



# Waterways Local Update 2017-18

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



**11**  
VOLUNTEERS PROVIDED  
RAINFALL DATA



**\$168,997**  
IN COMMUNITY  
FUNDING



**105.5 KM**  
WEED CONTROL  
ALONG WATERWAYS

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:

- Werribee River
- Myrning Creek
- Parwan Creek
- Korkuperrimul Creek
- Lerderderg River
- Coimadai Creek (Pyrites 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

**4 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.

**105.5 km** Weed control

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

**4.9 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.

### Repaired a public path along the Lerderderg River

Repairing the path will help to protect it from river erosion and restrict vehicle traffic from the river.



## 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 xx**

### 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

**We worked with the Victorian Environment Water Holder and Southern Rural water to deliver environmental flow releases in the Werribee River and its tributaries**

### Why

Releasing water helps improve the quality of water in the river and the health of plants and animals that rely upon it.

**Worked with Ecology Australia to monitor the health of frogs and macroinvertebrates in tributaries of the Werribee River**

Monitoring allows us to better understand and manage frogs and macroinvertebrates, and raise awareness of waterway health.

**Worked with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Western Water and Southern Rural Water on environmental outcomes for the Werribee River**

Advocating for environmental outcomes for the river and its tributaries in Integrated Water Management forums 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 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)

### 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 by providing advice to assist future development.

## What we have done

## Why

**34** referrals for land subdivisions reviewed

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

**47** 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.

**5** 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.

**4** 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

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.



**11 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>\$153,711</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>\$14,879</b>	<b>Corridors of Green</b>	Councils and public land managers for projects such as weed control, fencing and creating management plans.
<b>\$407</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

Sheoak Hill Glenmore

EcoLinc Bacchus Marsh

Parks Victoria

Grow West

Greendale Wombat Landcare Group

Land holders

### What we did

Provided support and training for monitoring macroinvertebrates on Parwan Creek for the Waterbug Census.

Hosted a stand at the Climate 101 Conference.

Provided funding to control goats in the Lerderberg State Park.

Contributed funding to support the coordination of Grow West.

Presented on Melbourne Water grant programs for private landholders and land managers to develop whole farm plans.





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.