



Werribee River at K Road Cliffs

Photo courtesy of Susanne Jensen, Werribee River Association.

The Lower Werribee Waterway Amenity Action Plan (LWWAAP), through a collaborative partnership of Traditional Owners, government and community organisations, articulates a strategic vision for improved amenity, cultural values, community access and activation along the Lower Werribee / Wirribi Yaluk, and provides a prioritised action plan to achieve this vision.



The LWWAAP can be found on Melbourne Water's website, along with annual updates.

Achievements in 2025-26

The year 2025-2026 marked significant progress in various initiatives focused on enhancing cultural connections, connectivity, recreation, environmental efforts, community involvement, advocacy, communications, tourism, and governance along the Werribee River. This report details some of the accomplishments and ongoing projects spearheaded by Wyndham City Council, Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), Werribee Open Range Zoo and the Werribee River Association.

The Lower Werribee Waterway Amenity Action Plan (LWWAAP) was endorsed by all partners in January 2022 and launched in April 2022, with the first Annual Plan being developed by April 2023. The actions in the Plan cover a 10 year period. This is the Fourth Snapshot, which covers July 2025 to June 2026.

1. Cultural Connections

2. Connectivity

3. Recreation

4. Environment (and Alternative Water)

5. Community Involvement

6. Advocacy

7. Communications & Media

8. Tourism

9. Governance



Werribee River

Photo courtesy of Jessica Suttle, Parks Victoria

1. Cultural Connections



Zoos Victoria and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Group. Photos courtesy of Greg Wood, Werribee Open Range Zoo

Strengthening recognition and integration of Traditional Owner knowledge and cultural values continues to be a core commitment across LWAAAP. The Werribee River corridor is a culturally significant landscape, and ongoing collaboration ensures its stories, values and custodianship are embedded in planning, design and on-ground works.

During 2025/26, Werribee Open Range Zoo (Zoos Victoria) partnered with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation to deliver a major revegetation project, planting 5,000 indigenous trees along the West side of the Werribee River corridor. This project reflects culturally informed land management practices, with plants supplied and installed on Country by Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Corporation and supported through the Trees for a Greener Cooler West grant (DEECA).

Wyndham City Council, through the K Road Cliffs Upgrade, incorporated interpretive signage that highlights First Nations cultural values alongside European settlement history, strengthening cultural storytelling and visitor understanding of the landscape.

Parks Victoria progressed the development of Cultural Heritage Management Plans for the Werribee Township Regional Park in partnership with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, ensuring cultural heritage is protected and embedded in future park planning.

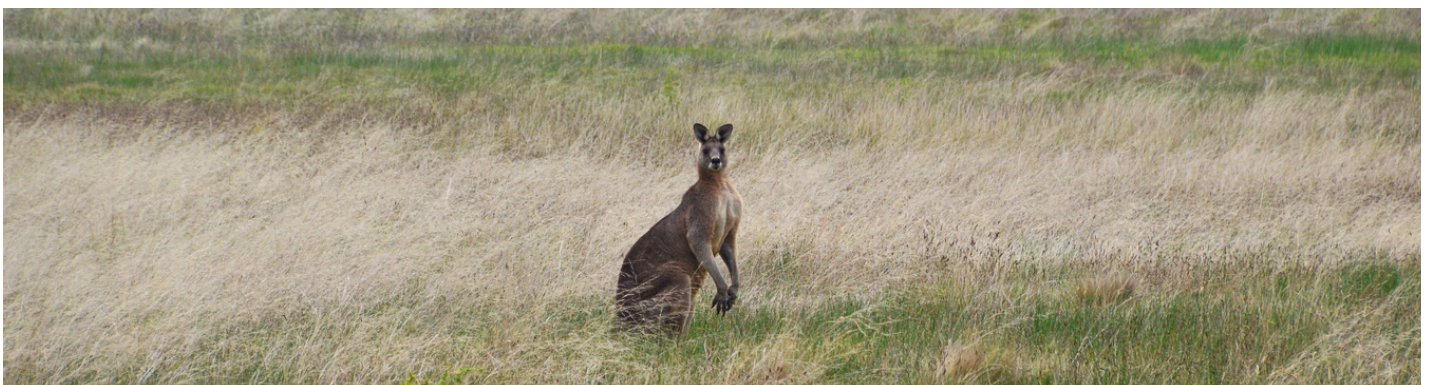


Photo courtesy of Jessica Suttle, Parks Victoria.

2. Connectivity



Werribee River Regional Park pedestrian bridge. Photo courtesy of Susanne Jensen, Werribee River Association.

Improving connections - both for people and for the natural environment - remains a key priority across LWAAAP, with the Werribee River acting as a central corridor linking landscapes, communities and visitor destinations.

A major milestone in 2025 was delivered by Parks Victoria through the reopening of the Werribee River Regional Park pedestrian bridge. The bridge had been severely damaged during flooding in 2022, and its reconstruction supported by a \$2.4 million Victorian Government investment restored a critical walking and cycling connection between Werribee Park and Werribee River Regional Park.

The Werribee River Association was delighted to undertake revegetation of planting at the entrance of the bridge.

One of Parks Victoria's main feature in the plans for the Werribee Township Regional Park are trail networks. Proposed routes include ecological and swamp trails, the Werribee River and Davis Creek trails, and shared paths that connect future residential areas with the park's natural assets. Pedestrian bridges and interpretive signage will ensure safe and engaging access throughout the park.

The K Road Cliffs upgrade is part of a larger project to upgrade K Road, which will be completed by mid-2026. The project was funded in partnership with the Victorian Government, with \$1.5 million from the Growing Suburbs Fund and \$25,000 from Melbourne Water.

The project includes a new shared user path along K Road, providing safe walking and cycling access between Werribee Park, K Road Cliffs and the Werribee River. The new path also connects with the surrounding walking & cycling network, creating an off-road path connection between the K Road Cliffs and central Werribee, for the first time.



K Road, Cliffs walking and cycling path. Photo courtesy Sue Neale, Wyndham City Council.

3. Recreation



Top: Draft render of Werribee Township Regional Park nature playscape primary picnic area. Underneath: Township site. Photo courtesy of Jessica Suttle, Parks Victoria.

The Werribee River precinct continues to evolve as a key destination for nature-based recreation in Melbourne’s west, supported by significant investment in visitor infrastructure and experiences.

Wyndham City Council’s K Road Cliffs Upgrade, officially opened in November 2025, transformed the site into a spectacular visitor destination. The project includes new staircase leading down to the river, walking paths, scenic lookouts, picnic facilities, upgraded parking and interpretive signage, significantly enhancing the visitor experience.

Parks Victoria continued to lead planning for the Werribee Township Regional Park, progressing feasibility studies, detailed design work and cultural heritage planning. The Master Plan is expected to be finalised in 2026 and will guide the staged delivery of the park.

Parks Victoria’s reconstruction of the Werribee River footbridge has restored access between Werribee Park and Werribee River Regional Park, enabling walking, cycling and nature-based recreation across the corridor.

At Werribee Open Range Zoo (Zoos Victoria), the launch of “Dino’s at the Zoo” in April 2026 activated the River Walk trail and attracted thousands of visitors during the Easter school holiday period, encouraging families to explore the beautiful river corridor on the lookout for dinosaurs.



Dino’s at the Zoo activation. Photo Courtesy of Greg Wood, Werribee Open Range Zoo.

4. Environment

Protecting and restoring the natural environment remains central to LWWAAP, with partners delivering a range of projects to improve biodiversity, water quality and long-term landscape resilience.

The Werribee River Association progressed large-scale restoration works through the Greenlinks Grant, supporting revegetation, habitat connectivity and ecological restoration across the river corridor. This project will continue through to mid-2026.

Melbourne Water delivered significant environmental works along the Werribee River Estuary. This area of the Werribee River Estuary is characterised by native reed beds and saltmarsh species, and is home to many fauna species including wallabies, fish, birds and reptiles.

Extensive infestations of Spiny Rush were groomed and then treated with herbicide during the summer growth period. Spiny Rush is a declared noxious weed that forms dense prickly stands, which outcompete native plants and reduces habitat values. African Boxthorn was also controlled across the site, which if left unmanaged can spread to problematic levels. The areas where weed control was undertaken will be monitored and retreated over the coming years for weed regrowth.

Targeted saltmarsh planting was also undertaken in a weed-dominated area near to the river mouth, to support the re-establishment of native vegetation. Species planted included Rounded noon-flower and Australian Salt Grass (pictured below) which are common saltmarsh species found already alongside the Werribee River Estuary.

Wyndham City Council incorporated environmental improvements to the K Road Cliff's upgrade. The project included important drainage improvements to help mitigate cliff erosion, ensuring the site can be enjoyed for generations to come. A new gross pollutant trap was also installed to filter rubbish and sediment from storm water before entering the Werribee River.

The revegetation project delivered by Werribee Open Range Zoo and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners also contributes to improved habitat quality and long-term environmental outcomes across the precinct.



Revegetation of native plants along the Werribee River Estuary. Photos courtesy of Erin Millard, Melbourne Water.

5. Community Involvement



Trail Blazers Program. Photos courtesy of Ema Corro, Werribee River Association

Community participation remains a key element in achieving LWWAAP outcomes, supporting local stewardship and connection to the Werribee River.

The Werribee River Association facilitated community planting activities, including works associated with the Parks Victoria footbridge repair project. Indigenous plants removed during construction were propagated by WRA and replanted with community involvement once works were complete.

Community engagement also played an important role in shaping future planning, with Parks Victoria leading public consultation on the Werribee Township Regional Park Master Plan, ensuring local voices and stakeholder input inform the long-term vision.

In 2025, Werribee River Association's Trail Blazers program engaged young people in a year-long program connecting them to the river, nature and future employment pathways. Activities included snorkelling, wildlife monitoring, creative arts, revegetation, site visits and cultural learning with Traditional Owners. The program concluded with an adventure camp focused on teamwork and resilience.

Participants showed strong personal growth, building confidence, forming connections and exploring new interests. Many tried new outdoor experiences for the first time and expressed interest in environmental and creative careers. A "Job Hop" event connected 65 young people with industry professionals. Teachers reported improved student engagement, confidence and group connection, highlighting the program's lasting impact on both skills development and connection to community and Country.

6. Advocacy

Strong collaboration and coordinated advocacy across LWWAAP partners continues to drive investment and deliver key projects.

Projects delivered during 2025/26 were made possible through partnerships between Wyndham City Council, Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water, Zoos Victoria, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and the Werribee River Association, supported by various Government bodies.

Funding programs including the Growing Suburbs Fund (supporting Wyndham City's K Road Cliffs Upgrade) and Trees for a Greener Cooler West (supporting Zoos Victoria's revegetation project) demonstrate the value of aligned advocacy efforts.

The successful delivery of major infrastructure and environmental projects highlights the effectiveness of this collaborative approach.

7. Media & Comms

Communications and engagement activities played an important role in increasing awareness of LWWAAP initiatives and showcasing achievements across the precinct.

The Ministerial Opening of the K Road Cliffs Upgrade, hosted by Wyndham City Council in November 2025, marked a significant milestone and attracted strong media and stakeholder attention.

Parks Victoria's public exhibition of the Werribee Township Regional Park Master Plan also provided an important opportunity to engage the community and communicate the future vision for the precinct.

Recognition of Werribee Open Range Zoo at the Victorian Tourism Awards further contributed to positive exposure and strengthened the profile of the precinct.



The Ministerial Opening of the K Road Cliffs on November 11, 2025. Mathew Hilakari, MP for Point Cook and Wyndham Major Mia Shaw spoke about the importance of the project in preserving the fragile cliffs face and the renewed significance of the site as a visitor destination. LWWAAP representatives also join the celebrations, marking a major milestone in the delivery of a key strategic objective under the Plan. Photo courtesy of Sue Neale, Wyndham City Council.

8. Tourism



Elephants and Werribee Open Range Zoo. Photo courtesy of Susanne Jensen, Werribee River Association.

Tourism continues to be a key driver in the activation of the Werribee River precinct, supported by major attractions and improved visitor infrastructure.

Werribee Open Range Zoo (Zoos Victoria) received a Silver Award in the 2025 Victorian Tourism Awards (Ecotourism category), recognising the development of the Elephant and Waterhole Trail and the Zoo's unique ability to connect the community with the local environment and environmental initiatives.

The introduction of "Dino's at the Zoo" attracted significant visitor numbers and expanded the precinct's appeal to families and new audiences.

Infrastructure delivered by Wyndham City Council (K Road Cliffs Upgrade) and Parks Victoria (footbridge restoration) further enhances tourism by improving access, connectivity and the overall visitor experience.

9. Governance

The Lower Werribee Waterway Amenity Action Plan (LWWAAP) is underpinned by a strong governance framework that brings together the following stakeholders committed to the long-term health and amenity of the Werribee River corridor:

- Melbourne Water
- Parks Victoria
- Melbourne's West
- Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
- Werribee Open Range Zoo (Zoos Victoria)
- Werribee River Association
- Wyndham City Council
- Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)
- Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

The Werribee River Association is responsible for the Coordination of the LWWAAP Group, who convene on a bi-monthly basis. Member activities are driven by the Action Plan, with progress monitored via a group spreadsheet which details timeframes, project details and priority activities.

Multiple LWWAAP partner agencies have MOU's with each other, and identify the need to continue working as a collaboration group to support the delivery of the LWWAAP.



K Road Cliffs photos courtesy of Sue Neale, Wyndham City Council.

Visit the Story map
[Lower Werribee Waterway Amenity Action Plan \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)