

First Year Snapshot

Lower Werribee Waterway Amenity Action Plan



Image courtesy of David Hannah

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



Achievements in 2022-23

The Lower Werribee Waterway Amenity Action Plan (LWWAAP) was endorsed by all partners in January 2022 and launched April 2022.

This snapshot summaries the achievements in the first 12 months of implementation.



Image courtesy of David Hannah

Cultural Connections

Partner-facing Cultural Values Assessment from the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation was delivered in December 2022 to guide cultural amenity actions in the LWWAAP. Planning has commenced with the Wadawarrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation to undertake a similar process in 2023.

Wyndham City Council continues to engage with the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation in the implementation of the K Road Cliffs Master Plan, developing interpretive signage based on the Lower Werribee River Aboriginal Cultural Values Report prepared by the Bunurong Land Council. Council are also continuing to explore cultural values at Werribee South under the development of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

Connectivity

- Wyndham City Council commenced work on an interpretive signage strategy for key visitor destinations located along the Werribee River, exploring the history, environmental and cultural values of the riverside sites.
- Wyndham City Council is undertaking a feasibility study into the establishment of a Bay Trail connection between K Road Cliffs and Werribee South Beach along the east bank of the Werribee River. The study will establish a preferred path alignment, construction methods, a management assessment and costings for the 5 km section of unreserved Crown Land.
- Concept designs are being prepared for improved access down to the water's edge at Bungies Hole in Chirnside Park. This design work, led by Wyndham City Council, is funded via an Iconic Urban Waterways Grant.

Recreation

Melbourne Water completed construction of the stepped stone kayak launch at River Gums Walk funded by the Victorian Government's Boosting Recreation Fund.



Image courtesy of Melbourne Water

Wyndham City Council has commenced the concept design at Riverbend Historic Park. The planned upgrade to a District Park level will include improved picnic and play areas, car parking, a public toilet. The design includes improved access to the water via a floating pontoon, which is currently in the planning phase by Melbourne Water.

Werribee South Beach Visitor Upgrade Works - Council has constructed two new picnic shelters and upgraded barbeque facilities at Werribee South Beach. Three car parking areas were also sealed and line marked to improve parking amenity and capacity.

Natural Environment



1 hectare revegetated to widen river corridor*



Partnership with Golf Club, WRA and MW to deliver a series of revegetation projects



5,000 trees and shrubs planted by Werribee River Association and weed control along golf course frontage*

*Funded through Melbourne Water's Liveable Communities Liveable Waterways Program

Community Involvement

The Werribee River Association (WRA) has continued its engagement with CALD communities through the Iconic Urban Waterways grant. Between July and December 2022 the WRA held 95 events such as education programs, guided walks, bird and frog surveys, traditional owner events and festivals with over 3000 attendees across these events.



Images courtesy of the Werribee River Association

Advocacy

Advocacy from partners contributed to development of the Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy (SWS). In particular, the Werribee River Association (WRA) in particular has met with (then) DELWP officials around the drafting of the SWS, submissions to SWS. The Strategy supports ongoing investment in water efficiency and proposes the pathway to doubling the region's water supplies over the next 50 years. Key to this pathway is the transition away from a reliance on river water for meeting our water needs, providing more for environmental flows.

The strong involvement of partners in the development of the Strategy, which included fortnightly meetings over 18 months, contributed to the inclusion of a number of actions to return water to the Werribee River.

WRA has also made submissions to the Essential Services Commission, comments on water authority price submissions, and discussion with Southern Rural water re their environmental obligations, data gathering and monitoring, licensing of irrigation bores, farm dams, the management of groundwater.

Advocacy activities in relation to the Werribee River are continuing through requests of State Government MPs and Ministers to maintain momentum on Waterways of the West outcomes (encompassing the LWAAAP area).



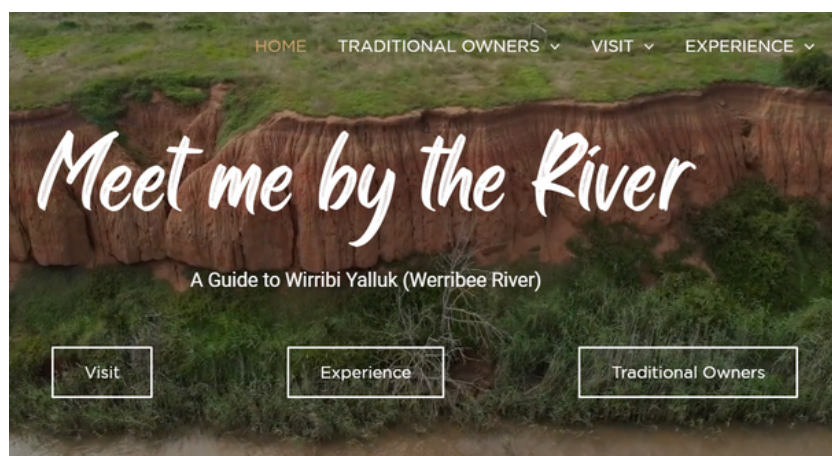
Communications and Media

WRA secured media coverage of the LWAAP launch in the Wyndham Star Weekly that highlighted key objectives of the plan and how the community can get involved. WRA have also secured media coverage for issues related to the LWAAAP, most recently the threat to the platypus population caused by litter.



Tourism

The Werribee River Association have prepared a draft Werribee River Guide which is a fantastic resource that promotes the lower Werribee River as a must-visit destination. The guide, which when finalised will be available online and in limited hard copy, offers a comprehensive overview of the area, highlighting the numerous things to do and see, as well as the rich history and cultural values of the region. Visitors can explore the many destinations, access points, and experiences available along the river, from walking and bike rides to boating and kayaking.



The guide is a valuable tool for anyone interested in exploring this beautiful and culturally rich area, and we extend our thanks to the Werribee River Association - along with supporters Wyndham City and Western Melbourne Tourism - for driving this initiative and promoting the Werribee River as a focus for nature connection and stewardship.

Council has commenced work on a Commercial Activation Feasibility Study for the Werribee River. This study explores opportunities at key nodes identified in the LWAAAP.

Wyndham City Council will commence the implementation of the K Road Cliffs Master Plan in coming months. This will create a greatly improved visitor destination adding value to the tourism offering available within the Werribee Park Tourism Precinct.

Governance

Werribee River Association and Wyndham City Council have signed a MOU to facilitate collaboration on conservation activities.

