

# Greater Parramatta and Olympic Peninsula Water Cycle Management project



Sydney  
**WATER**  
*Water* IS OUR LIFE

## Community update: Alternative alignment for river release pipeline

July 2026

The Greater Parramatta and Olympic Peninsula (GPOP) area is expected to welcome around 250,000 new residents over the next 30 years. To support this growth, Sydney Water is planning a new Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) in Camellia-Rosehill, along with supporting pipelines to move water to and from the site.

### The need to improve wastewater capacity and sustainability

The GPOP area and Greater Sydney are growing quickly. This means more homes, businesses, and wastewater being generated.

The current wastewater system is expected to reach capacity in the early 2030s, putting pressure on services across Greater Sydney.

The proposed Camellia-Rosehill WRRF and supporting pipeline infrastructure will increase treatment capacity and treat water closer to where it is produced, reducing the need to move wastewater across Sydney and lessening reliance on the ocean outfall at North Head in Manly.

Together, these upgrades will strengthen the reliability, efficiency and sustainability of our network, helping to provide dependable services for the growing GPOP community and surrounding region.

### Advanced treated recycled water

As part of the GPOP proposal, highly treated recycled water will be safely released into the Parramatta River near John Whitton Bridge in Meadowbank.

Wastewater will go through several treatment stages. First, primary and secondary treatment remove solids and break down contaminants. This is followed by advanced treatment including reverse osmosis, to produce high-quality recycled water. The process also recovers useful resources like energy and biosolids, so less goes to waste and we can manage water more sustainably.

Overall, it supports sustainability by improving water quality and helping protect the long-term health of the Parramatta River.

### The Northern Suburbs Ocean Outfall Sewer (NSOOS)

The Northern Suburbs Ocean Outfall Sewer (NSOOS) is a key part of Sydney's wastewater network. This major system runs from Blacktown along the northern side of the Parramatta River to our treatment facility in Manly. It carries around 25% of Sydney's wastewater each day, supporting about 1.7 million people across the northern and western suburbs.

Wastewater from the GPOP area currently relies on this system, adding to the overall load. As Sydney grows, the NSOOS is expected to come under increasing pressure.

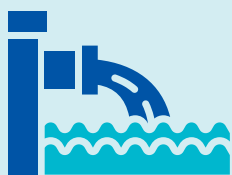
The proposed GPOP project, including the new facility at Camellia-Rosehill, will treat wastewater closer to where it's produced and allow it to be reused in ways that benefit the environment.

This means less wastewater needs to be transported through the NSOOS, helping to reduce pressure on the system and improve its reliability and overall efficiency.



# The alternative alignment proposal

## Project benefits



Support growing communities with reliable wastewater services, enabling new homes, jobs and essential infrastructure.



Make smarter investments by planning and staging work to deliver services efficiently over time.



Help protect local waterways and oceans by treating wastewater closer to where it's produced, reusing water where possible and reducing reliance on ocean outfalls.



Build infrastructure that's reliable today and flexible for the future, so it can adapt to changing community needs and new technology.

## Exploring options to improve delivery of the project

Community and stakeholder feedback has played an important role in shaping the GPOP project.

During the project's original EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) engagement held between 12 February and 18 March 2026, more than 400 submissions were received from stakeholders and community members in areas like Rydalmere, Camellia, Rosehill, Silverwater, Newington, Wentworth Point, and Meadowbank.

This feedback highlighted the need to better balance community expectations, construction impacts and cost.

In response, Sydney Water has reviewed the original design to determine and propose a new river release pipeline alignment. This alternative alignment could reduce impacts for the community by:



**Reducing disruption during construction,** with a shorter pipeline that makes better use of open space along the Parramatta River and reduces impacts on the number of local parks from seven to four



**Reducing the number of construction sites,** with temporary site compounds decreasing from fifteen to six



**Minimising impact on streets and neighbourhoods,** with more tunnelling and less open trench work on local roads



**Reducing impact on parks, vegetation and surrounding areas,** with less construction space needed and lower visual impacts



**Delivering better value for money** for Sydney Water customers

## The alternative alignment for river release pipeline

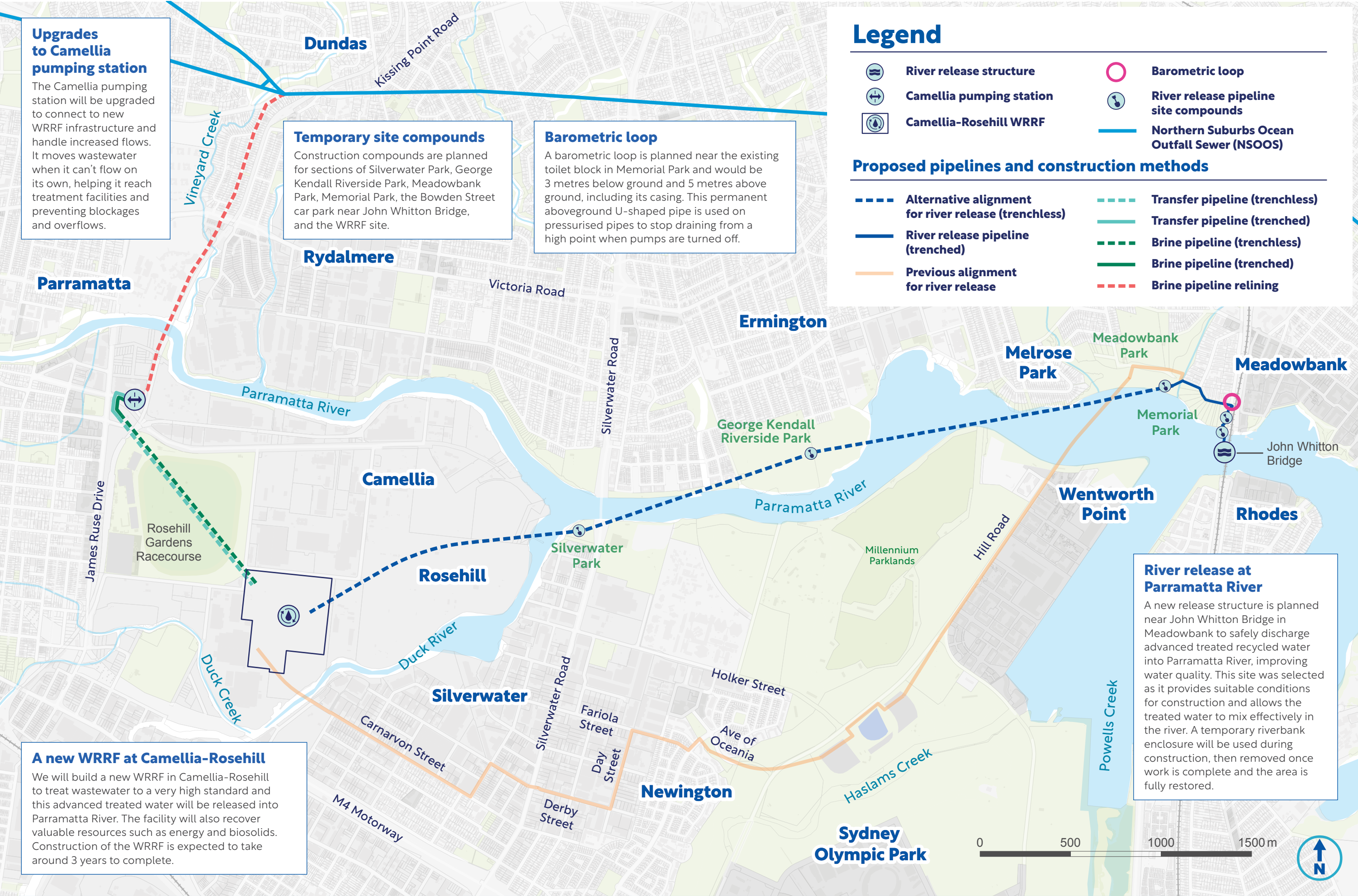
Sydney Water has explored options for the river release pipeline alignment to reduce impacts on the community. A multi-criteria analysis, including cost, constructability, safety, and community and environmental impacts, has been used to determine the alternative alignment.

The alternative alignment would start at the WRRF in Camellia–Rosehill, pass beneath the Duck River to Silverwater Park, then continue under the Parramatta River to George Kendall Riverside Park and cross under Parramatta River to Meadowbank Park. A short section near Memorial Park would be constructed using open trench methods before reaching the river release point near John Whitton Bridge.

The alternative alignment shortens the pipeline by around 2.3 kilometres and allows most construction to be carried out underground using tunnelling. It also reduces the number of temporary construction sites, placing them in open spaces along the route.

Overall, this approach reduces construction sites, limits impacts on parks and public spaces, and minimises disruption to local roads, resulting in a smaller and less noticeable construction footprint compared to the previous alignment for river release.



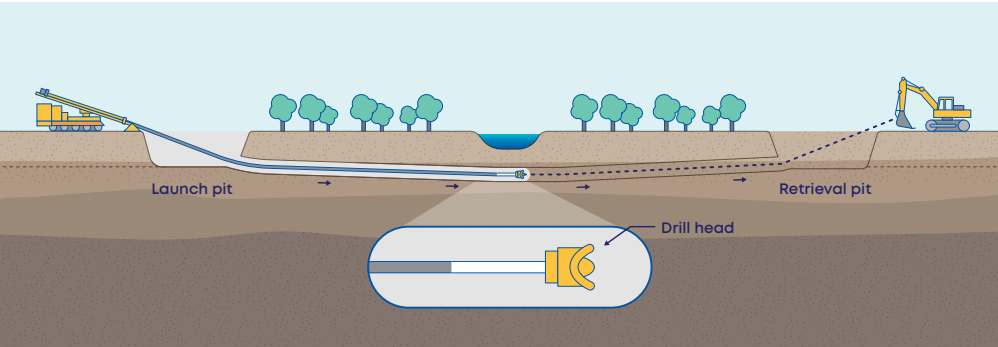


# Alternative alignment construction impacts

The alternative alignment is designed to reduce impacts on community, but we understand construction near homes and public spaces can still be disruptive.

If approved, Sydney Water will work with communities to manage impacts, apply practical mitigation measures and restore all areas once work is complete.

More detail on construction methods and local impacts is available on the project website: [www.sydneywater.com.au/gpop](http://www.sydneywater.com.au/gpop)



## Tunnelling (trenchless)

Most of the pipeline will be built underground using tunnelling. Work will take place up to 55 metres below ground. Construction timelines and working hours will vary depending on ground conditions, weather and other factors. Tunnelling at these depths is unlikely to be noticeable at the surface and significantly reduces overall construction impacts. Launch and retrieval pits for the drills have localised construction impacts.

We will also install new pipelines to connect the Camellia pumping station to the WRRF; one to transfer wastewater for treatment, and one to return brine (leftover salty water from the treatment process) to the NSOOS.

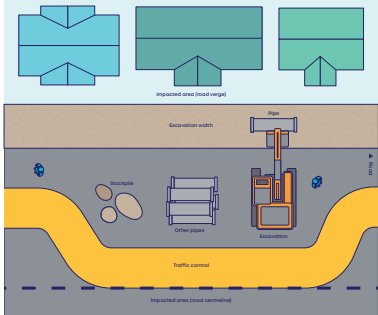
## Relining an existing pipe

We will reline an existing pipe between Camellia and Dundas, a method to create a durable pipe within an old one. This reduces the need to build new infrastructure and minimises construction impacts.

## Open-trench construction

A short section of the pipeline will be built using an open trench. This involves digging a trench, installing the pipe, then backfilling and restoring the area once work is complete.

Open trench construction impacts include noise, dust and traffic disruption. However, this method is typically quicker than tunnelling, with progress of around 10 to 25 metres per day.



## Work hours

Construction for this project is expected to include work during both day and night. Final working hours will be confirmed as planning progresses.

As the project gets closer to construction, Sydney Water will continue engaging the community and discuss options to further minimise impacts.

## Traffic and transport impacts

A Traffic and Transport Assessment is being prepared to understand how construction of the alternative river release alignment may affect local traffic.

The assessment will address the movement of people and vehicles during construction and identify measures to keep the community safe.

If approved, Sydney Water will look at staging construction to reduce impacts and will prepare a Construction Traffic Management Plan.

## Noise and vibration

A Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment is being prepared to assess potential construction noise and vibration impacts on nearby properties. This assessment will help identify practical measures to minimise impacts during construction.

Once the pipeline is operating, no noticeable noise or vibration is expected.

## How we will reduce impacts

If the project goes ahead, we will use a range of measures to reduce disruption, including:

-  temporary noise barriers around work areas
-  monitoring noise and vibration levels
-  scheduling breaks between higher-impact activities
-  limiting the amount of equipment operating at the same time and location
-  using quieter, non-tonal reversing beepers on vehicles
-  turning off equipment when not in use
-  giving advance notice of noisier works.

Where higher noise is expected, we will contact nearby residents to explain what's happening, how long it will last, and what we are doing to minimise impacts.

## Project timeline\*

### JUL 2024 – NOV 2025

Consult with community and government agencies

### FEB – MAR 2026

Exhibit EIS and engage with communities

### JUL – AUG 2026 WE ARE HERE

Community feedback on alternative alignment

### LATE 2026

Response to Submissions report published on the DPHI planning portal

### LATE 2026

EIS Amendment Report on public exhibition for the alternative alignment

### MID 2027

Final planning decision

### 2029

Start of construction

### LATE 2032

Construction completion

### EARLY 2033

Wastewater services operational

\*Timeline is subject to change

## Find out more

We'll continue to host online and in-person information sessions to share updates on the proposal and alternative alignment. These sessions are an opportunity to speak with the project team, learn more, and ask questions.

Over the coming months, our team will also door-knock homes near the alternative alignment to provide information and talk directly with residents.

### In person information sessions will be held at:

-  **Thursday 16 July 2026** 1:00pm – 4:00pm  
George Kendall Riverside Park, Ermington
-  **Saturday 18 July 2026** 10:00am – 2:00pm  
Silverwater Park, Clyde Street, Silverwater
-  **Saturday 1 August 2026** 10:00am – 2:00pm  
Memorial Park, Meadowbank
-  **Thursday 6 August 2026** 1:00pm – 4:00pm  
Meadowbank Park, Meadowbank
-  **Saturday 8 August 2026** 10:00am – 2:00pm  
Meadowbank Park, Meadowbank

### Online community webinars will be held:

-  **Wednesday 15 July 2026**  
6:30pm – 7:30pm
-  **Monday 27 July 2026**  
12:00pm – 1:00pm

To register for an online session, go to  
[www.sydneywater.com.au/gpop](http://www.sydneywater.com.au/gpop)

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## What happens next and how do I get involved?

We continue to build on the feedback received during the EIS exhibition earlier this year. We are now preparing two key reports:

- **Response to Submissions report** is scheduled for release in late 2026. It will respond to feedback from the community and government agencies and outline actions taken since exhibition.
- **The EIS Amendment Report** outlines the alternative alignment. It describes changes proposed to the project and assesses their associated impacts.

The EIS Amendment Report is expected to go on public exhibition on the Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure's (DPHI) Planning Portal in late 2026, giving the community another opportunity to review the updated proposal and provide feedback.

## Have your say

Formal submissions to the EIS Amendment Report will open during the exhibition period, but we'd like to hear from you now.

Your feedback will help us understand local priorities, concerns and expectations, and help inform the EIS amendment report.

We invite you to share your knowledge of the local area by Friday, 31 July. Please use the contact details below or complete the survey via the QR code or project page, run by our partners, RPS.



## Contact us

We're here to answer your questions and hear your feedback on this important project. We'll continue to work with local communities and keep you updated as the project progresses.

 **1800 172 263**

 **[gpopproject@sydneywater.com.au](mailto:gpopproject@sydneywater.com.au)**

 **[www.sydneywater.com.au/gpop](http://www.sydneywater.com.au/gpop)**

### If you need a free interpreter, please call 13 14 50

**Arabic | Italian | Chinese (Traditional) | Chinese (Simplified) | Spanish | Croatian**

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Se hai bisogno di un interprete, chiama il numero sopra

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Ako trebate prevoditelja, nazovite gornji broj