

Cooks River Strategies Summary 2023

The inclusion criteria for what is almost a literature review is research, reports and strategies focused on the environment - primarily those with recommendations for action or highlighting the poor health of the Cooks River. The majority of the documents listed constitute 'grey literature' having never been formally published with an ISBN or available through libraries. A brief list of websites is also included where they are current and promote improvements to the Cooks River and surrounding parklands. The purpose of the list is to gather the various resources into one place (please let us know if you are aware of any others we have missed) and provide a starting point for a discussion about the gap between research, reports, recommendations and the overwhelming community desire for action.

Cooks River - websites

(listed alphabetically)

Botany Bay and Catchment Alliance

Umbrella organisation of 30+ community and environmental groups dedicated to the restoration, protection and sustainable use and enjoyment of Botany Bay and its catchment.

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Botany-Bay-and-Catchment-Alliance-Inc/100064275115785/>

Canterbury Bankstown Climate Action Network

Newer Council wide group of concerned citizens advocating for a range of environmental issues including more tree planting.

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/1851232281772114/members/>

Canterbury Racecourse Action Group

Group of local residents working to ensure the 35 hectare Canterbury Racecourse becomes open public green space.

<http://www.crag.community/>

Cooks River Alliance

The Cooks River Alliance is a partnership between councils in the Cooks River Catchment – Bayside, Canterbury-Bankstown, Inner West, Strathfield and Sydney Water. The Alliance uses the combined resources, experience, knowledge and skills within the councils and the community to address the complex environmental problems of the Cooks River.

<https://cooksriver.org.au/>

Cooks River Initiative to Transform the Riverbank

Group of Earlwood residents advocating for river bank naturalisation.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1183794975859468/>

Cooks River Valley Association

Website includes past annual reports capturing detail of bushcare work, events and advocacy for the River. Umbrella organisation for the **Mudcrabs** Cooks River EcoVolunteers who manage a dozen bushcare sites and working bees along the Cooks River along with regular River clean up events. Also the **Mudlarks** birdwatching group with monthly surveys of birds on the Cooks River since 2020. And **Crab Walkers** reducing litter pollution reaching the Cooks River.

<https://www.crva.org.au/>

Peaceful Bayside

Local group concerned about a range of environmental issues including low levels of tree coverage

<https://www.peacefulbayside.com/greener-bayside>

River Canoe Club

Very active group promoting greater access to the River through the **Cooks River Paddle Trail** and a range of environmental improvements including the **Litter Prevention Strategy, Mullets Cooks River Clean Up** and the **Paddle Against Plastic** community event day. Also coordinate and provide secretariat support to the **Cooks River Community Collective** – a regular meeting of local community and environmental groups.

<https://rivercanoecub.org.au/>

Sydenham Bankstown Alliance

Alliance of community groups fighting over development and privatisation of train services in the Sydenham to Bankstown corridor while advocating for a range of improved services and community infrastructure including open space.

<https://www.sydbankalliance.com/>

Sydney Water – improving waterway health across Sydney

Sydney wide program to plant naturally vegetated stormwater treatment areas, also known as Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) that also benefit communities by creating enjoyable spaces that improve water quality. Investment approved by IPART (the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal) in the Waterway Health Improvement Program as part of our 2020–24 price review. As part of the price review process, Sydney Water asked customers if they'd be willing to pay more for particular projects. For waterways health, customers said yes. So, from 1 July 2022, all stormwater customers contribute a modest 90 cents a year, included in their stormwater service charge, to fund this program.

<https://www.sydneywater.com.au/water-the-environment/what-we-are-doing/current-projects/managing-stormwater/improving-waterway-health-across-sydney.html>

Tempe Birdos

Tempe Birdos volunteers have recorded 110+ bird species since monthly surveying began in September 2011.

<https://www.facebook.com/TempeBirdos>

Cooks River – research, reports and strategies

2023 – Inner West Council Planning for a Blue Green Grid

<https://yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/planning-inner-wests-blue-green-grid>

2023 – CBC Canterbury Racecourse Planning Strategy

Council, the Greater Sydney Commission and the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment are creating a long-term vision for the future of Canterbury Racecourse. Council has established a Community Voice Panel to share ideas and inform the process. Technical studies and design processes are also underway to help set a vision for the site.

<https://haveyoursay.cbccity.nsw.gov.au/canterbury-racecourse-planning-strategy>

2022 – Campsie Town Centre Master Plan

Prepared by CBC. The Master Plan describes the rationale for new planning controls that will amend our local environmental plan and development control plan. The key features of the precinct are the Cooks River which runs through the middle of the precinct and the 35ha Canterbury Park Racecourse.

2022 - Cooks River Waterway Asset Condition Assessment – Foreshore Public Safety Assessment

The Cooks River Alliance (CRA) engaged Alluvium Consulting Pty. Ltd. (Alluvium) to assess the current condition of waterway assets in the Cooks River catchment. During the assessment, the CRA and representatives from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) who co-fund the Catchment Management Plan, found that a portion of waterway assets that are constructed of steel sheet piles are in very poor condition and present an immediate hazard to public safety.

2022 – Cooks River Corridor Plan

Prepared by ARUP for Canterbury Bankstown Council (CBC) as part of the Metropolitan Greenspace program.

A CBC plan intended to be part of the Greater Sydney Green Grid that will keep the region cool, encourage healthy lifestyles, support walking and cycling, provide better access to open space, enhance bushland and support ecological resilience. Planning includes Inner West Council and Strathfield Council area which formed part of three broader open space corridors; - The Cooks River; - Sydenham to Bankstown; and - Wolli Creek.

2021 – Cooks River Alliance Annual Report 2020-21 (and previous years to 2014-15)

Overview of Alliance activities including development of a Whole of River and Catchment Plan, the Cooks River CMP.

2021 – Cooks River Litter Prevention Strategy

Prepared by Civile for the NSW River Canoe Club and the Cooks River Alliance. Funded by the NSW Environment Protection Agency.

This strategy aims to reduce the amount of litter reaching the Cooks River by 50% by 2025 through focusing on preventing litter from materialising in the catchment.

2021 - Bayside priority green grid corridors spatial framework

Funded by NSW Dept of Planning and Environment as part of the Metro Green Spaces Program.

This Spatial Framework establishes the role of three green grid corridors: Bardwell Valley and Wolli Creek; Rockdale Wetlands; Mill Stream and Botany Wetlands, to encourage: healthy living through cycling, walking and jogging to improve connectivity, legibility, biodiversity, success of ecological communities, improve water quality. Implementing this framework will include developing planning and strategic documents that pertain to the corridors, and the current and future infrastructural projects impacting on the site. Rockdale Wetlands includes the site of the Cooks Cove development.

2021 – Marrickville Parklands and Golf Course Plan of Management and Master Plan

The Marrickville Parklands and Dibble Avenue Waterhole are identified as Priority Diversity Areas. Key objectives and recommendations will guide the strategic management of the Marrickville Parklands and Golf Course over the next 10 years.

2020 – Cooks River Catchment Coastal Management Program (CMP) Stage 1 Scoping Study

Produced by BMT Commercial Australia Pty Ltd for the Cooks River Alliance.

The Cooks River Catchment Coastal Management Program (CMP) Stage 1 Scoping Study has developed a shared understanding of the Cooks River catchment and coastal management issues and priorities, which builds on work by councils, the Cooks River Alliance (CRA), state agencies and other stakeholders over several decades. Based on this shared understanding, this study provides a forward plan for undertaking Stage 2 to Stage 5 of a CMP, consistent with the NSW Coastal Management Framework.

2020 - The Case for the Missing Bridges Wolli Creek and the Cooks River

Blog post by Josephine Roper, a PhD candidate at UNSW City Futures Research Centre that argues for more pedestrian bridges especially across the lower reaches of the Cooks River and Wolli Creek.

<https://walksydney.org/2020/04/08/wolli-creek-the-cooks-river-and-the-case-of-the-missing-bridges/>

2020 – CBCity Connective City 2036 Local Strategic Planning Statement

A 20 year plan for land use and managing change into the future. Bankstown and Campsie are expected to grow as strategic centres. The plan identifies Cooks River Corridor as a part of City's Green Web to create an integrated network of ecological and green spaces between urban and suburban places. Actions include - Advocate for an enhanced green corridor link along the Metro Corridor that connects wildlife habitats and ecological communities from the Cooks River. Deliver the priorities of Council's existing policies in alignment with green web and active transport priorities. Continue to identify and plan for new and improved public spaces to support residents, workers and visitors in priority growth areas. Identify and promote local wildlife species.

2020 – Strathfield Council: Elliott Reserve Plan of Management

A dense corridor of riparian and forest species such as acacias, she-oaks, tea-trees and eucalypts have been planted along the south-western bank of the river and the southern boundary of the Reserve. This connects with other Cooks River/Coxs Creek foreshore parks in creating a biodiversity corridor.

2020 – Strathfield Council: Cooks River Corridor (Bushland) Plan of Management

The plan covers the land categorised as natural area (bushland) that are located in the Cooks River (including Cox Creek) corridor in the Strathfield LGA. This plan applies only to the land categorised as natural area (bushland) areas. Most natural areas are located within a larger park or reserve and this plan should be read in combination with the associated plans of management. (For example see also Elliott Reserve and Cox's Creek POMs).

2018 – Greater Sydney Regional Plan: a Metropolis of Three Cities connecting people

Greater Sydney Commission plan including the Cooks River catchment with actions on environmental sustainability, urban canopy, protection of open space, enhancement of biodiversity.

2018 – Our Greater Sydney 2056 Eastern City District Plan – connecting communities

Greater Sydney Commission plan calling out the Cooks River as a priority: The Cooks River Open Space Corridor will become a regionally significant parkland corridor, improving water quality and providing high quality open space with links to nearby centres including Strathfield, Sydney Olympic Park, Campsie, Canterbury, Dulwich Hill, Marrickville and Wolli Creek. This is a priority Green Grid project for both the Eastern City and South districts.

2018 – Our Greater Sydney 2056 South District Plan – connecting communities

Greater Sydney Commission plan calling out the Cooks River as a priority: Cooks River Open Space Corridor will become a regionally significant parkland corridor in the South and Eastern City districts will improve water quality and link high quality open spaces between Strathfield, Sydney Olympic

Park, Campsie, Canterbury, Dulwich Hill, Marrickville and Wolli Creek. This is a Priority Project for both the South and Eastern City districts.

2018 – The Cooks River People’s Plan: A strategic plan for united action on the Cooks River and its catchment 2018 – 2021.

Cooks River Alliance. The plan aims to provide a clear statement of actions that will go a long way to rehabilitating the Cooks River and its catchment.

2018 - CBCity 2028 Community Strategic Plan

A 10 year Community Strategic Plan that identifies seven Destinations for our future City. Goals relevant to improving open space relate to being 'Clean and Green; 'Moving and Integrated' and 'Healthy and Active'. Pathways include: A clean and sustainable city with healthy waterways and natural areas Protect and promote local biodiversity Promote accessible parks and open spaces catering to all ages and cultures.

2017 – Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor Strategy

Produced by the Department of Planning and Environment and released as a draft in 2015 the final 2017 Strategy identifies opportunities for improvements to open space along the Cooks River although these include the future redevelopment of Canterbury Racecourse.

2017 – South District: Sydney Green Grid Spatial Framework and Project Opportunities

Produced by Tyrell Studio for the Department of Planning and Environment in association with the Office of the Government Architect.

Calls out the Cooks River Corridor as an opportunity: The projects within this group are located within the highly urbanised catchment of the Cooks River, a unique urban waterway in the district. Projects address connectivity, walking and cycling, recreation, intensity of use, biodiversity opportunities and continue to establish the Cooks River as a major recreational destination for residents in this area. More specifically including:

- enhancing the Cooks River as a green corridor through additional planning and management and of natural habitats;
- Promote riverbank restoration and water treatment projects where possible; Build on the initiatives undertaken through the Cooks River Sustainability Initiative;
- Promote naturalisation of concrete lined channels where space allows;
- Create a series of destination parkland experiences along the length of the waterway;

2017 – Central District: Sydney Green Grid Spatial Framework and Project Opportunities

Produced by Tyrell Studio for the Department of Planning and Environment in association with the Office of the Government Architect.

Calls out the Cooks River as an opportunity: The projects within this area are located within the highly urbanised catchment of the Cooks River. The Cooks River has had the support of multiple councils within its catchment area and has been the focus of a series of project aimed at restoring the waterway, improving water quality and increasing the recreation opportunities. The corridor is an important asset for surrounding communities and will become even more important with increased population projections. The Cooks River will benefit from further support to help establish it as a major regional recreational destination. Enhancing the quality of existing spaces along the south east end, continuing restoration work in the north west end towards Campsie and increasing connectivity from all the surrounding suburbs will greatly benefit the local community.

2017 – Aboriginal History along the Cooks River

Produced for the Cooks River Alliance by Dr Paul Irish of Mary Dallas Consulting Archaeologists.

Many Aboriginal people interviewed for this project expressed a keen desire to commemorate, celebrate and promote the long history of Aboriginal connections to the Cooks River valley. There is a desire to see Aboriginal names reinstated along the river and perhaps with the name of the river itself, to make plain the area's historical and enduring Aboriginal connections.

2017 – 10 Things to Help the Cooks River

Brochure produced by the Cooks River Alliance funded by the Australian Government

Lists actions people living in the Cooks River catchment can take to improve the health of the River.

2017 – Cooks River Ecological Health Report Card 2016-17 (also previous years back to 2013-14)

Produced by the Cooks River Alliance the report card highlights the poor water quality in the river and highlights actions to improve it including water sensitive urban design.

2016 - Are new developments cleaning up the Cooks River or creating more problems? - Capacity Building and training needs analysis: Stage 1 Report

Cobalt 59 Brian Keogh for the Cooks River Alliance

A report providing baseline evaluation of the capacity of the Cooks River councils about planning assessment in relation to water and in particular storm water management. Also training recommendations aimed at increasing the sustainable urban water management capacity within the Cooks River Alliance councils.

2016 – River Health Project Report The Value of Improving Urban Stream Health in the Cooks River and Georges River Catchments.

This was a collaborative research project between Charles Sturt University, City of Canterbury Bankstown Council, Fairfield City Council, NSW Local Land Services (Greater Sydney), Sydney Water,

CSIRO and Virginia Tech University in the USA. Authors: Mark Morrison, Roderick Duncan, Kevin Boyle, Buyani Thomy, Weibin Xu, George Parsons, Rosalind Bark, Michael Burton.

While trying to put a value on the enjoyment of nature, an economics researcher at Charles Sturt University (CSU) in Bathurst found that urban residents in houses near more natural waterways with more vegetation and less modified banks were willing to pay extra for these features.

2016 – Bayside Council: Plan of Management for Community Land and Public Open Space

Plan aims to realise the vision: “The creation of a network of high quality and inspiring open spaces which helps ensure an attractive, healthy, sustainable and socially cohesive place for all the City’s communities and visitors.” It includes sites like Eve Street Wetlands.

2016 – Marrickville Council: Cooks River Parklands Plan of Management and Masterplan

The purpose of the report is to inform the long-term financial plan and the open space asset plan, in order to plan staged upgrades over the next ten years. This report views the Cooks River Parklands as a connected series of open space areas that form the northern riparian corridor of the lower Cooks River.

2015 - Cooks River Improvement Plan – Physical Profile.

Prepared for Sydney Water by Alluvium Consulting Aust. Authors Rita Bonetti, Richard McManus & Alexa McAuley.

2015 – City of Canterbury Open Space Needs Review

Highlighted lack of open space for residents.

2015 – Canterbury Precinct: Land Use and Infrastructure Analysis

Prepared by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. Part of the Sydenham Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor.

This Land Use and Infrastructure Analysis establishes a strategic planning framework to guide future development and infrastructure delivery in the Canterbury precinct over the next 20 years. The key features of the precinct are the Cooks River which runs through the middle of the precinct and the 35ha Canterbury Park Racecourse.

2015 – Campsie Precinct: Land Use and Infrastructure Analysis

Prepared by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. Part of the Sydenham Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor.

This Land Use and Infrastructure Analysis establishes a strategic planning framework to guide future development and infrastructure delivery in the Campsie precinct over the next 20 years. The plan aims to enhance the connections to and the quality of the Cooks River open space corridor and convert it into regionally significant parklands.

2015 – Hurlstone Park Precinct: Land Use and Infrastructure Analysis

Prepared by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. Part of the Sydenham Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor.

This Land Use and Infrastructure Analysis establishes a strategic planning framework to guide future development and infrastructure delivery in the Hurlstone Park precinct over the next 20 years. The Cooks River forms the southern boundary of the precinct.

2015 – Dulwich Hill Precinct: Land Use and Infrastructure Analysis

Prepared by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. Part of the Sydenham Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor.

This Land Use and Infrastructure Analysis establishes a strategic planning framework to guide future development and infrastructure delivery in the Dulwich Hill precinct over the next 20 years. The Marrickville Golf Club occupies the northern bank of the Cooks River.

2015 – Marrickville Precinct: Land Use and Infrastructure Analysis

Prepared by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. Part of the Sydenham Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor.

This Land Use and Infrastructure Analysis establishes a strategic planning framework to guide future development and infrastructure delivery in the Marrickville precinct over the next 20 years. The Cooks River corridor along the southern boundary of the precinct features a number of parks (Mahoney Reserve Sports Field, Steel Park and Mackey Park) and walking/cycling tracks. The Marrickville Golf Club and Concordia Club occupy a large site at the south-west limiting public access.

2014 – Cooks River Alliance Management Plan and Action Plan 2014-17

The seven Programs of the Action Plan are: 1. Capacity Building 2. Catchment Monitoring 3. Information & Website 4. On-ground Works 5. Collaboration & Community Engagement 6. Communications 7. Catchment Resilience.

2013 – Beachwatch investigation into suitable swimming sites on the Cooks River

Following the 2010 Beachwatch report (below) NSW Health convened another stakeholder meeting in July 2013. At this meeting Beachwatch agreed to conduct further water sampling at selected sites in the Cooks River to investigate the suitability of sites for primary contact recreation.

Three potential swimming sites were sampled: Waterworth Park, Kendrick Park and Cahill Park. These sites were selected from the eight sites previously sampled in 2010.

2013 – Cooks and Georges River Health Report Card 2012-13 (also produced for 2011-12)

Produced by the Georges River Combined Councils Committee and Cooks River Alliance

Funded through the River Health Monitoring Program undertaken in association with the Georges River Environmental Education Centre, Sydney Water Corporation, Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority and NSW Office of Environment and Heritage. River Health is funded by the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country Program.

In its second year of River Health monitoring, the Cooks River showed a slight improvement to the overall grade. However, the ecological condition of the catchment remained 'Poor'.

2011 - Botany Bay and Catchment Water Quality Improvement Plan

Produced for the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority with funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country.

Principal Authors: Dr Rebecca Kelly and John Dahlenburg

To reduce the stormwater pollution loads coming from urban development to the waterways in the Botany Bay Catchment, it is recommended that all new development and/or redevelopment meet stormwater pollution reduction targets. These reduction targets can be achieved by incorporating WSUD into urban development and renewal.

2011 – Bayside Council: Muddy Creek Plan of Management

A separate plan for Muddy Creek which is primarily on Crown Land and has a development focus to provide a planning context and framework to facilitate identified development opportunities for recreation and related purposes within the Muddy Creek Study Area, and for the on-going management of the land asset in a sustainable manner. The planning emphasis is on optimising the land assets of both agencies (Bayside Council and Crown Lands) and to provide a wide range of recreational facilities for the benefit of the community.

2010 – Annual Report Cooks River Foreshores Working Group 2009-10 (and previous years back to 2004-05)

The Cooks River Foreshores Working Group is the forerunner of the current Cooks River Alliance. The annual reports contain detailed descriptions of projects, like the creation of the Cup and Saucer Creek Wetland (2009-10), and their funding along with photos.

2010 - Upper Wolli Creek Subcatchment Management Plan - Canterbury Council

This document is a result of Canterbury Council's involvement in the OurRiver - Cooks River Sustainability Initiative. The OurRiver project is an initiative of the Cooks River Foreshore Working

Group and is funded by the NSW Environmental Trust's Urban Sustainability Program from 2007 to 2010. It is a partnership between Ashfield, Bankstown, Canterbury, City of Sydney, Hurstville, Marrickville, Rockdale and Strathfield councils, and Monash University.

2010 – Beachwatch report on possibility of swimming in the Cooks River

Produced by Beachwatch after the Cooks River Valley Association wrote to the NSW Minister for Health in 2019 and NSW Health convened a meeting of stakeholders in 2010. Funded by the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water.

All six sites investigated by Beachwatch in September 2010 had a sanitary inspection category of high due to potential impacts from sewage overflows, local stormwater inputs and upstream river discharge. Microbial water quality was generally poor, with enterococci levels unsuitable for swimming at all but one site (Waterworth Park).

2010 – A Cooks River Alliance: Draft Discussion Paper

Produced by the Cooks River Foreshores Working Group with funding from the NSW Environment Trust.

Useful summary of challenges and opportunities facing the Cooks River and multiple stakeholders involved.

2010 – Strathfield Council Cox's Creek Wetland and Reserve Plan of Management

The plan outlines how Strathfield Municipal Council will manage and improve the wetland and reserve to maintain and enhance the local biodiversity and ensure the longevity of the threatened frog species, the Green and Golden Bell Frog as well as the endangered ecological community Cook River Castlereagh Ironbark Forest

2009 – Cooks River Estuary Vegetation Management Plan

Produced by Ecological Australia for the Cooks River Foreshores Working Group funded by the member Councils and NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change.

Priorities identified for action include linking remnant patches and rehabilitating vegetation in areas like Gough Whitlam Park and wetlands in the proposed Cooks Cove redevelopment area.

2009 - Upper Wolli Creek Subcatchment Management Plan - Rockdale City Council

This document has been developed for Rockdale City Council as part of their involvement in the OurRiver - Cooks River Sustainability Initiative. The OurRiver project is an initiative of the Cooks River Foreshore Working Group and is funded by the NSW Environmental Trust's Urban Sustainability Program from 2007 to 2010. It is a partnership between Ashfield, Bankstown, Canterbury, City of Sydney, Hurstville, Marrickville, Rockdale and Strathfield councils, and Monash University.

2009 - Upper Wolli Creek Subcatchment Management Plan - Hurstville LGA

This document is a result of Hurstville City Council's involvement in the OurRiver - Cooks River Sustainability Initiative. The OurRiver project is an initiative of the Cooks River Foreshore Working Group and is funded by the NSW Environmental Trust's Urban Sustainability Program from 2007 to 2010. It is a partnership between Ashfield, Bankstown, Canterbury, City of Sydney, Hurstville, Marrickville, Rockdale and Strathfield councils, and Monash University.

2008 – Two Valley's Trail (map)

Map of a walking trail linking Wolli Creek and the Cooks River.

Produced by Cooks River Valley Association, Wolli Creek Preservation Society, Mudcrabs Cooks River EcoVolunteers, Friends of Ewen Park, Riverlife Interpretive Tours

Funded by City of Canterbury Council, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water

2007 – Cooks River Naturalisation Master Plan

Produced by Sydney Water the master plan and flood strategy developed as part of its stormwater infrastructure renewals program identified numerous opportunities to naturalise riverbanks and create wetlands along the Cooks River between Centenary Drive Strathfield and the Alexandra Canal. This is the report that led to the naturalisation of the riverbank at Campsie.

2007 - Cooks River Integrated Interpretation Strategy

This project was a collaborative effort with Marrickville, Canterbury and Strathfield Local Councils. Consultants John Pastorelli and Cath Renwick.

2007 - Reflections on Research into the Cooks River Sustainability Initiative.

Prepared for Marrickville Council. J.J. Bos & R.R. Brown. Centre for Sensitive Cities, School of Environmental Science, Monash Uni.

2006 - Cooks River Sustainability Initiative Report

A partnership between eight councils within the Cooks River Catchment (Ashfield, Bankstown, Canterbury, City of Sydney, Hurstville, Marrickville, Rockdale and Strathfield Councils). The goals of the Initiative were to improve the quality of water that flows into the Cooks River and enhance the natural environment of the river and its surrounds.

2006 - Cooks River Catchment Management Strategy

Developed for the Cooks River Catchment Management Committee. Includes comprehensive Strategic Plans and Action Plans.

2006 - A community-based survey: the knowledge and attitudes towards urban biodiversity of the residents and users of the Cooks River Corridor

by Vasiliki Andrews and Linda Smith, Final report for an Urban Ecology Project at the University of Technology Sydney.

A small sample of residents were shown to value native vegetation.

2006 – My Cooks River – Stage 1 Progress Report

Project led by OzGreen an Australian NGO.

My Cooks River was a whole river basin environmental education and engagement program that harnesses youth passion, intelligence and commitment to build pathways to sustainable river futures.

The project was an initiative of Oz GREEN that is proudly supported by the Orica Community Foundation, Vodafone Australia Foundation, Canterbury Council, Marrickville Council, Rockdale Council, City of Botany Bay Council, Sydney Water Streamwatch, Sydney Airport Corporation, Strathfield Girls High School, Randwick Boys High School, Banksmeadow Public School, JJ Cahil High School and Malek Fahd Islamic School.

2005 – Patterns of Debris Movement: From an Urban Estuary to a Coastal Embayment

Scott P. Wilson and Stephen J. Randall. Centre for Environmental Restoration and Stewardship Australian Catholic University (Sydney). Extract from Proceedings of the 2005 Plastic Debris, Rivers to the Sea Conference, Redondo Beach, California, September 7-9 2005.

Tracking of debris from a potential source to an end destination was undertaken along the Cooks River and in Botany Bay, Sydney. The importance of tidal movement, riparian vegetation and rainfall is highlighted.

2001 - The Tide is Turning – Final Report of the Botany Bay Program

Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils. Funding provided by the Natural Heritage Trust, Coast and Clean Seas Program.

Includes environmental management of the Cooks River watershed.

2000 – Cooks River Environmental Assessment & Education Project

NSW Department of Environment funded project working with local councils promoting environmental protection including stormwater management through co-operation with businesses in the Cooks River valley.

1999 - Cooks River Stormwater Management Plan

Produced by PPK Environment & Infrastructure Pty Ltd, and Webb, McKeown & Associates Pty Ltd for the Cooks River Catchment Association of Councils, Sydney Water and the Roads and Traffic Authority.

The 13 Local Councils of the Cooks River catchment, working together with State Authorities and the community, prepared a Stormwater Management Plan for the Cooks River. The Plan aimed to improve water quality and the health of the Cooks River by identifying practical and long term solutions to stormwater problems.

1999 – Cooks River Catchment Management Strategy

Produced by the Cooks River Catchment Management Committee (CMC). Printed by: J.S. McMillan Pty Ltd Compiled by: Kathryn Burton.

This strategy reflects the desire of the community to correct those mistakes and repair the damage that has occurred to the Cooks River and the many creeks in its catchment. This strategy follows the completion of the actions contained in the Cooks River CMC's 1993 Strategic Plan

1999 – Missing Jigsaw Pieces: The Bush plants of the Cooks River Valley

Doug Benson, Danie Ondinea, Virginia Bear

Published by the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney. Identifies remaining native vegetation remnants, extensive list of local native plants and makes suggestions for a possible future of the Cooks River and surrounding vegetation.

1997 - Cooks River Foreshore Working Group Strategic Plan

Prepared by the Cooks River Foreshore Working Group for Bankstown, Strathfield, Burwood, Canterbury, Marrickville, Rockdale, City of Sydney and Botany Councils.

1997 - Cooks River Foreshores Strategic Plan, Volumes 1, 2 & 3

Prepared for the Cooks River Regional Working Party (Marrickville Council, Strathfield Council, Canterbury Council, Cooks River Catchment Management Committee, The Environment Protection Authority, Greening Australia & Dept Land & Water Conservation) by Cluston Landscape Architects.

1997 – Environmental health assessment of fish and oysters from the Cooks River – heavy metals and organochlorine pesticides

CSAHU (Central Sydney Area Health Unit) Technical Report.

1997 - Green Web Sydney: A Vegetation Management Plan for the Sydney Region. Action Plan for Local Government.

Green Web Sydney was prepared by the Sydney Regional Organisations of Councils (comprising all Sydney metropolitan ROCs) and funded by the Commonwealth, to encourage the establishment of habitat corridors to link fragmented patches of bushland and facilitate the migration of wildlife and natural dispersal of native plants. Green Web Sydney also emphasises local government's role in biodiversity management and suggests actions and strategies that Sydney's local councils can adopt to protect and enhance habitat corridors and to extend habitat through Sydney's backyards. Green Web has mapped remnant vegetation and directs revegetation efforts for community groups and government to re-establish corridors between isolated communities. Several SSROC councils have recognised Green Web Sydney in Local Environment Plans and other planning instruments.

1996/97 – State of the Environment Reports

Reports prepared by Canterbury City Council (1996), Strathfield Municipal Council (1996), Marrickville Council (1997).

1995 - Environmental Condition of the Cooks River and Community Vision final report

Produced for the Total Environment Centre by Kai Yeung

Funded by the Funded by Rivers Reborn Program NSW Environment Protection Authority.

1993 - Cooks River Catchment Management Plan

Cooks River Catchment Management Committee.

Contents: 1. Planning / land use report--2. Erosion report--3. Pollution control / rivers and foreshores report--4. Ecosystems report--5. Hydrology and flooding report--6. Dredging report--7. Education and publicity report.

1991 - Cooks River Total Catchment Management Action Plan

Cooks River Total Catchment Management Committee. Cooks River Draft Total Catchment Management Action Plan. Vol 1 : Summary report. Sydney, Soil Conservation Service of NSW, 1991. Cooks River Draft Total Catchment Management Action Plan. Vol 2: Task Group Reports. Sydney, Soil Conservation Service of NSW, 1991.

The Cooks River Total Catchment Management Action Plan reports the investigations carried out from early 1989 until 1990 by specialist Task Groups drawn from 15 NSW Local and State Government agencies, into problems associated with the Cooks River and its catchment. The Management Action Plan defines the problems of Cooks River and makes feasible recommendations to reduce catchment pollution, flooding and erosion, and to transform the river, its tributaries and its foreshores from a degraded waterway into an attractive and functional inner city waterway.

1985 - Cooks River Flood Study

NSW Department of Public Works. Cameron McNamara. (Report / New South Wales. Dept. of Public Works; no. PWD 84019)

The study provided design flood level information for the lower reaches of Cooks River and Wollie Creek for the Councils of Canterbury, Marrickville and Rockdale.

1985 - Investigation into pollution of the Cooks River and its tributaries Sydney

NSW State Pollution Control Commission

1978 – Cooks River Advisory Committee Report

Department of Public Works. (Now Department of Planning)

This report is principally directed to pollution control and proposed improvement to the drainage system of the Cooks River.

1978 - Cooks River Valley Study Programme Sydney

NSW Planning and Environment Commission. Pak-Pok and Associates.

1976 - Cooks River: Environmental survey and landscape design

Published by Amber Press for the Total Environment Centre

A far-sighted report by the Total Environment Centre described the native vegetation of the Cooks River and recommended the protection of remnants and replanting using local native species.

The terms of reference of the project were to conduct an environment study and devise a landscape design for the Cooks River. It was funded by an Australian Government Regional Employment Scheme Grant. The project was carried out in close liaison with the people of the Cooks River Valley, their local councils and the State Government bodies with responsibilities for the valley. The establishment of a Cooks River Festival was a direct result of the project.

1974 - Pollution and management of the Cooks River and its tributaries Sydney

State Pollution Control Commission.