



Waterways Local Update 2017-18

Melbourne Water's work to enhance waterways and build resilience to flooding in the **Shire of Mornington Peninsula**.



491
FLOOD INFORMATION
REQUESTS REVIEWED



5.5 KM
REVEGETATION
ALONG WATERWAYS



\$812,595
IN COMMUNITY
FUNDING

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:

- Balcombe Creek
- Chinamans Creek
- Stony Creek
- Dunns Creek
- Main Creek
- Merricks 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

5.5 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.

50.5 km Weed control

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

53.9 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.

Worked to create a chain of habitat pools and revegetate at Devil Bend Creek for Dwarf Galaxias, an Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation listed fish species

Excavating existing catch drain pools near Bittern Reservoir, where the Dwarf Galaxias has been recorded but has been undetected since the millennial drought, will provide permanent water and enhanced habitat conditions for the fish.

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

Living Rivers provided funding to construct raingardens and permeable paved areas, as well as remove a stormwater outfall pipe as part of the Rye Foreshore Rejuvenation project

This work helps improve water quality directed to Port Phillip Bay in alignment with EPA requirements and plant resilience during drought periods, has multiple benefits for our coastal environment, promotes passive irrigation and creates greater community awareness of water sensitive urban design.

Living Rivers provided funding to design and construct a traditional wetland to replace the existing lakes

This cost-effective solution helps improve water quality to the existing lakes, the overall health of Tanti Creek and aesthetics of the area. It reduces nutrient levels, flood risk, pollution to Port Phillip Bay and blue-green algae blooms, creates more opportunity for recreational use, and improves biodiversity and habitat for native species.

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.



The Living Rivers program offers councils funding, expertise and guidance to build their understanding, skills and commitment to manage stormwater within an integrated water management approach. We contributed \$181,148 to projects in your area.

Find out more at melbournewater.com.au/livingrivers

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 landowners to monitor groundwater and surface water levels in Tootgarook swamp

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

Monitoring groundwater helps understand the role that groundwater plays in supporting vegetation.

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 nine 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)

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.

Monitored sediment at Balcombe Creek, and Merricks River and Balcombe Creek estuaries

We monitored sediment to improve our knowledge of contaminants and help guide our management of 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

161 referrals for land subdivisions reviewed

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

22 development applications reviewed

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

491 flood information requests reviewed

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

3 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.

8 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

Continued collecting hydrological data

Why

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.





51 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
\$511,900	Stream Frontage Management	Private land owners and managers for works that protect or enhance riverbanks, such as weed control, fencing and planting native trees.
\$119,547	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.

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

Who we worked with

Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network
Friends of Daangean
Friends of Endeavour Fern Gully
Main Creek Landcare
Manton & Stony Creek Landcare
Sunshine Reserve Conservation & Fireguard
Tanti Creek Friends
Merricks EstuaryWatch Group
Balcombe Estuary Reserves Group
Shire of Mornington Peninsula
Victoria State Emergency Service

What we did

Hosted a Frog Census information night and property survey.
Provided water quality monitoring support to all groups through the Waterwatch and EstuaryWatch programs.
Reviewed the Mornington Peninsula Flood Management Plan.



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.