



Waterways Local Update 2017-18

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



109
FLOOD INFORMATION
REQUESTS REVIEWED



RELEASED
WATER TO IMPROVE
WATERWAY HEALTH



SIX
VOLUNTEERS PROVIDED
RAINFALL DATA

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
- Stony 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

0.3 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.

3.6 km Weed control

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

2.9 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.

Stabilised a 400-metre length of the Maribyrnong River bank between the Steele Creek confluence and Milleara Road drain

Installing temporary floating booms in the river adjacent to the bank and planting native aquatic vegetation will protect the river bank from further erosion and provide habitat for fish.

Carried out works to control weeds (eg. boxthorn) and plant native grasses, shrubs and trees along Maribyrnong River

The work aims to provide habitat for birds and animals, prevent erosion and improve water quality in our 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

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

Worked with the Victorian Environmental Water Holder, Keilor land holders, Southern Rural Water and Friends groups to release water from reservoirs

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

Worked with the Victorian Environmental Water Holder, Keilor land holders, Western Water and DELWP to recover water from unused irrigation licences

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

Why

Releasing water improves the flow of the Maribyrnong River.

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

Identifying options to recover water improves the health of the Maribyrnong River as part of the Central Region Sustainable Water Strategy.

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

Monitoring and research

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

What we have done

Monitored sediment at Stony Creek and Maribyrnong River

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

Why

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

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



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

120 referrals for land subdivisions reviewed

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

64 development applications reviewed

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

109 flood information requests reviewed

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

10 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

Worked closely with Council to prepare a joint planning amendment

Continued collecting hydrological data

Why

Revising flood information will provide up-to-date data to support planning applications and appropriate development.

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.



Six 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

\$1843

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.

\$16,448

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

City of Maribyrnong

Conducted Frog Census information sessions and monitoring.

Friends of Cruikshank Park

City of Maribyrnong

Undertook a frog pond construction professional development for educators.

Dobson Kinder

Clare Court Kinder

Maribyrnong Bush Kinder

City of Maribyrnong

Conducted Frog Census monitoring training.

Friends of Maribyrnong Valley

Friends of Cruikshank Park

Friends of Stony Creek

Green Army

Footscray City College

Supported teachers to participate in the River Detectives program for a second year, with the loan of a water quality kit and training to enable them to take students to test water quality and monitor macroinvertebrates in Newells Paddock.

Friends of Stony Creek

Provided support to monitor water quality through our Waterwatch program.



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.