

Enhancing our Dandenong Creek Interactive map

November 2018

Introduction

Interactive map

On 22 March 2018 Melbourne Water launched the Enhancing our Dandenong Creek (EODC) Interactive map via a project specific YourSay page. This map invited the local community to comment on works already completed along the creek (identified as 'Project Information markers') and share ideas and insights into what they would like to see next.

Project information markers

Melbourne Water pre-populated the map with a total of 18 project information markers to showcase works that have been completed in the area. Participants could like, dislike or start a discussion on the markers.

Idea markers

Participants were encouraged to 'drop' and 'drag' markers onto the map and plot their ideas to a geographic location. There was the choice of five different markers to choose from:



Planting – if the idea included re-vegetation along the creek.



Aquatic wildlife – if the idea would improve habitats for aquatic species and biodiversity.



Pollution prevention – if the idea sought to improve the health of the creek, reduce litter and raise awareness around creek pollutants.



Facilities – if the idea included improving accessibility or installing additional seating, shade, drinking fountains, interpretive signage.



General comment – if the idea was outside the four key themes above.

Community and stakeholder engagement

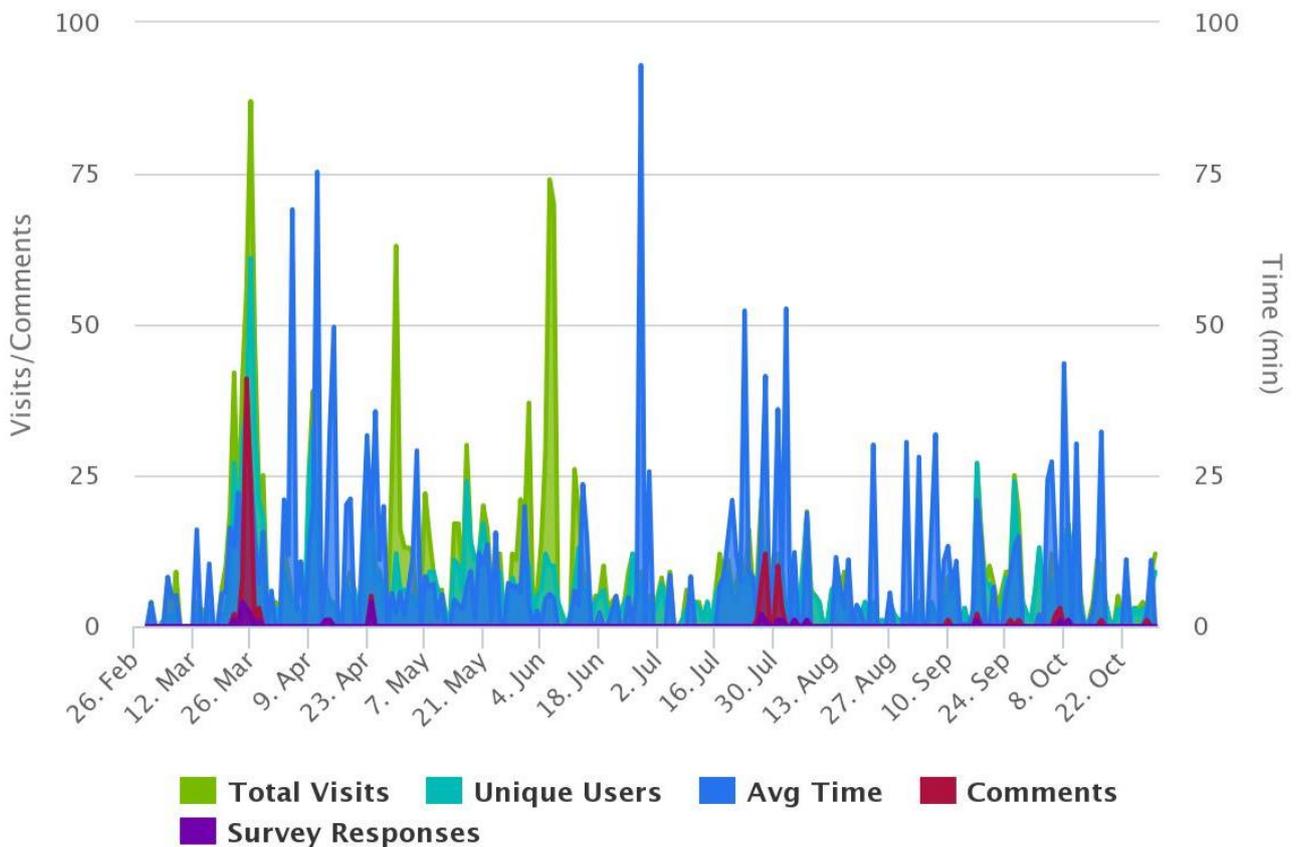
Level of engagement

The interactive map was available for people to visit and provide feedback between 22 March and 30 April 2018, and 24 July and 29 October 2018.

The digital platform received 1494 visits from unique users, a total of 134 comments were submitted and 432 reactions.

The average visit time was approximately 10 minutes, which indicates that visitors took time to either review the completed works and other people’s comments or added their own comments.

A total of 32 unique stakeholders commented on the map with 27 survey responses submitted.

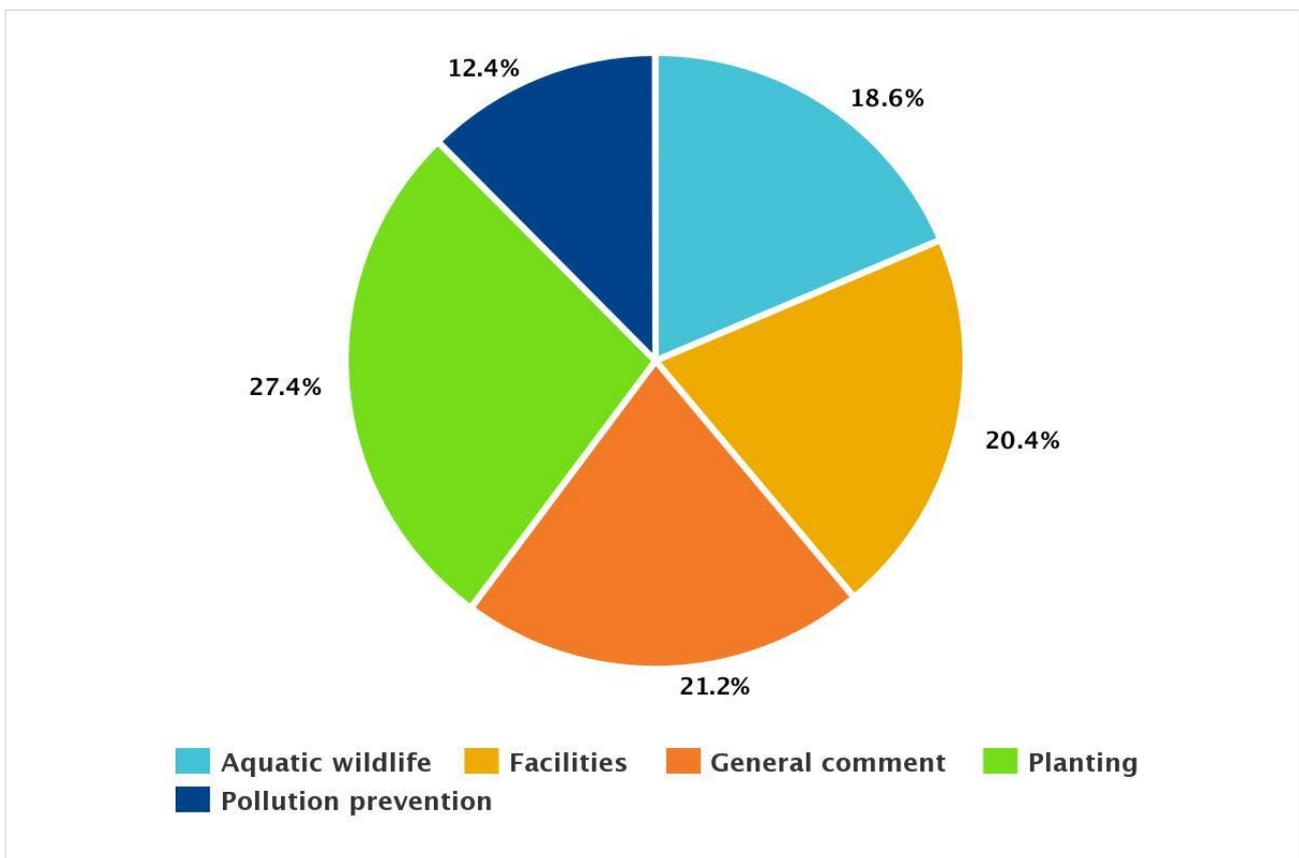


Key Findings

Most popular category

A total of 134 comments were submitted as below:

- Planting – 31 markers (plus 4 comments on the markers)
- Facilities – 23 markers (plus 1 comment on the marker)
- Aquatic wildlife – 21 markers (plus 2 comments on the marker)
- Pollution prevention – 14 markers (plus 8 comments on the markers)
- General comment – 24 markers (plus 4 comments on the markers)
- 2 comments on Project Information markers



Graph 2: Comment types

Feedback on project information markers



The 18 information markers that were pre-plotted onto the map to showcase completed works received a total of 36 likes (up votes) and 4 dislikes (down votes) as below:

Information marker	Up votes	Down votes
Daylighting Dandenong Creek	6	0
Interpretive signage	14	4
Pollution education program	6	0
Threatened fish program/ Billabong Renewal	5	0
Sewerage system management	2	0
Water quality monitoring	3	0
Fluker post	0	0
Total	36	4

N.B: Refer to Appendix A for the full list of information markers.

As above, the interpretive signage received the most likes (14), followed by the Daylighting Dandenong Creek project (6) and the pollution education program (6).

Only two markers received a comments.

Pollution education program:

"Much improved area, future duck homes/reserve. Well done."

Interpretive signage:

"Very interesting signs to tell us something of the environment we are enjoying. I hope these interpretive signs have been treated with some sort of anti-graffiti coating prior to being installed. Just yesterday I was walking along the Mullum Mullum Creek trail in Ringwood and a lot of their interpretive signs can't be read due to graffiti."

Most popular comments

The top five most popular comments (as voted by visitors to the EODC map) are outlined below, noting that three of the top five comments were made by the same stakeholder.

No.	Comment	Marker type	Up votes	Down votes
1	Runoff from the ovals does occur. You could create a small wetland to the northern side of the oval to capture the water and filter it.	Pollution prevention	12	0
2	River crossing – this spot is opposite the scout hall and I would love to see steps down to the water, and some large relatively flat rocks in the water, for the kids and adults to be able to get safely down to the water to observe the flora, fauna and water, and also to safely cross the creek and open up the other side of the creek for short hiking or parents to walk during scout meetings.	Facilities	12	1
3	More planting, connecting up the existing pockets, all along the 2km southern section of the creek between Mansons Reserve and the Daylighting project at HE Parker.	Planting	11	0
4	Join up existing disjointed tree canopy to form a continuous corridor for birds and animals from Manson’s Reserve upstream to the golf driving range. First Friends of Dandenong Creek can provide volunteers for planting events.	Planting	10	0
5	Revegetate the entire site; it has some rare indigenous plants on it. It's a landlocked location that will ultimately become weed infested very quickly, and offers a rare refuge in terms of size for this. Could be a wonderful community project.	Planting	9	0

Appendix

Information markers

Information marker	Up votes	Down votes	Discussion
Daylighting Dandenong Creek	6	0	0
Interpretive signage (dwarf galaxias)	5	1	0
Interpretive signage (Busch's Weir)	3	0	0
Interpretive signage (Koala story)	3	0	0
Pollution education program	3	0	0
Threatened fish program	3	0	0
Sewerage system management	2	0	0
Interpretive signage (History of flooding)	2	0	0
Pollution education program	2	0	0
Threatened fish program / billabong renewal	2	0	0
Water quality monitoring	2	0	0
Pollution education program	1	0	1
Water quality monitoring	1	0	0
Interpretive signage (Let's explore)	1	3	1
Water quality monitoring	0	0	0
Water quality monitoring	0	0	0
Interpretive signage (Campbells Croft)	0	0	0
Fluker post	0	0	0

Facilities category

Idea marker	Up votes	Down votes	Discussion
River crossing - this spot is opposite the scout hall and I would love to see steps down to the water, and some large relatively flat rocks in the water, for the kids and adults to be able to get safely down to the water to observe the flora, fauna & water, and also to safely cross the creek and open up the other side of the creek for short hiking or parents to walk during scout meetings.	12	1	0
Drinking facilities for cyclists/walkers	8	0	0
Water fountain for track users including dogs near the scout hall	7	0	0
The bridge needs a good renovation, in particular the timber.	6	0	0
Would be great to see outdoor equipment for children and adults in this open patch of land.	6	0	0
Drinking tap close to the road (to reduce cost) for cyclists/walkers to drink from	5	0	0
Link a gravel or paved walking/cycling path between Canterbury Rd and Bungalook Rd W.	5	0	0
Rubbish bin placed near information stand at the end of Marlborough Rd. To enable local volunteers to deposit litter the have collected along the shared pathway and surrounds	4	0	0
Further to another comment, build a path between Canterbury Road and Dandenong Creek along Bungalook Creek	4	0	0
Excellent idea	3	0	1
Install a footbridge to link up the eastern and western Bungalook Rds	3	2	0
Bird-hide would be a great asset at the confluence of Bungalook and newly-daylighted Dandenong creek.	3	0	0
There is a park bench/ seat that appears to have been placed right on the bike path or has the bike path been laid next to the seat?? Either way, this seat is an OHS issue as I have sat there with bikes virtually riding over my toes. Please relocate this seat.	3	0	0

Idea marker	Up votes	Down votes	Discussion
Drinking tap up near the noticeboard along Heatherdale Road, with appropriate signage pointing from the creek trail so riders/walkers can grab some fresh water	2	0	0
"Drinking taps/fountain would be very appreciated. As a regular user of the dandenong creek trail there is no drinking fountains between boronia rd and liverpool rd, over 10km of trail. A fountain every 2km would be great.	2	0	0
It would be great to see a simple gravel walking path on the north side of the daylighted section of the creek. Creek trails work better where one side is available for cyclists and the other is able to be used by casual strollers or wildlife watchers. There is a nice patch of bush adjoining this section and a path would help people to enjoy this space. It would be consistent with the trails on the downstream section of the creek.	1	0	0
Add bridge over creek to reduce travel time for cyclists and pedestrians using the trails to commute.	1	0	0
Need to place a rubbish bin near the wooden table and chairs n Scott Street reserve, to facilitate litter collection by FFDC members and volunteers in and around the creek.	1	0	0
Fix the bridge PROPERLY.	1	0	0
Improve access to reserve and shared path from Cumberland Ave.	0	0	0
A picnic table here would be...embarassing	0	1	0
Bike repair station	0	0	0
"Create a properly landscaped entrance to the wetland and improve pedestrian access from Canterbury Road through to Dandenong Creek trail. The wetland already provides a haven for many waterbirds and would be a very appealing place for people to use if it was better presented.	0	0	0
It would improve the sense of connection between the parklands section of Heatherdale Creek and Dandenong Creek."	0	0	0

Planting category

Idea marker	Up votes	Down votes	Discussion
More planting, connecting up the existing pockets, all along the 2km southern section of the creek between Mansons Reserve and the Daylighting project at HE Parker.	11	0	0
Join up existing disjointed tree canopy to form a continuous corridor for birds and animals from Manson's Reserve upstream to the golf driving range.	10	0	0
Revegetate the entire site; it has some rare indigenous plants on it. It's a landlocked location that will ultimately become weed infested very quickly, and offers a rare refuge in terms of size for this. Could be a wonderful community project.	9	0	0
First Friends of Dandenong Creek can provide volunteers for planting events"	10	0	0
Revegetate the entire site; it has some rare indigenous plants on it. It's a landlocked location that will ultimately become weed infested very quickly, and offers a rare refuge in terms of size for this. Could be a wonderful community project.	9	0	0
Weed control required, followed up with revegetation; great frog bog location too, so that needs to be factored in also	8	0	0
More indigenous plants please	7	0	0
More planting along the Northern section of the creek on the golf course side to increase the density of planting, connect up to the existing eucalyptus. Its to sparse at present	7	0	0
Increase the density of planting in this section	7	0	0
Lots of weeds, and introduced trees; look to weed the area and introduce some indigenous trees and shrubs back in for habitat for our local fauna	7	0	1
Their are currently more weeds than indigenous plants in the Heatherdale Creek wetland - please work with Eastlink to revegetate this section of the creek and improve the diversity of indigenous species	6	0	0
Continue to improve the riparian section along Heatherdale Creek and in fill the planting thats gone in over the last few years; kikuyu and other	6	0	0

Idea marker	Up votes	Down votes	Discussion
weed species still have the potential to out compete the newly planted indigenous species.			
Good pocket of indigenous vegetation; needs to have weed species removed.	5	0	0
Kikuyu is appearing in numerous locations at Winton (particularly along the fence line that borders the bike path) - could do with some attention, and follow up reveg work.	5	0	0
Increase the indigenous trees/shurbs along the riparian area and create habitat	5	0	0
Increase the density and diversity of indigenous plants in this location	5	0	0
More revegetation between the two ovals, specifically along the 'Old Joes Creek' channel	4	0	0
Great revegetation location	4	0	0
Look to provide infill indigenous planting along the section of the remnant bush south of the boardwalk; potentially put a fence around this space too which will help protect the species in this spot.	4	0	0
Urgent weed control required to stop kikuyu infestation in remanent bushland below HE Parker Reserve. Oval 2. If this does not occur soon the bushland will be gone in a decade.	3	0	0
Remove the Gorse here and revegetate	3	0	0
Revegetate the northern side of the creek. Its full of weeds at present. Reintroduce some indigenous trees back into the location	3	0	0
Encourage the golf course to do more complementary planting of trees and shrubs on its boundary with the creek. Its currently quite barren for a golf course and additional planting would strengthen the habitat corridor along the creek.	3	0	0
Under story planting of indigenous species along the shared pathway under the existing upper story of trees	2	0	0
Need to improve the reveg area on the southern side of the bike path between the creek; northern side only has living links funding.	2	0	0
Lots of native plants in this location, with sparse indigenous planting though - could be improved.	2	0	0

Idea marker	Up votes	Down votes	Discussion
Create habitat that extends JW Mansons reserve further to east of its current location, but north of the oval.	2	0	0
Lots of weed species occurring along this section of the creek at present; could do with some follow up reveg work	2	0	0
Collaborate plantings with council where possible, to stabilise the edges adjacent to path and minimise risk in the event of heavy rains.	2	0	0
Agree. This patch of VicRoads land needs to be saved now otherwise the surviving tree canopy will be gone in a few years.	1	0	1
Absolutely. The hydrology of this area on the southern side of the creek has been changed dramatically over the last 5years too; one large deep open cut drain immediately along the University Rd section has altered what would be seasonal pools of water; this may intern be affecting the health of the remnant patches of vegetation, specifically the eucalypts; this may impact the potential species that could be returned to the site.	1	0	1
First Friends of Dandenong Creek could provide volunteers for planting	1	0	1
Can we see Manna Gums back in the creek system? An relatively easy way to re-create form, shape, beauty...	1	0	0
Need to start replacing canopy trees that are suffering from die back	0	0	1

Aquatic wildlife category

Idea marker	Up votes	Down votes	Discussion
Provide more stormwater runoff to the billabongs; it hardly ever contains any water, and only recently did we record frogs in this location. Looks to extend the area, and potentially add another one or two small billabongs	8	1	0
Great opportunity for a new billabong/revegetation spot, as this location drains a large area and has good frog habitat potential	7	0	0
Can you get more water into this billabong?	6	0	0
More stormwater treatment would be good prior to it entering the creek as its an open area	5	0	0
Section of old joes Creek into Dandenong Creek is well suited to wetland habitat	5	0	0
Currently no frogs exist in this location, as there is no capacity to hold seasonal flows of water.	5	1	0
Daylight Heatherdale Creek	4	0	0
Great opportunity to create a string of wetlands/billabongs for water treatment before it enters into Dandenong Creek	4	0	0
Can more be done to improve the aquatic wildlife in the Heatherdale Creek wetlands?	3	0	0
Small billabongs in this strip	3	0	0
would it be possible to to recreate a meandering waterway thru this area without flooding homes and disturbing parklands too much?	3	0	0
More stormwater treatment on this open patch of land could be good, prior to it entering the creek	2	0	1
Daylight the creek from the confluence of Old Joes Creek up to Bayswater Road	2	0	0
Use Yarrabing, mint & juniper model along this stretch too. Billabong systems to increase aquatic and bird habitat	2	1	1

Open up undergrounded section of Heatherdale Creek through current ponding basin to create a	2	0	0
Put snags, logs, and stumps back into the creek to provide cover and habitat for native fish species like eels.	2	0	0
I agree .	1	0	0
Potential water treatment location before it enter into the creek	1	0	0
Consider creating several small landscaped wetland/retarding basins on undergrounded sections of Heatherdale Creek within the Heatherdale Parklands. These could be used to slow storm flows which currently scour and destabilise the banks of the downstream open section of the creek. They could also be used to filter water passing through during low flow periods. They would increase community awareness of the creek and enhance the appearance and range of habitats in the park.	1	0	0
There are frogs in Heatherdale creek from time to time but not currently . If more permanent wetland areas could be created this would change .	0	0	0
Can this section be considered for concrete channel removal?	0	0	0
Consider creating several small landscaped wetland/retarding basins on undergrounded sections of Heatherdale Creek within the Heatherdale Parklands. These could be used to slow storm flows which currently scour and destabilise the banks of the downstream open section of the creek. They could also be used to filter water passing through during low flow periods. They would increase community awareness of the creek and enhance the appearance and range of habitats in the park.	0	0	0
Install some logs, branches or other structures to enable perching waterbirds birds to better use the wetlands. Overhead powerlines limit trees but visiting herons, cormorants, kingfishers and other species have virtually nowhere to perch at present.	0	0	0

Pollution prevention category

Idea marker	Up votes	Down votes	Discussion
Runoff from the ovals does occur. You could create a small wetland to the northern side of this oval to capture the water and filter it	12	0	3
Sediment trap to capture the rubbish coming out of this drain before it goes into the creek	7	1	0
Need a pollution trap here to stop pollution from drains entering Dandenong creek	6	0	0
More serious effort to isolate pollutants from Bungalook Creek needs to occur before entering Dandenong Creek	6	0	1
Divert what is flowing in the pollution drain which is old joes Creek and Bungalook Creek into the sewage system so there can be some hope that heavy metals and pesticide pollutants can be stopped from getting into the creek. At least have a system which seriously filters the water of these pollutants and educate more and legislate more to stop the pollution.	6	1	3
More pollution monitoring signs on the stormwater drains please	5	0	1
Tjere.appears to be a lot pf rubbish collecting here and there does not appear to be a regular maintenance program to clean this pollution.	4	0	0
Perfect spot for a small wetland; the water running of Canterbury Rd could be easily feed into this spot before entering the creek. Currently its not filtered.	3	0	0
Put more pollution signs, like you've done in Bayswater, along the stormwater drains	3	1	0
More pollution monitoring signs on the stormwater drains please	3	0	0
More pollution monitoring signs on the stormwater drains please	2	0	0
More pollution monitoring signs on the stormwater drains please	2	0	0
Agree this is a great idea, could also help to drain the sporting fields in winter to prevent them becoming boggy	1	0	0

Idea marker	Up votes	Down votes	Discussion
Same drain (see previous comment) few days after 10mm rainfall event. Filters, rubbish & sediment traps, and billabong system from here to Dandenong Creek confluence (and beyond)	1	0	0
A much better litter trap needs to be installed at the entrance to the wetland. Currently a lot of litter accumulates in the wetland, which looks unsightly, is terrible for the wildlife and requires regular maintenance.	1	0	0
Great idea	0	0	0
Totally agree, a great idea	0	0	0
Diverting Old Joes lets everyone off the hook - Keep people accountable for the crap they dump. Yes to filtration, education and enforcement tho	0	0	0
Lets not just accept that industrial areas are generating vast amounts of pollution and pass the buck. Reducing pollution by identifying polluters and making an example of them is the only way to improve urban creeks in the long term	0	0	0
Show people where the drain goes/what's impacted, a simple map or image. Out of site out of mind at the moment	0	0	0
Much improved area, future duck homes/reserve. Well done.	1	0	0
Very interesting signs to tell us something of the environment we are enjoying. I hope these interpretive signs have been treated with some sort of anti-graffiti coating prior to being installed. Just yesterday I was walking along the Mullum Mullum Creek trail in Ringwood and a lot of their interpretive signs can't be read due to graffiti.	0	0	0

General comment

Idea marker	Up votes	Down votes	Discussion
Skinks have previously been found in this area, but are in danger of becoming extinct due to the urbanisation of the area, and the planting of vegetation that does not provide ideal habitat for lizards. Such lizards (including Skinks) prefer direct sun for basking, and ground cover in which to hide and/or nest. The existing vegetation needs to be thinned out/cut back and new plantings of appropriate flora planted to make a more favourable habitat for the vulnerable skinks.	7	0	3
LOTS of weed species are building up along Bungalook Creek, and down to the confluence at Dandenong Creek	6	0	0
The stinky swamp hole needs some serious attention. Certain times of the year it is simply putrid. Either needs regular water flow or simply fill it in and drain to main creek....	5	5	0
TONS of weed species are taking over this area. Even though Eastlink have revegetated a strip along the bike path, there is still lots of work to be done down along the service road and the flood plain	5	0	1
Remove the concrete Channel through which the creek currently goes. Add bends and billabongs to mitigate flooding down stream. Revegetate to create habitat for indigenous species.	4	0	3
Could research and highlight any indigenous value from this junction	3	0	1
Winton Wetlands is a site of biological significance according to MW. The wetlands have been severely depleted of water since the channelisation of the creek and more recently the creation of Eastlink that cut off overland flow paths. Can we find a way to get water into these wetlands in patterns that reflect more natural times and hence support the natural environment?	3	0	0
The daylighting project is an inspirational example of how past environmental degradation can be reversed. It's wonderful to see and hear a flowing creek where once was just sterile weedy grassland. Seeing different species of ducks already using this section of the creek gives a hint of how rich this area will be in years to come.	2	0	0

Idea marker	Up votes	Down votes	Discussion
Open up / flatten the creek edges to create a natural interface like the recent works which are fantastic!	2	0	0
MW should seek to broaden the comment area and benefit zone here There is enormous opportunity to do a deal with Vicroads to create wetlands for stormwater/creek water treatment, urban forest with ghg offsets, recreation facilities, biolinks and walking trails thru the adjacent area - dont be put off by having to collaborate with pther govt agencies - in fact vicroads might be able to offset some of their road poluution through this concept	2	0	0
Billabong system through here is fantastic	2	0	0
Is the extreme concreting and railing really necessary? For future works, are permeable surfaces an option, well planted with buffer plants? The run-off from this path post heavy rain is pretty significant and the railing gives a very different message to what MW are trying to achieve.	2	1	2
Try and get some landscaping on the horrendous Manhattan Hotel carpark or at least around its margins. This area once had beautiful silver leafed stringybarks before Red Rooster went in. Improved amenity on this site and some way finding signage could help create a pedestrian/bike link from Dandenong Creek, through wetlands and up to Heatherdale Parklands. Ensure water sensitive urban design is applied in any redevelopment of the site.	2	0	0
Many people access this area from Cumberland Ave and the unmade Ti-Tree Ave/ Selkirk Ave. Council looks after Selkirk Ave however neglect Ti-Tree Ave. Ti-Tree Ave appears to be a dumping area for debris and is overgrown with blackberries.	1	0	0
"You got to start somewhere or nothing changes! And the large adjacent area with potential for floodplain restoration makes it a good first site. The impacts of urbanisation on this corridor are huge and warrant significant \$\$ spent, but with careful strategic planning to protect what we have and enhance the entire corridor's potential for biodiversity. However, funding should come from all the corporations/businesses that take from and/or damage the system, not just the managing body, MW"	1	1	0

Idea marker	Up votes	Down votes	Discussion
Riffle design should incorporate formal pedestrian fording options. Quit trying to prevent people from crossing at these important engagement and interaction sites and instead embrace the positioning and design of riffles to enable fording. Its not rocket science, its hydrology!	1	0	0
there could be an opportunity to intercept drainage flows in pipes under this sloping parkland and bring it the surface in summer and autumn to promote a green park which is often quite dry and hot in the summer ie Urban Cooling	1	0	0
it would be good to have an interpretive sign and sotory of rocky and the creation of rocky's paddock	1	0	0
Pic shows water line after recent 10mm downpour. What was once floodplains for this stretch is now sporting ovals. Higher IFD rainfalls must mean slowing the water runoff from the impervious industrial park	1	0	0
Serious weed removal and erosion-control reveg (get sporting clubs involved to help offset damage to system through massive sporting complex construction)	1	0	0
Great to see creation of depressions here	1	0	0
Installation of solar lighting along entire track to make it safer after dark amd encourahge people to use it after dark.	1	0	0
Daylighting creeks is a valuable exercise in certain situations where biodiversity and water quality issues will really benefit. At this location where Dandenong Creek is so severely degraded it begs the question if the cost of these works will provide a high level of benefit. It will create a litter issues and require a very high level of ongoing maintenance costs. This money could be better spent in higher quality areas to provide real biodiversity and water quality outcomes. Protect the best.	0	2	2
Ahh.....safety-first. The ever-increasing phenomenon of corporate hand-holding for public individuals and the travails of legal arse-covering.	0	0	0
I love what is being done with Dandenong Creek so far - are there any plans to create better habitat in the area of the creek from Liverpool Rd down to Dorset Rd?	0	0	0

Idea marker	Up votes	Down votes	Discussion
<p>This upgrade is a pleasant and wise upgrade to what was a narrow and dangerous section of trail, subject to inundation and erosion. This section was the scene of many cycling accidents (myself included). This work has enabled the path to be still used when creek flows are high. The comment about the run-off being high is utter rubbish. The surface area of the path is minor in comparison with the huge areas of grasslands.</p>	0	0	0
<p>Replace this underpass. It is too narrow and has caused several accidents to cyclists.</p>	0	0	0
<p>Safety issue: Several of the underpasses are extremely narrow for a cyclist to pass pedestrians, especially children who are unpredictable. Some are risky for two cyclists to pass. Much of the asphalt paved trail is effected by tree routes making it extremely bumpy to the point of danger for cyclists. Also, difficult for wheelchairs and prams</p>	0	0	0