

Section 1

#1: Opening Paragraph

"I am writing to you because a large amount of pollution is urging near the edge. I am asking you make a River Clean-Up Day for all of Sydney."

Strengths:

- You've clearly stated your purpose right at the start, letting the Mayor know exactly what you want
- Your opening shows genuine concern for Sydney's environment, which helps create an emotional connection

Vague Opening Statement → Your phrase "pollution is urging near the edge" is confusing because readers won't understand what "urging near the edge" means. Is the pollution getting worse? Is it at a dangerous level? When your opening sentence isn't clear, readers might lose interest straight away. Your request "make a River Clean-Up Day" also needs better explanation in this paragraph about why this specific solution would work. You could strengthen this by clearly explaining what problem you're seeing and why a clean-up day is the right answer.

Exemplar: *"I am writing to you because Sydney's rivers and waterways are becoming heavily polluted with plastic waste and rubbish. I am asking you to organise a city-wide River Clean-Up Day to help protect our environment."*

#2: Body Paragraph with Statistics

"Studies shows if just 10% of Sydney's population took part in a river clean-up day and each person collected 1–2 kg of rubbish, we could remove between 530 and 1,060 tonnes of rubbish from Sydney's rivers and waterways in just one day."

Strengths:

- You've included specific numbers and statistics, which makes your argument more convincing and shows you've thought carefully about your proposal
- Your calculations demonstrate that the clean-up day could have a real, measurable impact

Disconnected Evidence → Whilst your statistics about removing 530–1,060 tonnes are impressive, you don't explain how this connects to the earlier fact that "the city generates more than 5,500 tonnes of rubbish each day." Your readers might wonder: where does this daily rubbish go? How much of it ends up in rivers? Without connecting these facts together, your argument feels incomplete. You need to build a bridge between the problem (daily rubbish) and your solution (clean-up day results) so readers understand why this matters.

Exemplar: *"The city generates more than 5,500 tonnes of rubbish each day, and a significant portion of this waste ends up in our waterways. Studies show that if just 10% of Sydney's population took part in a river clean-up day and each person collected 1–2 kg of rubbish, we could remove between 530 and 1,060 tonnes of waste from our rivers in just one day—making a real difference to our environment."*

#3: Vision Paragraph

"Picture this, families enjoying a cleaner riverbank, children learning the value of protecting nature, and local wildlife returning to a healthier habitat."

Strengths:

- You've created a positive image that helps the Mayor imagine what success would look like
- Your focus on families, children, and wildlife appeals to different values that many people care about

Underdeveloped Vision → Your sentence "Isn't that the kind of Sydney we all want to see?" asks a question but doesn't give enough detail about how a River Clean-Up Day would actually create this future. You've painted a nice picture, but you haven't explained the steps between hosting one clean-up day and achieving "local wildlife returning to a healthier habitat." Wildlife needs consistent, long-term improvements, not just one day of cleaning. Your vision would be stronger if you explained how a single clean-up day could lead to ongoing change, perhaps by inspiring regular community action or changing people's habits about littering.

Exemplar: *"Picture this: families enjoying a cleaner riverbank, children learning the value of protecting nature, and local wildlife gradually returning to a healthier habitat. A River Clean-Up Day would be the first step in creating lasting change, as participants would become more aware of pollution and more likely to reduce their own waste and encourage others to do the same."*

■ Your piece shows strong passion for protecting Sydney's environment, and you've made a clear request to the Mayor. Your use of statistics gives your argument credibility, and your emotional appeals help readers care about the issue. However, your writing would benefit from clearer explanations that connect your ideas together. For example, in your second paragraph, you mention that Sydney generates 5,500 tonnes of rubbish daily, but you don't explain how this relates to river pollution specifically. Your readers need to understand this connection to see why a river clean-up is necessary.

Additionally, some of your statements need more development. When you write "One small act can change the world!" and "Altogether, we can change and make an impact on the world!", these phrases are too general. Instead, focus on the specific changes that would happen in Sydney. How would cleaner rivers improve daily life for residents? What would happen to the fish and birds living in these waterways?

Your third paragraph mentions involving "schools, local businesses, and environmental groups," which is excellent, but you could expand on this. What specific role would each group play? How would schools participate differently from businesses? These details would make your proposal feel more realistic and achievable. Your closing paragraph uses phrases like "positive change" and "powerful, long-lasting effects," but you haven't fully explained what these effects would be beyond the clean-up day itself. Would there be educational programmes? Monthly clean-ups? Community pledges to reduce waste? Think about the bigger picture beyond just one event.

Overall Score: 40/50

Section 2

Dear Mayor**Mayor]** Clover Moore,

I am writing to you because ~~a large amount of pollution is urging near the edge~~ **[Sydney's rivers and waterways are becoming heavily polluted with plastic waste and rubbish]**. I am asking you ~~make~~ **[to organise]** a River Clean-Up Day for all of Sydney. As a resident in Sydney, I am concerned about the pollution ~~population~~ **[levels]** growing into our humble waterways. The impact on our environment, wildlife,] and overall community wellbeing is all at stake. It's time to step in and take real action to protect our city!

All the rivers have suffered pollution caused by plastic-waste and much other rubbish. The city generates more than 5,500 tonnes of rubbish each day. Studies ~~shows~~ **[show that]** if just 10% of Sydney's population took part in a river clean-up day and each person collected 1–2 kg of rubbish, we could remove between 530 and 1,060 tonnes of rubbish from Sydney's rivers and waterways in just one day. Now let's all work together to clean all rivers and beaches!

A dedicated clean-up day would not only reduce pollution but also raise awareness for all. By involving schools, local businesses, and environmental groups, we can collaborate on a practical solution. An event like this would impact all of Sydney and maybe ~~inspired~~ **[inspire]** other ~~city~~ **[cities]** as well! One small act can change the world!

Picture this:] families enjoying a cleaner riverbank, children learning the value of protecting nature, and local wildlife returning to a healthier habitat. Isn't that the kind of Sydney we all want to see? Let's create positive change and show that small, local actions can have powerful, long-lasting effects. Altogether, we can change and make an impact on the world!

To conclude, I request you think about this issue and consider sponsoring and promoting River Clean-Up Day. With your support, we can provide resources,] coordinate volunteers,] and ensure the event reaches as many community members as possible. Please consider taking a leadership role in this vital initiative.

Sincerely, Farzana