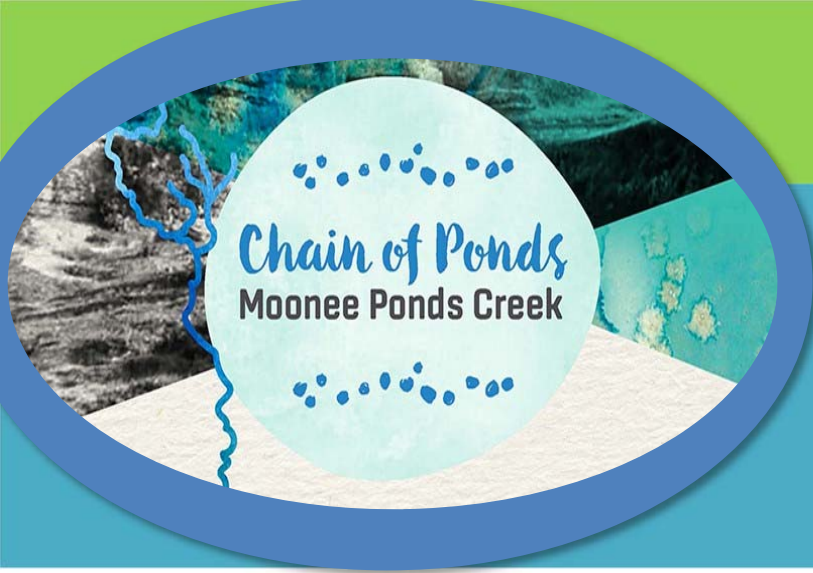


Chain of Ponds

Moonee Ponds Creek Catchment Collaboration Update November 2018



MOU signing ceremony and prospectus



In October, the collaboration hit a big milestone through the signing of the MOU and the development of the Chain of Ponds Prospectus.

The group of 14 organisations committed to collaborating to find lasting solutions for the catchment that will address the dilemma statement:

“How do we transform the Moonee Ponds Creek into an iconic waterway for Melbourne that provides high social and environmental benefits, given the diversity of stakeholder interests?”

The Governance Working Group did an excellent job at pulling this together achieving some high level buy in at the ceremony on the 26th October. Congratulations to all involved!

Although this was a key event, it does not exclude new organisations from signing onto the collaboration and further opportunities will continue to be explored.

Changes at the helm

With the MOU signed and the Collaboration taking a formal step forward, it is timely to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Julie Francis as the project lead over the past 18 months or so.



The successes of the collaboration are a tribute to Julie's continual drive yet nurturing leadership in allowing it to form its own path. It is not surprising that Julie was a recent

finalist in the International River Foundations 2018 Emerging River Professionals Awards for this work.

Julie has recently taken a position with Hume City Council as Coordinator Open Space and Recreation Planning and we wish her all the best.

Lori Arthur has recently started at Melbourne Water as the Moonee Ponds Creek Collaboration Lead. Many will have already met Lori through her substantive role as Natural Resource Management Officer at Moreland City Council and previous involvement in the collaboration.



The 12 month position has been made possible as a result of financial and in-kind contributions from Melbourne Water, Councils, City West Water and the VPA and opportunities to secure longer term funding for the position will be part of Lori's role.

***NEW* Waterways of the West Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC)**

On the 29th August, the Minister for Water and the Minister for Planning announced the establishment of this new committee to engage with communities and Traditional Owners to develop a Waterways of the West Action Plan.

The Action Plan will identify priority projects and areas for protection along urban waterways of the west, bringing to life community expectations and local values, and protecting the rich Aboriginal heritage of these areas.

Chris Chesterfield will be the independent Chair of the MAC, bringing his experience chairing the Advisory Committee that led to the establishment of landmark reforms to protect the Yarra River (Birrarung).

Mr Chesterfield is highly regarded in the field of water sensitive urban design and water reform and we will also be investigating potential collaboration opportunities with him in his role as the Executive Director Stakeholder Engagement at the CRC for Water Sensitive Cities

Boosting recreational outcomes with big \$\$

In addition to the Waterways of the West announcement, the Victorian Government announced \$1.2 million investment to improve recreational facilities along western waterways.

This funding includes a commitment of \$400,000 for the design and implementation of a project to unlock restricted open space for community recreation and activation along the Moonee Ponds Creek in Brunswick West/Essendon.

The project will focus on the 1 kilometre corridor south of Moreland Road and will improve community recreational use and access through the construction of pathways and stairs, improvements to an existing ford, fence modifications, and the installation of picnic tables, seating and wayfinding signage. In addition, the project will enhance visibility and safety through passive surveillance.



Maribyrnong IWM Forum

Led by DELWP, the Maribyrnong IWM Forum brings together many dedicated and forward looking water industry stakeholders, Traditional Owners and Local Government representatives. Many members of the Chain of Ponds Collaboration have been key players in the forum since the start.

A Strategic Directions Statement (SDS) has been developed which articulates the regional context, shared vision and water-related outcomes for the Maribyrnong catchment. It includes a prioritised list of IWM opportunities developed in collaboration by the Maribyrnong IWM Forum partners.

Two key opportunities for the Moonee Ponds Creek have been identified in the SDS with strong links to the Collaborations vision and project groups will be established:

- **Business case development for MPC naturalisation**

A feasibility investigation and development of a business case to progress the return of the northern most part of the concrete channel (near Brosnan Crescent) to a more natural land form. The naturalised channel is envisaged to facilitate more pedestrian access points, connectivity and recreational facilities, as well as increase community use of a linear park along the creek. DELWP has committed \$40,000 funding towards this project with matching funding from Councils and MW.

- **MPC catchment modelling and analysis**

MW and Councils have identified the need for flood modelling to be undertaken as part of feasibility assessments for a range of projects in the Moonee Ponds Creek catchment. The projects vary in nature and scale, and include localised stormwater harvesting projects, waterway naturalisation, and regional flood mitigation measures. The modelling undertaken will be fit-for-purpose and will be delivered with in-house expertise from MW and Councils

Strategic Planning Working Group

Improving the consistency and effectiveness of planning controls has been a key project of the collaboration with a working group established to investigate the issue.

Strategic Planners from Councils have been engaged in the working group and Melbourne Water has provided funding to Moreland Council to commission a consultant on behalf of the group.

Their brief includes:

1. Desktop review of existing policies and controls
2. Desktop review of creek interfaces (zones, overlays and typologies).
3. Identification of issues/gaps
4. Draft report

There will be opportunity for key stakeholder input as part of #3.

Councils have also committed funding toward the next phase of this project later this year.

For more information about these projects or the collaboration, please call Lori Arthur, Moonee Ponds Creek Collaboration Lead on 9679 7724 or email mooneeponds.creek@melbournewater.com.au or visit:

<https://yoursay.melbournewater.com.au/moonee-ponds-catchment-collaboration>

