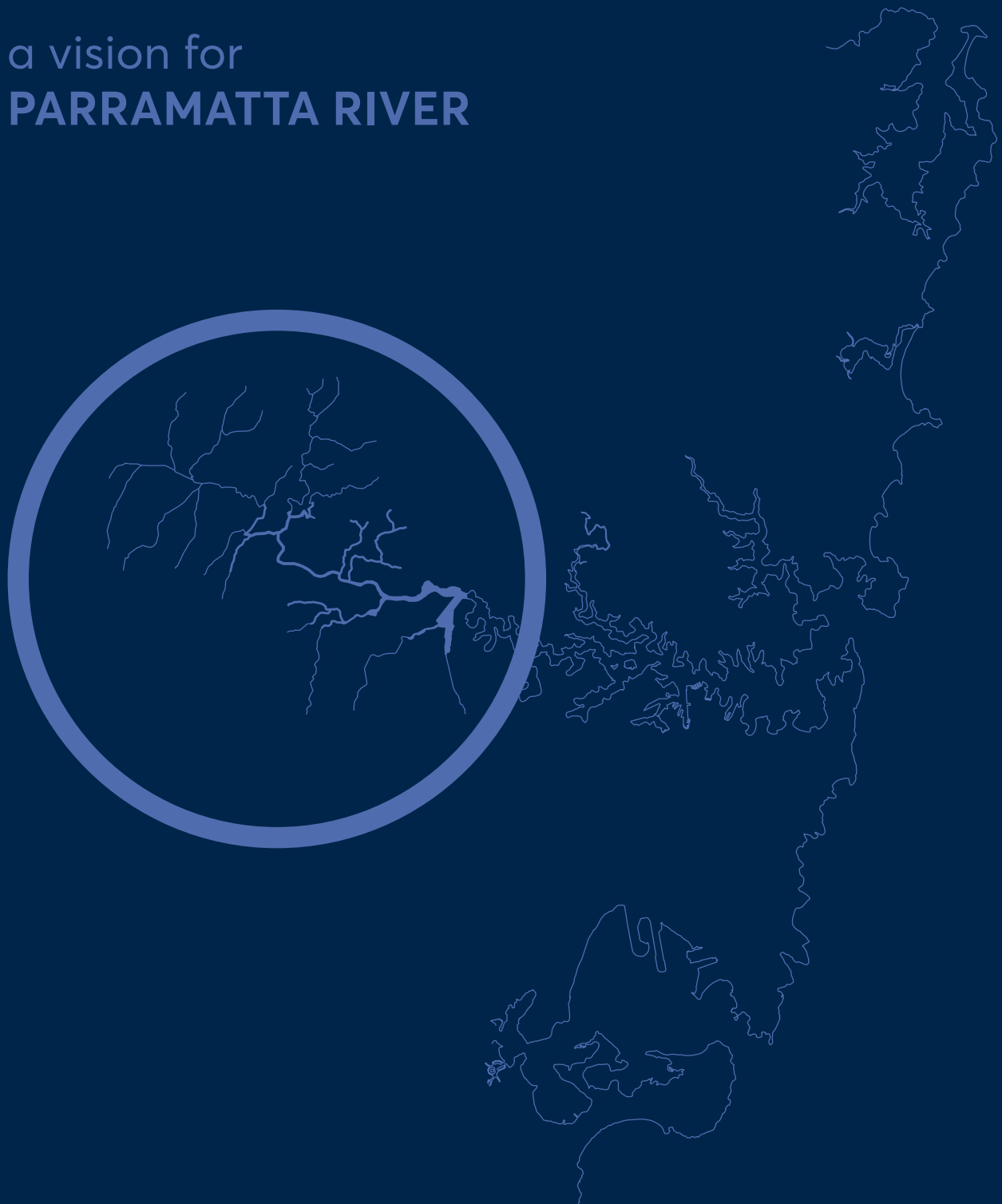


Sydney's new

CENTRAL RIVER PARKLANDS

a vision for

PARRAMATTA RIVER



FOREWORD

The Parramatta River has been a place of cultural significance for First Nations peoples for thousands of years. The natural meeting point between the Parramatta River, its tributaries and Sydney Harbour was a fertile environment, a central gathering point, and home. Parramatta is thought to have been positioned at a key transition point for trade and language between coastal and inland Dharug people, a central geographic advantage that still exists within Greater Sydney today.

The river also played a critical role in the survival of the early colony, with the rich alluvial soils and abundant freshwater providing the basis for the establishment of the agricultural and farming industries that fed early European settlers. The river continued to establish itself as the heart of the growing colony well into the 19th century. The riverbank became the backdrop to the growing economic activities of agriculture, commerce, and industry.

Despite the significant role the Parramatta River had and continues to play in our City, it is only recently that the river has been given prominence. Parramatta Park Trust took steps to recognise the importance of the river to the park, the broader landscape and the community in its Your Parramatta Park 2030 strategy. City of Parramatta and the Parramatta River Catchment Group's work Our Living River has also begun to prioritise the health of the river and its catchment.

Perhaps part of the issue with broader recognition for the Parramatta River is, like other locations such as Sydney Harbour, the impacts of industry have been detrimental to our riverfront. For a large part of the 19th and 20th century, Parramatta River and Duck River were used as dumping grounds for soil, rubbish and pollution. This led to the river assuming the unfavourable identity of 'an open sewer'.

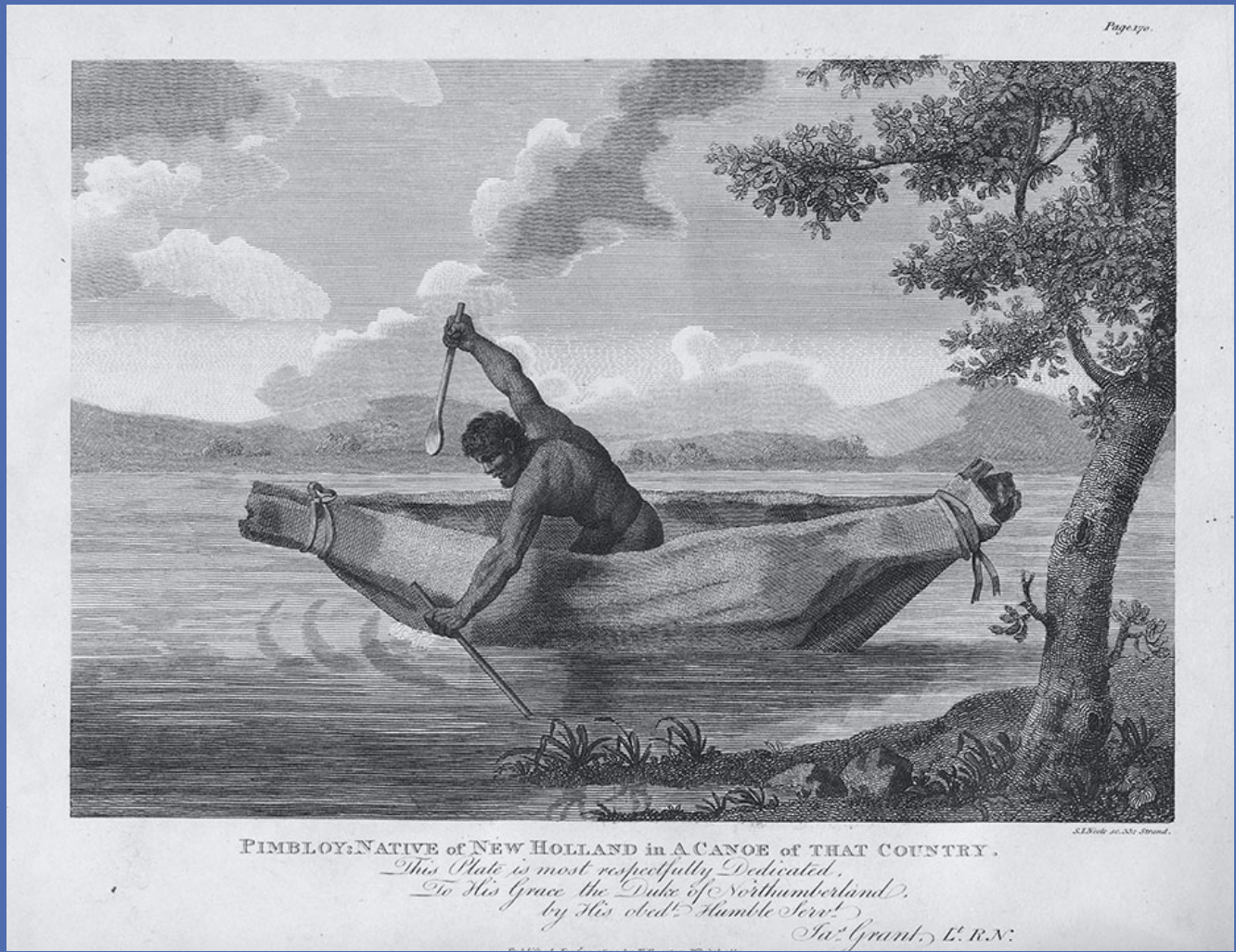
Since the 1970s, efforts from all levels of government have been made to improve the environmental quality of the river corridor. There have been some significant improvements with better regulation and internationally renowned remediation projects like Sydney Olympic Park but further work is needed.

It is important that we recognise that the rapid change and transformation that is underway across Sydney has major implications for the Parramatta River. A new chapter in the story of the river has begun, and it is vital that City of Parramatta in partnership with NSW Government and the community take this opportunity to re-imagine our river and ensure its future is positive.

The City of Parramatta has made great steps in its plans to revitalise the river. The Escarpment Boardwalk represents delivery of a critical link in the original 10-year vision set-out by the Parramatta Valley Cycle Masterplan. Upcoming work on Parramatta Quay, the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Riverside Theatres, and Civic Link in the CBD also represent years of Council's dedicated work and advocacy for the river coming to fruition. Parramatta River is becoming the front yard for locals and attracting more visitors than ever.

These projects are the critical beginnings of a significant legacy for Parramatta and a network of places that will support our community and city for years to come.

We need to build a stronger and more inclusive narrative that recognises the importance of the river as a shared public resource and sets out a bold vision for its future.



Pemulway, c1801,
by Samuel John Neele, National Library of Australia

Aboriginal people know that if we care for Country, it will care for us. For tens of thousands of years they have managed, cultivated and cared for the landscape where our towns and cities were established and continue to grow.

- Designing with Country Discussion Paper, Government Architect NSW 2020

FIRST NATIONS - The Parramatta River is regarded as a living entity by Aboriginal people both in spirit and body. It has been witnessed in many forms over thousands of years from a small creek following the valley floor to its current form filling the valley. The river and land surrounding it remain to this day important cultural heritage for Aboriginal people maintaining dreaming storylines, culture and traditions.

Proudly funded by the NSW Government in association with City of Parramatta Council



City of Parramatta respectfully recognises the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land and waters of Parramatta, the Dharug peoples.

We acknowledge that Aboriginal people continue to play a vital role in the ecological, economic, social and cultural life of Parramatta, while maintaining a distinct culture built on the principles of Caring for Country, the primacy of family, and the dignity and governance of Elders.

| Rev | Date | Description | Written | Checked | Approved |
|-----|----------|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|----------|
| A | 28/09/21 | Draft Issue | HJ/LW | LW/HP | NC |
| B | 7/11/22 | Draft Issue - Councillor Workshop | HJ/LW | LW | NC |
| C | 6/02/23 | Draft Issue - Councillor Workshop | HJ/LW | LW | NC |
| D | 4/05/23 | Issue for Council Report | HJ/LW | LW | NC |

CONTENTS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Foreword | 2 |
| Introduction | 5 |
| Why do we need a vision? | 7 |
| Setting a vision | 9 |
| World-class river parklands | 11 |
| Key drivers | 13 |
| Where are we at? | 15 |
| Forward strategy | 19 |
| Public river space design | 21 |
| River parkland outcomes | 23 |
| Principles | 25 |
| Big ideas | 26 |
| The plan | 29 |
| Waterfront ownership | 33 |
| Delivery and governance | 35 |
| Approach | 37 |
| Short-term delivery opportunities | 39 |
| Future planning | 41 |
| Precinct images | 43 |

WHY DO WE NEED A VISION?

At the heart of Parramatta is the river, an ancient waterway that has attracted and sustained communities for thousands of years. A revitalised river, with improved water quality as well as space for nature and our community is integral to the appeal of a Central River City and its success.

During the last century the Parramatta River faced many challenges. Degraded, its value as a natural asset and its potential to benefit communities was overlooked. Recently, public and government views of the river have begun to change. The Parramatta River is being re-imagined as a green transport corridor connecting growing communities. The possibility of a clean river and foreshore areas transformed into beloved public spaces has begun to grow.

This document seeks to unite all levels of government and private industry to deliver a bold vision for all of the Parramatta River. It identifies areas within the City of Parramatta Local Government Area that with careful planning will restore the river and support growth, investment, and our community both now and into the future.

The River has many supporters.

In 2008 Council supported the establishment of the Parramatta River Catchment Group, an alliance of councils, government agencies and local community groups with a plan to make the Parramatta River a world-class river and swimmable by 2025.

In 2015 Council endorsed the 2015 Parramatta City River Strategy, a comprehensive plan to transform the City River Foreshore into a vibrant public space that connects to the city, celebrates the history and culture of the Parramatta River, and is resilient to flooding.

In 2018 NSW Government recognised the importance of both Parramatta and the River as part of its metropolitan plan which identified Parramatta as the heart of the Central River City.

The focus and recognition these plans placed on the river has been the driver for a series of projects now coming to realisation. From 2016, several flagship projects including the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Escarpment Boardwalk, Subiaco Creek boardwalk, Alfred Street Bridge, Charles Street Square and Western Sydney Stadium redevelopment began to re-shape the City's relationship with the Parramatta River.

This work has begun to demonstrate the potential of our river. The next step for Council is to build on this momentum, to expand its vision beyond the CBD and create a plan to revitalise all of our river foreshore areas.

As we define this vision, we must consider the life of the river, how it provides a sense of place, how it draws our community and how a river that is healthier, nurtured and celebrated can play a more central role in Parramatta's identity as an emerging global city.

This proposal for a new Central River Parkland defines the potential for the Parramatta River and its tributaries within the Greater Parramatta to Sydney Olympic Park (GPOP) priority growth area.

The document outlines a long-term vision to establish the Parramatta River as a continuous regional parkland at the centre of metropolitan Sydney and the Central River City. To illustrate the strength of this vision, this document identifies opportunities for the creation of a continuous open space network and the delivery of 181 hectares of new public space to support planned growth in the Greater Parramatta and Sydney Olympic Park area (GPOP).

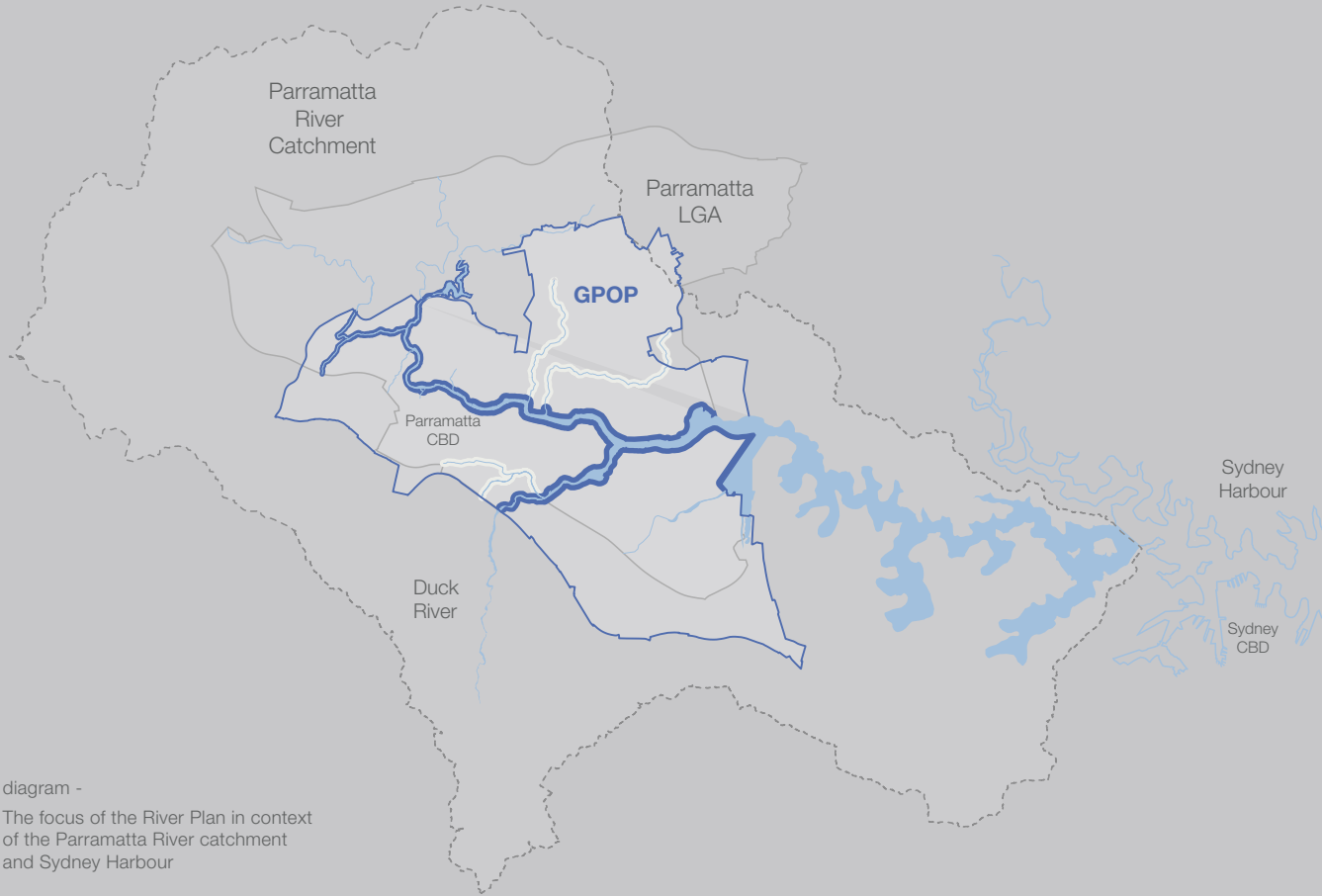


diagram -
The focus of the River Plan in context of the Parramatta River catchment and Sydney Harbour



image -
Morton St Development on the River

SETTING A VISION



artist impression -
Expanding the benefits, functions,
and open space opportunities of the
Parramatta River corridor

Parramatta River Sydney’s new Central River Parklands

Key values that should underpin
a vision for the river

Ancient River

The Parramatta River is the primary tributary of Sydney Harbour and has been a central point in the Sydney region for thousands of years. The river has a longevity which stretches well beyond a single person’s life span and experience. Our appreciation, vision, and plans for the river should be considered as part of a legacy that delivers benefits for the environment and our community.

Living River

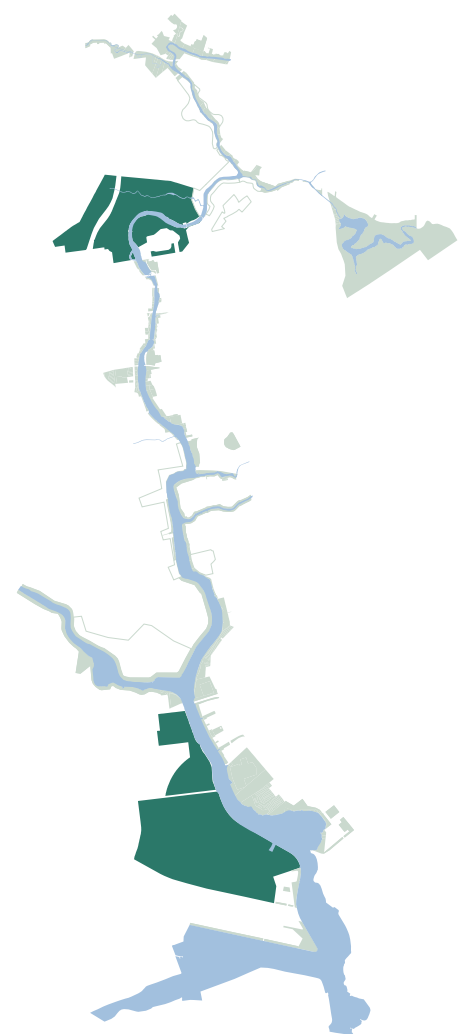
The river is a living system. The natural flow of the river and its ability to support life and activity has been significantly modified since European settlement. As our city’s population grows, space for our river to do more will become critical. Planning needs to recognise the value of safeguarding the river as living green infrastructure.

Shared River

The Parramatta River is the defining feature of Parramatta and a shared resource that has established this place as a destination and a home for many thousands of generations. In planning for the future the importance of retaining and promoting public ownership, management, and engagement with the river must be prioritised.

WORLD-CLASS RIVER PARKLANDS

Parramatta River should be recognised and developed as an internationally renowned continuous regional parkland. The corridor is compromised of more than 500ha of parkland, including two regional parks of international significance, and has the potential to be transformed into 870ha of continuous public open space.



- The Emerald Necklace**

Legacy project for Boston, a river parkland at the heart of the city.
Integration of open space delivery and water management.
- The River Torrens Linear Park**

The earliest linear park in Australia, a 35km parkland following the river from the Adelaide Hills to the coast.
A partnership project established spanning over 8 different local government boundaries.
- The Hudson River Park**

The reclamation of former industrial waterfront along the Hudson River for new open space.
A recent conversion that has established the second largest park in New York.

Parramatta’s project opportunity


Central River Parkland, Parramatta
870Ha




Similar planned river parkland precedents

- 1


Emerald Necklace, Boston
1860's
400Ha


- 2

River Torrens, Adelaide
1980's
500Ha

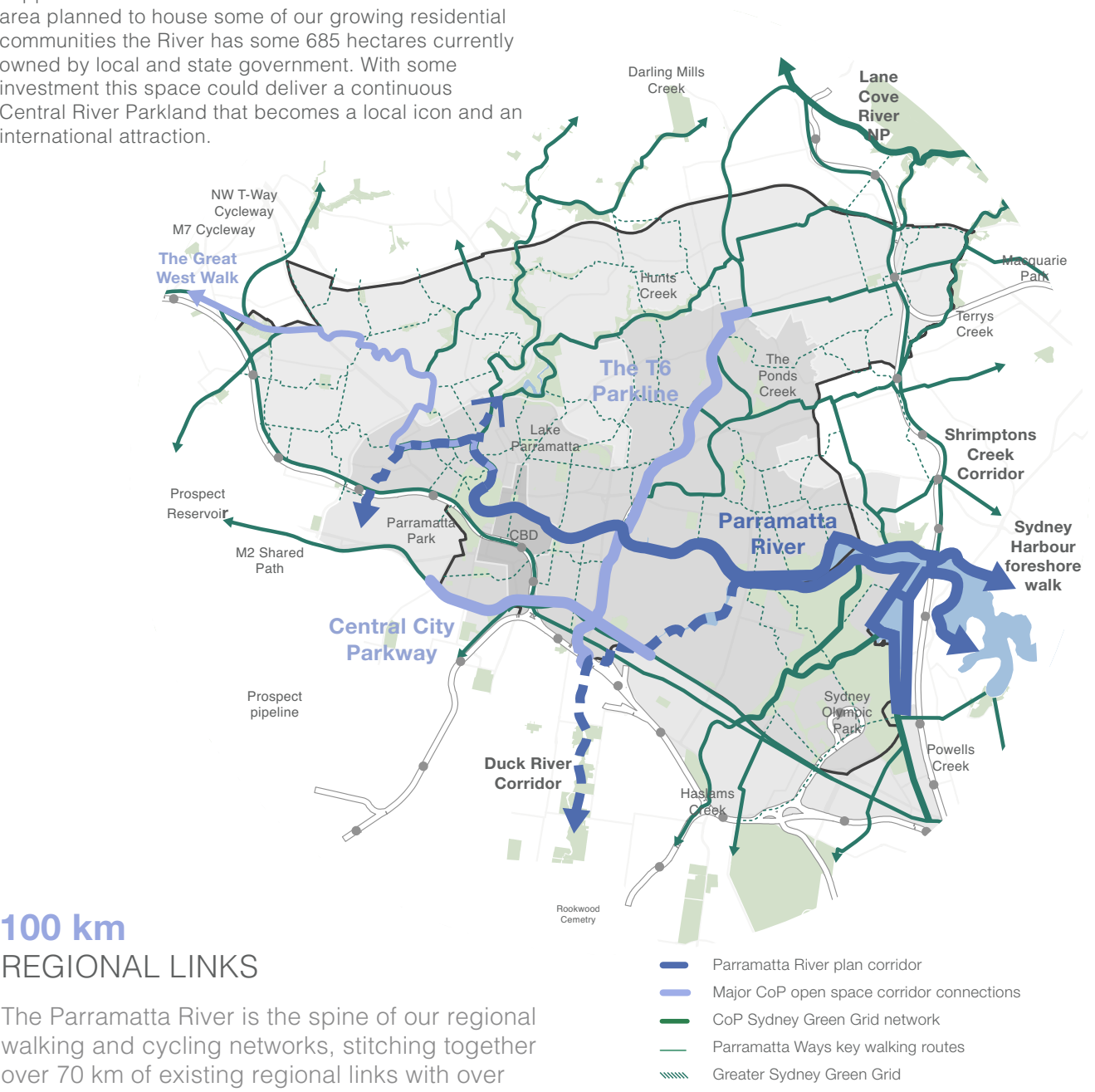

- 3

The Hudson River Park, New York City
2018
220ha



KEY DRIVERS

The importance of open space to the health and happiness of communities is well documented. In an area planned to house some of our growing residential communities the River has some 685 hectares currently owned by local and state government. With some investment this space could deliver a continuous Central River Parkland that becomes a local icon and an international attraction.



100 km REGIONAL LINKS

The Parramatta River is the spine of our regional walking and cycling networks, stitching together over 70 km of existing regional links with over 30km of future connections.

ACCESS

More that 75% of future growth in Parramatta is planned to occur within a 10 min walk or cycle of the Parramatta River.

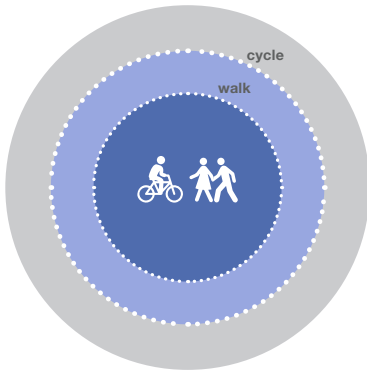
PUBLIC DOMAIN

More than 685 hectares of land adjacent to the Parramatta River and around 70% of the foreshore is owned by government.

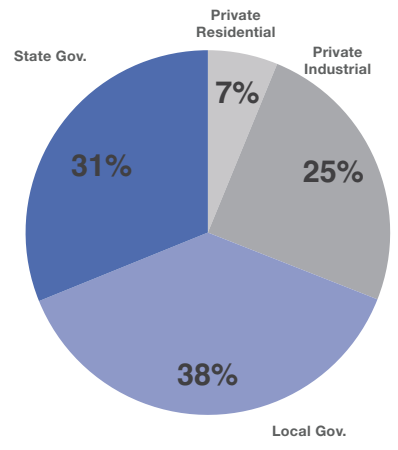
OPEN SPACE

Parramatta River has two regional parks and more than 500 hectares of parkland. There is potential to deliver more than 181 hectares of open space.

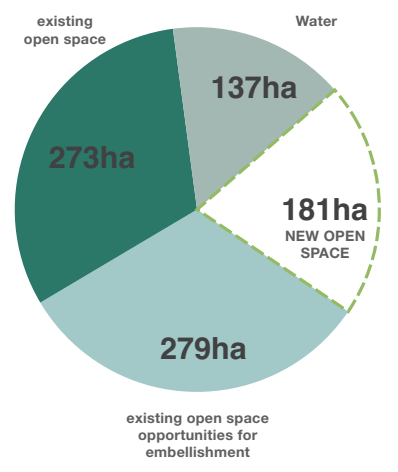
300,000 people
Residents along the river foreshore, 2038



40 km
Ownership - linear foreshore



870 Ha
chart - open space potential



WHERE ARE WE AT?

Improving public access to the Parramatta River has had significant focus over the last 20 years. Various projects have delivered more than 20km of walking and cycling paths alongside the river with planned bridges allowing more communities to connect with the river.

Completed in 2021, the Escarpment Boardwalk at Parramatta Quay represents the last piece in a continuous off-road connection between Sydney Olympic Park and Parramatta Park. This piece of high quality infrastructure has contributed to more than 2 million people a year enjoying walking and cycling by the Parramatta River.

It is now timely for Council to consider the projects and priorities which will protect and enhance the river corridor over the next 20 years and beyond.

Currently there are a number of projects planned, proposed or in delivery at different points along the Parramatta River. These projects can have a significant influence on how future communities value, access, and interact with the river and its ecosystems. It is important that the way these projects engage with the river supports an overarching vision for the Parramatta River including ensuring environmental protection and providing public access.

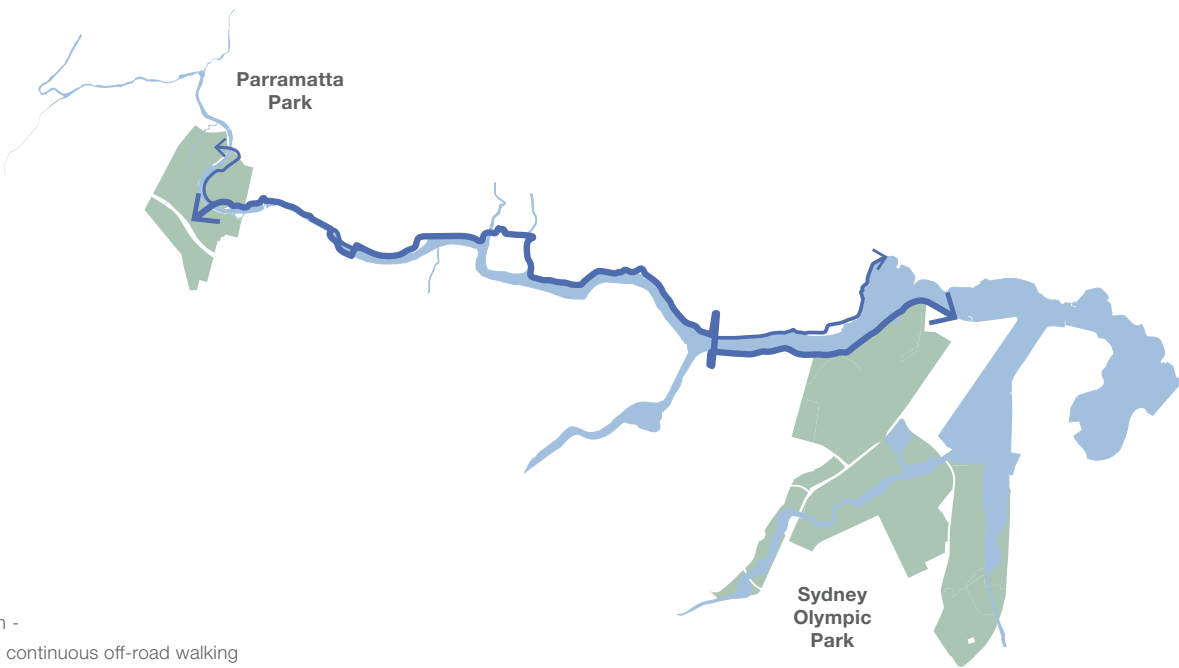


diagram -
Current continuous off-road walking and cycling connection: Parramatta Park to Sydney Olympic Park



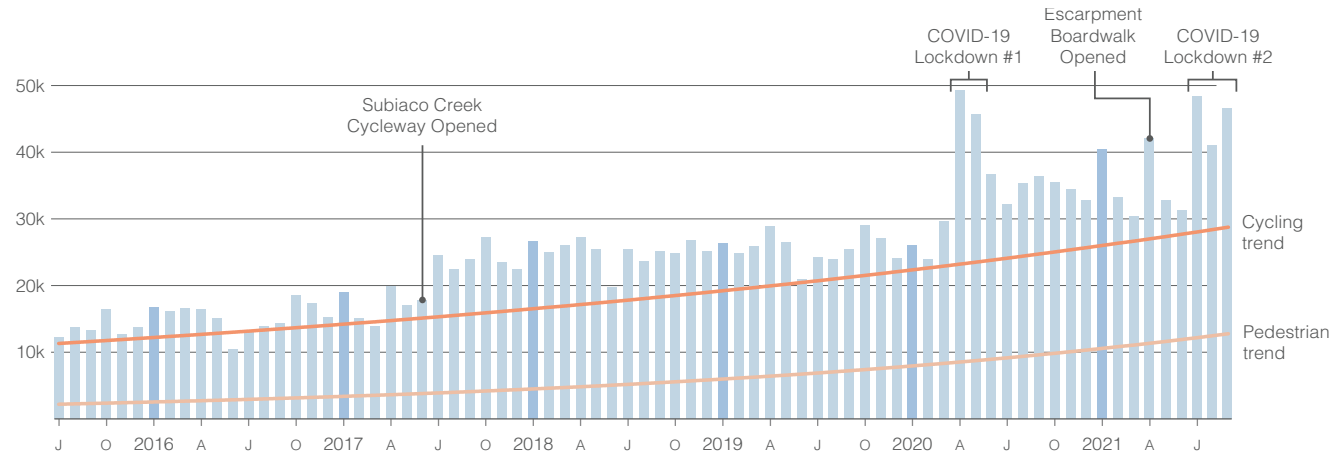
Baludarra Boardwalk



Subiaco Creek Boardwalk



Escarpment Boardwalk



graph -
Pedestrian and Cycle Counts, Rydalmere

There is a significant amount of momentum building along the river. In addition to the many completed projects there are some major public projects being delivered close to the river by Council and NSW Government.

- plan -
- Key projects completed and in planning along the Parramatta River corridor
1. Shannons Paddock shared path upgrade

2. Milson Park upgrade

3. Lake Parramatta swimming site

4. PLR Stage 1 walking and cycling links

5. Parramatta Park playgrounds

6. Parramatta North Heritage Core

7. Glengariff House (Wistaria Gardens)

8. Parramatta Pool

9. Western Foreshore connections

10. Commbank Stadium and forecourt

11. Marsden Street Bridge

12. Riverside Theatres upgrades

13. 112 Philip Street

14. Lennox Bridge Portals

15. Civic Link

16. Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences

17. River Foreshore playground

18. Charles Street Square

19. Ferry Wharf upgrades

20. Escarpment Boardwalk

21. James Ruse Reserve play precinct

22. Robin Thomas Reserve Masterplan

23. Alfred Street Bridge

24. Baludarri Wetlands

25. Subiaco Creek Cycleway

26. Reid Park upgrades

27. PLR Stage 2 walking and cycling links

28. Eric Primrose Reserve upgrades

29. Ermington Foreshore shared path upgrade

30. Halvorson Park and foreshore playground

31. Cricket NSW Centre of Excellence

32. Blaxland Riverside Park playground

33. George Kendall Reserve upgrades

34. Ermington Bay nature trail

35. Melrose Park foreshore

36. Sekisui House foreshore

37. Wentworth Point Park

38. Block H foreshore park

39. Bennelong Bridge

40. Block D foreshore

41. Homebush Bay Promenade

42. Metro Stabling Yards

- Parramatta Valley Cycleway

Project completed

Project in planning

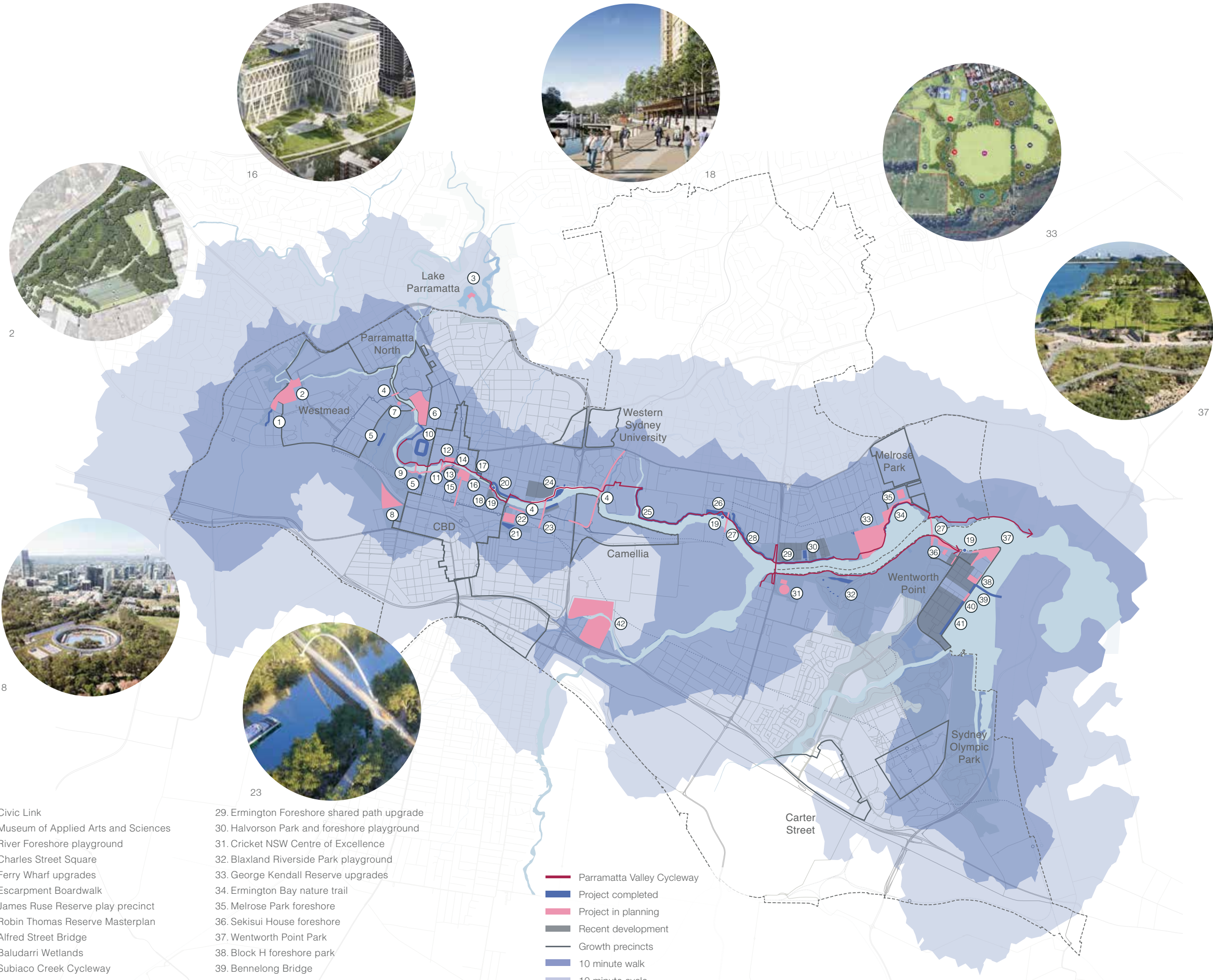
Recent development

Growth precincts

10 minute walk

10 minute cycle

GPOP Boundary



PUBLIC RIVER SPACE DESIGN

The Parramatta River offers significant amounts of open space, but there is a need to protect and expand it, improve its quality, and enable a greater range of uses.

In recent years, river cities across the world have rediscovered the value of their rivers. Revitalised rivers and sensitive re-design of riverfronts to create welcoming, lively public spaces have transformed precincts and contributed to the amenity and prosperity of many cities.

The City of Parramatta has also been part of this journey with plans like the City River Strategy for Parramatta's CBD and the Parramatta Valley Cycle Masterplan's new river connections. These plans have led to some of the significant design projects both delivered and in the pipeline.

Since these plans were created the boundaries of our city have expanded. The length of river now within the City of Parramatta has increased as has the number of people living near our river.

Looking forward our City will continue to grow. In order to create a sustainable, resilient, and liveable city, our design focus will need to expand with consideration given to the various projects alongside the length of the river.

Future population growth, river health, and environmental issues are increasingly highlighting the importance of focusing on the multi-functional role of the river as vital green infrastructure. Protecting and improving public space and guiding projects to uphold key principles which affirm the importance of the Parramatta River and achieve positive outcomes for the communities who depend on it will be essential.

Future projects along the Parramatta River should enable functions such as:

- parks and recreation,
- water quality improvement,
- flood management,
- sporting use,
- biodiversity,
- urban heat mitigation, and
- walking and cycling.

Yanweizhou Park
Jinhua City



Buffalo Bayou,
Houston



East River Park,
Brooklyn



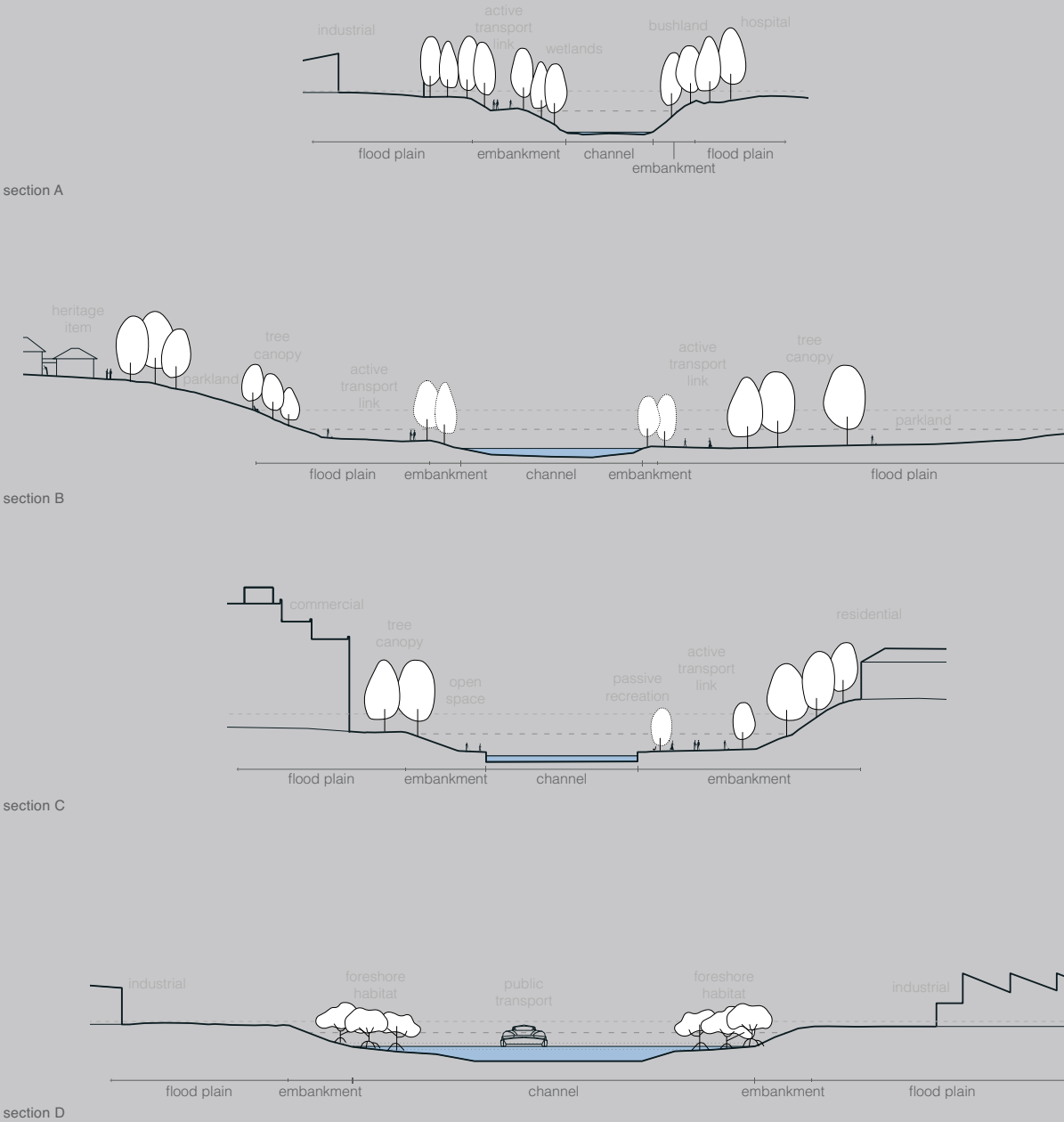
Bishan Park,
Singapore



Sanya Mangrove Park,
Sanya City



Spree Bathing Ship,
Berlin



Existing Parramatta River spaces

The character of the river corridor and its spaces vary dramatically along the river. The river's edge provides opportunity for many uses. Greater attention to the future quality, design, and management of this zone is needed.

RIVER PARKLAND OUTCOMES

The transformation and revitalisation of the Parramatta Central River Parklands provides a range of additional uses which will deliver many beneficial outcomes for the community and river system including;

- reconstructed ecologies,
- increased biodiversity,
- improved flood resilience,
- local water quality improvements,
- more pedestrian and cycle bridges,
- accelerated uptake in walking and cycling,
- more high-quality open space available for the community, and
- greater opportunity for local connections to nature



PRINCIPLES

These principles reflect a need to continue to improve environmental performance of the river and its foreshore, to provide access to the river, and ensure connectivity along the foreshore, and to create publicly owned open space that supports a range of recreation.

1



recognise the shared value of the river

Recognise the opportunity of the river to contribute more to the identity of Parramatta including celebrating culture, heritage and connection to country

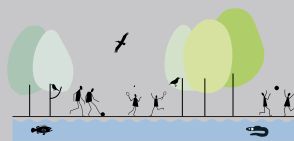
2



make the river central and accessible

Develop new transport options which connect and make the river a public, and integral part of everyday life and activity across the city.

3



provide space for water, nature, and play

Recognise and regenerate the hydrological functions of the river as a core component of all project planning along the river.

Expand local biodiversity and canopy cover to support a healthy and resilient city.

Expand the network of open space and recreational facilities along the river in response to future growth and development.

BIG IDEAS

As we undertake longer term planning for future river projects, we need to consider the most effective approach for delivering against the broader project vision and principles. Outlined below is a series of big ideas aligned with the vision. At the heart of these ideas is maximising the potential of the river to perform a more central role in the identity, function, and life of the city.

- a. enhance the cultural thread of The River City - develop a plan to re-establish the river as central to the identity of Parramatta.
- b. uncover and restore the head of the Parramatta River for public access.
- c. re-envisage a public future for Parramatta's collection of health institutions and cultural heritage sites linked to the river corridor.

- d. create great river connections - expand the rivers walking and cycling network to include the Homebush Bay Run, the Duck River Link, the T6 link, and the Westmead Health link.

- e. ***create memorable river crossings** - develop a world-class Greater Parramatta walking and cycling river bridges network.

- f. ***provide more on-water river experiences** - advocate for a light ferry shuttle and a fine-grain and public multipurpose wharf network for GPOP.

- g. create resilient parklands - expand capacity of both open space and flood storage in key parks upstream of the river.

- h. establish green zones - alongside new development along the river align suitable uses such as open space, active transport, and environmental functions with areas of flood risk or flood management.

- i. promote the shared frontyard - increase active recreation space through partnership with; State government and the private sector development, shared space with education and institution partners, upgrading the capacity of existing state and local government recreation assets.

- j. bring back swimming to the Parramatta River – improve water quality and monitoring, open new swimming sites, and increase access to water.

- k. ***rethink the river's edge** - establish living and resilient edges through a modern and integrated re-design of deteriorating seawalls and eroding embankments.

- l. create a 'sponge park network' - increase stormwater retention through an integrated river foreshore wetland network, supporting water quality and habitat.

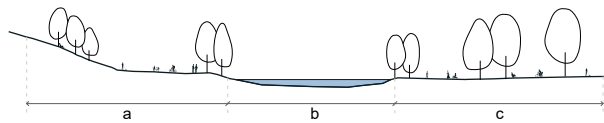
- m. cool reserves - reduce urban heat by maximising our foreshore reserve biodiversity and canopy cover.

*Further explanation on three of these ideas is provided opposite. All ideas will be further investigated as part of future Council planning and project development work.

The following diagrams seek to conceptualise three examples of how some larger, co-ordinated river infrastructure planning can begin unlocking the potential of the Parramatta River corridor as a continuous river parklands.

bringing together the river corridor

To deliver a successful river parklands we need to ensure we maximise the opportunities for bringing the different environments of the river together as a continuous public corridor. The 3 examples presented opposite seek to achieve this by maximising the opportunities for interaction between the land and the water. Through this approach we will create spaces for people, plants, and animals to see, reach, cross, and be on the river as a central public space linking our foreshores.



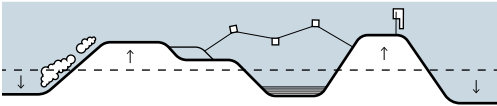
The Parramatta River waterway open space

1 re-thinking the river's edge

The river's edge is a critical zone in shaping the experience of the river as a whole corridor, connecting both the land and the water.

The river's edge has been heavily modified through development of the last 100 years, over 45% is no longer natural. There are a significant number of seawalls, riparian areas, and embankments (both man-made and natural) that have deteriorated and will need investment in the near future.

This challenge presents the opportunity to re-imagine how much more the 21st century river's edge could be. A modern river's edge could open new opportunities for; boardwalks, foreshore seating and picnic zones, separated walking and cycling options, floating wetlands, intertidal habitat, views of the river and city.

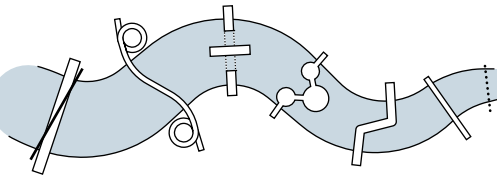


2 create memorable river crossings

River crossings are critical to the experience of the river and its connectivity to the city. Crossings can become integral to the identity of cities.

The cost and challenges of providing bridges are heavily influenced by the span of river they need to cross. The relatively narrow scale of the Parramatta River around and above the CBD is a great opportunity for a cost-effective walking and cycling bridge network that could become central to the identity and experience of our city.

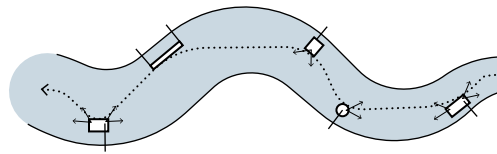
A walking and cycling bridge network could; provide a uniquely Parramatta river experience, increase the vibrancy along the river, increase open space access and reveal some of our forgotten heritage.



3 provide more on-water river experiences

The river channel is public space and should be planned as part of our broader open space and transportation network. Opportunities to be on the water are an essential part of the experience of waterside living. Sydney Harbour has a distinctive network of public wharves, ferries, harbourside pools, beaches, slips, ramps, and jetties.

Parramatta River once had a much greater network of local wharves, jetties, and boat transportation. There is opportunity to establish a better public infrastructure network that maximises the opportunities for people to experience Parramatta from the water and use the water as open space.



THE PLAN

The following plan represents desirable outcomes for the Parramatta River corridor based on the vision, principles, and selected big ideas. The plan provides a guide, setting the context and agenda of individual projects and planning along the corridor. The proposed outcomes represent a mix of both known projects in planning alongside some aspirational outcomes that will require further investigation.

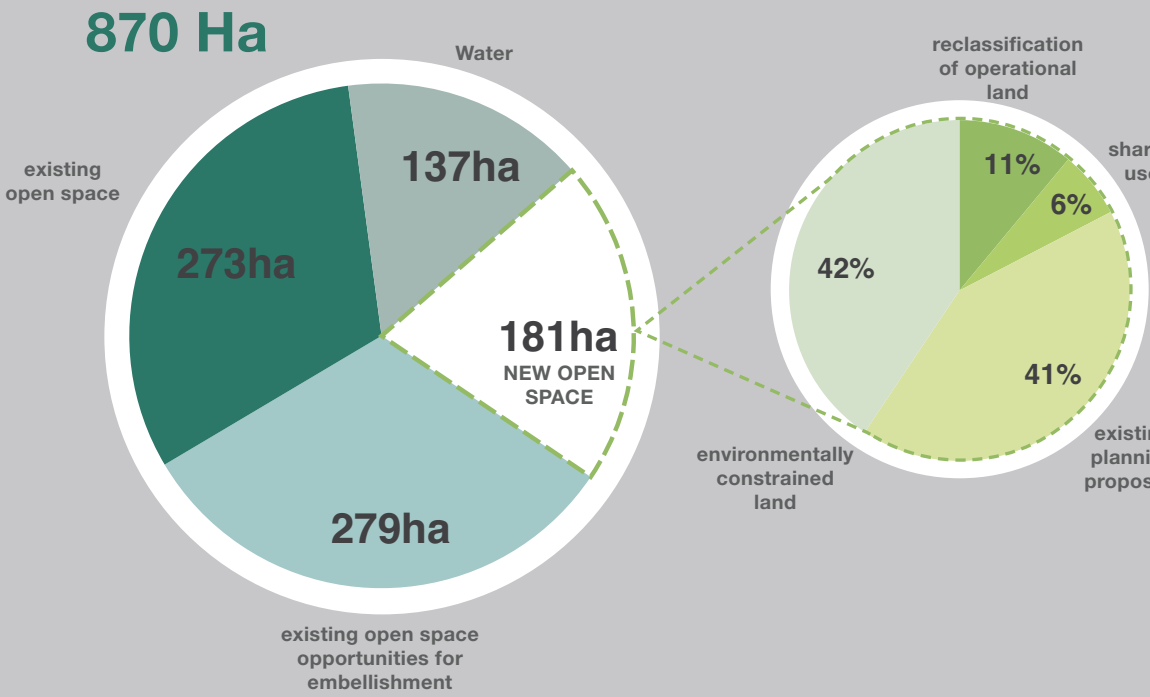
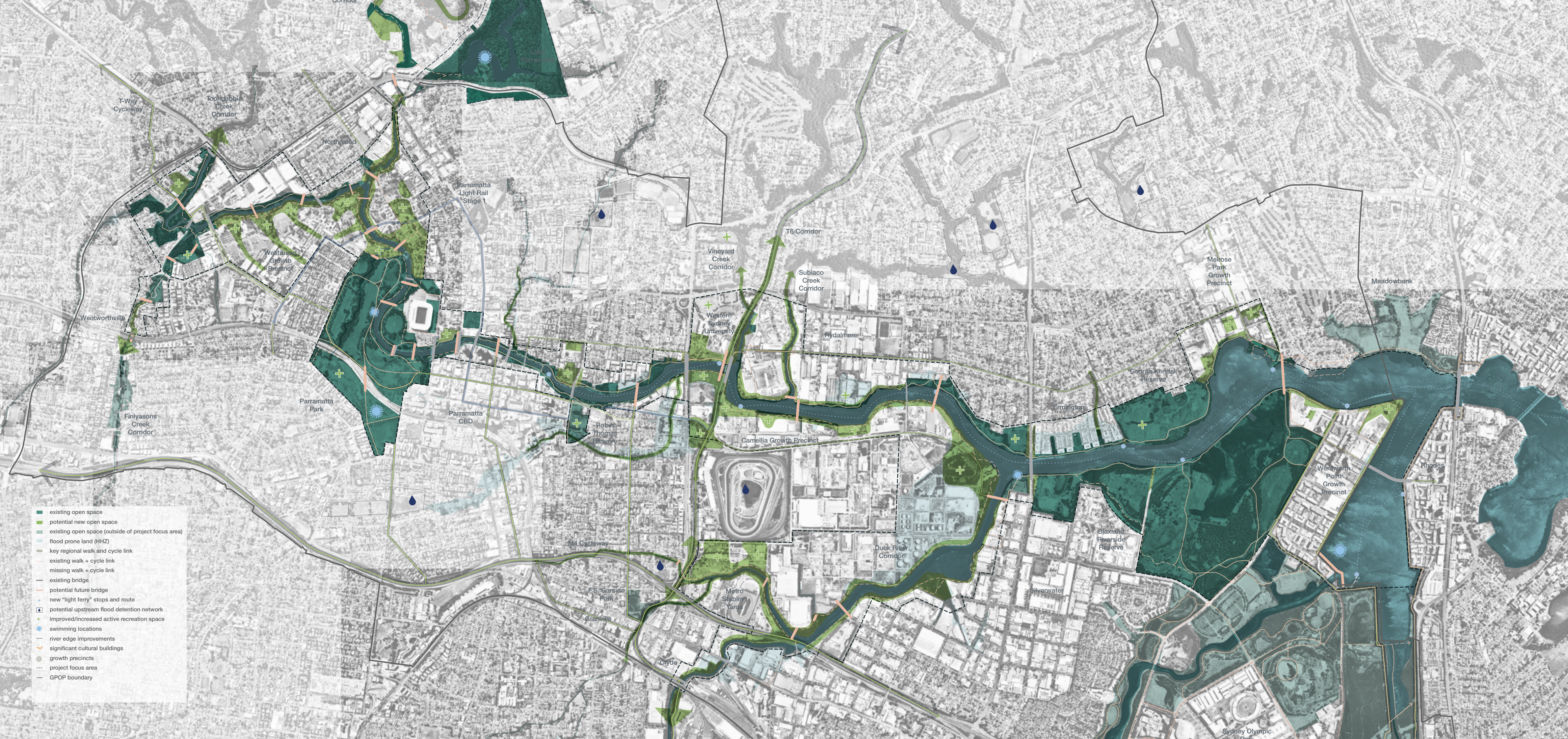


chart - Open space potential

Open Space
New open space is a key priority for the City of Parramatta. The demand for open space has been documented in the Community Infrastructure Strategy and the Parramatta River will be a key focus for delivery.



WATERFRONT OWNERSHIP

With almost 70% of river foreshore owned by government, there is a unique opportunity to influence the future of the Parramatta River. A shared vision, government and private sector collaboration can deliver a desirable and highly valued public asset - 40km of continuous riverfront public open space - that will delight and support future generations.

Land ownership proportions along the river present two key opportunities for the development of new river parklands; the amount and extent of government land ownership and the limited amount of private residential land that may restrict the development of future foreshore access.

Government-owned Land

Parramatta River has a legacy of significant amounts of government-owned land along its foreshore. This includes large parklands like Parramatta Park, the more recent Sydney Olympic Park, and many health and education facilities.

Many of the government health and education institutions placed along the river were originally designed to take advantage of the scenic location and were planned with large grounds facing the water.

This legacy of government land provides a critical foundation for the development of a larger parklands concept that will support the changing context and future growth of Parramatta.

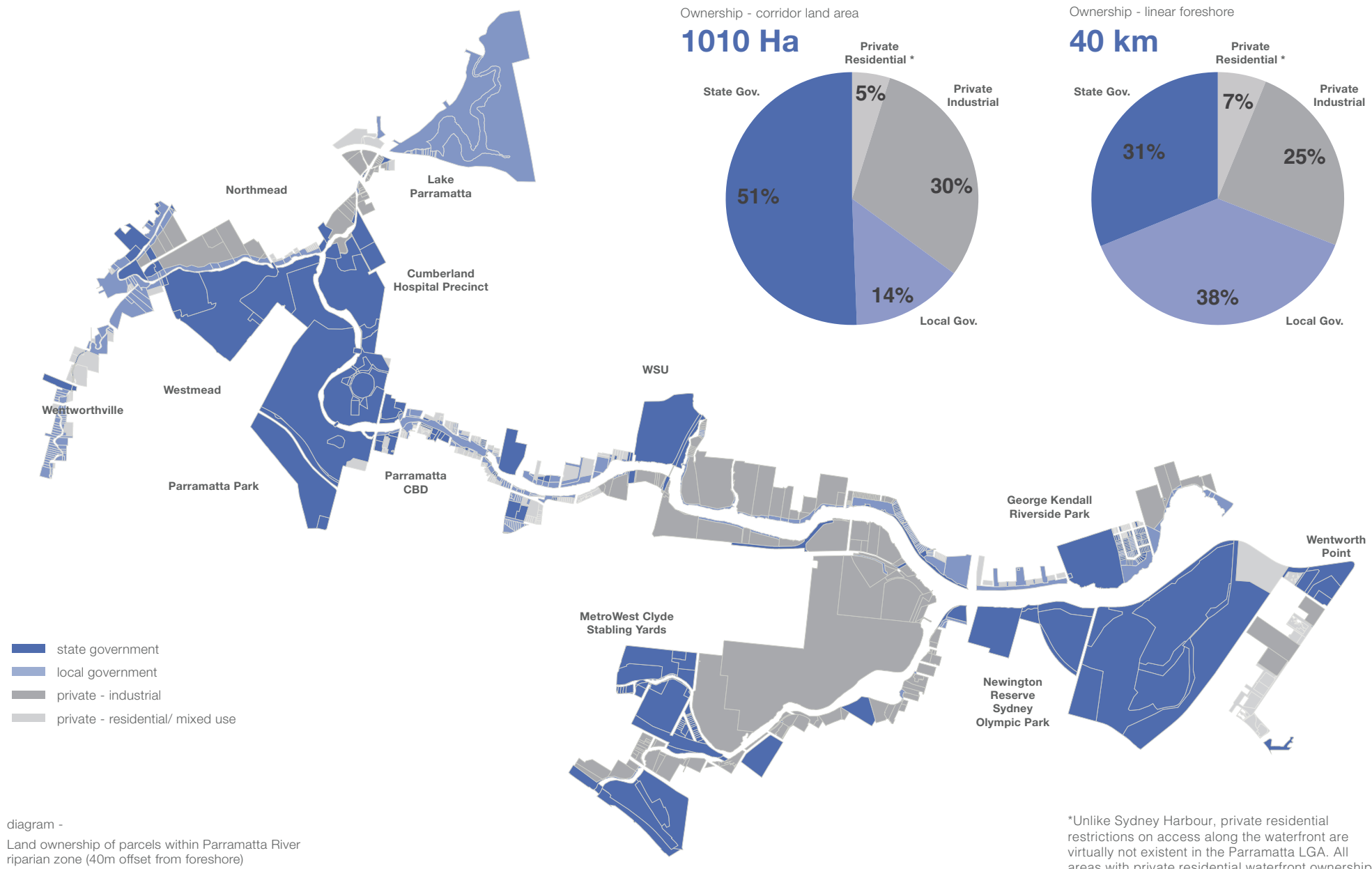
Non-private residential land

Of the 32% of the river foreshore that is in private ownership more than 80% of this is old industrial lands. In several locations this has been or is being converted into new residential development. Alongside this development, new open space and public foreshore is being delivered.

While not all industrial land may be suitable for residential use there is still opportunity to improve access and waterfront interface. New commercial developments within Rydalmere and along Subiaco Creek provide some recent examples of this.

The flexibility of industrial land-use for future development is a significant opportunity for the delivery of continuous foreshore access and parkland along the river.

There is more than 685 ha of government-owned land adjacent to the Parramatta River and around 69% of the foreshore is in Government ownership. Of the remaining foreshore more than 78% is industrial with great potential for improving environmental conditions and public access.



*Unlike Sydney Harbour, private residential restrictions on access along the waterfront are virtually not existent in the Parramatta LGA. All areas with private residential waterfront ownership still provide public access. In examples like Wentworth Point this can sometimes include large sections of public domain.

APPROACH

The Parramatta river is larger than any single project or development precinct. A shared vision for the river will increase the value that it can deliver back to stakeholders beyond that of any single contribution. With significant amounts of government and private investment already occurring it is important that we ensure there is alignment on what we are seeking to achieve, to capture this value.

Delivery will need support from local government, state government, and private development. To date, river project delivery and planning has tended to occur on project by project or site by site basis. This plan outlines a vision that seeks to align stakeholder thinking on the objectives and outcome that will continue to transform the City of Parramatta, delivering environmental, economic, and social benefits. Better governance and partnerships based on a new vision for the Parramatta River, could align infrastructure delivery, create mutually beneficial opportunities, and deliver a celebrated public space project that signifies a new era for the Central River City.

Council's role

The City of Parramatta has a key role to play driving and shaping the vision and coordinating project delivery. Council has:

- significant influence over outcomes on the river foreshore associated with Council land and sites of future development,
- extensive local experience in the delivery and management of open space, and
- many existing partnerships and relationships with key stakeholders.

While Council is a key stakeholder it will not be able to achieve the vision without support. Partnering with other stakeholders will be a critical next phase for the project.

Governance

The key opportunity for delivery of the vision for the Parramatta River is the significant amount of land owned by government. The challenge is the number of agencies and stakeholders that utilise that land with different priorities and areas of focus.

The Parramatta Central River Parklands will be better served by a governance arrangement that allows multiple stakeholders to better collaborate, pool resources, and align planning to deliver the broader vision.

Council will be seeking opportunities to work with NSW Government and put these type of arrangements in place.

Consultation

Ensuring alignment on the vision of the River plan and future governance will require consultation. Council will actively seek opportunities to consult with all key stakeholders, landowners, and the community. In the short-term there are already several groups and projects effective for building alignment on the vision, refining principles, and advocating for collaboration and joint funding:

- Dharug and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander advisory groups,
- Sydney Water,
- EducAT Partner Alliance,
- the Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG),
- Local Government partners,
- Department of Planning Industry and Environment,
- the Greater Cities Commission,
- the Greater Sydney Parklands,
- Sydney Olympic Park Authority,
- Transport for NSW,
- Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2,
- Camellia Place Strategy, and
- Westmead Place Strategy.

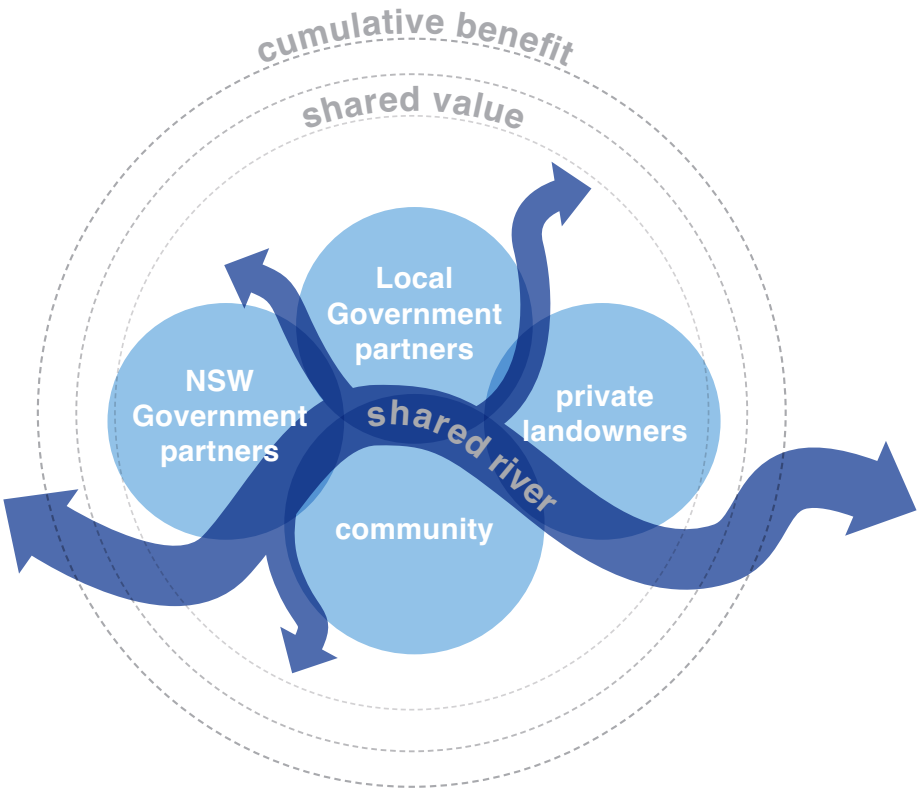


diagram -
Greater than the sum of the parts - a shared vision increasing the value of the river for all stakeholders

Parklands value

The contribution of open space and parklands to not only the environment, health and well-being but also land value and the local economy has been well-documented across the world. To access this value along the Parramatta River we need to recognise the extent of the opportunity we have and build greater alignment from stakeholders.

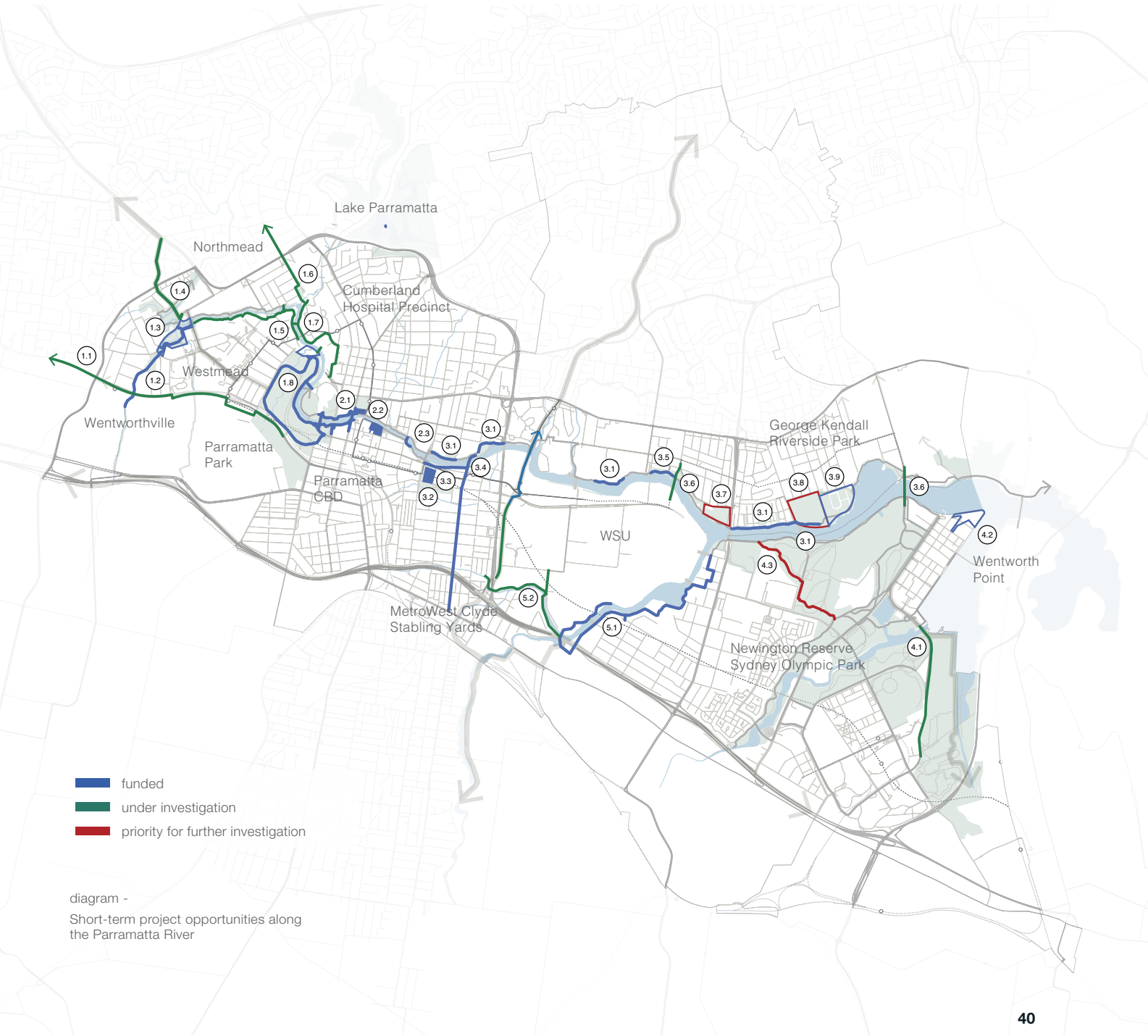
SHORT-TERM DELIVERY OPPORTUNITIES

There are already many short-term project priorities that we can begin progressing now, maximising opportunities for progressing the River plan.

With a number of projects underway, in many areas it is clear that the transformation of the Parramatta River into the Central City's new River Parklands is achievable. These projects (grey) are in planning and their delivery will make valuable contributions to the parklands.

There are also a number of identified projects (red) that Council see as important to unlocking future connectivity or open space. These projects will require collaboration with landowners and stakeholders and may need further funding for project scoping and development.

| Precinct | Ref | Projects | Status | Key Stakeholder |
|----------|-----|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | 1.1 | Toongabbie to Westmead Corridor Study | in planning | TfNSW |
| | 1.2 | Finlaysons Creek Regional Cycleway | funded - in planning | Cumberland |
| | 1.3 | Milson Park upgrade | funded - in delivery | Sydney Water |
| | 1.4 | TWay Cycleway | funded - in delivery | TfNSW |
| | 1.5 | NSW Health Westmead shared paths | in planning | Health NSW, DPE |
| | 1.6 | Kleins Road Corridor study | in planning | TfNSW |
| | 1.7 | Cumberland Heritage Precinct foreshore connections | in planning | DPE |
| | 1.8 | Parramatta Park Improvements | funded - in planning | DPE |
| 2 | 2.1 | Western Parramatta River and CBD Precinct Connections | funded - in planning | Greater Sydney Parklands |
| | 2.2 | Riverside and MAAS Foreshore planning | funded - in planning | INSW |
| | 2.3 | Charles Street Square | funded - in delivery | TfNSW |
| 3 | 3.1 | Eastern Parramatta River and CBD Precinct Connections | funded - in planning | TfNSW |
| | 3.2 | Robin Thomas Reserve Upgrade | funded - in planning | TfNSW |
| | 3.3 | Queens Wharf Reserve walking and cycling paths | funded - in planning | TfNSW |
| | 3.4 | Alfred Street Bridge and off street cycleway | funded - in delivery | TfNSW |
| | 3.5 | Eric Primrose separated walking and cycling paths | funded - in planning | TfNSW |
| | 3.6 | PLR Stage 2 | in planning | TfNSW |
| | 3.7 | Eric Primrose Reserve Upgrade | further investigation required | - |
| 4 | 3.8 | George Kendall Reserve Stage 2 | further investigation required | - |
| | 3.9 | George Kendall Reserve Stage 1 | funded - in planning | DPE |
| | 4.1 | Homebush Bay Circuit missing link + Haslams Creek bridge | in planning | SOPA |
| | 4.2 | Wentworth Point Foreshore Park | funded - in planning | TfNSW |
| | 4.3 | SOPA armoury Link | further investigation required | SOPA |
| 5 | 5.1 | Duck River Shared Path east | funded - in planning | - |
| | 5.2 | A'Beckett, Duck Creek Connection | funded - in planning | TfNSW, Metrowest |



FUTURE PLANNING

Through the Parramatta River Plan, we are seeking to unite all levels of government and private industry on accelerated planning for the river and coordinated project delivery.

Local Funding

Council is planning for the future of the river.

Over \$3.6 billion worth of funding for infrastructure through development contributions has been recently identified for the City of Parramatta over the next 20 years. A significant portion of the infrastructure identified aligns with the Parramatta River corridor and will support delivery of the Parramatta River Plan.

State Funding

Council has also demonstrated its capacity to deliver against NSW Government priorities with \$66m in grant funding delivered along the Parramatta River over the last 10 years.

Many of the projects recently delivered or in planning by Council have been supported through significant contributions from NSW Government agencies. Some key funding programs have included:

- Transport for NSW - active transport funding,
- Sydney Water - Waterway Health Improvement Program, and
- Department of Planning Industry and Environment - Metropolitan Greenspace Funding and Parks for People.

Better partnerships and proactive planning along the river will enable us to better capture opportunities as they arise.

State Projects

NSW Government is also investing billions of dollars in new infrastructure in Parramatta over the next 10 years. Many of the projects being delivered will interface with Parramatta River including projects such as:

- Parramatta Light Rail stage 1 and 2,
- Metrowest Clyde Stabling Yards,
- Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences,
- Riverside Theatres redevelopment, and
- government land redevelopment in Westmead, Wentworth Point, and Parramatta North.

These projects present major opportunities to support the delivery of the Central River Parklands through alignment of infrastructure priorities and supporting use.

Private Development

Redevelopment of private land along the river also presents significant opportunities for delivery of Parramatta River and the Central River Parklands. Priority growth precincts identified under Council's local housing strategy are located in key locations along the river at the CBD, Camellia, Melrose Park, and Wentworth Point.

Planning for these precincts is at various stages with many opportunities for new open space, access, and river parkland frontages being discussed and identified.

Key Council Actions

To continue to build on the existing work and establish a strong organisational focus there are a number of key directions proposed.

\$66.8m of NSW government funding over the last 10 years has helped deliver new Parramatta River links.

1 Strategic Partnerships and River Governance, vision alignment

Consult with key delivery partners and seek to target specific outcomes for critical precincts and define pathways for delivery. Many of Parramatta River's critical connections are heavily influenced by other government agencies or stakeholders. There are opportunities for building on existing partnerships as well as developing new relationships to realise the vision for the Parramatta Central River Parklands.

2 Review and prepare River Corridor planning requirements

Prepare planning documents and undertake design work to support key outcomes identified through the River plan. To enable the vision for the Parramatta River more detailed planning work is needed particularly on statutory documentation along with a clear focus on the delivery opportunities and objectives around growth precinct.

3 Advocacy and alignment on major projects and infrastructure planning

Proactively identify local priorities for delivering a Central River Parklands to improve the strategic outcomes of current NSW Government major projects and infrastructure planning.

With multiple projects underway in Council and NSW Government, there is opportunity to do some focused planning to better align different infrastructure needs.

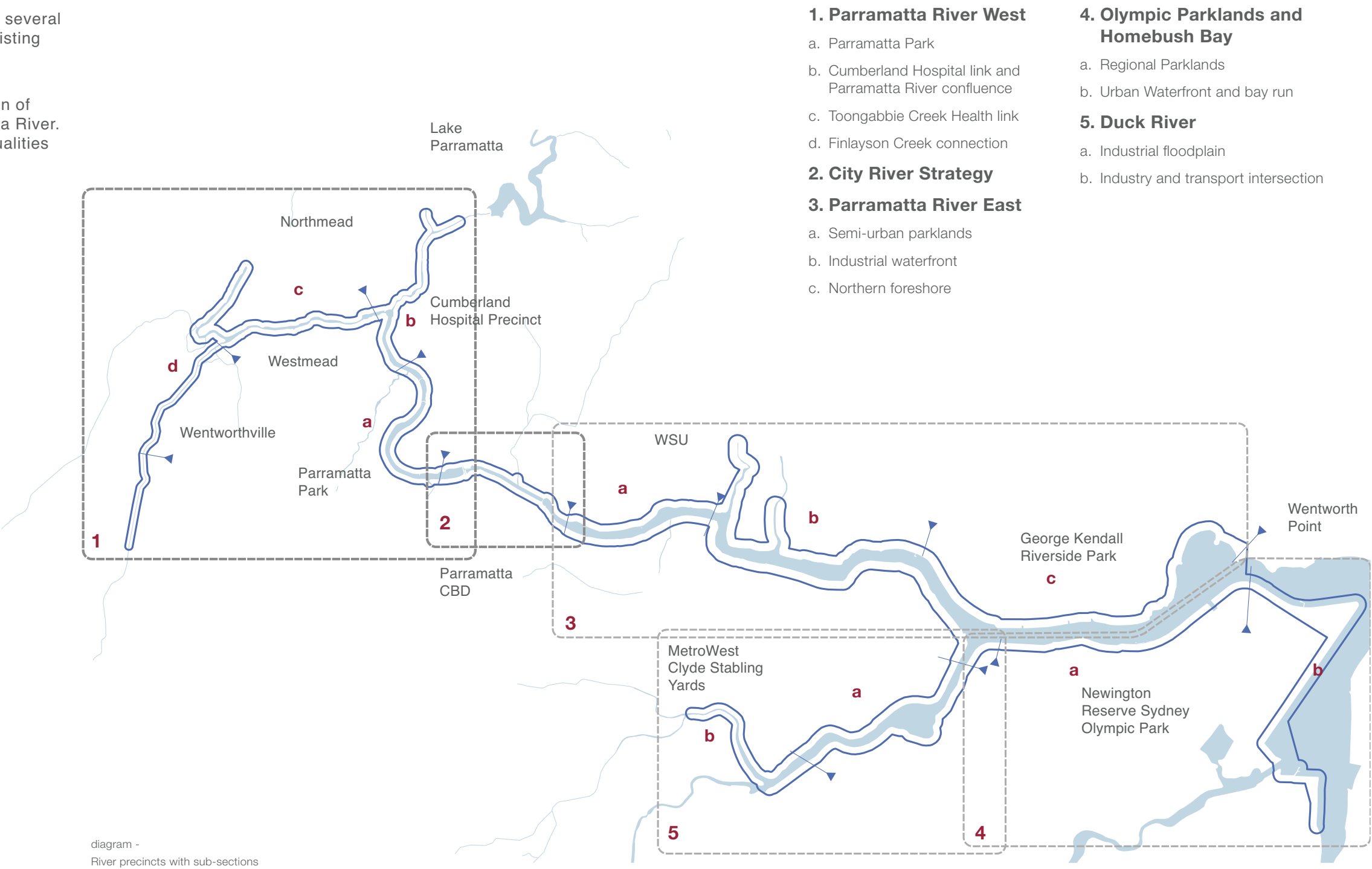
4 Undertake forward detailed project and precinct planning

Continue to get on with delivery and prepare detailed plans for short-term projects ready for funding. There are numerous short-term opportunities which will support the delivery of a new Parramatta Central River Parklands. Proactively planning and preparing detailed designs will ensure that when funding opportunities arise these projects will be ready for delivery.

PRECINCTS

The Parramatta River can be broken into several precincts which are defined by similar existing foreshore characteristics.

The following section includes a collection of images along the length of the Parramatta River. Each section shows the character and qualities of the river within each precinct.



1. Parramatta River West

- a. Parramatta Park
- b. Cumberland Hospital link and Parramatta River confluence
- c. Toongabbie Creek Health link
- d. Finlayson Creek connection

2. City River Strategy

3. Parramatta River East

- a. Semi-urban parklands
- b. Industrial waterfront
- c. Northern foreshore

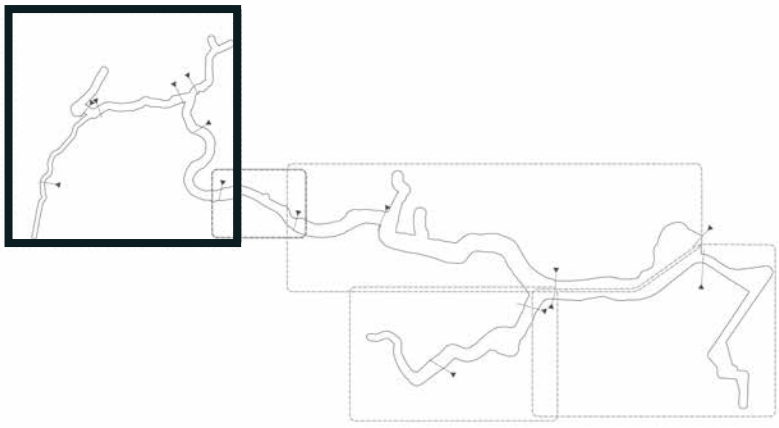
4. Olympic Parklands and Homebush Bay

- a. Regional Parklands
- b. Urban Waterfront and bay run

5. Duck River

- a. Industrial floodplain
- b. Industry and transport intersection

1 PARRAMATTA RIVER WEST



The Parramatta River West section is characterised by three freshwater creeks. The Toongabbie, Finlaysons and Darling Mills creeks and the locations where they join the Parramatta River. These are areas of great cultural significance and the start of the Parramatta River. The corridor features a narrow and shallow water channel with exposed rock shelves and steep embankments with dense vegetation on both sides. The creeks are surrounded by light industry, the Westmead and Cumberland Health Precincts and low to medium density residential.

Due to the dense vegetation and lack of visual connection to the river, the surrounding buildings do not address the river and create a ‘back of house feel’. The Redbank Trail meanders along the northern side of Toongabbie Creek providing a connection between the east and west. Parramatta Park is a world heritage listed regional open space that features large open spaces for active recreation, playgrounds, an active transport loop along with passive recreation facilities and amenities. There are a handful of small parks and reserves further upstream that provide amenity for local residents.



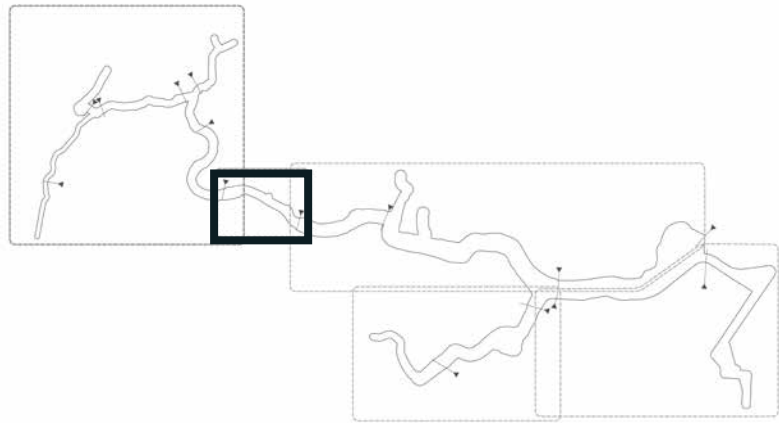
1: Toongabbie Creek channel
2: Toongabbie Creek Boardwalk
3: Redbank Trail at Ronald McDonald House
4: Weir near Wistaria Gardens
5: Exposed rock shelves
6: Parramatta Park River channel
7: Parramatta Park
8: Weir crossing to Western Sydney Stadium
9: Noller bridge crossing Parramatta Park

2 CITY RIVER



The City River section runs through the Parramatta CBD and marks the river's transition from freshwater to saltwater at the Charles Street Weir. The flow of the river is impeded by this weir and others upstream, creating a picturesque lake-like setting. The river foreshore parkland provides continuous access along the river for the majority of the section. There are a number of bridges that connect the north to the south and provide access for pedestrians, cyclists, vehicles and public transport.

There is also a range of sporting, community and cultural facilities along the river foreshore that are dispersed between the commercial office towers and residential apartment buildings. In recent years, Council has sought to refocus attention on the river to improve the public domain and built form and establish it as the focal point of the city. The recently completed Escarpment Boardwalk is an exemplar of this approach.



1: Parramatta River Foreshore Parklands
2: Parramatta River Foreshore Parklands
3: Elizabeth Street Pedestrian Bridge

4: Parramatta River Foreshore Parklands
5: Charles Street Weir
6: Escarpment Boardwalk

7-8: Staircase leading to Escarpment Boardwalk
9-11: Escarpment Boardwalk

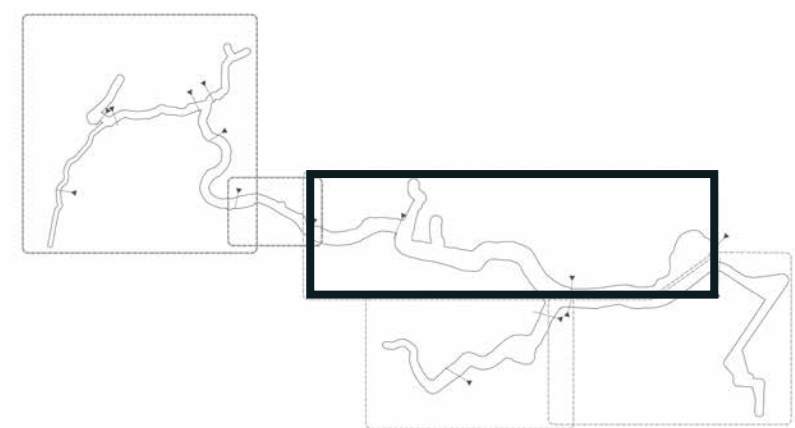
3 PARRAMATTA RIVER EAST



This segment marks the beginning of the estuarine character of the Parramatta River and is characterised by the continual expansion of the river channel, shallow embankments dominated by mangroves and an expansive flood plain to the south. The surrounding land uses are a mixture of light and heavy industry, open space and low to medium density housing. Like Westmead, there is a prevalent 'back of house' character along this section of the river. New residential developments have delivered new

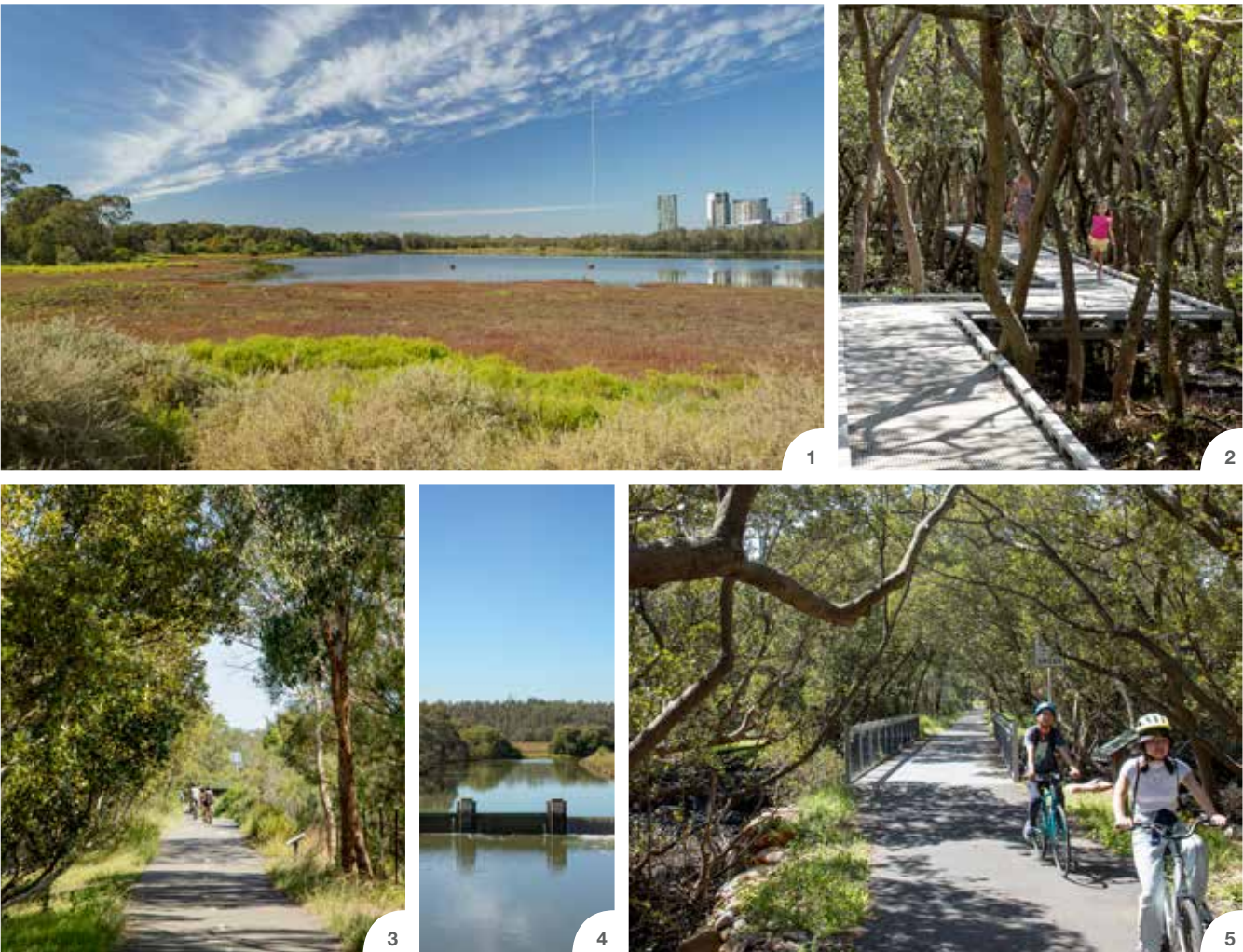
open space that seeks to address the river whilst improving amenity for residents and providing habitat for saltmarsh communities.

The Parramatta Valley Cycleway runs along the northern side of the river, weaves through the various parks and reserves, and connects the Parramatta CBD to Sydney Olympic Park. George Kendall Reserve is a regional open space that provides multiple sports fields and courts for active recreation. This is accompanied by Eric Primrose Reserve, which provides some active recreation, playgrounds and passive recreation facilities.



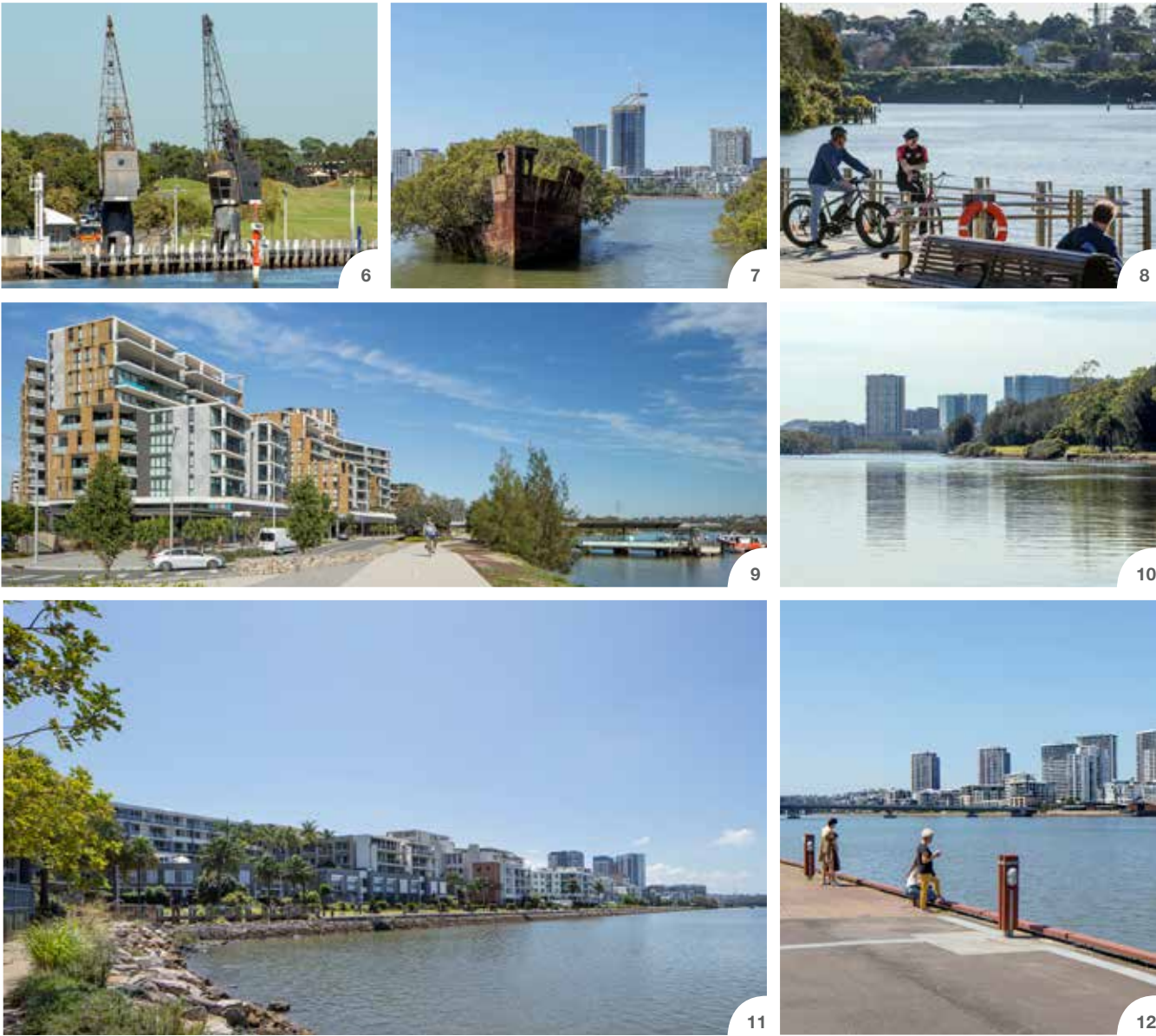
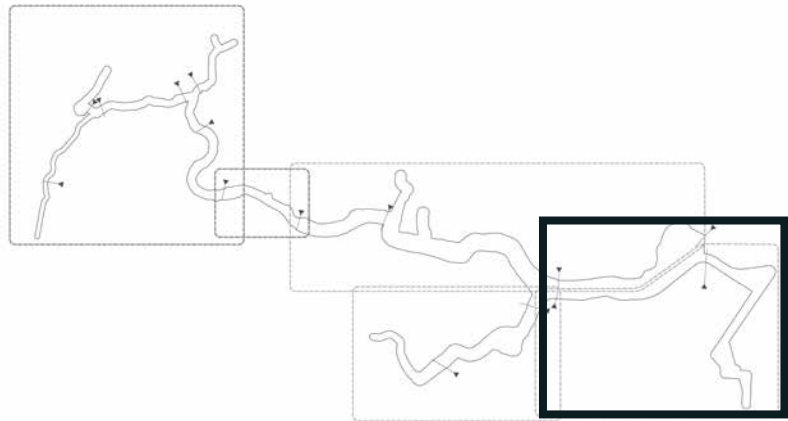
1: Baludarri Wetlands
2: Western Sydney University frontage
3: Subiaco Creek Cycleway
4: Parramatta River
5: Baludarri Boardwalk
6: Ermington Foreshore Park
7: Shared path, Eric Primrose Reserve
8: Shared path, George Kendall Reserve
9: Saltmarsh habitat, Ermington Foreshore Park
10: Sea wall, Parramatta River
11: Jetty access, Milson Park

4 OLYMPIC PARK PARKLANDS AND HOMEBUSH BAY



The Sydney Olympic Park section starts at the confluence of Duck River and Parramatta River and continues along the southern side of the foreshore until Homebush Bay. The segment is characterised by two main features; the residential growth precinct at Wentworth Point and large open spaces for recreation and habitat on the site of the former Newington Armoury.

Remnants of these former uses are scattered along the foreshore and through the parks lending a distinct industrial character to the segment. Blaxland Riverside Park has a regional playground and is a major attraction for children and families. A shared path follows the foreshore from the Wentworth Point ferry terminal to Silverwater Bridge. A new headland park is proposed as part of the redevelopment of the larger Wentworth Point growth precinct.



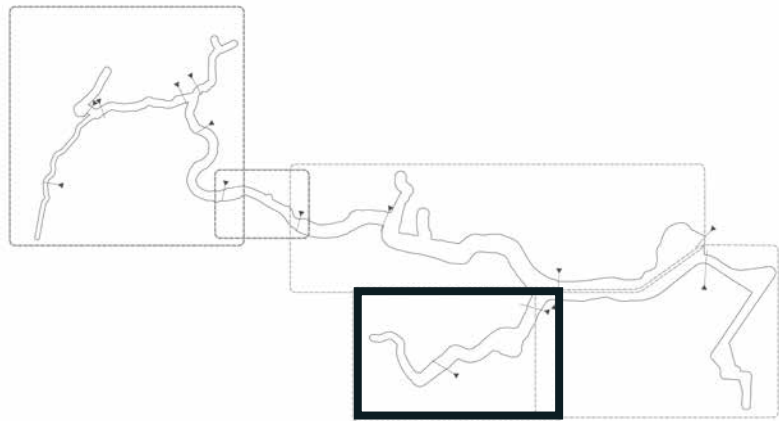
- 1: Saltmarsh habitat
- 2: Boardwalk, Ermington Bay Trail
- 3: Shared path
- 4: Weir, Newington Wetlands
- 5: Shared path
- 6: Armoury Wharf
- 7: Shipwreck, Homebush Bay
- 8: Shared path, George Kendall Reserve
- 9: Ferry Terminal, Wentworth Point
- 10: Parramatta River
- 11: Homebush Bay
- 12: Wentworth Point Foreshore

5 DUCK RIVER



The Duck River segment is characterised by a wide channel, shallow embankments and low-lying land that culminates at the confluence of the Parramatta River. These conditions have suited the heavy industries that line both sides of the river. Mangroves dominate the foreshore and cut off any visual connection between the river and surrounding areas.

The industrial infrastructure breaches the low-lying mangroves, creating a distinct character that contrasts the natural and man-made. The Duck River Corridor continues into Cumberland Council where open spaces, sports fields and a shared path line the river foreshore. A shared path bridges over Duck River and provides access between the east and west along the M4 Cycleway.



1: Caltex silos, Camellia
2: Light industry,
3: Shared path, M4 Cycleway

4: Duck River
5: M4 Westconnex Overpass
6: Mangroves, Duck River
7: Sharedpath, M4 Cycleway

