

MOU

ELSTER CREEK CATCHMENT

Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding:

- Defines, at a high-level, the drainage problem of concern to communities living, working and visiting within the Elster Creek catchment
- Sets out the core principles to promote collaboration between the four relevant councils and Melbourne Water to find effective evidence-based and innovative solutions to address the catchment's flooding issues, where possible.
- Seeks to achieve multiple benefits in all flood mitigation outcomes

Parties

The five relevant parties are:

- Melbourne Water
- The City of Bayside
- The City of Glen Eira
- The City of Kingston
- The City of Port Phillip

Problem Statement

Flooding is a function of rainfall runoff exceeding the capacity of underground and surface drainage systems and waterways across the Elster Creek catchment, as well as storm surge and king tides. Climate change and infill development are very likely to exacerbate the frequency and impact of flooding events.

Flooding within Elwood is disproportionate to its area of the catchment. In Glen Eira and Bayside, a large number of properties and dwellings flood during heavy rainfall events. Reducing the impact of increased runoff on flood vulnerable areas requires the Elster Creek catchment to be managed as a whole. All flood retention, detention and conveyance opportunities to reduce flood impact are to be considered irrespective of municipal boundaries.

It is recognised that evidence-based and innovative solutions should consider co-existence of multiple land-uses and multi-functions to achieve optimal community benefit, noting that flood mitigation investment is mutually inclusive with both passive and active recreation.

Previous attempts to adapt the built form of Elwood to flooding have resulted in some positive impacts but the community is eager for greater levels of change.

Flooding has a high social as well as economic cost and there is an opportunity to increase preparedness of residents.

Core Principles

Councils and Melbourne Water are committed to cooperating across municipalities and with water utilities and State departments for the purpose of exploring a whole-of-catchment approach to flooding. Significant secondary benefits are achievable when managing flood impacts. These include improved stormwater quality and river and bay health, improved biodiversity and habitats, increased liveability and the opportunity for alternative water supply options. Engagement with community members is paramount in developing a common understanding of effective ways to address flooding problems while achieving secondary benefits.

Specifically, the parties will:

1. Be transparent in all interactions and share information with the intent of establishing a shared understanding of the factors influencing the problem.
2. Embed a common community engagement language and process that is constructive and meaningful for community members.
3. Be considerate of each organisation’s respective circumstances, including but not limited to, community interests, commercial imperatives and strategic contexts.
4. Collaborate to identify evidence-based and innovative solutions with a best-for-regional catchment community benefit.
5. Ensure opportunities to build community preparedness are explored and actively pursued.

Review Period

It is agreed that this MOU will be reviewed within two years following the date of commencement.

Commencement date: April 2020

Signed on behalf of:

Nerina Di Lorenzo
Executive General Manager
Melbourne Water
Date: 4 May 2020

Signed on behalf of:

Julie Reid
Chief Executive Officer
Kingston City Council
Date: 4 May 2020

Signed on behalf of:

Mick Cummins
Chief Executive Officer
Bayside City Council
Date: 4 May 2020

Signed on behalf of:

Peter Smith
Chief Executive Officer
Port Phillip City Council
Date: 11 May 2020

Signed on behalf of:

Rebecca McKenzie
Chief Executive Officer
Glen Eira Council
Date: 4 May 2020