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| Waterways Local Update 2016-17 |
| Melbourne Water’s work to improve waterways and provide flood protection in the **City of Kingston.** |

22.5 m3 sediment and silt removed from waterways

256 development applications reviewed

Monitored water quality in waterways

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 partnaers, 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:

* Edithvale Wetland
* Patterson River
* Patterson Lakes
* Mordialloc 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.

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| What we have done | Why |
| **13.4 km Weed control** | Introduced and noxious weeds can choke waterways and take over from plants that provide healthy habitats for birds and animals. |
| **22.5 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.  |

## 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 assessment of stormwater treatment and reuse at Moorabbin Reserve** | Collecting and treating stormwater as an alternative water source for irrigation reduces the amount of stormwater entering waterways and improves their health. |
| **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 **$20,000** to projects that assist waterway health and create sustainable stormwater management solutions in your area.

 Find out more at the [Melbourne Water website, Living Rivers funding and support page](file:///%5C%5CMac%5CHome%5CDesktop%5Cmelbournewater.com.au%5Clivingrivers) <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 | Why |
| --- | --- |
| **Monitored groundwater and surface water levelsin Edithvale Wetland** | Monitoring enables us to determine the role groundwater plays within the ecosystem and to identify any future problems.  |

## 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 | Why |
| --- | --- |
| **Undertook monthly monitoring of water quality at two 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)**
 | 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 weekly monitoring at two sites to better understand recreational health risks during the summer period** | We use this data to identify any pollution sources and provide information to the community. |
| **Undertook fortnightly blue-green algae monitoring at three sites in your area 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. |
| **Monitored sediment at Lake Legana, Edithvale South Wetland, Mordialloc Creek and the Southern Road Retarding Basin** | This monitoring improves our knowledge of contaminants and guides our management of the waterways. |

# 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 |
| --- | --- |
| **190 referrals for land subdivisions reviewed** | To ensure proposed land subdivisions meet current standards for drainage and stormwater quality. |
| **256 development applications reviewed** | To ensure that growing communities don’t contribute to an increase in flood risk. |
| **146 flood information requests reviewed** | To provide flood information to property owners and people interested in purchasing or redeveloping property. |
| **27 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. |
| **10 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

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 removing level crossings on the Frankston and Dandenong train lines and plan for the Outer Suburban Arterial Roads project** | Ensure proposed works will not impact the floodplain, path 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. |

**12 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 [Melbourne Water website, Community rainfall data page](file:///%5C%5CMac%5CHome%5CDesktop%5Cmelbournewater.com.au%5Ccommunityrainreaders) <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 Melbourne Water River Health at <river.health@melbournewater.com.au>

| Funding provided | Grant | For |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **$9,383** | **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. |
| **$22,000** | **Corridors of Green** | Councils and public land managers for projects such as weed control, fencing and creating management plans. |

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| Who we worked with  | What we did |
| --- | --- |
| **Friends of Braeside Park****Parks Victoria** | Provided support to monitor water quality through our Water Quality Monitoring program. |
| **St Bedes College****St Louis De Montforts** | Supported these schools to participate in the pilot program River Detectives, with the loan of a water quality kit and training to enable them to take students to test water quality and monitor waterbugs in their local area. |
| **City of Kingston****Friends of Edithvale Seaford Wetlands** | Continued to support the Friends of Edithvale Seaford Wetlands to operate the Edithvale-Seaford Wetland Education Centre every second Sunday afternoon to learn about the wetlands and local biodiversity. |
| **Kingston Early Learning Centre** | Inducted members to use the Edithvale-Seaford Wetland Education Centre to support learning about the wetlands and local biodiversity. |
| **Community** | Held Save the Frogs Day at Edithvale-Seaford Wetland Education Centre and the Frog Census program to raise awareness of local frog species. |
| **City of Kingston****Friends of Edithvale Seaford Wetlands** | Worked collaboratively to manage the Edithvale-Seaford Wetland through Community Liaison Committee quarterly meetings. |

**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 [Melbourne Water website, Land for community projects page](file:///%5C%5CMac%5CHome%5CDesktop%5Cmelbournewater.com.au%5Courspaceyourplace) <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 the [Melbourne Water website, Healthy Waterways Waterwatch page](file:///%5C%5CMac%5CHome%5CDesktop%5Cmelbournewater.com.au%5Cwaterwatch) <melbournewater.com.au/waterwatch> or call **131 722**.

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