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Report
2000•2001



UPPER PARRAMATTA RIVER
CATCHMENT TRUST



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CATCHMENT TRUST

The Hon R Amery, M.P.
Minister for Land and Water Conservation
Parliament House
Sydney



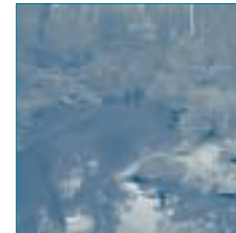
Dear Sir

Pursuant to the provisions of the Annual Reports (Statutory Authorities) Act, I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report of the Upper Parramatta River Catchment Trust for the year ended 30 June 2001.

Chairman
31 October 2001

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Section 1 Chairman's remarks



The past year has been one of significant achievement for the Trust, and one that signals a broadening of the Trust's original charter.

Ten members of the current Trust were appointed in June 2000. Two further appointments were made in March 2001, with Lois Gray appointed on the nomination of the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, and Pam Smith appointed on the nomination of the Minister for the Environment. These appointments have strengthened the Trust's expertise and provided a full complement of twelve Trustees, the first time since 1997. It is also pleasing to note that there are now four women Trustees.

After completing limited flood mitigation works in the previous financial year, good progress was made in 2000/01. A particular milestone was the enlargement by the Trust of the Sierra Place flood retarding basin on upper Toongabbie Creek at West Baukhams Hills. This work will safeguard the basin wall in major floods and help protect over 300 flood liable homes further downstream on Toongabbie Creek. The work completes the Upper Toongabbie Creek Flood Mitigation Strategy. The Trust thanks the NSW Government for providing substantial financial assistance for this project through the Department of Land and Water Conservation.

Also completed in 2000/01 was the reconstruction by Parramatta City Council of the Toongabbie Creek channel adjacent to the Toongabbie Bowling Club. Trust officers provided considerable assistance during construction and the Trust contributed half the \$750,000 project cost. Also in the past year, Baukhams Hills Shire Council completed a major trunk drainage augmentation project between Gollan Avenue and Gowan Brae Avenue in Oatlands, again with the Trust providing half the project cost. As well, in May 2001, Blacktown City Council started construction of the \$1.4M Myrtle Street to Ollier Crescent trunk drainage augmentation project at Prospect, which will protect up to 95 residences in major storms. The Trust is contributing \$500,000 towards the cost of these vital works.

Whilst supporting the implementation of these works, the Trust has also spent much of the past year looking to the future. This followed a direction from the Minister for Land and Water Conservation, the Hon Richard Amery MP, that the Trust consider and report to him on the recommendations made by Mr Michael Mobbs in mid 1999 after his review of the Trust. To that end, the Trust conducted a series of community focus group sessions, had an independent review of the outstanding flood problems in the catchment and held a full-day value management workshop. This resulted in preparation of a comprehensive report that mapped out a broader charter for the Trust that will preserve its flood protection achievements, but increasingly focus on stormwater quality and water conservation and re-use. These additional functions are in line with Michael Mobbs' recommendations. In anticipation of the Minister's agreement, the Trust has begun to build its relationships and technical capabilities to assume this expanded role. These new functions will lead to significant progress in the coming year.

For me, the highlight of the year was the inaugural Upper Parramatta River Catchment Environmental Awards, which were presented at an inspiring ceremony at Old Government House in Parramatta Regional Park on 8 June 2001, attended by over one hundred people. The awards provided long-overdue recognition of the efforts of schools, community groups, local councils and individuals who do so much to protect and improve our wonderful catchment environment. It is hoped to make the awards an annual event, linking with similar council-based awards.

I take this opportunity to thank my fellow Trustees for their valuable contributions during the past year. It would also be remiss of me not to acknowledge the considerable contributions made by the Trust's small staff of nine. The high regard in which the Trust is held reflects, to a significant degree, the skills and enthusiasm they bring to their work.

The coming year and beyond offer exciting prospects to integrate current activities and programs to more effectively meet water quantity, water quality and water conservation objectives. The Trust looks forward to these, and other challenges, with a sense of confidence based on its past achievements and its demonstrated potential to serve the catchment and its people.

George Whitehouse

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