



Waterways Local Update 2016-17

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



71.6 km
WEED CONTROL
ALONG WATERWAYS



IMPROVED
SUSTAINABLE STORMWATER
MANAGEMENT



490
REFERRALS FOR LAND
SUBDIVISION REVIEWED

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:

- Little Blind Creek
- Werribee River
- Kororoit Creek
- Toolern Creek
- Eynesbury Creek
- Djerriwarrh Creek

Healthy waterways

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

1.6 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.

71.6 km Weed control

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

32.7 m³ Sediment, silt, litter, debris removal

Silt, sediment, litter and debris is removed for drainage and flood protection, and to prevent 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.

Removed woody weeds and dumped materials, constructed fences and established 2200 indigenous trees and bushes along Toolern Creek, upstream of Minns Road

This builds on previous work to improve habitat and amenity along the creek reserve.

Completed works to remove weeds threatening indigenous vegetation along Pyrites and Djerriwarrh creeks within the Lerderberg State Park

The works help reduce the threat of weeds invading remnant indigenous vegetation, and improve visual amenity, waterflows and the health of creeks.

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

Living Rivers supported the development of an Integrated Water Management Plan for the area

This will help Council develop a strategic approach to managing stormwater and focus on using sustainable stormwater management practices to protect our waterways.

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.



Through our Living Rivers program, we worked with Council and contributed \$30,000 to projects that assist waterway health and create sustainable stormwater management solutions in your area.

Find out more at 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

We worked with the Victorian Environment Water Holder and Southern Rural water to deliver six environmental flow releases in the Werribee River and its tributaries

We worked with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Western Water and Southern Rural Water to protect the Werribee River and its tributaries through integrated water management forums

Why

Releasing water helps improve the quality of water in the river and the health of plants and animals that rely upon it.

Participating in the integrated water management forums provides opportunities to advocate for the Werribee River to protect it and the plants and animals that rely on it.

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 one site 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

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.

Undertook fortnightly blue-green algae monitoring at Navan Lake during the summer period.

We monitor for blue-green algae because it can be a health risk to people and animals. If blue-green algae is detected, we follow state government guidance, erect warning signs, inform the public and continue to monitor the water until it clears.



Planning for future development

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

490 referrals for land subdivisions reviewed

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

564 development applications reviewed

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

245 flood information requests reviewed

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

54 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.

39 stormwater connection applications reviewed

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

Contributed to the design of the Brompton Lodge Precinct Structure Plan

To ensure waterways and drainage are managed in an integrated way in future urban development through the Development Services Scheme and Precinct Structure Planning process.

Flood protection

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

Worked with stakeholders to review plans and hydraulic reports to assist with the planning for Outer Suburban Arterial Roads and V/line Ballarat line upgrade projects

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

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

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

Funding provided	Grant	For
\$57,430	Stream Frontage Management	Private land owners and managers for works that protect or enhance riverbanks, such as weed control, fencing and planting native trees.
\$39,078	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.
\$30,914	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	What we did
Friends of Melton Botanic Garden	Provided support for water quality monitoring through the Water Quality Monitoring program.
Australian International Academy	Supported teachers to participate in the pilot program <i>River Detectives</i> , with the loan of a water quality kit and training to enable them to take students to test water quality and monitor waterbugs.
Friends of Toolern Creek	Held a platypus information stand at the Platypus Festival.
TEAM (Training, Employment, Accommodation and Mentoring)	Provided a land use agreement for people with disabilities to undertake activities on Melbourne Water owned land to gain skills in urban horticulture and sustainability.



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 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 or call 131 722.