



Waterways Local Update 2018-19

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



\$1.34 m
IN COMMUNITY
FUNDING



EXTENSIVE
ENGAGEMENT ON
THE YARRA RIVER



IMPROVED
INTEGRATED WATER
MANAGEMENT

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:

- Balcombe Creek
- Chinamans Creek
- Stony Creek
- Dunns Creek
- Main Creek
- Merricks 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

49 sites Grass cutting

We cut grass along waterways and pipe tracks to manage flood and fire risks, protect assets and maintain areas for community use. The grass cutting program assists in managing stormwater quality and quantity, and maintaining healthy waterways.

27 sites Weed control

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

1129 m³ Sediment, silt, litter, debris removal

Silt, sediment, litter and debris removal improves drainage and flood protection and reduces 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.

Revegetated and controlled weeds along Warringine Creek

Controlling high threat weeds such as blackberry, and planting native trees, shrubs and grasses improves vegetation condition and water quality in waterways, provides native animal habitat and prevents erosion.

Stormwater

Rainwater and stormwater 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

Delivered training to Council employees to ensure that rain gardens, wetlands and other Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) initiatives are successfully constructed

Introducing employees to WSUD and integrated water management concepts improves knowledge of wetland, rain garden and WSUD constructions so that assets can provide the water quality improvements they are designed for.

Provided funding to construct two rain gardens and a wetland at Mornington Civic Reserve

The raingardens, swales and wetland will reduce stormwater runoff and pollution, and enhance the aesthetic value and biodiversity of the area to support native species.

Undertook a study to assess the viability of implementing a new scheme for stormwater treatment at Council

The study will assist Council to develop a strategic stormwater management plan to reduce water pollution and identify opportunities to improve stormwater quality.



The Clearwater program supports Council and water-sector organisations with sustainable water management and development. It offers knowledge-sharing, skills-development and network-building through a range of public and specialist training, guided tours and networking events. Find out more at www.clearwatervic.com.au or call 131 722.



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 \$334,100 to projects in your area.

Find out more at melbournewater.com.au/livingrivers

Environmental water

We work with government agencies, councils, water authorities, landowners and the community to ensure that water that has been set aside for the environment is provided to rivers and wetlands, to keep environments healthy for plants and animals.

What we have done

Worked with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, and Southern Rural Water on environmental outcomes for waterways in Integrated Water Management forums

Worked with land owners to monitor groundwater and surface water levels in Tootgarook swamp

Why

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

Monitoring groundwater helps understand the role that groundwater plays in supporting vegetation.



Monitoring and research

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

What we have done

Developed a Monitoring Evaluations, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) framework for the Healthy Waterways Strategy

Monthly monitoring of water quality at nine 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

The framework outlines plans for monitoring key values and the environmental conditions that support them, as well as how we report on progress against objectives so we can evaluate in the middle and end of the strategy.

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

As Melbourne grows to support our increasing population, we work with developers, councils, agencies and communities to ensure that new developments do not increase flooding risks or damage the environment.

What we have done

Why

92 referrals for land subdivisions reviewed

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

31 development applications reviewed

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

434 flood information requests reviewed

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

2 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.

7 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.

Working towards a planning scheme amendment to help build resilience of flooding on properties

Reviewing flood information is important in ensuring it supports planning applications and development with reduced risk of flooding.

Generating new models and flood maps for the Balcombe, Sunshine, Finlayson, Hearn, Fishermans, Manmangur, Coburn, Anderson, Murray and Kackeraboit creeks, and Rosebud Parade, Boneo Road and Parkland Avenue drains

Developing new flood information supports appropriate planning, emergency management and reduces the effects of flooding.

Worked with stakeholders to review plans and hydraulic reports for the upgrade of Golf Link Road, through Major Road Project Victoria and the Suburb Road Upgrade

Ensures proposed works will not impact the floodplain, path of overland flow, assets and waterways, and that the project is feasible, safe and possible for community use.



40 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
\$437,663	Stream Frontage Management	Private land owners and managers for works that protect or enhance riverbanks, such as weed control, fencing and planting native trees.
\$123,406	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.
\$444,965	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

Community

Environment groups

Interest groups

Traditional Owners

Council

Devilbend Foundation

Devilbend Foundation Ambassadors

Friends of Daangean

Main Creek Landcare

Chisholm TAFE

Tyabb Railway Primary School

Devilbend Foundation Ambassadors

Land managers across the catchment

Friends of Daangean

Parks Victoria

Council

What we did

Worked with more than 220 organisations across greater Melbourne to co-design the new Healthy Waterways Strategy, which provides the framework for protecting and enhancing the waterways of our region. The strategy prioritises improvements to waterway condition, recreation, community connection and amenity, including provision for 1888 kilometres of new vegetation canopy and improving access to 179 kilometres of waterways.

Delivered two waterbug education sessions and one frog census session with the Ambassador group.

Hosted a National Waterbug Blitz event on Main Creek.

Collaborated with Ambassadors and students to present a frog census workshop at the Kids Teaching Kids conference

Hosted three co-design and one implementation seminars for the development and launch of the Mornington Peninsula & Westernport Healthy Waterways Strategy, and attended one Implementation Committee meeting.

Worked together to assess the constructed wetlands for threatened Dwarf Galaxias.

Collaborated on the development of an evaluation tool for assessing biolink project proposals, and participated in quarterly meetings to discuss planned works and explore opportunities for complimentary works to maximise environmental benefits.



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/community-and-education/use-our-land/land-community-projects 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.