Greater Parramatta and Olympic Peninsula (GPOP) Water Cycle Management Project



Community update:
November 2026

Sydney's population and employment areas are growing, and our water and wastewater needs are changing. To support this growth, Sydney Water is proposing a new Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) in Camellia-Rosehill to 'triple' treat wastewater and produce advanced treated water. Improving the wastewater network and treatment will help protect waterways and support recreational uses for generations to come.

The project uses reverse osmosis technology to produce advanced treated water which is very close to drinking water quality.
An alternative pipeline alignment is proposed to carry the advanced treated water from the WRRF in Camellia-Rosehill and release it into the Parramatta River at Meadowbank, near John Whitton Bridge.

Most of the pipeline will be installed deep underground using Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) trenchless construction methods. The HDD pipeline will be constructed in three sections from the WRRF to Silverwater, beneath the Parramatta River to Ermington, and then to Meadowbank.

A short section of pipeline will be constructed by open trench construction method from a construction compound at Meadowbank Park, along Meadow Crescent and through Memorial Park to the river release location near John Whitton Bridge. At Memorial Park, Meadowbank, a barometric loop will be installed above ground.

The project will also include the construction of new wastewater pipelines from an upgraded pumping station at Camellia under Rosehill Gardens Racecourse to the WRRF, and relining and repurposing of an existing wastewater pipeline in Camellia, Parramatta, Rydalmere and Dundas.

Alternative river release pipeline alignment proposal

Sydney Water has explored options to improve the delivery of the project. We outlined this in our July 2026 newsletter. Since then, we have undertaken further consultation and technical investigations.

The alternative river release pipeline alignment aims to reduce impact for the community by minimising disruption during construction, decreasing the number of construction sites, limiting impacts on streets and neighbourhoods and delivering better value for money. It also provides an opportunity to lessen the impact on parks, vegetation and surrounding areas.

The assessment of the alternative river release pipeline will be documented in the Amendment Report, which is due to go on exhibition in mid-2027.

Project timeline*

JUL 2024 – NOV 2025
Consult with community and government agencies

FEB – MAR 2026
Exhibit EIS and engage with communities

JUL – AUG 2026
Community feedback on alternative alignment

NOVEMBER 2026 **WE ARE HERE**
Community update newsletter

MID 2027
Response to Submissions Report and Amendment Report published on the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) planning portal

LATE 2027
Final planning decision

LATE 2029
Contract award

MID 2030
Detailed design

LATE 2030
Start of construction

2033
Construction completion

LATE 2033
Wastewater services operational

*Timeline is subject to change

Latest activity

Over recent months, we've spoken with residents, businesses, community groups, government agencies and other stakeholders about proposed changes to the project.

Through surveys, door knocking, pop-up events, webinars, meetings and conversations, many people recognised the need for improved wastewater infrastructure to support a growing city. They also shared important concerns about how the project could affect their local area.

Your feedback has helped shape the project's ongoing development and the information that will be provided in the Amendment Report.

This newsletter summarises what we heard and how we're responding.

Community engagement activities – July and August 2026

5 community pop-up events

2 community webinars

35,000+ newsletters delivered

272 stakeholder enquiries and conversations

94 new project subscribers

Featured project information

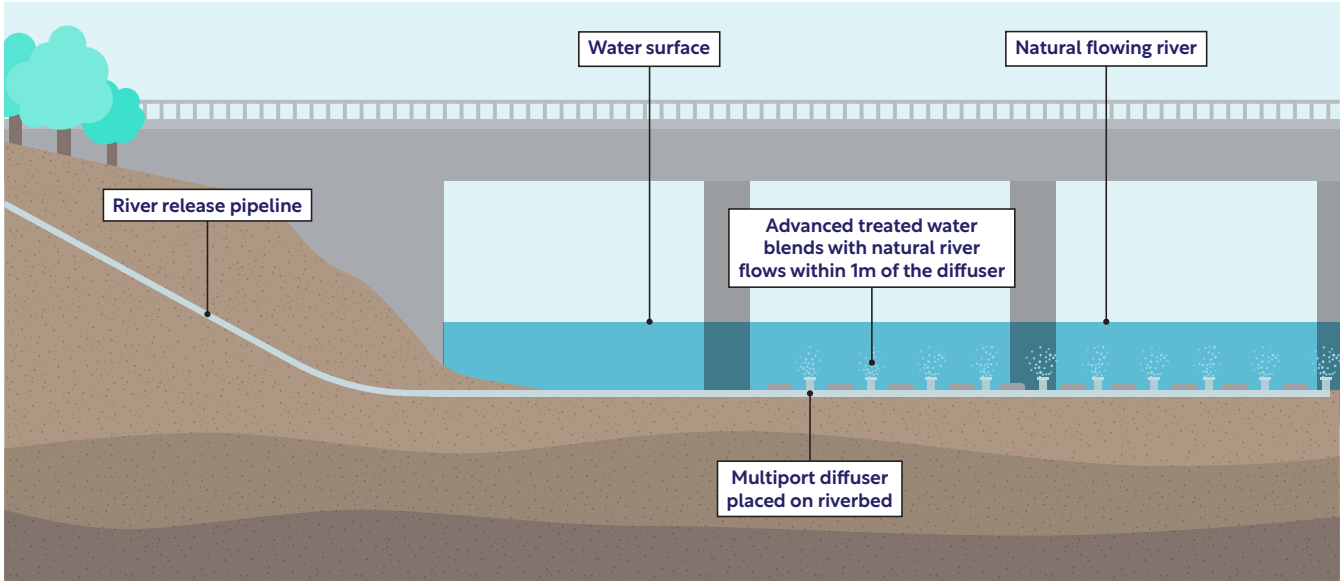
Understanding the proposed river release

Advanced treated water, which is very close to drinking quality, will be released via a multiport diffuser. The diffuser is designed to help blend the water, almost immediately, into the natural river flows to meet environmental requirements.

Detailed information about the diffuser and the release of advanced treated water into the Parramatta River, including technical assessments and environmental studies, can be found in the original EIS and its appendices on the DPHI portal.

The diffuser will be constructed on the riverbed and is designed not to affect ferry operations. Instead of releasing advanced treated water through one large pipe, it releases the water across a wider area through multiple smaller outlets. This helps the advanced treated water mix with the natural Parramatta River flows, within about one metre of the diffuser. The diffuser is also designed to avoid disturbance of the riverbed sediments.

The location near John Whitton Bridge was selected for several reasons including specialist studies of river flows and water quality. These studies demonstrated that this location provides favourable mixing conditions and supports the project's water quality objectives.



Indicative proposed river release and diffuser infrastructure

Community feedback – the five themes raised most often

1. Protecting the Parramatta River

What we heard

People want confidence that the project will protect river health, water quality and the environment.

Many asked how advanced treated water will be managed and monitored.

What the EIS assessment found

Detailed technical studies assessed water quality, aquatic ecology and river health. The assessments found the project can operate within environmental requirements and the project includes measures to protect and improve water quality, aquatic life and to monitor the Parramatta River. Information about the water quality assessments, including the independent reviews that were undertaken is detailed as part of the environmental assessments in the original EIS. All reports are publicly available via the DPHI portal.

2. Why was the river release location at Meadowbank chosen?

What we heard

People asked why the proposed release location was selected and whether alternative options were considered.

What informed the decision

Several river release locations were assessed as part of the EIS. The proposed release location next to John Whitton Bridge at Meadowbank was selected as preferred against a range of environmental, engineering and community factors.



Water quality outcomes



River conditions



Constructability



Impacts on parks and communities



Heritage considerations



Connection to the new Water Resource Recovery Facility

3. Construction impacts

What we heard

Residents, park users and businesses wanted to understand how the river release pipeline construction could affect access, traffic, recreation, noise and surrounding areas.

What's proposed

With the proposed amendment, most of the river release pipeline infrastructure will be constructed using Horizontal Direction Drilling with construction compounds at Silverwater Park, Silverwater and George Kendall Riverside Park, Ermington and three in Meadowbank (Meadowbank Park, Memorial Park and the commuter carpark at John Whitton Bridge).

Planning and environmental assessments have considered potential construction impacts and identified measures to minimise disruption wherever possible. If the project is approved, further detailed planning will be undertaken before construction begins. This will be shared with the community. Impacted stakeholders will be consulted and feedback will help shape construction planning.

4. Keeping the community informed

What we heard

People told us they want regular updates and clear information as the project progresses.

How we'll keep you informed

Sydney Water will continue to provide project updates, maintain the project website, share key project milestones and provide opportunities for the community to ask questions and seek information.

Subscribe for project updates via the GPOP website.

5. Opportunities to provide input

What we heard

Many people wanted to know how they can continue contributing to project planning and decision-making.

What happens next

The Amendment Report will be placed on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days. During this time, community members, stakeholders and government agencies can review the project documentation and provide feedback through a formal submission via the DPHI planning portal. All submissions will be considered as part of the planning assessment and approval process that is managed by DPHI.

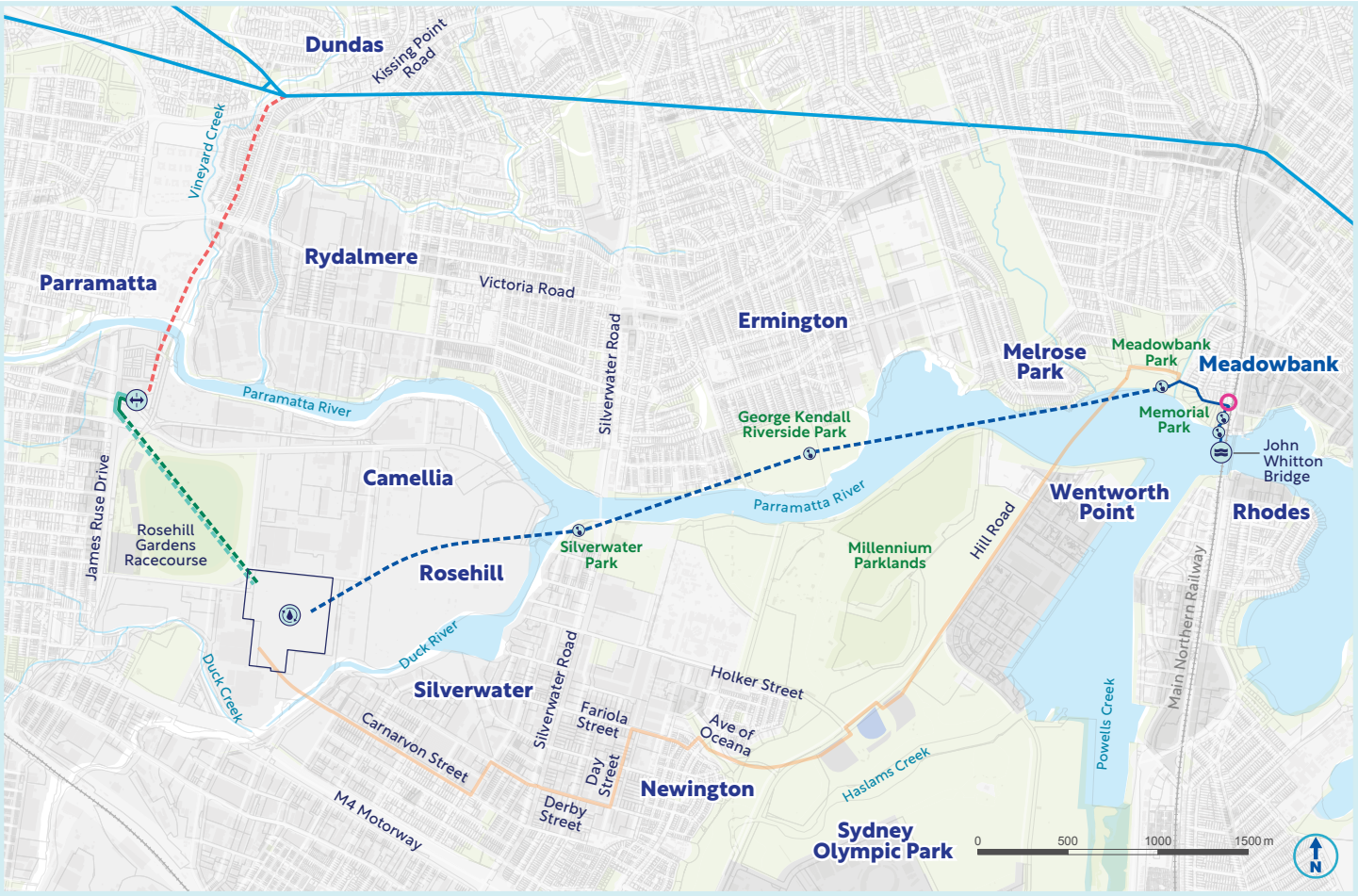
Sydney Water is taking additional time to assess the proposed project changes and complete the supporting technical and environmental work. Public exhibition of the Amendment Report and Response to Submissions Report is now planned for mid-2027. We will inform the community when the public exhibition is open.

Staying involved

Sydney Water will continue to engage with communities, stakeholders, councils and government agencies as the project progresses.

If the project is approved, detailed planning will include ongoing community engagement to help keep people informed about upcoming activities and how we will manage potential impacts.

GPOP Water Cycle Management Project map



Legend

- River release structure
- Camellia pumping station
- Camellia-Rosehill WRRF
- Barometric loop
- River release pipeline site compounds
- Northern Suburbs Ocean Outfall Sewer (NSOOS)

Proposed pipelines and construction methods

- Alternative alignment for river release (trenchless)
- River release pipeline (trenched)
- Previous alignment for river release
- Transfer pipeline (trenchless)
- Transfer pipeline (trenched)
- Brine pipeline (trenchless)
- Brine pipeline (trenched)
- Brine pipeline relining

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.

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www.sydneywater.com.au/gpop

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