

Third Year Snapshot

Lower Werribee Waterway Amenity Action Plan



*Stakeholders at the Inspection of Restoration Works at K Road Cliffs, July 2025
Photo courtesy of Lukas Knott, Wyndham Council*

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.

2024-2025

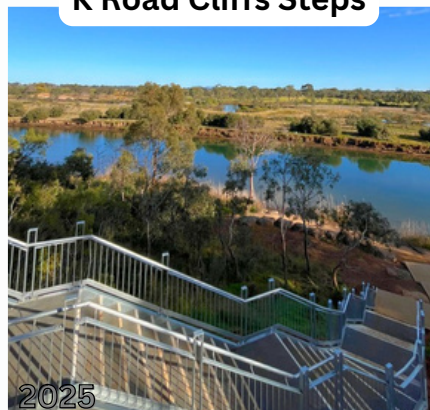
Achievements in 2024-25

The year 2024-2025 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) 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 Third Snapshot, which covers July 2024 to June 2025.

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BEFORE



AFTER

K Road Cliffs photos courtesy of Sue Neale, Wyndham Council
Werribee River Regional Park Pedestrian Bridge photos courtesy of Werribee River Association

1. Cultural Connections

The Lower Werribee Waterway Amenity Action Plan (LWWAAP) and its project partners recognise the importance of understanding and honouring cultural values to appropriately celebrate and interpret Aboriginal heritage across the region.

Engagement with Traditional Owners has been a cornerstone of several initiatives. On Wadawurrung Country, the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC) has provided cultural guidance, while on Bunurong Country, the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC) has contributed to culturally informed planning and design.

Wyndham City Council's Werribee River Trail Feasibility Study, launched in September 2023, placed cultural heritage at its heart. A cultural due diligence study and a Walk on Country with WTOAC helped identify and respect Aboriginal cultural assets and aspirations along the river's west bank.

Council also incorporated First Nations knowledge into the K Road Cliffs restoration, using Indigenous plantings to stabilise the landscape and enhance habitat values.

Interpretive signage, developed in consultation with BLCAC, supports cultural storytelling and recognition of Traditional Owners.

Parks Victoria has made significant progress under the Suburban Parks Program, including the restoration of the historic bridge within Werribee River Regional Park. Guided by a Strategic Directions Plan and a Cultural Heritage Management Plan, both developed in partnership with WTOAC. The project ensured that environmental and cultural values were upheld throughout.

In parallel, Parks Victoria is developing the Werribee Township Regional Park Master Plan, currently in the draft stage. In collaboration with AECOM and Traditional Owners, the plan envisions a restorative landscape that fosters connection between people, place, and nature, while celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the Werribee River.

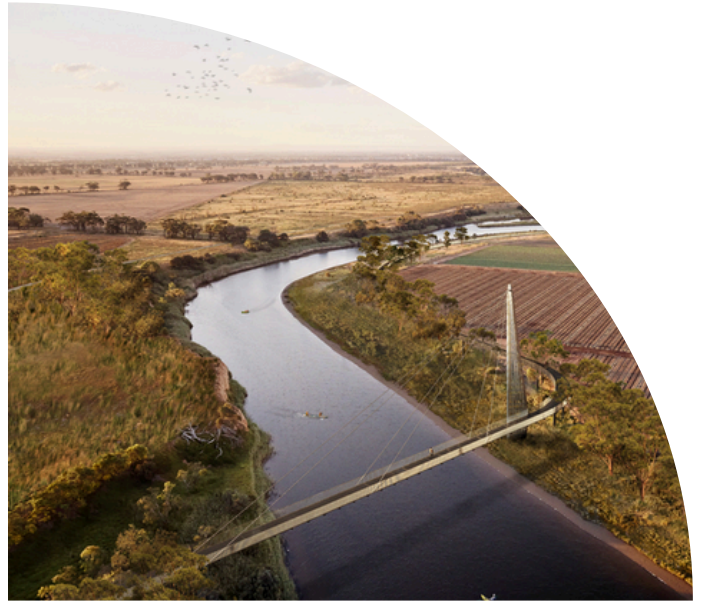


*Interpretive Signage at K Road Cliffs.
Photos courtesy of Susanne Jensen,
Werribee River Association.*

2. Connectivity



*Aerial view of the Pedestrian Bridge at Werribee River Regional Park and surrounding vegetation before flood damage.
Photo courtesy of Visit Werribee*



*View of lower Werribee River toward the Werribee South agricultural lands for the feasibility study of the Trail extension
Photos courtesy of Sue Neale, Wyndham Council*

Improving connectivity along the Werribee River corridor is central to the Lower Werribee Waterway Amenity Action Plan (LWWAAP), enabling stronger links between communities, natural spaces, and recreational assets. Enhanced access supports tourism, active transport, nature connection, and inclusive community participation.

Through the Werribee River Trail Feasibility Study that was funded through DEECA's "Iconic Urban Waterways" Grant, Wyndham City Council explored the potential for a continuous walking and cycling trail from K Road Cliffs to Werribee South Beach. This included hydrological modelling with climate change projections, a feasibility study for river access and creek crossings at the Davis Creek confluence, and the development of visual concept plans. A detailed cost estimate and economic impact assessment informed a project prospectus to guide future advocacy and investment.

The study also supported planning for the Werribee Township Regional Park, where trail networks are a defining feature. 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.

In July 2025, Parks Victoria completed the restoration of the Werribee River Pedestrian Bridge, reconnecting Werribee Park Mansion with Werribee River Regional Park. Werribee River Association was delighted to undertake re-vegetation of planting at the entrance of the bridge. The bridge had been closed for nearly three years following flood damage in 2022, and its reopening marks a major milestone in regional connectivity and public access.

Further downstream, Wyndham City Council's implementation of the K Road Cliffs Master Plan has significantly improved access to one of Werribee South's most iconic natural landmarks. A new clifftop walking path and viewing platforms offer panoramic views of the river and wetlands, while a staircase provides access to river terraces overlooking RAMSAR-listed wetlands. A shared user path from Duncans Road to K Road Cliffs now enables safer walking and cycling access. Final works, including embankment planting and staircase completion, are expected by the end of 2025.

3. Recreation

*Draft render of Werribee Township Regional Park Playground
Photo courtesy of Jessica Suttle, Parks Victoria.*



The Lower Werribee River corridor offers a diverse range of recreational experiences, inviting residents and visitors to engage with nature through walking, cycling, kayaking, fishing, birdwatching, and passive enjoyment of the river's tranquil settings.

The LWWAAP stakeholders are committed to creating vibrant, nature-connected spaces that support health, wellbeing, and community enjoyment.

The reopening of the pedestrian bridge between Werribee Park Mansion and Werribee River Regional Park has restored recreational access between two major parks, letting visitors enjoy uninterrupted walking routes that connect formal gardens, historic landmarks such as the Old Bluestone Ford, and scenic trails along the river escarpment and K Road Cliffs.

At K Road Cliffs, new infrastructure has created inviting spaces for relaxation and recreation. A picnic shelter and seating areas now provide comfortable spots for visitors to pause and enjoy the river views, complementing the site's walking paths and elevated lookouts.

Looking ahead, the Werribee Township Regional Park Master Plan outlines a bold vision for inclusive and accessible open space. Proposed recreational features include a large car park, nature playscape, shaded picnic areas, and sensory gardens. Cultural gardens, such as the Wadawurrung Garden in the south and the Bunurong Garden in the north, will offer spaces for reflection and learning. An interpretive sculpture inspired by Bunurong artists will welcome visitors, while smaller picnic areas and river lookouts throughout the park will support varied recreational experiences.



*Newly installed viewing deck at K Road Cliffs
Photo courtesy of Sue Neale, Wyndham Council*



*Draft render of Werribee Township Regional Park Trail
Photo courtesy of Jessica Suttle, Parks Victoria.*

4. Environment

The Lower Werribee River corridor continues to be a focus for environmental restoration and urban greening, with coordinated efforts by DEECA, Werribee River Association, Melbourne Water, Wyndham City Council, and Parks Victoria. These initiatives aim to improve biodiversity, stabilise riverbanks, manage stormwater, and enhance the ecological function of the landscape.

An initiative under Melbourne Water's Healthy Waterways Strategy is the revegetation of the Werribee River Estuary, targeting a 1.7-kilometre stretch of the east bank downstream of K Road. Since 2023, the project has delivered intensive weed control and the planting of over 20,000 native species to reestablish riparian vegetation and create habitat for wildlife. Exclusion zones have been established to support the recovery of sensitive saltmarsh vegetation, a critical component of estuarine health. While invasive weeds remain a challenge, the project has laid a strong foundation for long-term ecological renewal.

At K Road Cliffs, Wyndham City Council has addressed longstanding environmental issues through a comprehensive restoration project.

A new drainage network now diverts stormwater away from the fragile cliff face, reducing erosion risks. The installation of Wyndham's largest gross pollutant trap filters litter and sediment from stormwater before it enters the river, protecting downstream ecosystems and improving water quality.

In 2024, Green Links Grants supported two key revegetation projects adjacent to the Werribee River. The Werribee River Association received funding to undertake restoration works within the Werribee River Regional Parklands, while Wyndham City Council initiated a revegetation and cultural site protection project at Tarneet Islands. These projects aim to improve habitat connectivity, increase biodiversity, and safeguard cultural values. At Tarneet Islands, native vegetation is being reestablished to support local fauna and enhance ecological resilience.

The Green Links vision focuses on planting mid and understorey species within riparian and floodplain zones to create vegetation structure, suppress weeds, and improve ecosystem functioning. These efforts also contribute to urban cooling and climate adaptation, aligning with broader regional goals for green infrastructure and sustainable land management.



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



*Greenlinks Zone at Werribee River Park
Photos courtesy of Sophia Bagatsing,
Werribee River Association*

5. Community Involvement



*Friends of Lower Werribee River and Friends of Werribee River Park Working Bees
Photos courtesy of Sophia Bagatsing, Werribee River Association*

The Lower Werribee River corridor offers multiple opportunities for community connection along its banks, within neighbouring parklands, and through hands-on participation in planting events, festivals, and volunteer programs. The LWWAAP recognises the value of these activities and highlights the need to further strengthen and expand community engagement.

The Werribee River Association continues to lead a diverse program of community engagement activities, supported by DEECA and guided by the Waterways of the West CALD Toolkit.

WRA also facilitates several monthly “Friends of” groups that are supported by Melbourne Water, Wyndham City Council and DEECA, including Friends of The Lower Werribee River and Friends of Werribee River Regional Park. These groups play a vital role in local stewardship, contributing to revegetation, habitat restoration, and ongoing care of public open spaces.

Monthly volunteer days have helped build a sense of ownership and pride in these parks-

-and since Werribee River Park was only launched in 2006, we have had the privilege of introducing many first-time visitors to the area. The reopening of the pedestrian bridge in July 2025 stands as a testament to sustained community advocacy and the collective desire for improved access and environmental stewardship.

Beyond conservation, community involvement is also supported through education and cultural programming. Parks Victoria works closely with local groups at Werribee Park Farm, while Zoos Victoria engages guides and volunteers in delivering environmental education. These partnerships help foster a culture of care and awareness across generations.

Wyndham City Council’s Learning Festival, running on its 10th year, further supports community participation through nature-based themes and activities, offering residents opportunities to learn, connect, and contribute to the health of their local environment.

6. Advocacy

LWWAAP partners remain united in advocating for the ecological health, cultural recognition, and public access of the Werribee River corridor.

A standout initiative this year was the Platypus Camera Research Project, delivered in partnership with the Werribee River Association, Melbourne Water, and the University of Melbourne. Using AI to detect platypus presence, the project raised awareness of species conservation and built a strong case for continued investment in ecological monitoring and habitat protection.

Advocacy has also focused on infrastructure priorities, including the ongoing need to improve pedestrian access across the Maltby Bypass into Werribee River Park. Stakeholders continue to engage with government agencies to address this barrier and promote safer, more inclusive access to public open space.

Securing government support for the Werribee Township Regional Park remains a key objective. The scale and ambition of the project require sustained collaboration and long-term funding. Involving decision-makers in on-ground activities, such as Labour Politician, John Lister MP, and Education Portfolio holder Councillor Jasmine at the pedestrian bridge reopening, has helped raise the profile of the Werribee River and reinforce the need for appropriate investment.

7. Media & Comms

Effective and inclusive communication is vital in raising awareness. Through diverse media channels, we have promoted key milestones, engaged the community, and highlighted the ecological and cultural significance of the Werribee River corridor.

Werribee River Association and Parks Victoria promoted the reopening of the pedestrian footbridge at Werribee River Park through social media. The announcement was paired with a community planting day, inviting residents to celebrate the new infrastructure and contribute to revegetation efforts.

Wyndham City's blog, The Loop, featured updates on the K Road Cliffs Master Plan, with articles like "[K Road is getting an upgrade!](#)" and "[K Road Cliffs Master Plan](#)" encouraging public engagement and awareness of the site's transformation. The Star Weekly amplified the significance of these works with coverage like "[Cliff Works Commence](#)", highlighting the impact on public access and safety.

With Wyndham becoming increasingly diverse, project partners have also recognised the need for multilingual outreach to better engage culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. This inclusive approach ensures that key messages about river health, access, and stewardship are accessible to all residents, fostering broader community participation.



Councillor Jasmine Hill at the bridge reopening & community planting day



Wyndham Learning Festival guests using WRA Instagram photo booth



Bridge reopening promotional flyer for social media of Parks Vic and WRA

8. Tourism

Tourism along the Lower Werribee River continues to grow, supported by strategic planning, infrastructure upgrades, and a vibrant calendar of events that showcase the region's natural and cultural assets. The LWWAAP identifies the development of key river nodes as a priority to enhance visitor experiences and attract new audiences.

Wyndham City Council has explored the tourism potential of several sites along the river, with the Werribee Township Regional Park Master Plan offering a compelling vision for future open space amenity. The plan includes distinct zones such as the River Backbone, the Woodlands, and the Grassland Plains, with conservation as a central theme. Visitor infrastructure will feature shaded picnic areas, nature play spaces, and cultural gardens, creating a welcoming environment for both locals and tourists.

Major events in the Werribee Park Precinct, located adjacent to the river, continue to draw large crowds and support tourism. Wyndham City and Parks Victoria have also regularly delivered high-profile events such as the Children's Week Picnic, which combines family-friendly activities with conservation messaging.

There is also the Diwali Festival at Werribee Open Range Zoo, held in October 2024, which was a two-day celebration of Indian and Nepalese culture featuring traditional dance, music, food, and lights which attracted visitors from across Melbourne.

These events help activate the precinct and encourage repeat visitation, helping position the Lower Werribee River as a key destination for eco-tourism, cultural experiences, and family recreation.

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 River Association
- Wyndham City Council
- Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)
- Zoos Victoria
- 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 as of July 2025.

Photo courtesy of Sophia Bagatsing, Werribee River Association

Visit the Story map

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