



The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP

Premier of NSW

Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

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ICONIC SYDNEY WALKING NETWORK COMPLETED

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell today announced the completion of a continuous network of walking tracks along Sydney's magnificent waterways.

Mr O'Farrell was joined by Minister for Health Jillian Skinner and Member for Parramatta Geoff Lee to launch the Parramatta River Walk - the final piece in a 275 kilometre walking route around the foreshores of Sydney Harbour, its tributaries and along the city's coast.

The new NSW Government has made available the 'missing link' of foreshore at Concord Hospital to complete the network.

"I'm delighted to announce the completion of the iconic Sydney Harbour and Coastal Walking Network and the delivery of another election commitment from the NSW Government," Mr O'Farrell said.

"The Parramatta River Walk passes through sites of national and international significance such as Sydney Olympic Park, the Kokoda Track Memorial, Parramatta Park and Old Government House," he said.

"Its completion in time for the school holidays provides the people of Western Sydney in particular, with a timely opportunity to explore our wonderful city in a new way.

"It is now possible to walk from Barrenjoey Head on the city's northern coastal tip, down to North Head, west along the Harbour and its tributaries to the head of the Parramatta River at Westmead, back to South Head and down past Cronulla.

"With school holidays upon us, this is a great opportunity for a fun family activity enjoying Sydney's wonderful landscape," Mr O'Farrell said.

Mrs Skinner said she was proud that the NSW Government's first Budget provided the \$500,000 needed to upgrade a key part of the walking track.

"As Health Minister, I am pleased we could provide the missing link to the foreshore walk by providing the path around Concord Hospital," Mrs Skinner said.

"I'm pleased to be here today with everyone who has helped make this happen to celebrate its completion.

“I encourage the public to make use of this wonderful foreshore trail by getting out, keeping active and staying healthy,” she said.

Mr Lee said it was appropriate that the Parramatta section of the walk completed the Harbour and Coastal Walking Network.

“The Parramatta River Walk stretches from Birchgrove to the head of the river, just beyond Parramatta Park,” Mr Lee said.

“It is fitting the Parramatta River Walk provides the final section of the Sydney Harbour and Coastal Walking Network, as the head of the river is a significant site given its long Aboriginal and colonial history.”

The Lord Mayor of Parramatta John Chedid thanked all those Councils who have contributed to the Walking Network.

“The completion of the Sydney Harbour and Coastal Walking Network follows eight years of cooperation between 13 NSW Government agencies and more than 30 other community and council bodies,” Mr Chedid said.

A key group behind the development of the walking network has been the Walking Volunteers – the group has produced nine maps and brochures over the past six years to promote walks along Sydney’s waterways and encourage a healthy lifestyle.

“The walks around Sydney’s Harbour and coast are not only stunning, they are of international significance,” said Phil Jenkyn from the Walking Volunteers.

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