

North West Treatment Hub

Keeping our waterways clean



April 2025 update – Riverstone

The North West Hub Alliance (NWA) is set to upgrade the Riverstone Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) to accommodate anticipated growth in the region and ensure the wastewater network remains reliable and efficient for the future. These improvements will also help keep our waterways clean.

This project is part of the North West Treatment Hub program, which includes upgrades at the Rouse Hill, Riverstone and Castle Hill WRRFs.

The NWA is a partnership between John Holland, KBR, Stantec and Sydney Water.

The work at Riverstone WRRF includes:

- a new grit management system
- a new biosolids treatment including carbonisation.

This is the first time carbonisation will be used in NSW for biosolids treatment, and is an exciting step towards a greener, more sustainable future.

What is carbonisation?

Carbonisation is the process of converting organic wastewater sludge into a carbon-rich material (in this case, biochar) through heat treatment. The biochar can be used to improve soil condition for farming, and in cement and concrete works.

What's happened so far?

Over the last few months, we have completed site establishment, survey work and geotechnical investigations including potholing. The results of this investigation work will inform the next stage of design.

To celebrate the start of major construction work, a smoking ceremony was held on Thursday 20 February. Smoking ceremonies have been performed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for thousands of years for ceremonial and cultural purposes. The smoking ceremony at Riverstone was done to mark the official start of construction and create a positive working environment for the NWHA team.

Delivered by Dharug Elder Uncle Colin Locke, this event at Riverstone WRRF was attended by project team members from Sydney Water and NWHA.



Smoking ceremony at Riverstone WRRF

Protecting fauna at Riverstone

Our NWHA environment team help protect native fauna, prevent pollution and minimise waste and resource use at the Riverstone WRRF.

We are lucky to have a rich and diverse ecosystem at the Riverstone site. One of the challenges we face is finding a balance between environmental protection and the needs of construction.

That's why we follow a Biodiversity Management Plan, which provides guidelines that help us protect and care for the environments we work in. For example, before we cleared any vegetation to make way for site set up and construction, we carefully marked habitat trees, weeds and no-go zones.

Trees not providing habitat for native fauna were cleared first, while trees that did provide habitat were isolated for up to 48 hours and the wildlife were relocated to an appropriate and safe location nearby. Our ecologist stayed on-site throughout the process to ensure the safety of the native fauna. We then relocated several animals to the Wildlife Information Rescue and Education Services (WIRES) or to our biodiversity offset area on our site. These included turtles, bar-shouldered dove chicks, rainbow lorikeet chicks, a king parrot and even an Australian native honey beehive.

Our team's commitment to biodiversity management, preserving natural habitat and ensuring the wellbeing of local wildlife has translated into the successful preservation of local bird, reptile and native bee species.



Fauna found at Riverstone WRRF that have been safely relocated by our ecologist to either the biodiversity offset area within the Riverstone site or to the Wildlife Information Rescue and Education Services (WIRES)



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Treatment Hub**

What happens next?

Future work will involve installing four new high voltage feeders along Bandon Road and Riverstone Parade to power the future carbonisation unit and cater to the future demands of Riverstone WRRF. As the project progresses, there may be additional truck movements along Bandon Road and Riverstone Parade as well as some increased noise when we undertake our electrical work. We expect to start this work in the coming months.

We are also planning phase two work. This includes installing a **Membrane Bio Reactor** – an advanced wastewater treatment system that combines traditional biological treatment with membrane filtration; duplicating the current effluent pipeline from the WRRF along Bandon Road; and installing additional high voltage cables along Bourke Street to Grantham Farm.

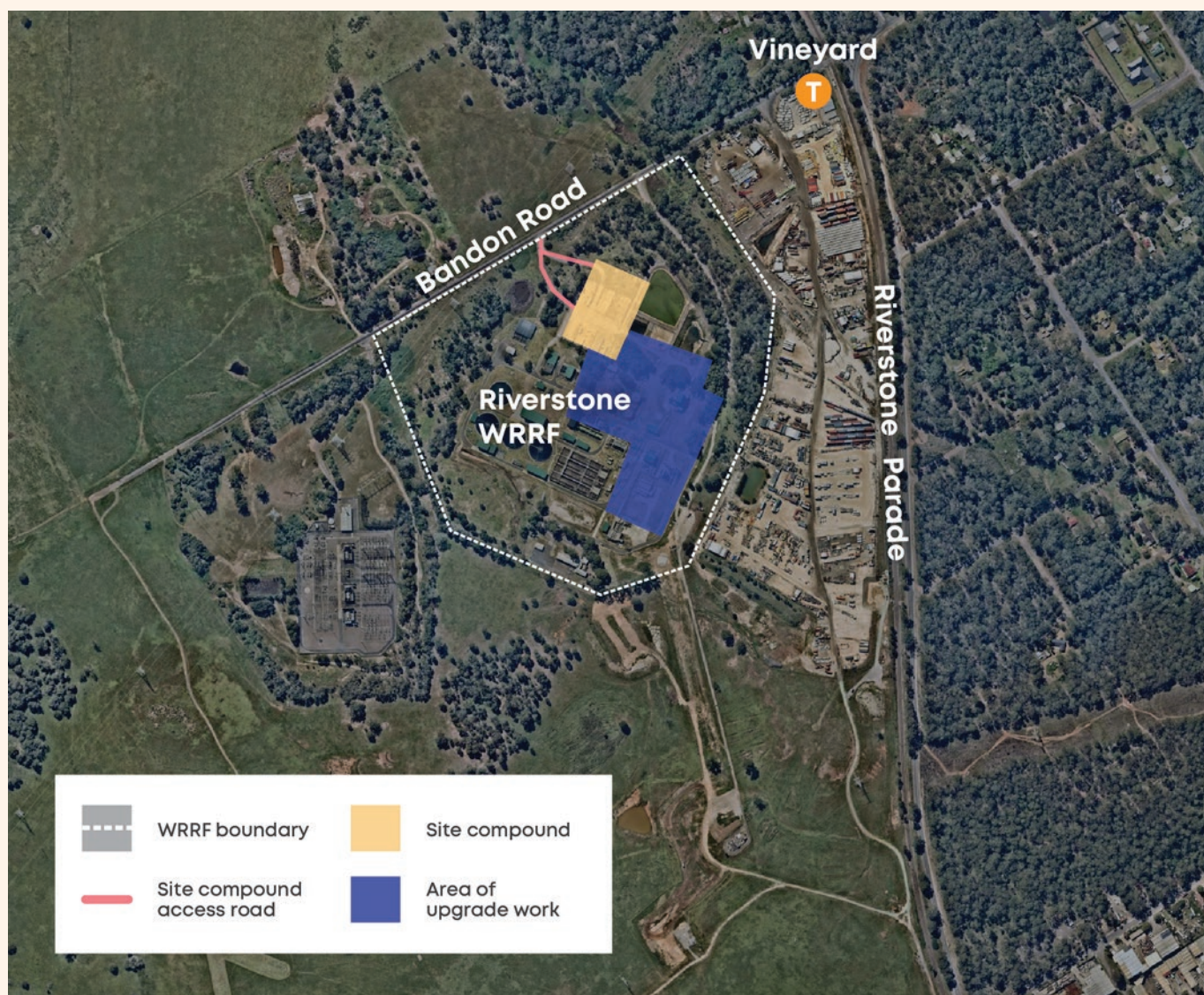
Most of our work will take place inside the Riverstone WRRF boundary, however there will be times when our project team will need to work on local roads. We will keep the community updated about any traffic changes as our work progresses.



Construction is progressing at Riverstone



For more information about the North West Treatment Hub, please visit the project website at sydneywatertalk.com.au/north-west-treatment-hub



Map of Riverstone Water Resource Recovery Facility





Meet our people



Our environment coordinator, Niloufar

Niloufar has a passion for all things 'green'. She cares deeply about the natural world and the organisms that live in it. With a background in Mine Engineering and a Master's in Environmental Science, she has found her purpose at the NWA and plays a key part in our Environment team at the Riverstone site.

'I love being out on a busy construction site, where we get to bring our project's management plans to life and take real steps to protect our environment, which is incredibly fulfilling. We often come across unexpected environmental surprises on site such as turtles, birds and kangaroos. Wherever we are working, we are mindful of the environment that we work in and the way we coexist with nature.'

How we manage community impacts

Our project began in 2022 and is expected to be completed in 2027. Work for phase two starts this year and will be completed by 2029. Our work hours for this project are from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday and from 8am to 1pm on Saturdays. If we need to work outside these hours, we will let you know via a separate notification before the work takes place.

We will minimise impacts to community where possible through active monitoring of noise, dust and vibration, our use of equipment and tools, as well as the timing of any noisy work. We will keep you updated through notifications in letterboxes, door knocks, drop-in sessions, the Sydney Water website and newsletters. We want to thank the community for your support so far.

In other news

Sydney Water is also installing a new wastewater pipe under Bandon Road and Chapman Road, between O'Connell Street and Old Hawkesbury Road in Vineyard, to help service the growing community.

Site preparation work commenced in mid-February and construction will be completed by late 2025. Sydney Water recently distributed a notification to the nearby community with more information.

To find out more, please contact the Confluence Water community engagement team on **1800 943 119** or **confluence@sydneywater.com.au**.

Interpreter service



If you need an interpreter, please call **13 14 50**

Arabic | Chinese (Traditional) | Chinese (Simplified) | Greek | Korean | Vietnamese

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如果您需要口譯員，請撥打上面列出的電話號碼

如果您需要口译员，请拨打上面列出的电话号码

Εάν χρειάζεστε διερμηνέα, καλέστε τον αριθμό που αναφέρεται παραπάνω

통역이 필요한 경우 위에 나열된 번호로 전화하십시오.

Nếu bạn cần thông dịch viên, hãy gọi số điện thoại được liệt kê ở trên

Want to know more



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