

Background to WCPS 2022 campaign to complete Wolli Creek Regional Park

- In 1988, under the Greiner government, Tim Moore announced that the Wolli Creek bushland would be “permanently protected”.
- In 1993, the Wolli Creek Preservation Society (WCPS) first sought the establishment of the WCRP via a private member’s Bill.
- In 1998, the Carr government promised to establish the Wolli Creek Regional Park (WCRP).
- In 1999, 2006, 2010, and 2018, WCPS ran campaigns calling on successive ALP and Coalition governments to speed up the glacially-slow rate of acquisition of lands earmarked for WCRP.
- By 2022, the community has waited **an entire generation** for their governments to deliver on their promises.
- Five blocks of land, constituting just 2% of the Park remain to be acquired. These are small, but critical to the connectivity of the Park’s bushland and access to it. They are owned by Sydney Water and three private owners.
- **Sydney Water** owns the largest block. Since 2017, it has been planning to build an Odour Control Unit (OCU) in bushland on this block at the eastern end of the Park.
- Following strong public reaction (over 5,000 signatures on a petition) and new technical information (toxic gases in the local sewer), Sydney Water has put these plans ‘on hold’ while a new location for the OCU at Arncliffe is investigated.
- Sydney Water regards this alternative as “a better location both from a technical point of view and removes the need to place long-term infrastructure in Sydney’s bushland.” It “would like to make a definitive decision to remove [the Wolli site] as an option” and “when this issue [a legal obstacle to site access] has been resolved the [Wolli bushland] can be “conclusively” ruled out as a potential site.
- WCPS believes that this clears the way to begin the process of transferring the Sydney Water land to National Parks and Wildlife Service for the Regional Park.
- **The lands in private hands** are the lower portions of four extremely long blocks (about three times the length of a common house block). These portions lie below a significant cliff line that makes them essentially inaccessible to the owners. They are already zoned as Regional Open Space.
- WCPS wants to see an active approach immediately taken to the acquisition of these portions, rather than, as at present, waiting for the owners to approach the government to acquire these effectively unusable portions of their land.
- The attached diagrams show the eastern end of the Wolli Creek Regional Park, the location of the blocks in question, and the position of the cliffline.

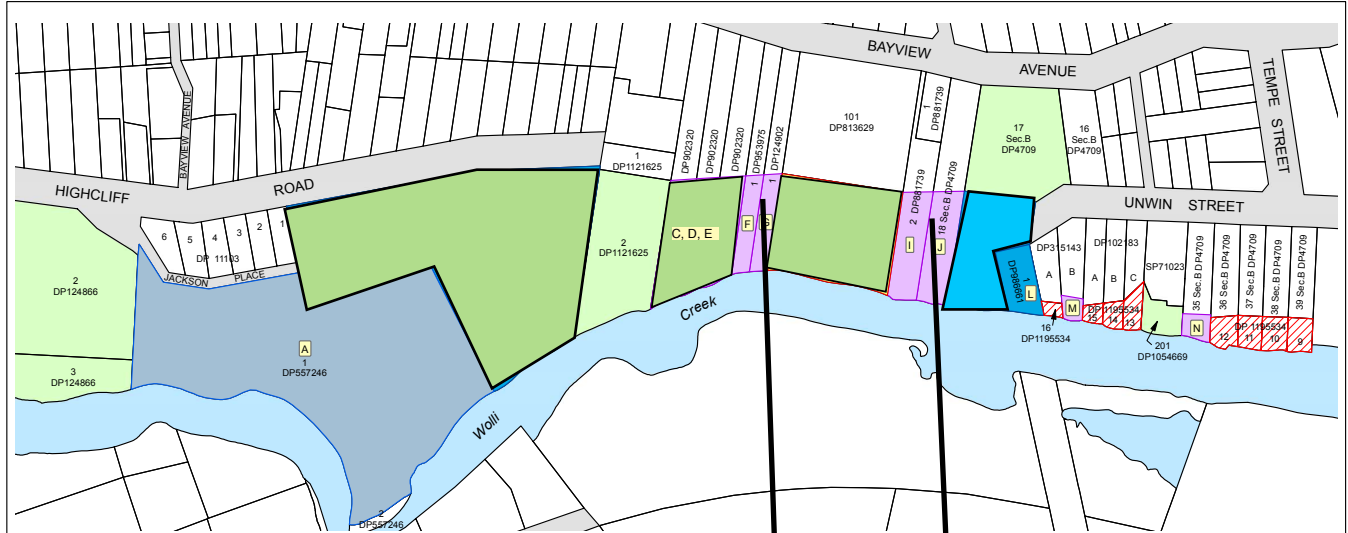
Land ownership and cliff line Wolli Creek Regional Park - Eastern end

- Wolli Creek Regional Park.
- In transition to NPWS
- RMS, under remediation before transfer
- Private, zoned open space
- Sydney Water, needed for Park
- Sydney Water

Outline of portions of private blocks
zoned Regional Open Space



Approximate line of
cliff in the area



Aerial view of the cliff line below the two easternmost private blocks. For the other private blocks this is even steeper.