

# Frequently asked questions about the Patterson River Project



## 1. Why is this project happening?

The banks of the Patterson river are enclosed by levee banks to protect the Carrum, Bonbeach, Patterson Lakes and Bangholme communities (including the Eastern Treatment Plant) from flooding during times of high rainfall and king tides. Historically, the public land along the river and other land identified as floodway is vested with Melbourne Water.

The land along the Patterson River is due to be divested from Melbourne Water in 2018, and will mostly be gazetted as Unreserved Crown Land. Responsibility for flood mitigation remains with Melbourne Water, but, as has been shown around Carrum and Patterson Lakes, the land can be used for other non-flood related activities which are best delivered by other government agencies.

Much of the public land directly along the river, including the Carrum boat ramps and the National Water Sports Centre is managed informally for Melbourne Water by Parks Victoria. Melbourne Water leases or licences other land to operators such as water sports clubs, and the parking area manager at the boat ramps in Carrum.

Some of the current land users are requesting changes to their current tenure agreements. The land transfer is an opportunity for the local community and the users of the land to work with DELWP to identify future uses of the land in the context of the needs of the regular users and the wider community.

DELWP is seeking community feedback about how you would like the land to be managed, and what facilities could be provided in the future to increase amenity

value. Feedback will be consolidated into a Concept Plan for the Patterson River.

## 2. How is the DELWP Concept Plan different from the Boating Industry Association of Victoria (BIAV) Launching Way Precinct Master Plan, published in 2017?

The development of the BIAV Master Plan was funded by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources to address issues around the use of the Launching Way facilities by powered boat users and fishermen. During the plan's development, the BIAV conducted consultation with the boating and fishing community that use the Launching Way boat launching area as well as other local groups. The BIAV Master Plan primarily supports the aspirations of the powered boating and fishing community.

As the future land manager, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning acknowledges the work undertaken to complete the BIAV Master Plan, and will consider the outcomes of this plan as a basis for a wider consultation and involvement in the development of the Concept Plan.

## 3. How can I be involved with the project?

There are two main ways to be involved with the project.

- Complete the survey on this website, and agree to receive updates, draft plans etc during the life of the project. The survey is mainly targeting households in the

# Frequently asked questions about the Patterson River Project

adjoining suburbs, but if you want to complete it as a club or user group, please indicate this in your response.

- Attend the open house (location and dates to be published on this website when available) to provide direct feedback into the options paper and then the draft Concept Plan.

## 4. What is the National Water Sports Centre and what happens there?

The National Water Sports Centre was originally developed in 1988 in preparation for the 1996 Olympic Games, for which Melbourne's bid was ultimately unsuccessful. A ten-room rowing shed was constructed which is still in use today. The river was straightened and a 2000m system of submergible lane markers installed for on-water racing events.

Today, the 2000 metre rowing course is managed on behalf of Melbourne Water, by Parks Victoria.

The Centre is home to several water sports clubs including the NWSC Water Ski Club, Carrum Rowing Club, and the Patterson Lakes Radio Model Yacht club. Several local school rowing teams are based at the site. The site is also utilized by the Victorian Drag Boats Association, Navy Ski Club, and the Carrum Coarse Anglers. The boating industry also uses the NWSC to test boats.



The local community are often seen exercising their dogs along the banks of the river, and the Centre can be hired out for functions through Parks Victoria via <http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/explore/parks/national-water-sports-centre>.

The Centre can be utilised during its open use periods on Tuesdays and Fridays. Refer to the timetable for use, at the link above.

In 2015, the Melbourne Cable Park leased part of the NWSC site to develop its cable skiing course.

## 5. Why are there levee banks along the river?

The Patterson River is a man-made river, cut from the Carrum Carrum swamp at the confluence of the Dandenong and Eumemmerring creeks in 1878, after attempts to drain the swampland was ineffective. Traditionally the land of the Bunurong people, the land was initially used by white settlers for dairy production. The levee banks are the fill taken from the cut at the time, as the low-lying land was still prone to flooding after the drainage line was dug. During high rainfall, the Dandenong and Eumemmerring Creeks will flood the Patterson River, regularly inundating the banks to the base of the levee banks.

Locks, maintained by Melbourne Water, at the entrances to the Patterson Lakes prevent king tides and floods from inundating suburbia.



© The State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2018



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence. You are free to re-use the work under that licence, on the condition that you credit the State of Victoria as author. The licence does not apply to any images, photographs or branding, including the Victorian Coat of Arms, the Victorian Government logo and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) logo. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

### Disclaimer

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

## Accessibility

If you would like to receive this publication in an alternative format, please telephone the DELWP Customer Service Centre on 136186, email [customer.service@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:customer.service@delwp.vic.gov.au), or via the National Relay Service on 133 677 [www.relayservice.com.au](http://www.relayservice.com.au). This document is also available on the internet at [www.delwp.vic.gov.au](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au).