



Waterways Local Update 2017-18

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



26
VOLUNTEERS PROVIDED
RAINFALL DATA



REDUCED
THE RISK OF FLOODING



IMPROVED
RIVER HEALTH

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
- Elster Creek

Healthy waterways

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.

Monitoring and research

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

What we have done

Monthly monitoring of water quality at one site 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)

Why

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.

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 providing advice to assist future development.

What we have done

Why

90 referrals for land subdivisions reviewed

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

102 development applications reviewed

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

250 flood information requests reviewed

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

13 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.

5 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

Completed a planning amendment with updated mapping for the municipality

Updating flood information for the municipality helps to 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.

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.

Began working with Council to further reduce flooding with the closure and redevelopment of the Elsternwick Park Golf Course

These works will benefit both the City of Bayside and City of Port Phillip residents.



26 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

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

Who we worked with

What we did

Friends of Elster Creek

Provided support to monitor water quality through our Waterwatch program.

Elster Creek Working Group

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

Glen Eira, Bayside and Kingston community groups



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.