

### **Study highlights need to clean up stormwater entering Botany Bay**

Levels of Faecal Coliforms, sediment, and phosphorus found in stormwater in the Botany Bay catchment have increased significantly since development of the suburbs, according to a new government report.

Recently completed modelling by the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority (SMCMA) shows increases of between 0 and 263% for suspended sediments and increases of up to 324% for total Phosphorus. The biggest change because of urbanisation has been in the area of Faecal Coliforms where the increases have been up to 4,600%.

The modelling calculates the levels of stormwater pollution generated prior to development in the Botany Bay catchment, which includes the Georges and Cooks River catchments, and compares them with levels being generated by council area today.

John Dahlenburg, Botany Bay Catchment Coordinator at the SMCMA said "This modelling highlights the impacts urbanisation has had on water quality in the Georges and Cooks Rivers as well as Botany Bay.

A full copy of the modelling report can be found at [www.sydney.cma.nsw.gov.au/bbcci/publications/Council\\_loads\\_V3\\_Web\\_April\\_08.pdf](http://www.sydney.cma.nsw.gov.au/bbcci/publications/Council_loads_V3_Web_April_08.pdf)

Mr Dahlenburg also noted "This modelling shows the need for councils, the state government, developers and the community to work together to tackle water quality improvement.

"Water sensitive urban design (WSUD) needs to be introduced throughout the catchment to minimise the amount stormwater pollution getting into our creeks, rivers and the Bay." More information about WSUD can be found at [www.wsud.org](http://www.wsud.org)

The modelling was conducted as part of the Botany Bay Coastal Catchments Initiative (BBCCI), which is seeking to achieve long-term protection of the surface waters of Botany Bay, its estuaries and its catchment. It is majority funded by the Commonwealth Government and part funded and project managed by the Sydney Metropolitan CMA. More information about the BBCCI can be found at: [www.sydney.cma.nsw.gov.au/bbcci](http://www.sydney.cma.nsw.gov.au/bbcci)

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