

Chain of Ponds

Moonee Ponds Creek Catchment Collaboration Update November 2018

MOU signing ceremony and prospectus



In October, the collaboration hit a big milestone through the signing of the MOU and the development of the Chain of Ponds Prospectus.

The group of 17 organisations 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?”

The Governance Working Group did an excellent job at pulling this together achieving some high level buy in at the ceremony on the 10th October. Congratulations to all involved!

Although this was a key event, it does not exclude new organisations from signing onto the collaboration and further opportunities will continue to be explored.

***NEW* Waterways of the West Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC)**

On the 29th August, the Minister for Water and the Minister for Planning announced the establishment of this new committee to engage with communities and Traditional Owners to develop a Waterways of the West Action Plan.

The Action Plan will identify priority projects and areas for protection along urban waterways of the west, bringing to life community expectations and local values, and protecting the rich Aboriginal heritage of these areas.

Chris Chesterfield will be the independent Chair of the MAC, bringing his experience chairing the Advisory Committee that led to the establishment of landmark reforms to protect the Yarra River (Birrarung). Mr Chesterfield is highly regarded in the field of water sensitive urban design and water reform and will be a guest at the CoPC governance meeting scheduled for 20th December to discuss potential collaboration opportunities.

Boosting recreational outcomes with big \$\$

In addition to the Waterways of the West announcement, the Victorian Government announced \$1.2 million investment to improve recreational facilities along western waterways.

This funding includes a commitment of \$400,000 for the design and implementation of a project to unlock restricted open space for community recreation and activation along the Moonee Ponds Creek in Brunswick West/Essendon.

The project will focus on the 1 kilometre corridor south of Moreland Road and will improve community recreational use and access through the construction of pathways and stairs, improvements to an existing ford, fence modifications, and the installation of picnic tables, seating and wayfinding signage. In addition, the project will enhance visibility and safety through passive surveillance.

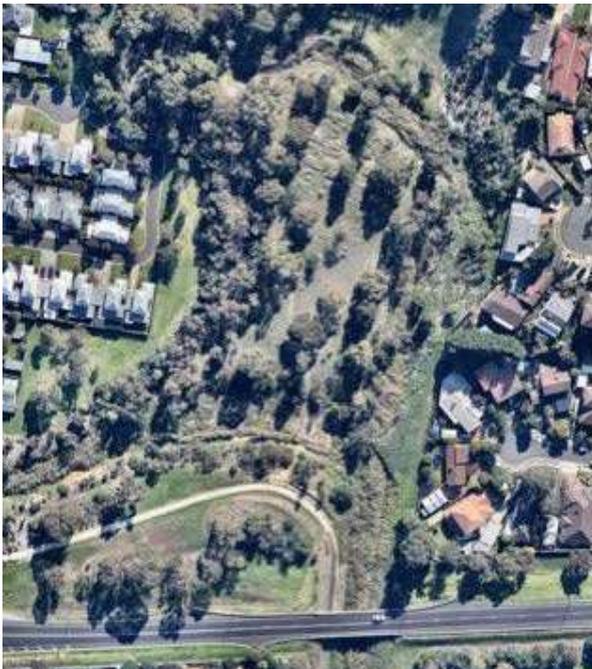


Westmeadows Meander to be ‘reimagined’

Through the Reimagining your Creek program, Melbourne Water has been working with community and stakeholders to design and restore sections of existing waterways back to their natural form. The program began as a pilot focussed on 5 creeks across Melbourne.

In some very exciting news, it has just been announced that the Westmeadows Meander along the Moonee Pond Creek in Hume will be the fifth creek included in this program!

Melbourne Water will work together with Hume City Council and the community to reintroduce water through the meander and implement associated amenity and landscape improvements. This is set to be a wonderful environmental and community asset to be enjoyed by many future generations.



Strategic Planning Working Group

Improving the consistency and effectiveness of planning controls has been a key project of the collaboration with a working group established to investigate the issue.

Strategic Planners from Councils have been engaged in the group and Melbourne Water has provided funding to Moreland Council to commission a consultant on behalf of the group. Their brief includes:

1. Desktop review of existing policies and controls
2. Desktop review of creek interfaces (zones, overlays and typologies).
3. Identification of issues/gaps
4. Draft report

Two client meetings are included in the consultants fee, one at the initial stage to confirm the brief and a second meeting as part of #3 above.

Maribyrnong IWM Forum

Led by DELWP, the Maribyrnong IWM Forum brings together many dedicated and forward looking water industry stakeholders, Traditional Owners and Local Government representatives. Many members of the Chain of Ponds Collaboration have been key players in the forum since the start.

A Strategic Directions Statement (SDS) has been developed which articulates the regional context, shared vision and water-related outcomes for the Maribyrnong catchment. It includes a prioritised list of IWM opportunities developed in collaboration by the Maribyrnong IWM Forum partners.

Two key opportunities for the Moonee Ponds Creek have been identified in the SDS with strong links to the Collaborations vision:

Business case development for MPC naturalisation

A feasibility investigation and development of a business case to progress the return of the northern most part of the concrete channel (near Brosnan Crescent) to a more natural land form. The naturalised channel is envisaged to facilitate more pedestrian access points, connectivity and recreational facilities, as well as increase community use of a linear park along the creek. DELWP has committed \$40,000 funding towards this project with matching funding from Councils and MW.

MPC catchment modelling and analysis

Up-to-date modelling incorporating comprehensive climate change scenarios to enable thorough analysis of options for stream modifications, including the removal a concrete channel in favour of a more natural creek environment. The data will also help determine and prioritise the best options to detain water higher in the catchment. This project is to be delivered with in-house expertise from MW and Councils.

Project groups will be developed to deliver these projects.

Keep up to date with what's happening For more information about this project or our other activities please call Lori Arthur, Moonee Ponds Creek Collaboration Lead on 9679 ####

