

Section 2 General overview of the Trust

The Trust is a statutory authority established by the New South Wales Government in 1989 to accelerate the provision of flood mitigation works and measures, improve water quality and undertake associated activities, in the upper Parramatta River catchment area.

The Trust was constituted under the *Water Supply Authorities Act, 1987* and comes within the administration of the Minister for Land and Water Conservation, the Hon. Richard Amery, MP.

It meets regularly to set policy, review progress and provide broad direction for the Trust's overall activities. Responsibility for day-to-day operations rests with the Executive Officer.

When being set up, it was determined that the Trust should:

- have only a small staff and a limited life
- use consultants for detailed work
- rely upon the Department of Land and Water Conservation for administrative services
 - use the Sydney Water Corporation Ltd (Sydney Water) to collect service charges
 - employ councils or contractors for construction
- rely on advice, rather than direction
- complement, not duplicate, the work of councils and other Government bodies
- adopt a strategic, co-ordinating, advisory role.

The upper Parramatta River catchment includes parts of the Cities of Blacktown, Holroyd and Parramatta, and the Shire of Baulkham Hills. It covers 110 square kilometres, is located near the centre of the Sydney metropolitan area and has a population of more than 230,000. It is bounded by Prospect Reservoir to the southwest, Blacktown to the northwest, Castle Hill to the north and Carlingford to the east.

A map of the catchment is inside the front cover.

Most of the catchment is urbanised, except for some undeveloped open land and forest in the north and south.

The Trust's principal source of income is a river management service charge levied on all rateable properties in the catchment, and collected once each year by Sydney Water, on behalf of the Trust.

History

The potential for serious flooding in the upper Parramatta River catchment was recognised in the early 1970s when a major flood mitigation study was carried out.

The study report recommended that a system of flood retarding basins be built and a catchment flood mitigation authority be established. The report also warned of the likely growth in flooding arising from further development in the catchment.

The proposal to set up a flood mitigation authority failed to attract unanimous support at that time. It was decided instead to rely upon co-operation between the four local councils and State Government support.

A further study, completed in 1980, refined the earlier proposals.

Progress on construction of the recommended flood retarding basins was slow. By 1986 only three had been built, while extensive subdivision and development was continuing in the catchment, exacerbating the flooding problem.

In the late 1980s the catchment experienced a series of storms and major floods, and many properties which had never been flooded before were inundated repeatedly.

Following representations from Councils in the catchment, and comments received on a discussion paper on the desirability of setting up an organisation to address the serious flooding, the Government decided to establish the Upper Parramatta River Catchment Trust.

Legislation

The Trust was constituted by proclamation on 5 April 1989, in pursuance of Section 6(1) of the *Water Supply Authorities Act, 1987*. This act was repealed in 2000 and its provision included in the *Water Management Act, 2000*.

Charter

Subject to the control and direction of the Minister, the Trust is responsible for mitigating the impacts of flooding, trunk drainage surcharge, deteriorating water quality, other natural hazards and instituting appropriate planning controls and developing ongoing management strategies for the Parramatta River catchment upstream of the tidal limit.

The Trust is achieving these objectives through the Government's Total Catchment Management policy.

This involves the Trust in

- co-ordinating the relevant activities of the four local councils, Government agencies, organisations and individuals
- ensuring that all necessary activities are carried out
- undertaking essential functions not being undertaken by others
- balancing diverse interests and values
- considering the inter-relationship between various water and land management practices; and thus addressing water and waterway issues using an integrated whole-catchment approach.

Corporate Plan

The Trust's activities are guided by its Corporate Plan. Under this Plan, the Mission Statement has been adopted:

Corporate Objectives

The Trust's long-term corporate objectives, crucial to successfully fulfilling its mission, are

- all properties protected and kept protected from mainstream and trunk drainage flooding
- creek water quality that meets aquatic ecosystem protection and recreational use criteria desired by the community
- general acceptance and application of water sensitive urban design in all new developments and re-developments; and progressive retrofit of water sensitive urban design features to existing buildings, to minimise adverse external stormwater impacts
- a healthy network of vegetated corridors, which meet biodiversity, environmental amenity and recreational needs
- an informed catchment community supportive of Trust-initiated activities
- more efficient and effective management of the catchment's natural resources and hazards through co-ordination by all stakeholders and consistent planning instruments and policies based on a catchment Regional Environment Plan
- the effective and efficient deployment of the Trust's corporate resources –human, financial, physical and information.



Mission Statement

To improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the catchment community by providing protection from flooding and trunk drainage surcharge, and enhancing streams and stream banks, through the developments of high technical standards, community support and co-ordination with other agencies.



In the late 1980s the catchment experienced a series of storms and major floods, and many properties which had never been flooded before were inundated repeatedly.



McCoy Park flood retarding basin was built on Toongabbie Creek at Toongabbie to temporarily contain flood waters such as during the January 2000 flood.





Trustees

The current Trustees were appointed on 7 June 2000 for a term expiring on 30 June 2002.



George Whitehouse - Chairman
Nominated by the Minister for Land & Water Conservation
7/6/00 – 30/6/02

Axel Tennie - Deputy Chairman
Nominated by the Minister for Land & Water Conservation
7/6/00 – 30/6/02

Alfred John Larry Bolitho
Baulkham Hills Shire Council
7/6/00 – 30/6/02

Roy Barry Potter
Baulkham Hills Shire Council
7/6/00 – 30/6/02

Patricia Camilleri
Parramatta City Council
7/6/00 – 30/6/02

Christopher Edward Worthington
Parramatta City Council
7/6/00 – 30/6/02

Allan Gordon Ezzy
Holroyd City Council
7/6/00 – 30/6/02

Peter Theodore Joseph Herlinger
Holroyd City Council
7/6/00 – 30/6/02

Kathleen Veronica Collins
Blacktown City Council
7/6/00 – 30/6/02

Barbara Gapps
Blacktown City Council
7/6/00 – 30/6/02

Pam Smith
Nominated by the Minister for the Environment
26/3/01 – 30/6/02

Lois Gray
Nominated by the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning
26/3/01 – 30/6/02

Staff

The Trust is served by a full time staff of nine.

Executive Officer
Administrative Officer
Operations Engineer
Environmental Officer
Investigations Engineer
Clerical Officer
Streamwatch Co-ordinator
Community Relations Officer
Stormwater Inspector

The Executive Officer is Dr Stephen Lees, B.E. (Hons), Ph.D., M.I.E. Aust.

The staff provides the Trust with modest technical, administrative and community relations capabilities. Of necessity, extensive use is made of consultants for detailed investigations and designs.

The Department of Land and Water Conservation provides the Trust with personnel and industrial relations services, using policies and practices which are in accordance with the State public service and the *Industrial Relations Act 1991*. The Trust also receives other administrative support from the Department, and assistance from Sydney Water in billing and collection of service charges.

The Trust has no officers within the Senior Executive Service.

Equal Employment Opportunity

Throughout the year the Trust has followed the principles of Equal Employment Opportunity for its staff.

The Trust has continued to encourage staff to broaden their expertise and multi-skilling through courses and 'on-the-job' training. Because of the Trust's small staff numbers, multi-skilling is of special benefit.

To comply with statutory requirements, statistics showing 'Representation and Recruitment of Aboriginal Employees and Employees with a Physical Disability' and 'Representation of EEO Target groups within Levels' are set out in Tables 1 and 2 at Appendix I.

Ethnic Affairs Policy Statement

Under the EAPS program, the Trust has adopted the following:

- to provide services to all members of the community regardless of background
- policy and program development is responsive to linguistic, cultural, social and religious diversity

- persons of ethnic background and experiences are aware of opportunities to be represented on advisory committees
- to encourage community development and unity within the catchment
- publications portray all community groups free of stereotyping.

Income

The Trust receives income from a river management service charge on all rateable properties in the catchment.

Sydney Water bills and collects the river management service charge for the Trust. This is the most cost efficient method as Sydney Water already bills and collects its own charges from property owners within the catchment and includes the Trust service charges on its accounts.

The service charges for 2000/2001 were:

Residential	\$27.90
Residential strata units or flats	\$13.90
Vacant land	\$13.90
Industrial, commercial strata units	\$34.60
Industrial, commercial properties over 1ha	\$69.30
Industrial, commercial properties 1ha or less over 1 to 10ha	\$347.50
over 10 to 50ha	\$2,084.50
over 50 to 100ha	\$4,786.70
over 100ha	\$6,947.80

The Trust's service charges were included on Sydney Water's account notices for the first quarter of 2000/2001 financial year. Service charges were levied on nearly 80,000 properties.

Income from the service charges received during the 2000/2001 charging year was \$2,245,550. The Trust paid \$77,900 to Sydney Water for issuing the accounts and collecting payments.

At 30 June 2001, \$5,365 in service charges were outstanding. This represents only 0.24 percent of the charges levied.

Interest payments of \$174,719 were received from investments and \$28,655 from operating accounts.

Freedom of Information Act 1989

The Trust received no applications for information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1989* during the year under review.

There has been only one application since the Trust's establishment in April 1989.



The staff provides the Trust with modest technical, administrative and community relations capabilities.

