



Why do We Need a Strategy?



Parramatta has, for several years, undertaken numerous activities that have a direct or in-direct benefit to our waterways. This includes community education programs, creek revegetation, weed removal and flood mitigation works. Despite these activities there has been no overall framework or coordination of these activities.

The aim of the Strategy is to provide the vision and guiding direction for Council and the community in the management of our waterways for the next 20 years.

To assist in developing the Strategy several questions need to be asked. This includes such questions as where do we want to be in the future, what were we once like and how are we going to get there. This Strategy is built on the responses to these questions.

The Strategy is also based on a **Sustainable City** for future generations to enjoy. This is driven through a **Natural Resource Management (NRM)** approach, where all activities in the catchment have an impact on our waterways.

The strategy will assist in:

- Improving our understanding of waterways;
- Guiding the management of waterways to ensure agreed outcomes are achieved;
- Influencing our priorities and where we will deliver on-ground action;
- Coordinating of all the activities of Council that impact on waterways;
- Protecting and enhancing water quality, habitat and amenity of our waterways;
- Ensuring that the community is protected from flooding.

The Strategy will ensure that Parramatta City Council is meetings its obligations under the various National and State policies and legislation such as the NSW State Rivers and Estuaries Policy and the Catchment Blue Print.

Most importantly, the Strategy identifies the vision and outcomes the whole community can work together to achieve. With a shared vision and direction it may be possible to once again have a waterway that we are proud to pass on to our grandchildren.

Answers to some of the questions on 'What were we like', and 'Where are we today' can be found in:

- **Rivers of Opportunity — Volume 2: Our Status.**

Answers to the question on 'How are we going to get there', and 'Are we there yet' can be found in:

- **Rivers of Opportunity — Volume 3: Our Plan.**
- **Rivers of Opportunity — Volume 4: Our Actions.**

