

Concrete and Sandstone - what motivates people to protect and restore.

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Abstract

The Cooks River has concrete banks, and streams covered to concrete lined channels. Sydney Water has re-naturalised banks in several locations. The catchment has a passionate and active community who have worked hard to protect the river; restoring small remnants of vegetation and taking action on weedy riverbanks in a challenged environment.

This session will report on how the changes to the river bank has motivated actions in the local community, and further will discuss the elements that enable collaboration between communities and their councils, between councils and the relationships between councils and other stakeholders that enable a focus on the river.

A review of other rivers in the world with significant problems will highlight the crucial roles of communities (in its many forms), local governments and national agendas. Case studies include Cooum River Chennai, the Don River Toronto and the Thames River, London.