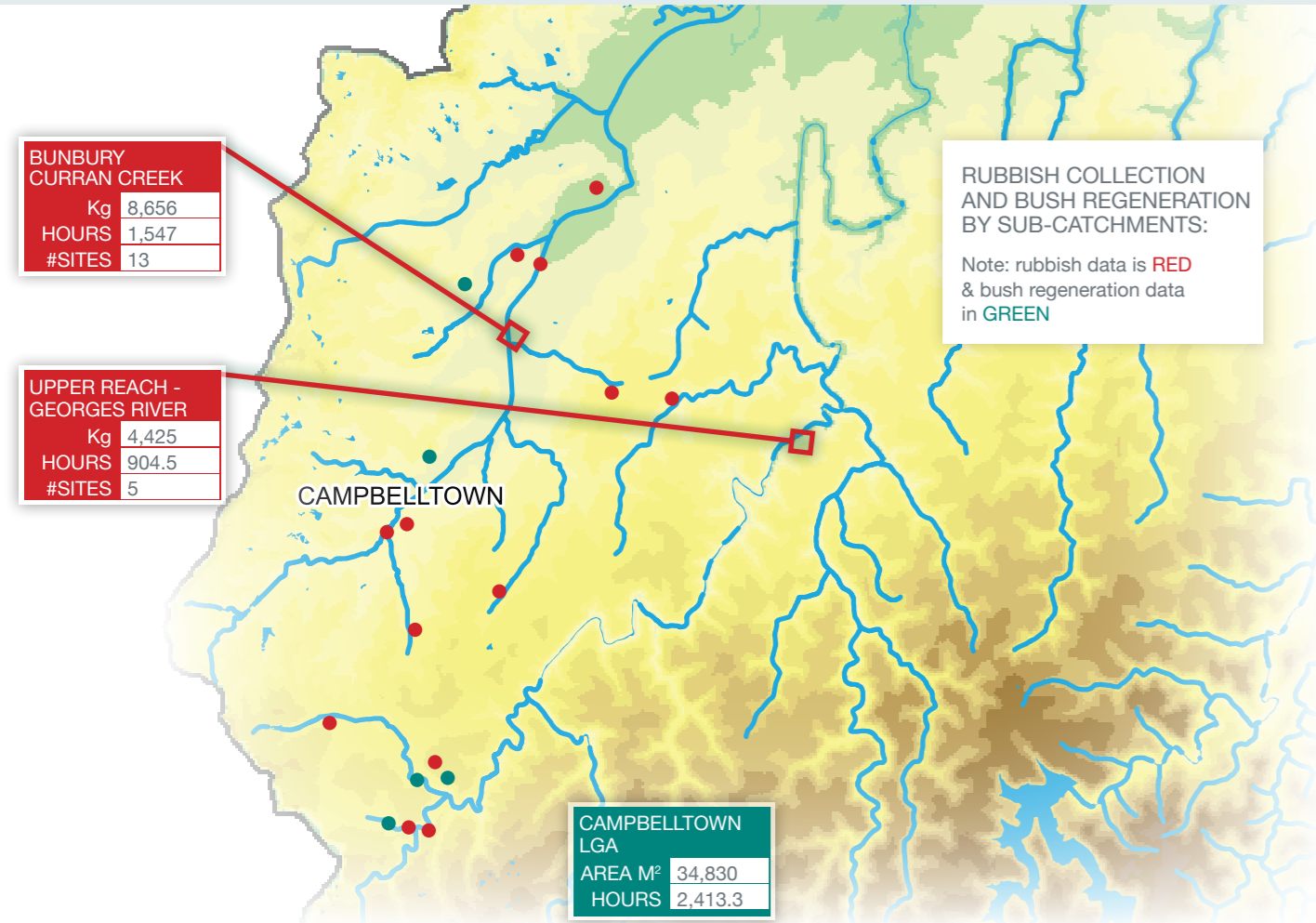
# 2014 - 2015 TOTAL CATCHMENT BUSH REGENERATION

Regeneration teams are restoring degraded, remnant bushland on foreshores, creeks and tributaries across the catchment. Work is undertaken along the river system to improve ecological health and species biodiversity.

**169,280 TOTAL M<sup>2</sup>**  
**20,214 TOTAL HOURS**  
**42,815 PLANTINGS**

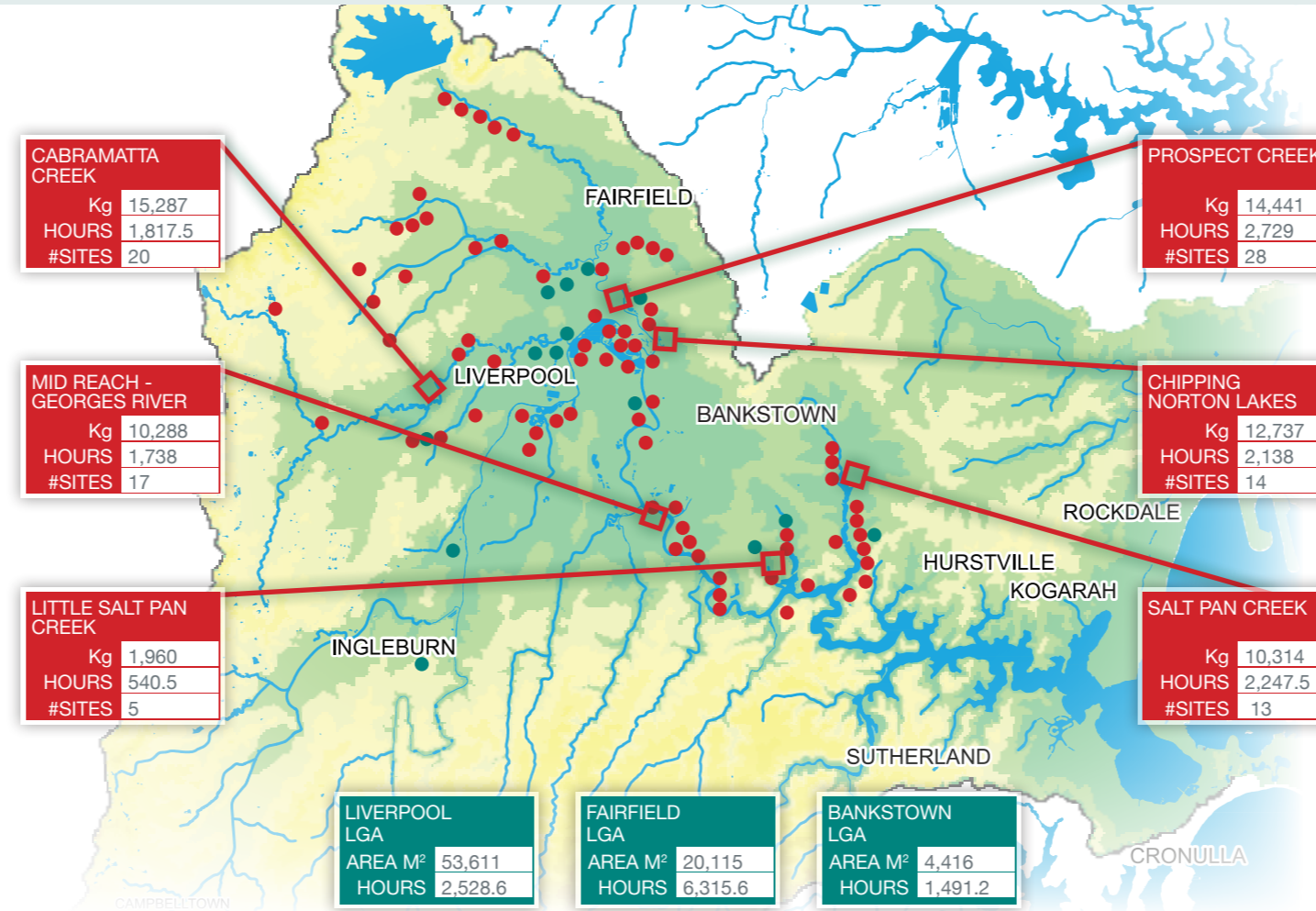
## UPPER GEORGES RIVER SUBCATCHMENT STATISTICS

RUBBISH COLLECTION = 13,126 Kg    BUSH REGENERATION = 34,830 m<sup>2</sup>  
COMMUNITY HOURS = 2,452    COMMUNITY HOURS = 2,413



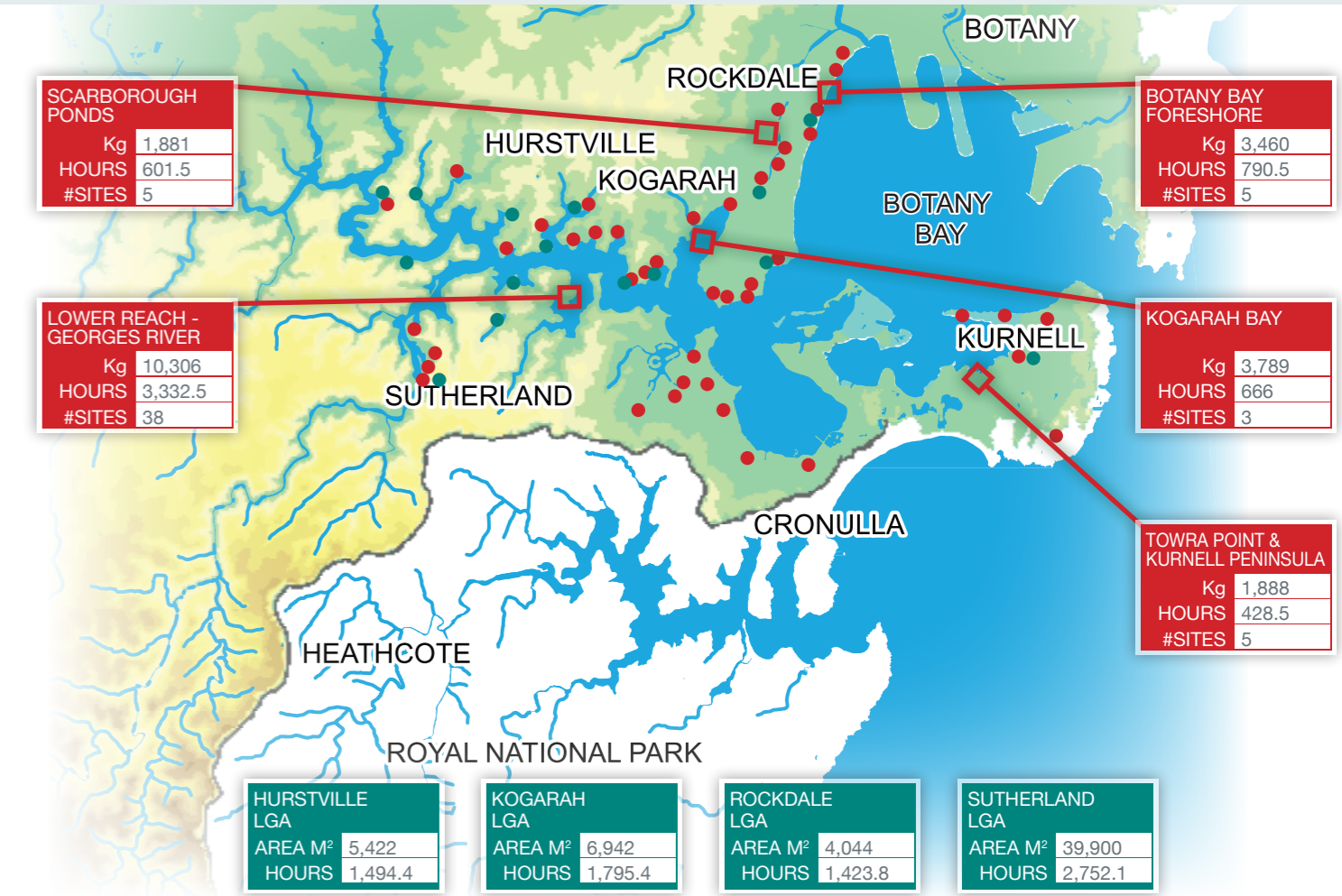
## MID GEORGES RIVER SUBCATCHMENT STATISTICS

RUBBISH COLLECTION = 64,832 Kg    BUSH REGENERATION = 78,142 m<sup>2</sup>  
COMMUNITY HOURS = 11,216    COMMUNITY HOURS = 10,335



## LOWER GEORGES RIVER SUBCATCHMENT STATISTICS

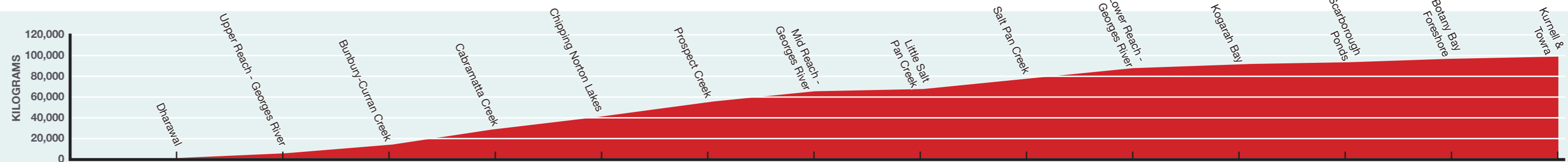
RUBBISH COLLECTION = 21,474 Kg    BUSH REGENERATION = 56,308 m<sup>2</sup>  
COMMUNITY HOURS = 5,813    COMMUNITY HOURS = 7,466



## PREVENTATIVE COLLECTION OF RUBBISH

This graph shows the amount of rubbish progressively collected as it moves down the river system. Look to see which subcatchment you live in and then look at how much rubbish was prevented from reaching you.

■ 2014 - 2015 Results



Corrective Services  
Local Land Services Greater Sydney  
Office of Environment & Heritage



Australian Government  
Department of the Environment