

OurRiver – Cooks River Sustainability Initiative

Planning for water management in Munni Street Sub-catchment 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 sub-catchments) across the Cooks River Catchment. The sub-catchment located in City of Sydney is Munni Street Sub-catchment – an area that includes parts of Alexandria, Erskineville, Eveleigh and Newtown (see area outlined in red on aerial photograph). Stormwater from this area drains to Cooks River via Alexandra Canal.

2030 Visions, Goals and Actions for Munni Street Sub-catchment

These vision statements, goals and actions were developed by Munni Street Sub-catchment 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 Sub-catchment 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 and increase biodiversity

- Re-introduce indigenous edible vegetation (bush tucker).

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 (e.g., safe storage and disposal of chemicals).
- Source control education (e.g., drain stencils).
- Source control policies (e.g., penalties for insufficient source control).



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:

- Establish demonstration projects and models.
- Fund and disseminate innovation and research.
- Utilise short and simple multi-media formats (internet, TV, videos, print, signs) to inform 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.
- Publicise catchment based water information (consumption and other water balance components) to the community.
- Increase requirements for all residential and industrial developments to use less water and to use recycled water for non-potable uses.
- Increase BASIX water use reduction targets.
- Price water to reflect the value of potable water.
- Price wastewater to reflect amount of wastewater generated.
- Introduce percentage reduction targets for water consumption.
- Make education programs relevant to different groups in the community
- Include standard requirement for stormwater harvesting and dual pipe systems in new development controls.
- Make use of composting or low water use toilets mandatory.



Vision:

3. Our water supply is self-sufficient at a local scale with less reliance on water from outside the catchment. Wastewater 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 Water supply for the area is 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).

- Use potable water for drinking and cooking, and non-potable for all other purposes.
- Ensure fixtures and appliances are water efficient and that water conservation measures do not increase energy use (e.g., a dishwasher that has reduced water use but increased energy use).
- Retrofit existing houses to reduce water consumption and to include dual pipe systems.
- Reuse on-site detention water.
- Develop community local harvest schemes (e.g., use for public and school toilets. Paddington Town Hall is an example)
- Investigate use of local infrastructure where it exists.
- Install drinking fountains 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

- Direct greywater to gardens.
- Make information on different types of rainwater tanks widely available.
- Assist and facilitate the installation of 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 developments 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 Sub-catchment is cycle friendly.**
- 4.7 Free public transport and infrastructure in place to be able to support increased usage**

Actions:

- Water Unit at City of Sydney to collaborate and co-ordinate with Waste Education Unit on source control measures, policies and education programs
- Add more cycle lanes to increase usability for cyclists.
- Improve frequency of service and reliability of public transport.
- Introduce trams/light rail.
- Include pedestrian links to increase pedestrian use.
- Improve local services and facilities to support reduced transport use.
- Introduce incentives for reducing water consumption.
- Introduce incentives for renters and landlords to work together to better manage water.
- Promote Munni Street Sub-catchment as cycle friendly due to proximity to city and cycle friendly lanes.
- Introduce 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.
- Facilitate 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.
- Include an educational component in every environmental/water program.
- Learn from the success of waste recycling campaigns and use creative educational approaches.
- Target education to specific groups eg., renters, newly arrived migrants.

