



# Waterways Local Update 2016-17

Melbourne Water's work to improve waterways and provide flood protection in the **City of Manningham**.



**61.2 km**  
WEED CONTROL  
ALONG WATERWAYS



**86**  
FLOOD INFORMATION  
REQUESTS REVIEWED



**IMPROVED**  
SUSTAINABLE STORMWATER  
MANAGEMENT

Melbourne Water makes a vital contribution to the famous Melbourne lifestyle by underpinning human health, enhancing community well-being, supporting economic growth and balancing the natural and man-made environment.

Together with our partners, we look after 8,400 km of rivers and creeks, 428 wetland treatment systems and more than 1,400 km of regional drainage systems in the Port Phillip and Westernport region. This work is funded by the Waterways and Drainage Charge, which is paid by property owners and collected by retail water companies on our behalf.

Melbourne Water cares for many waterways. Some in your local area include:

- Yarra River
- Brushy Creek
- Jumping Creek
- Ruffey Creek
- Andersons Creek
- Mullum Mullum Creek
- Koonung Creek

# Healthy waterways

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## Maintenance and new projects

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

**6.4 km** Revegetation

We plant native trees and shrubs along waterways to provide habitat for birds and animals. Revegetating waterways and replacing weeds with native plants prevents erosion and improves water quality.

**61.2 km** Weed control

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

**Began phase one of weed control and revegetation works in the Bolin Bolin Billabong**

The works improve aquatic habitat and encourage community to enjoy the natural environment of this culturally significant billabong.

**Completed weed control and revegetation works along Andersons Creek**

Reducing weeds through this area improves the native vegetation condition between Andersons Creek retarding basin and lower Andersons Creek.

**Completed weed control and revegetation works along the Yarra River, Warrandyte Walk**

Improving the native vegetation and flow conditions along the Yarra River through Warrandyte improves the area along the popular walking path.

**Worked in partnership with the Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve by attending meetings, funding projects, removing willows to enable revegetation and involving community on projects**

This work supports the local community to help protect and enhance our waterways.

## Stormwater

We work closely with Council and local communities to better manage stormwater to protect the environment, provide alternative water sources and improve the stormwater that flows into local waterways.

### What we have done

### Why

**Through the Clearwater program, we supported Council to take a whole-of-water approach by providing a wide range of tools and resources, and opportunities to participate in a variety of activities**

This work helps to improve skills, increase knowledge and foster better networks across councils to change the way we manage water for healthy, connected communities.

**Living Rivers supported the development of educational materials to guide developers on sustainable stormwater management projects**

This project improves the information that is accessible to developers and ensures that projects designed and constructed are of higher and more consistent quality.

**Living Rivers provided funding for research to test the ability of different grass species to remove pollutants**

This work will provide information to industry on the impact of using various grasses in sustainable stormwater management systems.



Through our Living Rivers program, we worked with Council and contributed \$37,500 to projects that assist waterway health and create sustainable stormwater management solutions in your area.

Find out more at [melbournewater.com.au/livingrivers](http://melbournewater.com.au/livingrivers)

## Environmental water

We work with government agencies, councils, industries, landowners and the community to provide the allocated water needed in rivers to maintain healthy natural ecosystems.

### What we have done

**Worked with the Victorian Environmental Water Holder to deliver three environmental flows to the Yarra River**

**Worked with Council, Parks Victoria and the Wurunderji peoples on the Bolin Bolin Billabong**

### Why

Releasing water from upstream storages mimics flows that would naturally be there if the river wasn't dammed. This improves water quality and habitat for native wildlife.

Together, we're studying the billabong by monitoring its ecological response when water is released to it, to help plan a long-term solution for the billabong.

## Monitoring and research

We regularly undertake extensive monitoring, investigations and research to help us better understand how we can improve local waterways.

### What we have done

**Undertook monthly monitoring of water quality at seven 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)

**Undertook weekly monitoring at one site to better understand recreational health risks during the summer period**

**Undertook fish surveys in Mullum Mullum, Bushy and Jumping creeks**

**Monitored sediment in the Plenty and Yarra rivers**

### Why

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.

We use this data to identify any pollution sources and provide information to the community.

The surveys helped evaluate the benefits of new vertical-slot fishways installed in 2012 and complemented another monitoring program of fishway performance.

This monitoring improves our knowledge of contaminants and guides our management of the waterways.

# Planning for future development

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We plan for future development to ensure growing communities do not threaten local waterways. We provide advice and assist new developments to ensure they do not increase flood risk.

## What we have done

## Why

**101** referrals for land subdivisions reviewed

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

**81** development applications reviewed

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

**86** flood information requests reviewed

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

**21** applications for works near Melbourne Water assets and works such as bridges, shared pathways and jetties reviewed

To ensure waterways, and the plants and animals that live there, are protected from the potential impacts of building works.

**4** stormwater connection applications reviewed

To ensure waterways and the plants and animals that live there, are protected from the potential impacts of construction works.

# Flood protection

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While floods are natural and we can't stop them all from occurring, we aim to 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.



**11 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](http://melbournewater.com.au/communityrainreaders)

## Working with the community

The involvement of community groups, volunteers, land managers and farmers supports our management of local waterways and regional drainage systems. If you'd like more information about funding opportunities, please call 131 722 or email [river.health@melbournewater.com.au](mailto:river.health@melbournewater.com.au)

Funding provided	Grant	For
<b>\$12,353</b>	<b>Stream Frontage Management</b>	Private land owners and managers for works that protect or enhance riverbanks, such as weed control, fencing and planting native trees.
<b>\$36,454</b>	<b>Community Grants</b>	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.
<b>\$44,194</b>	<b>Corridors of Green</b>	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

City of Manningham  
Community

City of Manningham  
Friends of Warrandyte State Park  
Friends of Anderson's Creek  
Parks Victoria

City of Manningham

Friends of Yarran Dheran Nature Reserve  
City of Manningham (Waterwatch)

### What we did

Presented on local frogs of Manningham and actions the community can take to protect them, in partnership with Council.

Delivered in partnership with Council, a Southern Toadlet monitoring workshop to build community understanding and ability to monitor the condition of Southern Toadlet in the area.

Hosted a talk on platypus as part of the Environmental Seminar series, and a platypus activity as part of Manningham Youth Sustainability Day.

Provided support on the Waterbug Census through a monitoring session on Mullum Mullum Creek.



**Our Space Your Space** is an app that helps you find land managed by Melbourne Water that you can use for community projects, such as community gardens. We encourage communities to apply to use the land.

Find out more at [melbournewater.com.au/ourspaceyourplace](http://melbournewater.com.au/ourspaceyourplace) or call 131 722.



Waterwatch is a citizen science program that encourages communities to monitor platypus, frogs, waterbugs and water quality in their local river or creeks. We empower our volunteers to collect data, protect the waterways environment and share their knowledge.

Find out more at [melbournewater.com.au/waterwatch](http://melbournewater.com.au/waterwatch) or call 131 722.

