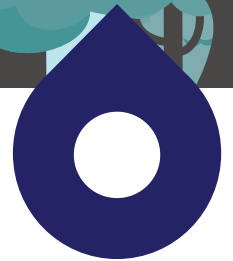


# West Camden Water Recycling Plant Upgrade

Sydney  
**WATER**



## Preparing for the future as our great city continues to grow



With the population of Greater Western Sydney projected to reach 3 million by 2036, Sydney Water are not only investing in new infrastructure but upgrading existing sites in order to support this growth.

Since our last update the team at West Camden Water Recycling Plant (WRP) have been working hard throughout Covid-19 and the recent floods to upgrade the plant.

By doubling the capacity of the existing treatment plant, we are ensuring that population growth in the area is environmentally sustainable – both in the volumes we are able to treat and by producing high quality recycled water for agricultural and recreation

use in the local area. The improved quality of treated effluent released to the environment will benefit our waterways. We are doing this by implementing sustainable requirements that future-proof our city's water recycling requirements.

In this newsletter, we provide you with an update on the progress we made over the last six months and what's coming up this year.

## West Camden WRP upgrade explained



**2x**

Treatment capacity

That's the equivalent of

**6.5**

Olympic sized swimming pools

Increase our services from 88,000 to

**176,000 people**





## Our Progress



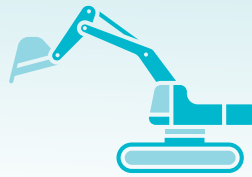
**510**

metres of pipe  
laid –total to date



**13**

**local contractors  
engaged**



**2,000**

tonnes of earthworks  
cut and disposed



**1,000**

**tonnes of earthworks fill  
imported and placed**



Recent flooding at Sheathers Ln.

### West Camden WRP continues to fully operate during the construction.

Before we could start the upgrade works, we had to install temporary infrastructure to ensure our work does not impact or interrupt the existing WRP and its treatment processes.

This included building up to 300m of pipes and a new pump station to divert the flows away from the sludge lagoon. We also relocated existing services before starting the process of dewatering the sludge lagoon to create space for the new Membrane Bioreactor (MBR).

Recently we started the installation of high voltage electrical cables, from the Cawdor Zone Substation along Cawdor Rd and Sheathers Ln to the pump station at the WRP.

### Challenges of Covid-19 and wet weather

Until February 2022, we had a limited number of staff on site. Team members in key roles could only be on site on specific days, enabling us to avoid exposure in the event of a positive Covid case. With restrictions being lifted, we now have all essential construction staff back on site full time. The team continues to follow the NSW Health, Sydney Water and project specific Covid-19 requirements including weekly Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) and isolating where necessary.

Since the project started in October 2021, we have had 70 days of rain. A third of those throughout March and April dropping a staggering 670.8mm of rain. The total for 2022 has been 1022.2mm and 59 days of rain. The heavy downpours in Camden brought our construction activities to a standstill for over two weeks. When the floods subsided we had to wait until the construction site was dry and safe to make sure our machinery does not get stuck. The team are constantly assessing the weather forecast to plan the delivery of work safely.



**70 total**  
days of rain



**670.8mm**  
of rain between  
March & April



**2 weeks**  
of construction standstill

## Smoking ceremony

In early April we held a traditional smoking ceremony to mark the start of construction under the West Camden WRP upgrade project.

A smoking ceremony is traditionally held to acknowledge the ancestors and pay respect to the land and waters of country. It welcomes, cleanses and promotes the protection and wellbeing of visitors.

The area known as Camden was originally at the northern edge of land belonging to the Gandangara people of the Southern Highlands, who called it Benkennie, meaning 'dry land'.

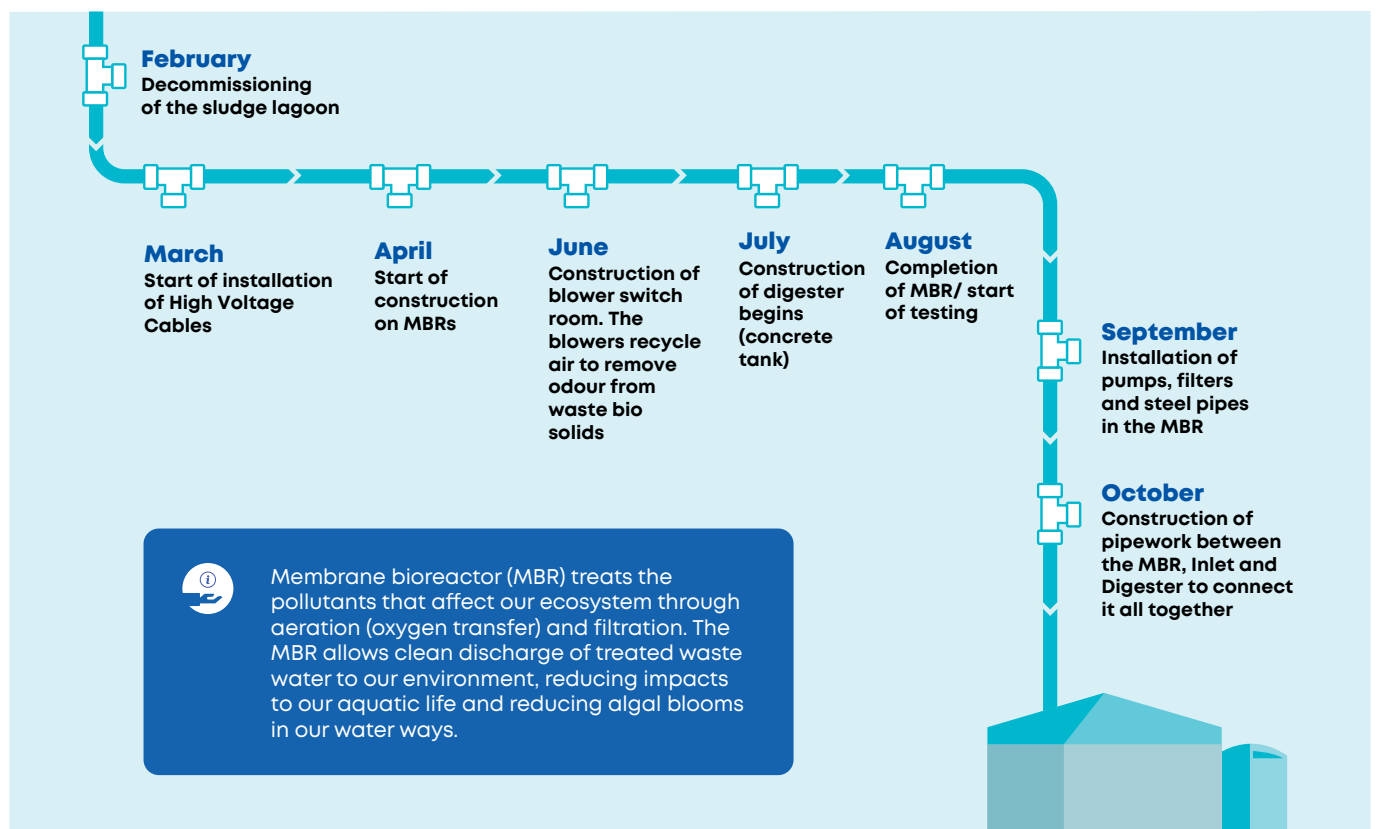
We would like to extend our gratitude to Uncle Daniel Chalker from Dharawal Country for performing the moving ceremony. Reflecting on the year that was 2021, Mr Chalker provided an important First Nations Cultural understanding.

We also would like to thank Member for Camden, Mr Peter Sidgreaves, MP for attending and showing his support on the day.

Sydney Water, Downer and BMD are all proud to continue a reconciliation journey through our commitment to Indigenous engagement that we operate on the lands of the First Nations people.



## Timeline for 2022



## Meet the team

The West Camden WRP upgrade has our environmental team excited. With the expansion comes new and innovative ways to recycle water which will benefit the community for years to come.

Let's hear what Andrew Stuart our Senior Environmental Advisor from Downer has to say about the project and what a day at West Camden WRP looks like.

### Tell us a bit about your role...

My role involves ensuring we achieve positive environmental outcomes and comply with environmental legislation and approvals. I provide advice to management and support to the teams on ground regarding all environmental matters.

### What makes your role exciting?

Environmental management is challenging and there is never a one-size-fits-all solution. I've found talking to people from different backgrounds allows for some ingenious solutions. My role varies and no two days are the same. Some days I might be sampling water and other days I might be working with ecologists to safely remove vegetation.

### What is this project doing to improve the environment?

The project will allow the West Camden WRP to discharge cleaner and better-quality water to meet the new environment protection licence requirements. It's an important step to improve the environmental values for the Hawkesbury-Nepean River.

### What is interesting about this project from an environmental perspective?

Part of the project involves decommissioning the sludge lagoon. The material is being removed and transferred into Geotubes, where clean water is discharged and the sediment is left behind. The sediment will be tested and if it's suitable it will be reused for beneficial biosolids. Biosolids are used as an important fertiliser to help plant growth for agriculture, land rehabilitation or landscaping.

### What challenges have you faced at West Camden WRP?

The wet weather has had its challenges. Activities had to be planned and carried out in such a way that environmental risk is reduced. We had to plan efficient site drainage to ensure water flows through the erosion and sediment controls. We've built a sediment basin at the lowest point of the site so that we can capture, treat and reuse water for onsite construction activities. This reduces our reliance on valuable drinking water.

## We have extended our Saturday working hours to meet critical project milestones.

From Saturday 23 April 2022 until the project completion in 2023, our work hours are:

- Monday to Friday 7am to 6pm
- Saturday 7am to 5pm

We will not work on Sundays and Public Holidays.

During the work you may notice an increase in noise, vehicle and construction equipment movement around the work site. All sheds and equipment will be stored within the Sydney Water site's fenced area.

We know our work can be disruptive, so we'll make every effort to reduce any impact this work may have on you.

## Staying updated

To find out more about the project please visit our [Sydney Water Talk Page](#).



**Web:**  
[sydneywatertalk.com.au/west-camden](https://sydneywatertalk.com.au/west-camden)



**Email us:**  
[WestCamdenWRP@sydneywater.com.au](mailto:WestCamdenWRP@sydneywater.com.au)

Need to contact us on another matter? Call our Contact Centre on **13 20 92**

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