



# Waterways Local Update 2017-18

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



**60.9 m<sup>3</sup>**  
SEDIMENT, SILT, LITTER & DEBRIS  
REMOVED FROM WATERWAYS



**\$1,048,400**  
LIVING RIVERS FUNDING  
FOR WATERWAY HEALTH



**IMPROVING**  
STORMWATER  
MANAGEMENT

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:

- Maribyrnong River
- Jones Creek
- Taylors Creek
- Jacksons Creek
- Kororoit Creek

# Healthy waterways

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## 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

**0.2 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.

**49.8 km** **Weed control**

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

**60.9 m<sup>3</sup>** **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.

### Carried out works to control weeds and plant native grasses, shrubs and trees along the Maribyrnong River and Kororoit Creek

The work improves vegetation, provides habitat for birds and animals, prevents erosion and improves water quality.



## 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 design wetland and stormwater harvesting systems for irrigating Copernicus Way Reserve and Dempster Reserve, and construct a stormwater harvesting system at Balmoral Park**

Improving stormwater quality and reducing stormwater quantity enhances waterway and bay health with reduced pollution, improved bird and animal habitat, liveability and wellbeing within the local community, and greater awareness of the importance and benefit of integrated water.

**Living Rivers provided funding to construct bio-retention systems as part of road rehabilitation projects**

This work improves stormwater quality, reduces stormwater quantity, peak flows and flood risk, and enhances waterway and bay health, and amenity in our local communities.

**Living Rivers provided funding to construct a green spine and shared use pathway along St Albans Road by planting raingardens and overflow swales running parallel to the path**

This work improves stormwater quality, reduces stormwater quantity and provides shade canopy.

**Living Rivers provided funding to write a health report and remediation recommendations for 24 wetlands and sediment ponds in the municipality**

The report enables council to prioritise future maintenance works and improve the health of the wetlands and ponds.

**Living Rivers provided funding to design and construct 20 rain gardens in three streets and in a car park**

Improving stormwater quality and reducing stormwater quantity enhances waterway and bay health with reduced pollution, improved bird and animal habitat, liveability and wellbeing within the local community, and greater awareness of the importance and benefit of integrated water.

**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.

**Living Rivers provided funding for holistic water management as part of the new local Environmental Sustainable Design policy, and for water sensitive urban design practices through a collaboration with Moreland, Moonee Valley, Melbourne, Yarra, Brimbank and Greater Geelong councils**

Greater understanding of best practice stormwater management and sharing information across the region improves waterway health, amenity and liveability. It reduces the risk of flooding, and stormwater and pollution entering waterways and bays.



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 \$1,048,400 to projects in your area.

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

### Why

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**Worked with the Victorian Environmental Water Holder, Keilor land holders, Southern Rural Water and Friends groups to improve the Maribyrnong River**

Through planned release of water from reservoirs, we improved the flow of the Maribyrnong River.

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**Worked with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), and Western Water to identify and test recycled water**

This work improves the health of the environment and discharge to Jacksons Creek.

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**Worked with the Victorian Environmental Water Holder, land holders, Western Water and DELWP to identify options to recover water from unused irrigation licences and provide a permanent water entitlement for the Maribyrnong River**

This work looks at options to recover water to improve the river's health.

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**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**

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

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**Engaged land holders through the Mitigating Catchment Impacts program to identify opportunities and undertake whole farm plans**

Undertaking farm plans enables land holders to access grants to implement water savings and improve stream low flow conditions.

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## 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

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**Monthly monitoring of water quality at five 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.

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**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.

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**Undertook fish surveys in the Maribyrnong River and at the mouth of Taylors Creek**

The surveys helped evaluate the benefits of new vertical-slot fishways installed in 2012 at Dights Falls and complemented another monitoring program of fishway performance being undertaken by the Arthur Rylah Institute.

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# 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

**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

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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

**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

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)

Funding provided	Grant	For
<b>\$55,663</b>	<b>Community Grants</b>	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.
<b>\$22,000</b>	<b>Corridors of Green</b>	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

**Penleigh & Essendon Grammar School**

**Friends of Organ Pipes National Park**

**St Peter Chanel Primary School**

**St Theresa's Primary School**

**Overnewton Anglican Community College**

**Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception**

**City of Brimbank**

**City of Brimbank**

**Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES)**

**(Brimbank City Council Flood Management Plan)**

### What we did

Presented a school conservation club Frog Census information session and training.

Provided support for monitoring water quality and macroinvertebrates for the Waterbug Census.

Supported teachers to participate in the River Detectives program by providing training and resources to enable them to connect students with their local waterways.

Presented at the Sustainable Living in Brimbank 2018 event on healthy waterways and positive actions the community can take to protect our local environment.

Worked with Council and VICSES to review the 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](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.