



Waterways Local Update 2017-18

Melbourne Water's work to enhance waterways and build resilience to flooding in the City of Manningham.



577.8 m³
SEDIMENT, SILT, LITTER
AND DEBRIS REMOVED



180
FLOOD INFORMATION
REQUESTS REVIEWED



EXTENSIVE
ENGAGEMENT ON THE
YARRA RIVER

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:

- Yarra River
- Ruffey Creek
- Brushy Creek
- Andersons Creek
- Jumping Creek
- Mullum Mullum Creek

Healthy waterways

Maintenance and new projects

We are the caretakers of waterway health in the Port Phillip and Westernport region. Each year, we create and maintain healthy waterways by removing litter, debris and excess sediment. We remove and spray weeds, cut grass and plant native trees and shrubs.

What we have done

Why

3.9 km Revegetation

We plant native trees and shrubs along waterways to provide habitat for birds and animals. Revegetating waterways and replacing weeds with native plants prevents erosion and improves water quality.

57 km Weed control

Introduced and noxious weeds can choke waterways and take over from plants that provide healthy habitats for birds and animals.

577.8 m³ Sediment, silt, litter, debris removal

Silt, sediment, litter and debris is removed for drainage and flood protection, and to prevent pollution building up in our waterways and wetlands. An excess of these can impact the habitat for platypus, fish and other animals, as well as native plants.

Formalised the existing access of Finns Reserve Canoe launch

This work has increased safe community access to the Yarra River, reduced potential erosion, increased native vegetation and helped to protect a large old growth tree on the riverbank.

Undertook weed control and an environmental watering of Bolin Bolin Billabong

Work at this significant cultural and environmental location helped collect data on the water holding abilities of the billabong, to help establish a sustainable watering regime for the billabong.

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

Why

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

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

Why

Worked with the Victorian Environmental Water Holder to deliver environmental water releases

Releasing water from upstream storages mimics flows that would naturally be there if the river wasn't dammed. The releases help to support the habitat for native plants and animals.

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

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

Worked with the City of Manningham, Parks Victoria and the Wurunderji Council to study Bolin Bolin Billabong

Providing water to the billabong to monitor the ecological response helps to understand the water needed to be healthy and to inform planning a long term solution for the billabong and all billabongs through this reach of the Yarra River.

Monitoring and research

We improve local waterways by undertaking regular and extensive monitoring, investigations and research to better understand them.

What we have done

Why

Monthly monitoring of water quality at four sites within your area. These tests measure:

- water temperature
- dissolved oxygen
- salinity (conductivity)
- pH level
- nutrients (nitrate, nitrite, ammonia, Kjeldahl nitrogen, soluble reactive phosphorus and total phosphorus)
- indicators of faecal contamination (*E. coli*)
- metals (arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, nickel and zinc)

Our water quality monitoring program is designed to assess broad-scale, long-term trends in water quality (typically over 8 - 10 years). We use this data to help identify pollution sources and inform the community about local water quality.

Weekly monitoring at one site to better understand recreational health risks during the summer period

We use this data to identify any pollution sources and provide information to the community.

Fortnightly blue-green algae monitoring at one site in your area during the summer period

We monitor for blue-green algae because it can be a health risk to people and animals. If blue-green algae is detected, we follow state government guidance, erect warning signs, inform the public and continue to monitor the water until it clears.

Undertook fish surveys in Mullum Mullum, Bushy and Jumping creeks

The surveys helped evaluate the benefits of new vertical-slot fishways installed in 2012 and complemented another monitoring program of fishway performance.

Monitored sediment in the Plenty and Yarra rivers

This monitoring improves our knowledge of contaminants and guides our management of the waterways.

Planning for future development

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

What we have done

Why

145 referrals for land subdivisions reviewed

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

28 development applications reviewed

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

180 flood information requests reviewed

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

4 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.

2 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

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

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.



11 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

Working with the community

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

Funding provided	Grant	For
\$12,541	Stream Frontage Management	Private land owners and managers for works that protect or enhance riverbanks, such as weed control, fencing and planting native trees.
\$16,494	Community Grants	Volunteer and community groups for works that protect or enhance riverbanks on public land, raise awareness, and provide training and education to protect local waterways.
\$18,269	Corridors of Green	Councils and public land managers for projects such as weed control, fencing and creating management plans.



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

Who we worked with

What we did

Community, Wurundjeri Council, Parks Victoria, Transport for Victoria, Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority, DELWP, VicRoads, Victorian Planning Authority, Banyule, Boroondara, Manningham, Melbourne, Nillumbik, Stonnington, Yarra Ranges and Yarra councils

Developed and launched the Yarra River 50 Year Community Vision for the Yarra Strategic Plan, providing the basis for future planning and management of the river corridor. More than 2000 people provided input into the vision through an engagement process designed to capture what people value about the Yarra River. The Yarra Strategic Plan will be released in 2019 and will help ensure the protection and improvement of the Yarra for future generations.

St Charles Borromeo Templestowe

Conducted a platypus and waterbug education session.

City of Manningham

Conducted a Manningham Frog Census seminar, waterbug activity for a 'Kids in Nature' school holiday event and a macroinvertebrate activity with students at Manningham Young Leaders Sustainability Conference.

Templestowe College

Collected data for the Waterbug Census with the Templestowe College environmental group on Ruffey Creek.

Yarra Ranges, Nilumbik, Manningham, Boroondara, Stonnington, Melbourne, Yarra and Banyule councils

Through extensive engagement as part of the Yarra Recreational Paddling Investigation, developed a 5-year implementation plan to improve recreational paddling e.g. canoe/kayak, encourage more passive recreational users of the Yarra River and provide safer infrastructure that is sensitive to river environments.

Parks Victoria

Canoe Victoria

Community

Mullum Mullum Festival

Gave a macroinvertebrate talk at the festival.

Community

Canoeing Victoria

Manningham, Nillumbik and Banyule councils

Partnered to develop the Westerfolds Regional Paddle Sports Centre Plan for Westerfolds Park.

Parks Victoria

Sport and Recreation Victoria



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 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 or call 131 722.

