



# Waterways Local Update 2017-18

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



**34.7 KM**  
WEED CONTROL  
ALONG WATERWAYS



**\$188,868**  
IN COMMUNITY  
FUNDING



**COLLABORATING**  
TO MANAGE STORMWATER

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:

- Moonee Ponds Creek
- Edgars Creek
- Westbreen Creek
- Merri Creek
- Jacana Wetlands

# 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

**2.4 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.

**34.7 km** Weed control

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

**19.2 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.

## 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 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.

**Living Rivers provided funding to design and construct an integrated stormwater capture and storage system to provide a sustainable source of water for a community garden and orchard**

This work improves downstream water quality by activating an unused open space for Council and the community to collaborate on local food production and create greater community awareness of the stormwater system.

**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 \$55,000 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

**Worked with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, and Southern Rural Water on environmental outcomes for river systems**

### Why

Advocating for environmental outcomes for rivers and their 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 one site 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.

**Undertook fish surveys at Lake Coburg dam, along Merri Creek**

The surveys helped evaluate the benefits of new vertical-slot fishways installed in 2012 and complemented another monitoring program of fishway performance.



## 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

**282** referrals for land subdivisions reviewed

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

**78** development applications reviewed

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

**163** flood information requests reviewed

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

**9** 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.

**15** 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

**Worked closely with Council to complete a planning amendment with updated mapping for the municipality**

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

**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.

**Progressed a flood mitigation study with Council**

The study helps to progress a precinct development in Coburg and aims to reduce flood risk for residents of Coburg.



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](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>\$6,808</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>\$44,734</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>\$82,326</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

## What we did

Friends of Edgars Creek

Provided support to monitor water quality through our Waterwatch program.

Coburg Lake Group

Australian International Academy

Supported teachers to participate in the River Detectives program, with the loan of a water quality kit and training to enable them to take students to test water quality in Merri Creek.

Merri Creek Management Committee

Supported the delivery of three community macroinvertebrate monitoring sessions for the Waterbug Census.

City of Moreland

Collaborated with Council to determine land planning considerations along the Merlynston Creek and identify community groups to participate in the Our Space Your Place campaign.

Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Moreland, Hume councils

The Moonee Ponds Catchment Collaboration pilot project established a governance group with stakeholders who are collaborating to transform the creek into an iconic waterway for Melbourne.

Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek

Friends of Upper Moonee Ponds Creek

Kensington Association

Living Colour Studio

Swinburne & RMIT universities

Parks Victoria

Yarra Valley Water

Conservation Volunteers Australia

Greening the West/City West Water

Victorian Planning Authority

Moonee Bicycle Users Group



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.