



# Waterways Local Update 2017-18

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



**2.9 KM**  
WEED CONTROL  
ALONG WATERWAYS



**\$88,673**  
IN COMMUNITY  
FUNDING



**MONITORED**  
GROUNDWATER AND  
SURFACE WATER

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:

- Boyd Creek
- Merri Creek
- Deep 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

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**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.

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**2.9 km**    **Weed control**

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

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**1.2 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.

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## 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

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**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.

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## 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 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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**Worked with a range of stakeholders and partners to monitor groundwater and surface water levels in Deep Creek**

Monitoring helps understand the role that groundwater plays in these drought refuge areas and helps inform us on enhancing and managing groundwater dependent ecosystems.

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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 by providing advice to assist future development.

## What we have done

## Why

**18** referrals for land subdivisions reviewed

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

**8** development applications reviewed

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

**16** flood information requests reviewed

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

**1** stormwater connection application 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.





Two 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>\$47,212</b>	<b>Stream Frontage Management</b>	Private land owners and managers for works that protect or enhance riverbanks, such as weed control, fencing and planting native trees.
<b>\$5,060</b>	<b>Corridors of Green</b>	Councils and public land managers for projects such as weed control, fencing and creating management plans.
<b>\$36,401</b>	<b>Rural Land Program</b>	Landholders in specific catchments for projects that reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients entering waterways from agricultural land.

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

### Who we worked with

**Local land holders and land managers**

### What we did

Presented at Weed Networkers workshop in Beveridge to discuss incentives available to landowners.



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.