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Newsletter September 2024

Water Cycle Management for Greater Parramatta and Olympic Peninsula

Over the next 30 years, the Greater Parramatta and Olympic Peninsula (GPOP) precinct will be home to an additional 250,000 people. In order to service this anticipated growth, Sydney Water must invest in infrastructure.

Wastewater in the GPOP area is transferred by the Northern Suburbs Ocean Outfall Sewer (NSOOS) to the North Head Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) for treatment and release into the ocean. The NSOOS and North Head WRRF do not have capacity to service projected growth into the future. Expanding and duplicating these assets is costly. It also wouldn't allow us to keep water in local waterways or be reused for local benefit. For the GPOP growth area, we're shifting away from a reliance on coastal treatment and ocean discharge, toward more holistic water management.

Sydney Water is planning a new treatment facility to allow us to sustainably service the GPOP area. The new WRRF will produce high quality water using advanced treatment for release into Parramatta River. In future, this high-quality water may be reused locally or used to top up Prospect Reservoir which supplies the Water Filtration Plant.

What is a WRRF?

It's called a Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) instead of a wastewater treatment facility because wastewater doesn't have to go to waste. Many of our WRRFs make their own energy using cogeneration, biomethane and even hydroelectricity.

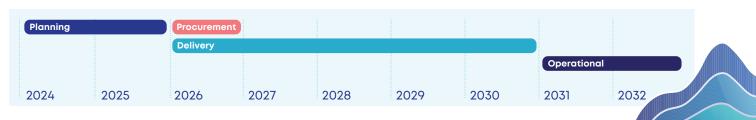
The project involves:

- a new WRRF in the Camellia-Rosehill industrial precinct
- upgrades to the pumping station in Camellia
- a range of pipelines to transfer wastewater, brine, and advanced treated water river release

As the area grows, Sydney Water will explore options for the water. This could include watering for green spaces, or reuse.

Treatment processes

Before water is released to Parramatta River it will undergo advanced treatment using reverse osmosis. The water will meet NSW Environment Protection Authority requirements and will have lower nutrients and impurities than the existing water of Paramatta River.



Indicative project timeline



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Project benefits



Efficient and cost-effective water services to support growth

Supporting the vision to make the Parramatta River swimmable



High-quality, advanced treated water available for non-drinking use to support greening and cooling initiatives



A sustainable, circular economy

Our plan for a water resource recovery facility located within GPOP can be adapted in future to produce purified recycled water to supplement dams, providing drought resilience. This is not a part of the project currently and would be subject to approvals and regulations.

Approval process

The decision to proceed with a major project such as this involves government approvals, community consultation as well as onging compliance with water supply and environmental regulations. We are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be on display late 2025 for public comment. The EIS will provide detail on the economic, environmental, and social impacts and benefits of the project.

Contact us

We encourage feedback on the project to improve our planning.

www.sydneywatertalk.com.au/gpop gpopproject@sydneywater.com.au 1800 172 263

Project impacts

With the delivery of any new WRRF and its supporting pipelines, there will be some construction impacts. These include:



drilling and trenching for pipelines



additional vehicle movements



noise, dust and light from construction and earth moving at the future WRRF site and pumping station

We're minimising impacts on private property by following roads where possible and using less invasive techniques such as horizontal directional drilling (underground).

Sydney Water will be engaging surrounding communities and land owners on the proposed project to capture feedback and explore additional opportunities to minimise impacts on the environment and community where possible.

Have your say

There are a range of ways you can get involved.

- Request a briefing or project presentation
- Join us at an event on-line or in person
- Subscribe for e-updates
- Share your views through our survey



Feedback will help us improve the project planning. We will keep you informed and report on community feedback through the project.

Upcoming events

Visit our stand at community events near you to speak with the project team. Scan the QR code above to find out more.