

OurRiver – Cooks River Sustainability Initiative

Planning for water management in Munni Street Subcatchment is being undertaken by City of Sydney as part of the OurRiver – Cooks River Sustainability Initiative (OurRiver). OurRiver is a partnership between eight councils in the Cooks River Catchment (Ashfield, Bankstown, Canterbury, City of Sydney, Hurstville, Marrickville, Rockdale and Strathfield). The project is funded by the NSW Environmental Trust. The project is based on a collaborative planning approach working with residents, businesses and other stakeholders to address water management issues in six local areas (known as subcatchments) across the Cooks River Catchment. The subcatchment located in City of Sydney is Munni Street Subcatchment – an area that includes parts of Alexandria, Erskineville, Eveleigh and Newtown (see aerial outlined in red on aerial photograph). Stormwater from this subcatchment drains to Cooks River via Alexandra Canal.

Draft 2030 Visions, Goals and Actions for Munni Street Subcatchment

These draft vision statements, goals and actions were developed by Munni Street Subcatchment residents, City of Sydney staff and other stakeholders at the vision sessions held on Wednesday 22, Thursday 23 and Saturday 25 April 2009, and at a planning forum held on Thursday 14 May 2009. The community water vision for Munni Street Subcatchment is:

Our waterways are clean and are used as a community resource for recreation and community gardens. Our community understands how water works and plays an active role in its management, and there is strong public education for all ages. Our government agencies define and enforce policies that support water conservation and innovation.



Newtown train station

Erskineville Oval



COOKS RIVER
FORESHORES
Working Group



Vision:

1. Our waterways are clean and are used as a community resource for recreation and community gardens. Our streets and public spaces have less hard surfaces and more green space including rain gardens, wetlands and aesthetically pleasing water features. Street trees receive water from the drains and there are more community gardens.

Goals / Actions:

1.1 Improve water quality of Alexandra Canal and Cooks River for recreation and biodiversity.

- Install bio-filtration systems – raingardens, stormwater, buffer strips etc
- Legislate to recycle sewage to reduce sewer overflows

1.2 Integrate vegetation and food production into drainage, roads, streetscapes and other urban forms to reduce the water flow velocity

- Re-introduce indigenous edible vegetation (bush tucker) – biodiversity

1.3 Increase opportunities for community interaction through community gardens and other activities

- Initiate and establish more community gardens. Establish community gardens in every school and include an education component.

1.4 All detergents on market should be suitable for grey water reuse and waterway health.

- Source control measures
- Source control education
- Source control policies



Vision:

2. Our government agencies define and enforce policies that support water innovation and water conservation goals in consultation with the community. There is greater industry and developer responsibility. Policies are integrated so that features such as permeable paving are included in public works as standard. Council coordinates solutions to manage water at a street and suburb level to achieve efficiencies of scale.

Goals:

- 2.1 Improved access to information for community and agencies to create a shared understanding and knowledge of international best practices and latest innovations in technology, process and policy.**
- 2.2 We have a collective value of water (economic, environmental, social and spiritual) as a shared resource in this dry continent.**
- 2.3 Better and more effective water policies.**

Actions:

- Demonstration projects and models
- Fund and disseminate innovation and research
- Multi-media formats (internet, TV, videos, print, signs) – short & simple, informative of innovations and best practices.
- Introduce integrated, sustainable, indigenous, local and innovative water management in school curriculum.
- Establish a local and independent agency to act as a permanent repository of knowledge, issues and solutions.
- Establish a multicultural and multi-background forum (conference) to share water experiences.
- Hold a water festival
- Catchment based water information (consumption and other water balance components) to be publicized to community
- There are increased requirements for all residential and industrial developments to use less water and to use recycled water for non-potable uses. BASIX water use reduction targets are increased.
- Water pricing to reflect the value of potable water
- Wastewater pricing to be reflective of amount of wastewater generated
- Introduce percentage reduction targets for water consumption.
- Education programs should be made relevant to different groups in the community
- New developments controls should include standard requirement for stormwater harvesting and dual pipe systems.
- Composting toilets or low water use toilets to be mandatory



Vision:

3. Our water supply is self sufficient at a local scale with less reliance on water from outside the catchment. Waste water and stormwater is recycled for use in homes, schools and public buildings and we have a dual pipe system. All homes have rainwater tanks and drought tolerant gardens.

Goals / Actions:

3.1 Self sufficient as much as possible within economic "catchment" limitations. Reduce reliance on external sources by 56% so that 44% of the sub-catchment supply is from external sources (based on current 2009 demand).

- Potable water to be used for drinking and cooking, non-potable for rest
- Fixtures and appliances to be water efficient - water conservation measures should not increase energy use e.g. a dishwasher that has reduced water use but increased energy use.
- Existing houses to be retrofitted to reduce water consumption and to include dual pipe.
- Onsite detention water to be utilized for reuse.
- Community local harvest schemes e.g. use for public and school toilets - Paddington Town Hall example.
- Investigate use of local infrastructure where it exists.
- Drinking fountains to be on every street corner, in pocket parks and at public transport and cycling stops. Fountain taps to be spring loaded to avoid wastage and vandalism

3.2 All homes have rainwater tanks and drought tolerant gardens

- Greywater to be directed to gardens
- Information on different types of rainwater tanks to be made widely available
- Assistance and facilitation to be made available to install rainwater tanks on rental properties.

3.3 Controls on the percentage of impervious surfaces for new developments and existing lots

- Introduce controls on the percentage of impervious surfaces for new development and existing lots



Vision:

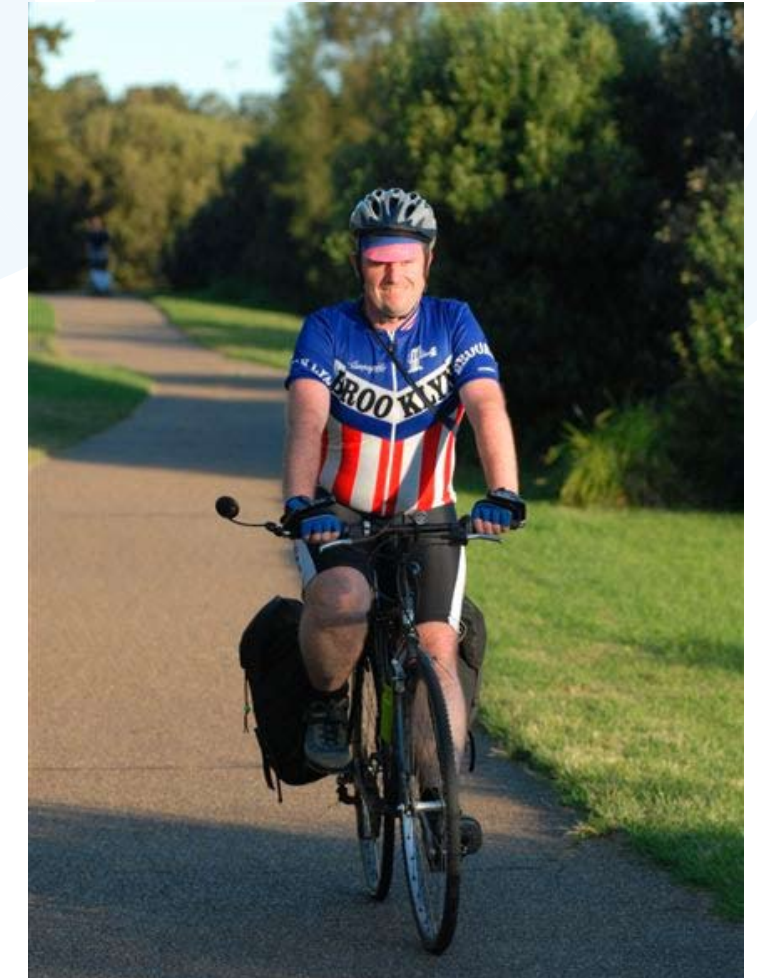
4. Our footprint is reduced with less plastics and other packaging, more public drinking fountains and no more bottled water. Cars are used less as there is more public transport and bicycles are used more often including along the Cooks River.

Goals:

- 4.1 Container deposit legislation to cover plastic, glass, and polystyrene.**
- 4.2 No bottled water.**
- 4.3 Producer responsibility for disposal of packaging.**
- 4.4 Environmentally friendly packaging – non-toxic components, unbleached materials and edible packaging.**
- 4.5 Safe and environmentally friendly disposal of toxic materials in products e.g. batteries, computers, electrical cords, poisons, bleach and sprays etc.**
- 4.6 Munni Street Subcatchment is cycle friendly.**
- 4.7 Free public transport and infrastructure in place to be able to support increased usage**

Actions:

- Water Unit in CoS to collaborate & co-ordinate with Waste Education Unit on source control measures.
- More cycle lanes to be added to increase usability for cyclists.
- Frequency of service and reliability of public transport to be improved.
- Introduce trams/light rail.
- Pedestrian links to be included to increase pedestrian use.
- Improve local services and facilities to support reduced transport use.
- Incentives exist for reducing water consumption
- Incentives exist for renters/landlords to work together to better manage water
- Water Unit in CoS to collaborate & co-ordinate with Waste Education Unit on source control policies and education program.
- Munni Street Subcatchment to be promoted as cycle friendly due to proximity to city and cycle friendly lanes.
- Vulnerable road users legislation so that cars are at fault in any accident unless car is stationary.
- Support safe cycling.
- Reduce competition with cars for road facilities. Public transport to have priority e.g. bus transit lanes.
- Introduce a congestion tax.
- Power sharing of roads - equal share for all road users



Vision:

5. Our community understands how water works and plays an active role in its management, and there is strong public education for all ages.

Goals:

5.1 Museums and Council have water management and innovation displays.

5.2 Each school “owns” a part of the river

Actions:

- Conduct water catchment and eco-tours.
- Every environmental/water program has an educational component. Learning from the success of waste recycling campaigns and using creative educational approach.
- Education is targeted to specific groups eg. renters, newly arrived migrants.

