

Meadowbank and Memorial Park Community FAQ – Greater Parramatta and Olympic Peninsula (GPOP) Water Cycle Management project

Sydney Water is proposing to construct and operate a [water resource recovery facility](#) (WRRF) and associated infrastructure at Camellia-Rosehill. The WRRF would divert wastewater from the Northern Suburbs Ocean Outfall Sewer (NSOOS) via the Camellia pumping station and produce advanced treated water which would be released to the Parramatta River at John Whitton Bridge, Meadowbank Park. Pipelines associated with the project are proposed to run through Rydalmere, Camellia, Rosehill, Silverwater, Newington, Wentworth Park, Meadowbank Park and Memorial Park.

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) has received a State Significant Infrastructure (SSI) application from Sydney Water for the above-mentioned proposal. The application, Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and accompanying documents are available to view at www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/greater-parramatta-olympic-peninsula-water-cycle.

1. What other alternatives were considered for the river release location at Meadowbank?

As part of the planning process, Sydney Water's project team undertook a detailed optioneering process to evaluate multiple potential sites for the river release, both upstream and downstream of the proposed site at Meadowbank. This assessment considered constructability, safety, environmental impacts, utility service conflicts and heritage constraints.

From the list of potential sites, Wentworth Point, Rhodes and Meadowbank were considered feasible locations, being the closest to the proposed new Camellia-Rosehill WRRF site. Detailed review identified that Wentworth Point and Rhodes were less preferred due to shallower river depths than Meadowbank, and the high-density residential areas had little to no open space available for construction compounds. This constrained the ability to construct at these locations.

Due to these features, Meadowbank near John Whitton Bridge has been identified as the preferred location and provides optimal mixing of the advanced treated water in Parramatta River and the best environmental outcomes.

Alternative options considered for the river release pipeline and more information about why they were not chosen can be seen in Chapter 2 of the [EIS](#).

2. How is wastewater treated to become advanced treated water?

Advanced treatment uses ultrafiltration and reverse osmosis processes. Microfiltration or ultrafiltration uses hollow fibres to remove some fine particles, bacteria and viruses. Reverse osmosis further improves the quality of the water by removing viruses, nutrients and dissolved salts at high pressure (using fine barrier

membranes). Reverse osmosis filters are so fine they can trap particles smaller than one 10 millionth of a millimetre. The water is then disinfected by chlorination, ultraviolet light, or both processes.

All Sydney Water facilities treat wastewater to a standard that is suitable and safe for its intended use, and to ensure it meets the required water quality level for discharge to the environment.

3. Is advanced treated water safe to be released into the Parramatta River?

Yes, advanced treated water is safe to be released into Parramatta River. It is the highest level of treatment and is produced using a series of primary and secondary treatment process followed by reverse osmosis. The water quality assessment undertaken has predicted that there may be local improvements to river water quality from the release of advanced treated water.

To find out more about how we treat wastewater, head to www.sydneywater.com.au/water-the-environment/how-we-manage-sydneys-water/wastewater-network/wastewater-treatment-plants.html

4. What will be the volume discharged by the project and its effect on the water levels of Parramatta River?

The project proposes to release up to 70 megalitres of advanced treated water per day into Parramatta River. Future expansion of the WRRF is expected in the long term to continue to service growth in the GPOP region. Our assessments indicate there will be negligible impact on river water levels as a result of the volumes released by the project. More information can be found in Chapter 7 of the EIS and the Hydrodynamics and Water Quality impact assessment ([Appendix F](#)).

5. What is open trench construction?

Open trench construction is a common installation method which involves excavating a trench to the required depth along the alignment. The pipes are then assembled and placed on a level surface at the bottom of the trench. Once the pipe is laid, the trench is backfilled and the surface is restored to its original condition.

This method moves quickly in comparison to trenchless construction. Provided good conditions, work can move between 10 to 25 metres per day. This method of construction is the most conventional for pipeline installation when depths are relatively shallow and there are minimal constraints such as structures, vegetation and large waterways.

Open trenching in the Meadowbank area and in Memorial Park would take up to 3-6 months all together. The pipeline along Meadow Crescent and Bank Street would be constructed within the road corridor and the footpath, and where feasible would be typically constrained to one lane to minimise traffic impacts.

6. How is pipeline construction managed close to properties, and how will construction noise be managed?

Pipelines are designed and tested to strict Australian safety standards. Once the pipelines are installed, prior to operation of the project, Sydney Water would undergo extensive pressure testing and integrity checks. This will ensure pipelines can operate safely near residential areas and that all elements of the project are working effectively and do not cause harm to the community or the environment.

For open-trench construction, short term disruptions will occur. To minimise these impacts to residents the following mitigation measures will be used:

- noise controls will include restricted hours, use of modern low-noise machinery, and noise mitigating barriers where feasible
- dust suppression will be maintained through regular water application and ensuring vehicle movements are managed to avoid unnecessary dust generation.
- vibration-producing activities if required, will be monitored and controlled, and dilapidation reports will be conducted where required.

Additionally, a construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) would be prepared. The CTMP would be prepared in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including Council. This will include traffic controllers on site to ensure safe access for vehicles. Pedestrian access will also be managed to ensure safe access.

7. Will pipeline construction cause dilapidation to properties

Damage to buildings from vibration is not expected. Vibratory rollers, small hydraulic hammers, pile boring and directional drilling equipment will be used by the project at various points along the alignment. Where these are being used, minimum working distances specified in Section 5.7 of [Appendix N](#) (Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment) would be implemented. These minimum working distances have been determined based on the recommendations in the Transport for NSW Construction Noise and Vibration Guideline (Roads).

In the event that the recommended site-specific minimum working distances cannot be maintained Sydney Water would:

- carry out condition surveys before and after vibration intensive works
- conduct vibration monitoring during vibration intensive activities.
- investigate opportunities to use alternatives to vibration generating equipment.

These recommendations have been adopted through mitigation measures, seen in Chapter 13 and [Appendix E](#) of the EIS. The proposed noise and vibration mitigation measures are best-practice and have been developed with regard to similar measures used on other major infrastructure projects.

Subject to project approval and once the Design and Construction contractor is onboarded, we will be able to identify areas where properties do not meet the minimum working distances and require additional condition surveys (if any).

8. What is a barometric loop?

Barometric loops are a vertical u-shape pipe structure which are used to ensure consistent water flow by regulating pressure within the pipes. Without a barometric loop, sections of pipe could drain inconsistently due to change in pressure due to pipe depths.

A barometric loop is planned to be located near the existing toilet block in Memorial Park, adjacent to the train track, the initial design included in the EIS assessed the barometric loop of having a maximum height of 8 metres with its encasing. Sydney Water will continue to refine the design of the barometric loop to reduce visual impacts and work with City of Ryde Council on integrating the barometric loop into Memorial Park.

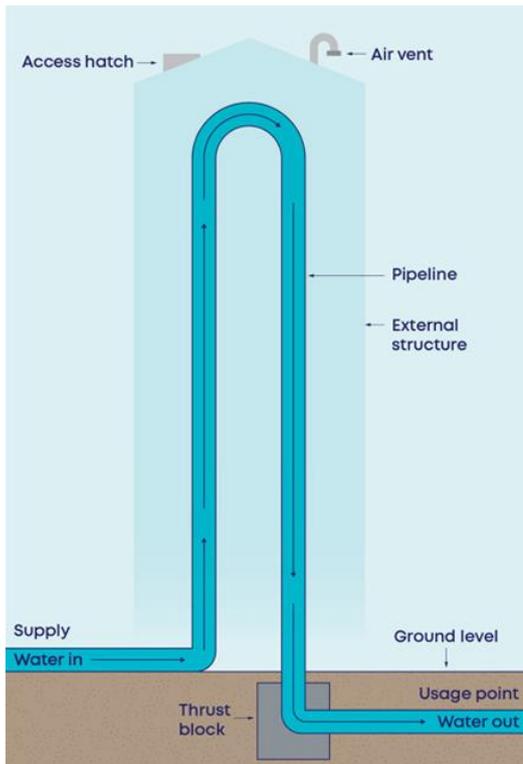


Figure 1: Schematic of a barometric loop

9. What are the impacts to flora and fauna in Memorial Park and Meadowbank Park?

Open trench construction planned along the road on Meadow Crescent and Bank Street is not expected to remove vegetation.

Some tree pruning may be expected where the barometric loop is planned for construction (near the toilet block in Memorial Park). Some smaller trees along the proposed alignment located between the corner of Meadow Crescent and the aerial crossing at Charity Creek may need to be removed during open-trench construction.

The [Biodiversity Development Assessment Report](#) (BDAR) and the EIS assumes a worst-case scenario, with the assumption that all native vegetation within the impact area will be cleared except where vegetation has definitively been avoided using trenchless construction methods. This methodology is best practice, is in line with the current guidelines and policies for biodiversity assessments and is consistent with the project Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements.

However, Sydney Water will continue to work with local Councils, community and other stakeholders on minimising impacts to vegetation. As the project progresses into detailed design and we would engage a Design and Construction contractor. Once the Design and Construction contractor is appointed the design would continue to be refined to avoid and minimise impacts wherever reasonable and feasible. This would include, but not be limited to, exploring opportunities to further avoid removal and trimming of vegetation.

Sydney Water has taken extensive measures to avoid and minimise impacts to non-planted native vegetation, which can serve as a habitat for native species common to urban areas. We expect that no trees with hollows suitable for wildlife need to be removed.

Management measures to minimise terrestrial biodiversity can be seen in [Appendix E](#). These include measures such as pre-clearance surveys, delineating no-go zones to protect vegetation and restoring areas affected, should vegetation in the area be impacted.

10. What are the impacts to heritage in Memorial Park?

The river release pipeline location and construction works have been designed to avoid direct physical impacts to both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage values. This includes the heritage listed First World War Memorial Obelisk and memorial in Memorial Park.

The City of Ryde Local Environmental Plan (2014) includes the listing Memorial Park (including obelisk) and remnants of former Meadowbank baths as local heritage items. The proposed river release pipeline would travel through part of the area subject to the heritage listing, however it will avoid and not impact significant heritage features including the obelisk. Areas with archaeological potential for remains of the former Meadowbank baths have also been avoided.

Sydney Water is aware of a recent memorial installation, Ryde Remembers in Memorial Park and Sydney Water recognises the importance of this memorial to the community. Construction work is proposed in the vicinity of the Ryde Remembers memorial and Sydney Water would prioritise protecting and retaining the plaque in its original location.

Further detail on the heritage assessment can be found in [Appendix P](#) of the EIS.

11. When is construction planned to commence around Memorial Park and how long will it take to complete?

The EIS includes an indicative construction program for the proposal. If approved, Sydney Water would work with the Delivery and Construction contractor to develop a detailed construction program. Where works have the potential to result in impacts to the community, this program would be communicated to the community and stakeholders in advance of construction occurring.

Construction of the river release structure at Memorial Park is proposed to indicatively occur between Q4 2029 and Q2 2030. The overall construction program for the river release pipeline is proposed indicatively between Q3 2028 to Q2 2030.

Pipeline construction works would be progressive and would travel across the path of the proposed alignment at a rate of about 10 m – 25 metres per day. This means that areas in the vicinity of the proposed river release pipeline alignment would not be impacted for the full proposed construction program.

Compounds are also proposed to support pipeline and river release structure construction.

Please note timeframes in the EIS are indicative and are subject to change as the project progresses.