

# Media release



Planning &  
Infrastructure

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## **Applications open for funding to improve access to Sydney parks and waterways**

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure is calling for projects to be nominated to share in nearly \$4 million in funding to upgrade and expand cycleways, walkways, parks and boating facilities across Sydney and the Central Coast.

Projects which will enhance Sydney's network of regional open space and recreational trails can be nominated by local councils to share in \$2.5 million in the latest round of funding under the Metropolitan Greenspace Program.

Meanwhile, up to \$1.35 million is being offered under the Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program for projects by councils and recreational organisations which will improve access to the harbour foreshore and its tributaries for walking, cycling and recreational boating.

Department of Planning and Infrastructure Director-General Sam Haddad said the two funding programs aimed to improve access to parklands and waterways.

"Sydney is blessed with large areas of open space – covering half of the metropolitan area – and this funding aims to make this open space more accessible, so it can be enjoyed by more people," Mr Haddad said.

"Since it was launched in 1990, the Metropolitan Greenspace Program has awarded more than \$32 million to councils for 539 projects, increasing opportunities for the public to access Sydney's bushland and foreshore public spaces.

"Meanwhile, more than \$11 million has been awarded to 191 projects under the Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program since 2003."

Mr Haddad said the successful projects in the last funding round had ranged from 4.5km of walking and cycling trails through the Mount Annan Botanic Gardens in south-western Sydney, to the excavation of a hidden moat at Middle Head Fort on Sydney Harbour, and a cross-country cycling trail and skills park in Hornsby.

Further information and application forms are available on the department's website at [www.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au). Applications close on Friday 5 October 2012.

**Media contact:** Laurel-Lee Roderick, (02) 9228 6128 or 0429 153 139