

# RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

## Upper Georges River Sustainability

**Dr Gregory Teal from the School of Management, together with Campbelltown City Council, has been awarded a UWS Research Partnership grant to evaluate the Upper Georges River Urban Sustainability Project.**

'The aim of this research is to identify and evaluate new governance initiatives in the in the Upper Georges River,' says Dr Teal. 'This is significant because catchment management has been fragmented among diverse institutional and other stakeholders. It will provide verifiable measures for evaluating integrated catchment governance in the Upper Georges River. The research will provide identification and analysis of the sources of institutional fragmentation and of the structural and planning initiatives that may be effective in overcoming fragmentation and building an integrated catchment management program.'

The research team will conduct a survey, setting benchmarks in terms of attitudes and perceptions to the current governance of the Upper Georges River Catchment. Action and situations where stakeholders interact and demonstrate governance will be identified using rapid ethnographic assessment techniques which give an extension of traditional ethnographic approaches that identify and interpret cultural values and meanings. Land ownership and uses, management patterns and their implications on governance will be analysed. The on-the-ground level initiatives will be assessed as to whether they meet governance objectives to deliver improved environmental, social and economic outcomes.



The findings will result in the inclusion of governance evaluation criteria and indicators in the implementation of the Strategic Environmental Management Plan, contributing to the delivery of effective stakeholder partnerships and improved environmental, social and economic outcomes.

**Project Title:** Upper Georges River Urban Sustainability Project: Identifying, Implementing and Measuring the Outcomes of new Governance Structures

**Funding has been set at:** \$14,768

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**For more information on UWS Research Partnership Program, check:**

[http://www.uws.edu.au/research/researchers/funding\\_opportunities/internal\\_research\\_grants](http://www.uws.edu.au/research/researchers/funding_opportunities/internal_research_grants)