



# Waterways Local Update 2017-18

Melbourne Water's work to enhance waterways and build resilience to flooding in the city of Glen Eira.



## **BUILDING**

**RESILIENCE TO FLOODING**



**172**

**LAND SUBDIVISION REFERRALS REVIEWED**



**305**

**FLOOD INFORMATION REQUESTS REVIEWED**

Melbourne Water plays an active role in the daily lives of Melburnians. We contribute to Melbourne's famous lifestyle by protecting and enhancing over 25,000 km of rivers and creeks, and more than 479 stormwater treatment systems and wetlands in the Port Phillip and Westernport region.

The Waterways and Drainage Charge, which is paid by property owners and collected by retail water companies on our behalf, funds this work. It is an important part of ensuring a thriving natural environment.

Melbourne Water cares for many waterways. Some in your local area include:

- Elwood Canal

# Healthy waterways

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## Stormwater

Rainwater, stormwater and recycled water are valuable resources. We work closely with Council and local communities to protect our rivers, creeks and bays, provide alternative water sources and improve the stormwater that flows into local waterways by integrating stormwater into the urban landscape.

### What we have done

**Through the Clearwater program, we supported Council to take a whole-of-water cycle approach by providing a wide range of tools and resources, and opportunities to participate in a variety of activities**

### Why

This work helps to improve skills, increase knowledge and foster better networks across councils to change the way we manage water for healthy, connected communities.

## Environmental water

Working with government agencies, councils, industries, landowners and the community ensures we provide the allocated water needed in rivers to maintain healthy natural ecosystems.

### What we have done

**Worked with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, and Southern Rural Water on environmental outcomes for river systems in Integrated Water Management forums**

### Why

Advocating for environmental outcomes for river systems and tributaries improves the health of waterways.



## Planning for future development

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We ensure local waterways aren't threatened by growing communities and that new developments do not increase flood risk through planning and providing advice to assist future development.

### What we have done

### Why

**172** referrals for land subdivisions reviewed

Ensure proposed land subdivisions meet current standards for drainage and stormwater quality.

**127** development applications reviewed

Ensure that growing communities don't contribute to an increase in flood risk.

**305** flood information requests reviewed

Provide flood information to property owners and people interested in purchasing or redeveloping property.

**2** applications for works near Melbourne Water assets and works such as bridges, shared pathways and jetties reviewed

Ensure waterways, and the plants and animals that live there, are protected from the potential impacts of building works.

**7** stormwater connection applications reviewed

Ensure waterways and the plants and animals that live there, are protected from the potential impacts of construction works.

## Flood protection

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While floods are natural and we can't stop them all from occurring, we can build our resilience to them and minimise the damage they cause to people, places and communities.

We manage the regional drainage system and work with Council, the Victorian State Emergency Service, the Bureau of Meteorology, property owners and developers to make sure flood information is up to date. We provide flood warning services, prepare flood response plans, and identify and construct new flood protection projects in areas with the greatest need.

### What we have done

### Why

Progressed a proposed study to mitigate flooding to properties in Ormond

A proposal is under discussion with Council to reduce the risk of flooding in many repeat flood-affected properties.

Worked with the Elster Creek Working Group (Bayside, Glen Eira, Port Phillip and Kingston councils and community groups) to manage flooding in Elster Creek

Working collaboratively to manage flooding in Elster Creek helps build resilience to flooding.

Continued collecting hydrological data

Data is used to analyse flood warning during emergency situations, as well as for such things as development referrals and projects to reduce the risk of flood.



Five volunteers in your area provide us with rainfall data by recording information from a rain gauge in their backyard. These figures and the data from our automated gauges provides us with valuable rainfall information.

Find out more at [melbournewater.com.au/communityrainreaders](http://melbournewater.com.au/communityrainreaders)

## Working with the community

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Working collaboratively with community groups, volunteers, land managers and farmers allows for better management of local waterways, natural environments and regional drainage systems. It protects the environment and promotes conservation. If you'd like more information about funding opportunities, please call **131 722** or email [river.health@melbournewater.com.au](mailto:river.health@melbournewater.com.au)

We worked with the local community on several events and initiatives throughout the year.

### Who we worked with

**Elster Creek Working Group  
(City of Port Philip, City of Bayside,  
City of Glen Eira, City of Kingston and  
Melbourne Water)**

**Glen Eira, Bayside and Kingston community groups**

**Community**

### What we did

Formed the Elster Creek Working Group to manage flooding in the Elster Creek Catchment area, and consulted community and council representatives on flood management.

Undertook engagement activities with two community meetings, door knocks and mail outs to provide flood risk information.



**Our Space Your Place** is an app that helps you find land managed by Melbourne Water to use for projects that benefit the wider community, such as community gardens. We encourage communities to apply to use the land. Find out more at

[melbournewater.com.au/ourspaceyourplace](http://melbournewater.com.au/ourspaceyourplace) or call **131 722**.



Our citizen science programs harness the power of community through **Waterwatch** programs. They support people to collect and analyse data on platypus, frogs, waterbugs and water quality in their local river or creeks and advocate for waterways to help protect them and promote conservation.

Find out more at [melbournewater.com.au/waterwatch](http://melbournewater.com.au/waterwatch) or call **131 722**.