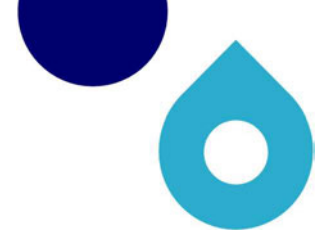


Submission
No 6

INQUIRY INTO WESTERN SYDNEY SCIENCE PARK AND AEROTROPOLIS DEVELOPMENTS

Organisation: Sydney Water Corporation

Date Received: 2 August 2024



2 August 2024

Ms Abigail Boyd MLC
Chair
Public Accountability and Works Committee
Parliament House

Inquiry into Western Sydney Science Park and Aerotropolis Developments

Sydney Water submission

Dear Ms Boyd

Sydney Water is supporting and enabling the transformation of Western Sydney, including the Aerotropolis initial precincts, South West Growth Area, the North West Growth Area, the Greater Macarthur region and early precinct development in Greater Penrith to Eastern Creek.

The population of Western Sydney is anticipated to double by 2056, when over 2 million people are expected to call this region home. Sydney Water is focussed on the future needs of the region by investing in water, wastewater and stormwater management infrastructure. This investment is in both new infrastructure for new development and significant uplift in servicing capacity to meet growth needs.

Sydney Water's long term investment plans

Sydney Water is committed to supporting Western Sydney's sustainable growth and responding to the Greater Sydney Water Strategy.

Our Long Term Capital and Operational Plan seeks to optimise our investment to address current and future challenges. The plan highlights the need for Sydney Water to invest in new assets and networks to secure our city's water and wastewater services in ways that are independent of rainfall, resilient to extreme weather and contribute to thriving, sustainable cities. It balances supporting growth with ensuring water supply, building resilience in the network and maintaining our ageing assets.

Between 2020 and 2026, Sydney Water will have invested approximately \$3 billion in infrastructure across Western Sydney, responding to our operating environment,

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enabling development, and enhancing quality of life for our customers.

The advanced water recycling facility at Upper South Creek is our first major wastewater treatment plant in over 30 years and is coupled with significant investment in trunk water and wastewater infrastructure to service the region.

We also have significant investment in the pipeline for our existing Lower South Creek facilities at Rouse Hill, Quakers Hill, Riverstone and St Marys as well as in the West Camden and Greater Macarthur region.

Greenfield and Infill Servicing

In alignment with the NSW Government's growth priorities, Sydney Water is dedicating substantial resources to support both greenfield and infill developments across Western Sydney. Our strategic planning and investments are focused on the North West Growth Area, South West Growth Area, Western Sydney Aerotropolis, and Greater Macarthur, ensuring these regions have essential water and wastewater infrastructure. By creating sustainable water systems in greenfield areas and enhancing services in infill developments, Sydney Water facilitates balanced urban growth, supports the increasing population, preserves the environment, and promotes economic development.

Regional Stormwater Authority

Sydney Water was appointed as the Regional Stormwater Authority for the Aerotropolis Initial Precincts in March 2022. Sydney Water is responsible for the major stormwater infrastructure in the Aerotropolis Initial Precincts. This integrated water system will be the largest stormwater harvesting scheme in Australia. Sydney Water will deliver, manage, and maintain the regional stormwater network alongside our drinking water, wastewater, and recycled water networks, in partnership with Penrith City and Liverpool City councils.

Infrastructure Contributions and IPART

Sydney Water has reintroduced infrastructure contributions for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services to help cover the cost of providing infrastructure to new developments. This initiative, following recommendations from the NSW Productivity Commission's Infrastructure Contributions Review adopted by the NSW Government, ensures that developers make a fair contribution towards new infrastructure, keeping customer bills affordable. On 1 December 2023, IPART registered infrastructure contribution prices for Sydney Water. Gradual reintroduction started on 1 July 2024 and it will be fully implemented by 1 July 2026.

Sydney Science Park

In 2020, Sydney Water entered into a negotiated delivery agreement with Celestino for a bespoke, onsite treatment hub for Sydney Science Park to deliver initial water and

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wastewater services, including construction of an in-precinct Integrated Water Recycling Hub delivering recycled water.

Under the agreement, Celestino will pay the costs for Sydney Water to provide an accelerated and enhanced service above Sydney Water's standard service offering, including recycled water for the precinct for non-drinking water use and irrigation for cooling.

This 'smart' wastewater system to recycle water includes digital twins and will monitor environmental factors and provide real-time data to optimise water recycling. Sydney Water commenced project delivery in 2021, with completion expected by late 2024.

This is the first large-scale commercial application of integrated water cycle management at Sydney Water, serving as a potential model for future projects in Western Sydney. Sydney Water's history of successful partnerships in Western Sydney Airport, Marsden Park, North Richmond, Spring Farm, and Catherine Fields demonstrate our commitment to sustainable development and collaboration with developers to provide recycled water services according to IPART methodology.

Yours sincerely

Roch Cheroux

Managing Director, Sydney Water

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