

# Progress Report

Environmental  
Sustainability  
Strategy

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City of Parramatta Council acknowledges the Darug people who are the traditional custodians of the land of Parramatta. Council pays respect to the elders past and present of the Darug nation and extends that respect to other Aboriginal people.

## Our great city grows better every day

When we created the City of Parramatta Sustainability Strategy in 2017, we learnt that great places don't just happen, they take planning. Two years on, we've seen the results of our efforts already coming to fruition.

We are also seeing greater support for our goals from other councils, State Government, business and the wider community – it's clear everyone is enjoying the benefit of our increasingly beautiful surroundings.

This document provides a snapshot of our progress in 2018/19 – where we have succeeded, where we are still working as well as our plans for the future.

**One thing's for sure: we will continue to champion a healthier, sustainable and more liveable city to ensure Parramatta is the best it can be for the people who live, work and play in it.**



# Summary of goals



## PARKS & GREEN SPACE

Protect, enhance and increase our parks and green spaces to make them a community feature



## BUSHLAND & BIODIVERSITY

Protect and enhance the health of our unique natural ecosystem of plants and animals



## THE URBAN FOREST

Increase canopy cover to 40% by 2050 (based on 2016 levels)



## RIVER & WATERWAYS

Make the Parramatta River swimmable again by 2025



## SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

10% of trips made by walking and cycling by 2038



## URBAN HEAT

Improve livability by cooling the city and protecting people and communities from heat stress



## FLOODING

Minimise the impact of flooding on the community



## ENERGY & CARBON

60% emissions reduction by 2038 (based on 2015 levels)

50% of electricity demand to be met by renewable energy by 2038



## WATER USE

No net increase in potable water consumption by 2038 (based on 2015 levels)



## WASTE & LITTER

Reduce resource consumption from 8.2kg to 6.1kg per person by 2038 (based on 2015 levels)

Increase diversion from landfill to 85% by 2038

Reduce the volume of litter by 40% by 2020



## COUNCIL, ENERGY, WATER & WASTE

Carbon neutral by 2022

60% emissions reduction by 2038 (based on 2015 levels)

No net increase in potable water consumption by 2038 (based on 2015 levels)

90% diversion rate for Council waste by 2038



## FLEET & STAFF TRAVEL

Reduce Council fleet emissions by 20% by 2038 (based on 2015 levels)

Reduce single-occupancy car commutes to and from work by Council staff to 35% by 2023 (based on 2016 levels)



## RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT & PROCUREMENT

Sustainability criteria are considered in all of Council's procurement activities



# 2018/2019 Highlights







# A city in nature

## We love our green & blue spaces

Our great city grows better every day. Beyond the reward of living and working in a city in nature, we are celebrating external recognition through the Local Government NSW Environmental Excellence Awards, as well as global travel platform Trip Advisor which ranked swimming in the Parramatta River as the #1 activity in the area.

: *"Through this initiative, council  
: is working to ensure Parramatta  
: continues to be a wonderful place  
: to live. This award is well-deserved  
: recognition of the value and  
: effectiveness of our work  
: in this field."*

Clr Andrew Wilson  
City of Parramatta Lord Mayor





## Parks & green space

With the City of Parramatta having completed their Community Infrastructure Strategy, it's encouraging to see that our goals are well supported in council's long-term plans. We will continue to increase our efforts to preserve, upgrade and deliver more outdoor recreation for all.

An evaluation in late 2018 by City of Parramatta Council in partnership with Western Sydney Local Health District found that for every dollar invested in parks and sportsgrounds, \$10 of social value is experienced by users and other stakeholders over a year.

For sportsgrounds alone, \$38 of social value is experienced for every dollar invested.

For parks, \$7 of social value is experienced for every dollar.



**22**

park upgrades  
planned or  
underway



**31**

park upgrades  
completed



**2**

new parks  
added



More than 70,000  
people attended over  
60 events in Parramatta's  
public parks and green  
spaces in 2018/19







## Bushland & biodiversity

### Volunteers lead vegetation assessment

City of Parramatta enjoys a strong contingent of committed bushcare volunteers, who have assisted staff to develop comprehensive site-specific species lists. This will help future revegetation efforts to support increased diversity and complement the local range of species.



**305**  
bushland  
volunteers



**+22%**  
increase in  
volunteers  
from 2017/18



**+32%**  
increase in  
volunteer hours  
from 2017/18

### Creating homes for local wildlife

Over 300 native reptiles, amphibians, birds, insects and mammals depend on tree hollows that at least part of their lifecycle. Where a tree is dead or requires removal, Council will retain as much tree as is considered safe to create human-made hollows to ensure local wildlife can always find a home. In 2018/2019, four human-made hollows were created in two dead/dangerous trees along Ponds/ Subiaco Creek Reserve and Duncan Park for parrot, duck and microbat habitat.





## Urban forest

### Light rail tree planting

In partnership with Transport for New South Wales, City of Parramatta will plant an estimated 2,500 trees in streets, parks and reserves to offset trees removed as part of the light rail's construction. Up to eight trees will be planted for each tree removed as part of the Parramatta Light Rail Tree and Neighbourhood Improvement Program.



**10,000**  
trees planted on  
National Tree Day  
by 1,075 volunteers



**1,350**  
trees planted  
under the Public  
Trees program



**110,000**  
bushland tubestock  
planted, including  
12,000 trees







## River & waterways

### Parramatta River Masterplan complete

After several years of work by the Parramatta River Catchment Group partnership, we saw the delivery of the Duba, Budu, Barra – Parramatta River Masterplan to guide all future activities, helping make the river clean and swimmable again. Thanks to all 194 respondents for their invaluable input.

#### Key findings include:

- appreciation and support for the Masterplan
- general consensus that the vision was achievable with collaboration
- a shared sense of responsibility for looking after the river
- acknowledgment from community members there was more that they could do to contribute to the vision



**67,256**

people  
swimming  
at Lake  
Parramatta



**#1**

activity in  
the area on  
Trip Advisor



**109**

tonnes of litter and  
debris removed from  
stormwater pollutant  
traps and waterways



NSW Open Water Masters Race: The inaugural event was held at Lake Parramatta in October 2018







# Built for the future

## Our city is thriving

Which means we need to be smart and manage our impact as more people live, work and play in Parramatta.

We are continuing our efforts to reduce peak electricity demand, cut emissions, cherish water and manage affordability for our community by improving the efficiency of our buildings and dwellings, both new and existing.





## Community energy & carbon

Solar uptake continues to be strong while we keep making our built environment more efficient using the NABERS building rating tool. Our emissions have seen only a small rise year-on-year, which reflects the growth in our residential and transient population growth.

### Getting down to business

The City of Parramatta Council and the Parramatta Business Chamber sponsored the Inaugural Business Environment Expo in December 2018. The expo attracted over 100 attendees and helped to inform and connect businesses with energy, water and waste information and programs to make their businesses more sustainable.

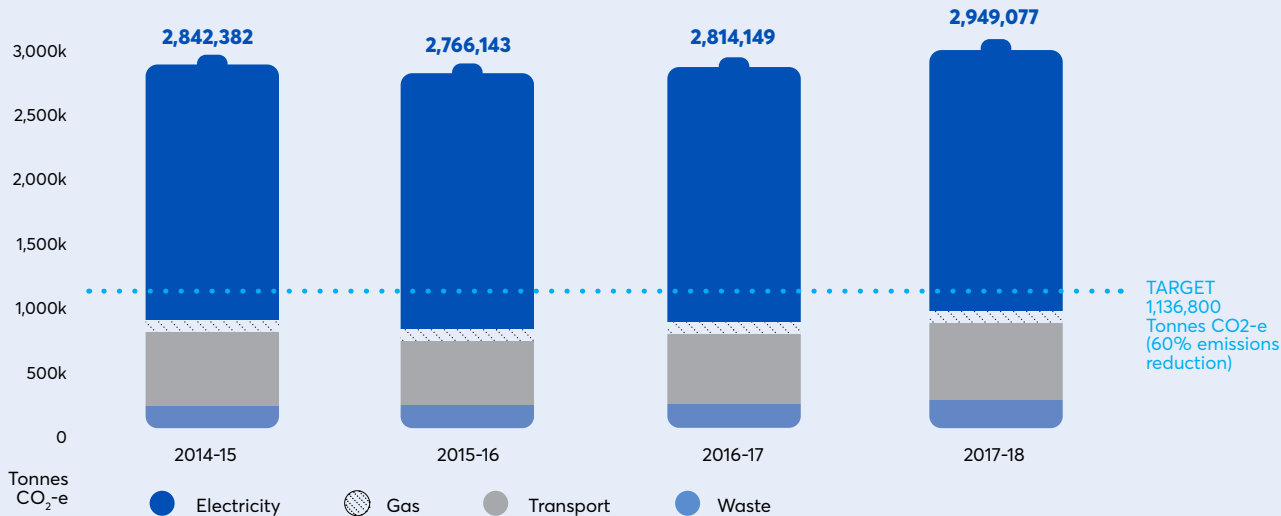
### Community energy study

Throughout 2018/19, we undertook community research to better understand community attitudes, behaviours and knowledge around energy use and renewable energy. Now complete, the findings will help inform the development of Council's Energy Transition Plan.

### WSROC Energy Program

Council signed up to a two-year energy program with Western Sydney Region of Councils. The program will identify and assist to deliver regional scale energy efficiency initiatives and community programs.

### Community emissions



### Solar



**900**  
solar installs  
in 2018/19



**7,392**  
total solar installs  
in Local Government  
Area (LGA)



**+26%**  
renewable megawatt  
hours generated  
from 2017/18



**13%**  
of buildings/dwellings  
in the LGA have  
installed solar

### Building efficiency



**81%**  
of buildings with a  
NABERS rating being  
4.5 stars or higher



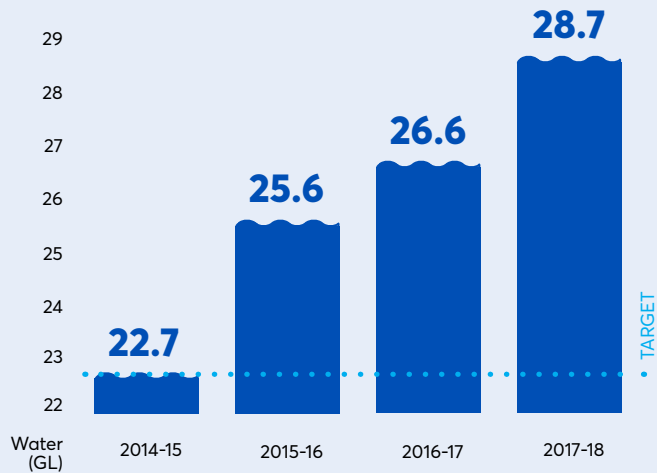
**4%**  
increase in NABERS  
4.5 stars or higher



## Water use

Water is our most precious resource and we continue to keep a sharp eye on use and supply throughout the year. We have recently completed a water efficiency technical study outlining a pathway to meet our water use targets and ensure supply for the future.

### Community Water



All sectors—all areas—water

### Safeguarding our water supply

City of Parramatta along with four other councils have partnered with Sydney Water to address water efficiency. The Council Partnership Program is focused on business water efficiency, targeting the top 100 water-using businesses. The program includes a free water efficiency assessment, report with recommendations and implementation support for participating businesses.

Built for the Future





## Waste & litter

Waste is a crucial issue for a growing city – after all, we want to preserve space for better pursuits. With the future in mind, we developed a draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy, which was placed on public exhibition in June 2019.

Additionally, we will continue to support initiatives that help reduce waste for small to medium business, reduce cigarette litter and place more solar-powered compacting bins in high-traffic public areas.



### Sending waste to a better place

The City continues to offer a number of programs to make sure waste to landfill is minimised, including:

- Compost Revolution
- Love Food Hate Waste
  - Live with Less
  - Garage Sale Trail
- Clean Up Australia Day
  - School waste
- Recycling contamination management

Big Belly solar, smart and wireless compactor bin

One of our many Gross Pollutant traps in our local waterways



# Key community waste achievements

## Waste recycling



**39%**  
Landfill  
(red) bin



**100%**  
organics  
(green) bin



**93%**  
recycling  
(yellow) bin



**49%**  
bulky goods  
(kerbside  
collection)

## Special waste collected



**46**  
tonnes  
of e-waste



**7.7**  
tonnes of  
hazardous waste



**48.2**  
tonnes of  
problem waste



**6,550**  
tonnes of  
bulky waste

## Waste initiatives



**200**  
businesses audited  
through EPA  
Bin Trim program



**590K**  
cigarette butts  
collected through  
67 public bins



**25**  
Big Belly solar, smart and  
wireless compactor bins  
(5x capacity of standard bin)  
now installed in LGA





# Connected & resilient communities

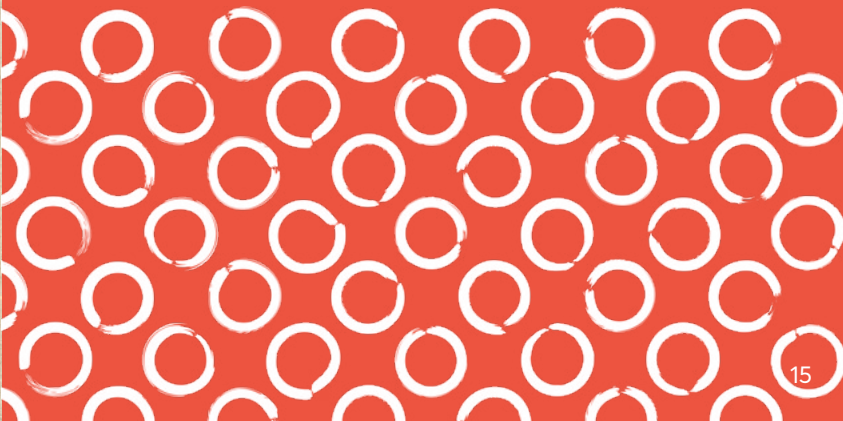


## More walkable than ever

Providing ample walking and cycling routes throughout Parramatta helps our city be more resilient, reducing our reliance on cars and public transport for everyday travel and activities.

For example, the daily walking average on the Foreshore path has increased by 9% in 2018/19.

Building on the efforts of previous years, we have continued to provide access for residents throughout the LGA to recreation and work by foot or bicycle wherever possible.







## Sustainable transport

In 2018/19 Council was involved in two projects that improved walking and connectivity – Milson Park at Westmead and Toongabbie Creek Crossing – to help people move between active recreation facilities and our local natural splendour.

### Toongabbie Creek crossing

Funded through the NSW Metro Green Space program, this project has increased access to quality open space and active recreation facilities along the Toongabbie Creek corridor.

Key works undertaken in 2018/19 include delivery of:

- 1.2km of new walking trail
- 6 stepping stone creek crossings and a bridge
- 4,500m<sup>2</sup> of bushland revegetation
- 50,000 plants planted, including 2,000 trees
- 1 multipurpose sports court and an informal soccer field
- upgrades to park furniture and signage

### Milson Park

A Masterplan for Milson Park located near Westmead Private Hospital has been completed. Including a series of walking networks and, as its centrepiece, features a major wetland to help clean up local waterways, create habitat and provide a community attraction.

It is expected that some components of the park will begin on ground delivery by late 2019 or early 2020.







## Urban heat

City of Parramatta has joined forces with seven other councils to tackle the issue of rising temperatures in our cities.

### Turn Down the Heat

This program lays out a five-year plan for a cooler, more liveable Western Sydney that focuses on reducing the 'urban heat island effect'. Extreme heat can affect our health as well as infrastructure and the natural environment.

Ways to reduce the heat in urban areas include:



Planting trees



Protecting green spaces



Improving the reliability and affordability of power supplies



Heat-proofing transport and road infrastructure



Providing access to water in public places



Educating the community about how to stay cool

### Benchmarking heat in Parramatta

In 2018/19 Council partnered with Western Sydney University to install and collect local temperature information through the installation of 143 temperature sensors. This study identified hot spot locations that experience higher temperatures. The study also analysed differences in air cooling potential of different tree species. The study will help inform future priority heat mitigation strategies.







## Flooding

In 2018/19, the FloodSmart service began engaging residents and businesses, introducing a new forecast model and installing three new water-level gauges.

**To date, over 500 people have signed up to the FloodSmart service with the website getting an average 1,000 hits each month.**



Highly Commended  
Award at the Committse  
for Sydney's Smart City  
2018 awards (top right).  
Sternbeck Award 2019  
Floodplain Management  
Australia (bottom left).





# Leading by example

## On track to reach our goals

As we draw closer to our 2022 deadline for Council carbon neutrality, we are focused on leading by example by embracing renewable energy sources and energy efficiency across our buildings and activities to reduce our carbon emissions wherever we can.



## Council energy & carbon

### Light Years Ahead complete

Council completed Phase 2 of the Light Years Ahead project, replacing over thousands inefficient street lights with efficient LEDs. In 2018/19, this project saved Council \$393,572 and reduced electricity consumption by 1,653,100 kilowatt hours, while significantly reducing our Greenhouse Gas emissions. These environmental benefits and savings are expected to be generated each and every year for the life of the new LED streetlights.



**5,500**  
inefficient  
street lights  
replaced



**1,976**  
tonnes of  
emissions  
saved



**\$394K**  
saved

### More solar, more savings

We made a significant increase in Council's solar energy generation capacity in 2018/19. Not only is this reducing our impact on the planet, it is also providing significant annual cost savings.

### Council energy efficiency upgrades

Council undertook two lighting upgrade projects at the Riverside Theatres during 2018/19 which has reduced electricity consumption by 80,666 kilowatt hours per annum.



**341kW**  
solar  
generation  
capacity  
across  
15 assets



**544**  
tonnes  
of carbon  
emissions  
saved due  
to upgrades



**\$75K**  
annual  
savings due  
to upgrades

Leading by  
example





# Conclusion

Council has released two Environmental Sustainability Strategy Annual Reports (previous 2017/18 and this report (2018/19) to track progress towards the goals. In 2020/21 Council will complete an End of Term Report that will monitor and report on the combined first four years of implementing the Strategy. As such, there will not be individual 2019/20 and 2020/21 Annual Reports.



Overall Winner: 2018 NSW Local Government Environmental Excellence Award

**Address:** 126 Church St, Parramatta  
PO Box 32, Parramatta NSW, 2124

**Email:**  
council@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au  
**Facsimile:** 9806 5917  
**Web:** cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au

**Environmental Sustainability Strategy:**  
<http://bit.ly/enviro-sustainability-strategy>

For non-English speakers,  
phone interpretation services  
are available via  
TIS National on **131 450**.

## KOREAN

본 소식지와 관련해 통역 지원이 필요하신 경우, TIS (131 450)에 전화하여 Parramatta Customer Service (9806 5050)를 연결해 달라고 요청하시면 됩니다. 업무시간은 월요일에서 금요일, 오전 8시 30분부터 오후 5시까지입니다.

## ARABIC

إذا كنت بحاجة للمساعدة في ترجمة هذه النشرة، اتصل بـ TIS على الرقم 131 450 واطلب منهم الاتصال نيابة عنك بخدمة زبائن باراماتا على الرقم 9806 5050 من الإثنين إلى الجمعة بين الساعة 8:30 صباحاً و 5:00 مساءً.

## CHINESE

如果你需要翻译协助阅读这份新闻简报，请联系 TIS，电话 131 450，要求他们代表你接通巴拉玛打市议会顾客服务处，电话 9806 5050。顾客服务处的工作时间是每星期一至星期五，上午 8:30 至下午 5:00。

## HINDI

यदि आपको यह सूचना-पत्र समझने में सहायता चाहिए तो कृपया TIS को 131 450 पर फ़ोन करें और उनसे कहें कि आपकी तरफ़ से पैरामाटा कस्टमर सर्विस को 9806 5050 पर फ़ोन करें। यह सेवा सोमवार से शुक्रवार, सुबह 8.30 बजे से शाम 5.00 तक उपलब्ध है।