



Chain of Ponds Moonee Ponds Creek

Catchment Collaboration Group

Memorandum of Understanding

July 2019

PURPOSE

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SETS OUT THE CORE PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES GUIDING STAKEHOLDERS COMMITTED TO COLLABORATION ON THE MOONEE PONDS CATCHMENT.

BACKGROUND

The Moonee Ponds Creek catchment is one of Melbourne's most urbanised and modified creek systems.

Significant issues persist across the catchment, including poor water quality, introduced species, habitat fragmentation, minimal expansion of the creek corridor through land acquisition, poor storm water management, litter, flooding, restricted public access and movement, poor urban design outcomes, and fragmented management and decision making.

A shared vision and clear roles and responsibilities are key steps forward in the revitalisation of the creek and its environs. Previous revegetation, weed removal and naturalisation projects over the years and past strategic plans have done little to make meaningful progress.

The Chain of Ponds collaboration group intends that stakeholders and community come together to plan and work together to facilitate positive change. The group is committed to collaborating to find lasting solutions for the catchment that will address the dilemma statement:

"How do we transform the Moonee Ponds Creek into an iconic waterway for Melbourne that provides high social and environmental benefits, given the diversity of stakeholder interests?"

CORE PRINCIPLES

The collaboration group members are committed to cooperating across the catchment for the purpose of attaining a whole-of-catchment approach.

Specifically, the members will:

- Be transparent in all interactions;
- Be considerate of each organisation's respective circumstances, including but not limited to community interests, commercial imperatives and strategic contexts, and to "speak with one voice" where possible;
- Collaborate to identify priorities and innovative projects with a best-for-regional catchment environmental and community benefit;
- Bring an 'appreciative' mindset to collaboration, focusing on strengths, abilities and energy of stakeholders to find enduring solutions to challenging problems;
- Share an understanding of all perspectives, to learn together and to build respect and trust between stakeholders;
- Share knowledge and work together to co-create new ideas and solutions that are informed, sustainable and enduring.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COLLABORATION GROUP

The objectives of the collaboration group include:

- Take a whole-of-catchment approach to governance and management to overcome the limitations that stakeholder and land ownership boundaries impose;
- Identify collaborative opportunities for the catchment that cannot be realised in isolation;
- Develop and implement ideas and strategies for catchment protection and enhancement;
- Ensure the views and interests of all stakeholders are considered when implementing catchment improvements;
- Work collaboratively to influence major urban renewal and infrastructure projects that impact on the Creek corridor;
- Better capitalise on opportunities for stormwater management including 'naturalisation' measures, open space enhancements and biodiversity and habitat enhancements along the length of the creek.
- Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitat and biolinks along the Creek corridor;
- Ensure approaches to development and waterway improvement are consistent with established strategic directions across the catchment and based on best practice;
- Learn from waterway restoration success stories that involve significant collaboration and a catchment approach;
- Facilitate data and expertise exchange so that individual stakeholders are more informed when implementing local-scale projects;
- Develop a framework for shared measurement of progress across the catchment;
- Enable a mechanism to consider options for co-investment in meaningful projects; and
- Enable stronger advocacy for waterway management issues, e.g. through strategic and statutory planning mechanisms.



Chain of Ponds Moonee Ponds Creek

The parties to this Memorandum of Understanding acknowledge that it does not:

- create any legally binding obligations on the parties and does not of itself constitute a policy statement; and
- oblige any party to commit funding or to enter into any future contract, supplemental agreement, or obligation with the others.

REVIEW PERIOD

It is agreed that this Memorandum of Understanding will be reviewed within two years following the date of commencement.

SIGNATORY PARTNERS



And Friends of Upper Moonee Ponds Creek

DATE: 1 JULY 2019



Chain of Ponds Moonee Ponds Creek

I commit this
(name) (title)

organisation to work collaboratively with others across the Moonee Ponds Creek catchment in accordance with the principles and objectives outlined in the Chain of Ponds Memorandum of Understanding.

Signed:

Name:

Date:

Organisation:

