Big challenges to Sydney's water supply: What can we do?

Speakers: Melissa Haswell-Elkins, Associate Professor in the Muru Marri Unit in the SPHCM and Anna Bethmont, Research and Teaching Support Officer in the Muru Marri Unit in the SPHCM

Venue: Room 305, Level 3, Samuels Building, UNSW upper campus, Randwick

Date: Wednesday 18th February 2015

Time: 12:00-1:00pm (light refreshment is provided)

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Parking: Available on L5 of the parking station; enter via Gate 11 Botany St, Randwick

Map: http://www.unsw.edu.au/maps/maps.html

ABSTRACT
There is growing recognition in public health that rapid environmental change is increasingly impacting on health and wellbeing in Australia and globally. This session will present both the process and findings of a student whole-of-class project undertaken in PHCM9612 Environmental Health. The project focused on the multiple challenges facing the Sydney Water Catchment and associated health concerns should the quality and/or quantity of water be compromised. These challenges include population growth, climate change, longwall coal mining and coal seam gas mining. Our aim in this session is to show how active involvement in public health education can contribute to big decisions on the protection of our vital public health assets.

BIOGRAPHY
Melissa Haswell-Elkins is an Associate Professor in the Muru Marri Unit in the School of Public Health and Community Medicine at UNSW. She has been teaching and researching the impact of the social and physical environment on human health for about 30 years and has authored over 70 peer-reviewed publications. She has convened PHCM9612 for five years and provides environmental health content into the medicine program (phases 1 and 2) and other SPHCM courses.

Anna Bethmont is a Research and Teaching Support Officer in the Muru Marri Unit in the School of Public Health and Community Medicine at UNSW. She is a graduate of the Master of Public Health at SPHCM and completed the student project in PHCM9612. Since completing PHCM9612, she has been actively involved in research and advocacy regarding the Sydney Water Catchment.