

Tuesday 29 October 2019

## **CITY OF RYDE ENDORSES PARRAMATTA RIVER MASTERPLAN**

The City of Ryde has endorsed the Parramatta River Masterplan which aims to improve the health of the Parramatta River in order to make it swimmable once again.

The masterplan was prepared by the Parramatta River Catchment Group in conjunction with the City of Ryde and the 10 other partner catchment councils, government agencies, cultural advisors and important stakeholders.

A healthier river will mean three new swimming sites can be created by 2025.

Putney Park has been earmarked as one of the new swimming sites, along with McIlwaine Park in Rhodes East and Bayview Park in Concord.

The masterplan sets out agreed actions to achieve its aims through water quality monitoring of the river, reducing stormwater run-off, improving wet weather overflows and involving the community more in maintaining the health of the river. Extensive testing and studies on potential pollutants and their impact for swimmability will also be undertaken.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said Council's endorsement of the masterplan underlined how it was supportive of efforts to open up the Parramatta River for the entire community.

"The Parramatta River is one of Australia's most iconic waterways, so it is appropriate that we join with our neighbouring councils and authorities to improve the health of the river for everyone," Cllr Laxale said.

"We are committed to a clean Parramatta River. Our Zero waste to River target, along with our investment in the Putney Beach Activation project, will hopefully lead to a swimmable river by 2025."

City of Ryde Councillor and Parramatta River Catchment Group Vice Chair, Cllr Penny Pedersen, said the Parramatta River Masterplan aligned with the outcomes of the 2028 City of Ryde Community Strategic Plan and delivery priorities under the North District Plan 2056.

"Creating a swimming site at Putney Park will provide new recreation opportunities for our community and a motivation to make the water cleaner which will in turn protect biodiversity and enhance the Parramatta River," Cllr Pedersen said.

"I look forward to the City of Ryde working with all members of the Parramatta River Catchment Group to make this a reality."

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