# Upper Wolli Creek Subcatchment Vision, Goals and Actions

### Upper Wolli Creek Subcatchment 2050 Community Water Vision, Goals and Actions

The Upper Wolli Creek Subcatchment 2050 Community Water Vision was developed by Subcatchment residents, Council staff and other stakeholders at the vision sessions, held on Wednesday 25 March and Wednesday 1 April 2009. Following the vision sessions, the 2050 Community Water Vision was divided up into statements and categorised into common themes (Our Catchment, Our Technology, Our Homes and Our Community). At the two planning forums, held on Wednesday 29 April and Tuesday 5 May 2009, the **community** chose which statements were most important to them and then developed goals and actions for each of these prioritised statements. The prioritised statements and their associated goals and actions are presented over the following four pages (12-15), these reflect the desires and wishes of the Upper Wolli Creek Subcatchment community who attended the vision sessions and planning forums.

### Theme 1 - Our Catchment:

In 2050 there are less hard surfaces and more roadside gardens (raingardens) which collect stormwater and filter out the pollutants before it flows into Wolli Creek.

### **Goals:**

- Reduce or halt the Subcatchment's urban impermeable (hard surfaces) footprint.
- Build 10 Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) structures within the Subcatchment.
- Retrofit existing development with WSUD where it's feasible.
- Install raingardens and other WSUD structures in wide streets.
- Maintain environmental flows for Wolli Creek.

### **Actions:**

- Conduct an education campaign for both community and council staff on the effect that increasing impervious surfaces has on the waterway environment.
- Implement planning controls that help reduce or stabilise the urban impermeable surface footprint.
- When implementing WSUD structures, target the areas in the Subcatchment that are likely to benefit the most (e.g., where flooding occurs after intense rainfall).
- Council investigates and considers incentives related to hard surface area and stormwater discharge (e.g., incentive for rainwater tanks or other WSUD features that effectively reduce impermeable area by slowing, cleaning/filtering stormwater discharge).



Grassed swale, Warriewood NSW. Photo courtesy of www.wsud.org



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### Theme 2 - Our Technology:

In 2050 there is efficient local harvesting, treatment and storage of rainwater, stormwater and wastewater by all land users (residential, business and industry).

### **Goals:**

- All residential properties and industrial sites are collecting and storing rain/stormwater.
- All commercial enterprises that consume large amounts of water are using rainwater, stormwater or recycled • wastewater.
- Stormwater is treated/cleaned before it enters the natural water cycle. •

### **Actions:**

- Council to be an active partner with residents, businesses and industry in water and energy conservation activities.
- Opportunities for sustainability measures (e.g., rain/stormwater harvesting, raingardens, green roofs, energy conservation) are continually identified and pursued by Council and all Subcatchment stakeholders.
- Identify the potential for rainwater harvesting within the Subcatchment, for commercial, industrial and residential.
- Gross pollutant traps are used, where appropriate, as an extra measure to protect waterway health. •
- Install rainwater tanks and build stormwater treatment and storage devices in roads and parks where appropriate. •
- Identify a model business/industry that has implemented water and energy saving devices or assist a business/ • industry in becoming a demonstration model.
- Identify and promote appropriate funding opportunities for water saving devices.
- Identify and promote the application and use of sustainability focused building techniques (e.g., green roofs) within Council's planning instruments and guidelines.





Raingarden, Hill St, Marrickville NSW. Photo courtesy OurRiver.



Raingarden, Sydney University NSW. Photo courtesy of www.wsud.org

## **Upper Wolli Creek Subcatchment Action Plan**

## Theme 3 - Our Homes:

In 2050 all homes are sustainable and use energy and water saving fixtures.

## **Goals:**

- All appliances and fixtures use the best practice technology of the time.
- All homes have an on-site water-collecting device that collects or provides access to 100% of the water required for that home/property.
- All dwellings reuse greywater on-site.
- Local and regional water collection and reuse schemes for irrigating parks and for people who can't collect sufficient water on their property. Excess water is fed back into the mains supply (similar to solar energy feeding into the electricity grid).

### Actions:

- Permeable paving is used in the Subcatchment instead of bitumen and concrete where appropriate.
- Federal, State and Local Governments promote ongoing subsidies to support water and energy efficiency efforts • (e.g., Every Drop Counts).
- Community water collection and storage devices are investigated (e.g., under roads and in parks).
- Incentives (e.g., subsidies, rebates and grant funding) are established to encourage the uptake of sustainable urban water management practices on private properties.
- Greywater diversion systems are encouraged and widely used.
- Make rainwater tanks, or similar storage device, a requirement for all dwellings.
- Investigate regional water reuse schemes e.g., 3-pipe system (potable, non-potable, wastewater).
- Conduct education campaigns in schools, community groups and the wider community to showcase the Subcatchment.
- Water meters are on display to publicly identify the water usage of each dwelling.





Residential rainwater storage tank, Bexley North NSW. Photo courtesy OurRiver.



Permeable paving, Sydney Olympic Park, NSW. Photo courtesy of www.wsud.org

### Theme 4 - Our Community:

In 2050 people are better informed and aware of the importance of, and actively engaged in, water and energy conservation.

### Goals:

- All people are actively involved in maintaining their community raingarden or local WSUD feature.
- All energy consumed locally comes from renewable, non-polluting resources. •
- All roofs (residential, business and industrial) collect rainwater for reuse purposes.
- People are participating in a variety of water conservation measures.
- Wolli Creek Subcatchment is seen as a model of 'sustainability' with regards to its water management practices.
- People take responsibility for their streets and there is a genuine sense of civic pride.
- There is an embedded cultural change towards sustainability by residents, businesses and industry alike.

#### **Actions:**

- Actively promote WSUD through media, schools, tours, local groups, signs, festivals, street parties.
- Identify ways to fund on-going maintenance of open-space associated with business and industrial development. •
- All community centres double as environmental resource centres and where possible, convert under-utilised public space into community gardens and/or nurseries.
- Actively engage the community to increase their awareness of water issues, conservation and sustainability.
- Council sponsors competitions for local areas based on recycling, water conservation, etc.
- Councils deliver sustainability focused education campaigns designed to ignite community interest, support and • participation (including within culturally and linguistically diverse communities).





Cyclist on the Cooks River cycle way. Photo courtesy OurRiver.



Upper Wolli Creek Subcatchment community planning forum, April 2009. Photo courtesy OurRiver.