

# Waterways of the West

Annual Report 2023



We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it.

We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

DEECA is committed to genuinely partnering with Victorian Traditional Owners and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.



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# Overview

The Victorian Government released the Waterways of the West Action Plan in late 2022 to ensure Melbourne's western waterways are healthy and thriving for future generations.

The Waterways of the West Annual Report updates the community on progress towards delivering the 9 directions and 40 actions that make up the Action Plan. These reports deliver the Victorian Government's commitment to update the community annually on implementation of the 5-year Action Plan.

The Bunurong, Wadawurrung and Wurundjeri Woi wurrung peoples have cared for this Country and its integrated waterways for millennia. The Action Plan recognises the Waterways of the West as living and integrated natural entities, and Traditional Owners as the voice of these living entities.

A new community-led approach, the Action Plan is guided by a 50-year community vision. The vision encourages agencies and community to walk together with the Traditional Owners of the Melbourne West.

## How the 5-year Action Plan builds on the vision for the Waterways of the West

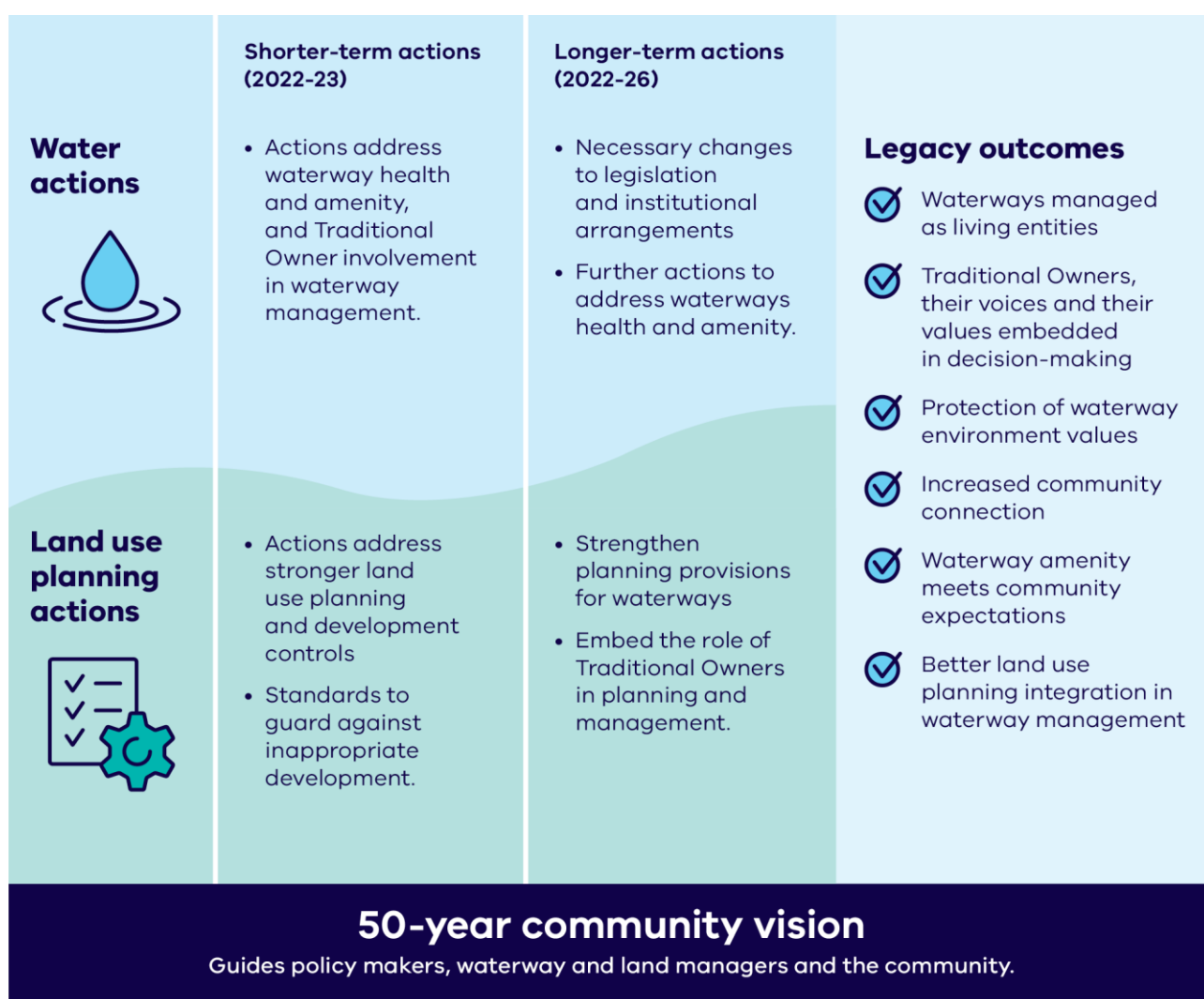


Figure 1: Waterways of the West implementation framework

# Collaboration driving the Action Plan forward

Collaboration is central to how we get things done. By bringing together agencies, Traditional Owners and communities throughout the region, we move closer to realising the 50-year Waterways of the West community vision and delivering the beneficial outcomes we are collectively seeking for the health of our waterways.

Community groups in Melbourne's West are leaders in collaborative ways of working. The Maribyrnong Rivers and Waterways Association (MRWA) is a community-based organisation that is raising the profile of the waterways in the Mirrangbamurn/Maribyrnong catchment. In 2023, supported by Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) funding, the MRWA is forging relationships with the community, Traditional Owners, agencies and all levels of government to increase community connection, education and participation in river-related activities. This will in turn facilitate systemic environmental change and greater investment in enhancing the Mirrangbamurn/Maribyrnong River and surrounding waterways.

**Meet me by the River: A guide to Wirribi Yaluk (Werribee River)** was developed by the Werribee River Association and published in 2023, fulfilling an action of the Lower Werribee Waterways Amenity Action Plan. It is a great new resource for local residents and visitors alike, highlighting key spots along the river and suggested itineraries for different interests and abilities including family days out, food and art trails, and nature hot spots.

The Waterways of the West Pollution Prevention Taskforce brought together Traditional Owners, Melbourne Water and local councils to strengthen implementation of the general environmental duty (GED) in the industrial precincts of the Waterways of the West. Throughout 2022, Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) (as secretariat of the independently-chaired taskforce), worked with DEECA, Melbourne Water, councils and Bunurong, Wadawurrung and Wurundjeri Woi wurrung Traditional Owners to investigate pollution threats to waterways and recommend ways to reduce risk.

Cross-portfolio collaboration between DEECA and the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) will deliver strengthened planning policy and controls for waterways. The Victorian Government has committed to applying new planning controls to protect 14 key waterways, including Waterways of the West such as Mirrangbamurn/Maribyrnong River, Wirribi Yaluk/Werribee River, Cherry Creek, Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha, Kororoit Creek, Moonee Moonee/Moonee Ponds Creek, Steele Creek, Stony Creek and 6 other waterways across Melbourne.

## Action Plan implementation

In 2023, the Waterways of the West Action Plan outcomes included:

- the finalisation and presentation of Waterways of the West Pollution Taskforce's recommendation report to DEECA
- implementation of the Lower Werribee Waterway Amenity Action Plan including the K Road Cliffs Masterplan, cultural values assessments by both Bunurong and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, and launched the 'Meet me by the River' online guide
- engagement with Bunurong, Wadawurrung and Wurundjeri Woi wurrung Traditional Owners to develop the 'Waterways as living entities and Traditional Owners as their voice' discussion paper
- progression of urban planning actions outlined in the Action Plan and DTP running a series of workshops with local government authorities (LGAs), Traditional Owners and community organisations.

## Port Phillip Bay Western Shoreline Regional and Strategic Partnership (RASP)

Action 5.3 supports the delivery of coastal resilience planning along Port Phillip Bay's north-western shoreline, identifying effective adaption strategies and actions to mitigate the impacts of climate change and rising sea levels on natural systems.

Regional and Strategic Partnerships (RASPs), formed under the Marine and Coastal Act (2018) [Marine and Coastal Act 2018 \(marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au\)](https://marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au), are formal partnership approaches used by key land management agencies to respond to identified regional issues relating to or affecting the marine and coastal environment.

Following [Victoria's Resilient Coast – Adapting for 2100+ Framework \(marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au\)](https://marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au), the Port Phillip Bay Western Shoreline RASP is responding to specific regional issues of climate change and coastal hazard impacts on marine and coastal values of the project area. These include the ecosystem adaptation needs of the area's internationally-significant Ramsar-listed wetlands. The RASP area also features a marine and coastal sanctuary, and many other coastal parks and reserves. The outcome of the RASP project will be the development of an overarching Coastal Hazard Adaptation and Resilience Plan for the Port Phillip Bay western shoreline by 2025/26. The Coastal Hazard and Resilience Plan is a long-term strategic plan that guides management, decision-making and investment across partners' management areas.

The RASP was gazetted by the Minister for Environment in February 2024. This formalised the partnership between the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Parks Victoria, Hobson's Bay City Council, Wyndham City Council, City of Greater Geelong, Melbourne Water, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority and DEECA, acting as lead agency.

The RASP boundary extends from Greenwich Reserve, Williamstown to Limeburners Bay (Hovells Creek estuary), Greater Geelong. It encompasses all Ramsar-listed and significant coastal wetlands along the Port Phillip Bay western shoreline, extending roughly 5 kilometres inland and to a marine boundary in the bay of 10 metres deep (10m isobath).

Going forward, the partnership will draw on the learnings from other collaborative engagement processes including the [Cape to Cape Resilience RASP](#) and the City of Greater Geelong's Our Coast program. In 2024 the partnership will begin community and stakeholder engagement, deliver ecological, cultural, community, economic and social assessments of the project area, and provide a coastal risk and vulnerability assessment.

## Award-winning collaboration for the Lower Werribee

The Lower Werribee Waterway Amenity Action Plan was awarded the 2023 Victorian Award of Excellence in the Land Management category of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects Awards.

The Lower Werribee Waterway Amenity Action Plan, launched in 2022, was recognised by the Australia Institute for Landscape Architects for its transformative approach to shared leadership. The awards recognise achievements in landscape planning, design and management projects across a variety of scale and sectors.

The jury commended the ‘project team and partners on their leadership and transformative approach to co-designing this plan, which drew on the leadership and teachings of our First Nations custodians.’

Drawing on Bunurong and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners’ knowledge of how to care for Country, the plan articulates a shared vision for improved amenity, cultural and environmental values, and enhanced community access and activation of the blue-green corridor.

This vision guided the implementation of the Amenity Action Plan in 2023 including:

- delivery of the “Meet me by the river” guide
- ongoing planning and advocacy for a fully-connected trail along Werribee River that will link to nearby trails
- cultural values assessments undertaken by both Bunurong and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners
- progress on a new signage strategy for the length of the river that will better support visitation, use and access
- advocacy for increased environmental flows through the Sustainable Water Strategy to also deliver cultural, recreational and amenity benefits
- community engagement and educational programs with local schools
- investment in increasing vegetation and work on widening of the riparian strip along the river.

The Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Regional Parklands Plan 2022 was also awarded a citation in the same category at the awards.

## Action status update

The Action Plan outlines 9 directions and 40 actions that aim to deliver results across a 5-year period. The majority of shorter-term actions were delivered and reported on in the [first Annual Report in 2022](#). The 2023 reporting below reflects this, providing further detail on ongoing, shorter-term actions and longer-term actions which are now in planning or progressing.

While each action below lists a responsible lead organisation, the delivery of the Action Plan is only achievable through extensive collaboration across agency/organisation boundaries. This is most apparent in working to deliver ‘living entity’ and ‘voice’ outcomes, where agencies and community walk together with Traditional Owners towards a shared future.

A detailed explanation of all deliverables and actions, including background, can be found in the [Waterways of the West Action Plan](#).

## Direction 1: Recognise the Waterways of the West as living and integrated natural entities and the Traditional Owners as the ‘voice of these living entities’ implementation to date

### Shorter-term

#### Action 1.1 ‘Living entity’ and ‘voice’ for Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS)

- **Status:** Delivered in 2022
- **Led by:** Melbourne Water

#### Action 1.2 Bunurong, Wadawurrung and Wurundjeri aspirations in RCS planning

- **Status:** Delivered in 2022
- **Led by:** Melbourne Water

#### Action 1.3 Support for Bunurong, Wadawurrung and Wurundjeri to express ‘voice of living entities’

- **Status:** Ongoing
- **Led by:** DEECA

With self-determined as a priority, DEECA will continue to support Bunurong, Wadawurrung and Wurundjeri Woi wurrung Traditional Owners to express what being ‘the voice of the living entities’ is to them through policy and legislation. Examples include:

the renewal of the Victorian Waterway Management Strategy (VWMS), which is being developed in partnership with Traditional Owners and will incorporate the living entity concept

the Pollution Prevention Taskforce (Action 7.1) which provided Traditional Owners with the opportunity to ‘speak for the river.’

### Longer-term

#### Action 1.4 Wider engagement with Traditional Owners about ‘living entity’ and ‘voice’

- **Status:** In progress
- **Led by:** DEECA

A discussion paper on ‘Waterways as living entities and Traditional Owners as their voice’ is being developed. It will test a proposed legislative mechanism to enshrine these concepts in legislation with Traditional Owners, waterway managers, community and other stakeholders state-wide throughout 2024 (noting that this is also Outcome 1 in Water is Life: Traditional Owner Access to Water Roadmap).

#### Action 1.5 Investigate legislation for ‘living entity’ and ‘voice’ concepts

- **Status:** Planned
- **Led by:** DEECA

Subject to discussion paper engagement outcomes (see Action 1.4) and consistent with the commitments in Water is Life: Traditional Owner Access to Water Roadmap, consultation will be held on proposed legislative mechanisms.

#### Action 1.6 Traditional Owner preamble for possible legislation

- **Status:** Planned
- **Led by:** DEECA

Subject to Actions 1.4 and 1.5.

## Direction 2: Embed Traditional Owners' values in planning and decision-making for waterways

### Shorter-term

#### Action 2.1 Embed connections to Country in RCS

- **Status:** Delivered in 2022
- **Led by:** Melbourne Water

#### Action 2.2 Partnerships to implement 'voice' on Country

- **Status:** Ongoing
- **Led by:** Melbourne Water

Melbourne Water will continue to partner with Bunurong, Wadawurrung and Wurundjeri Woi wurrung to deliver outcomes on Country, including implementing the 'voice of the living entities.' The timing and delivery of this action will be guided by partnerships and a self-determined approach with each of the Traditional Owner groups and Water is Life.

#### Action 2.3 Support for Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Regional Parklands cultural values study

- **Status:** Delivered in 2022
- **Led by:** DEECA

### Longer-term

#### Action 2.4 Jacksons Creek Planning Partnership

- **Status:** Planned
- **Led by:** DTP and DEECA

Subject to funding, DEECA will partner with Wurundjeri Woi wurrung to deliver a pilot Jacksons Creek Planning Partnership to embed cultural mapping values that inform future protections and form part of the broader Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Regional Parklands Masterplan.

#### Action 2.5 Traditional Owner values and knowledge in land use planning

- **Status:** Planned
- **Led by:** DEECA and DTP

Subject to available funding, both departments will investigate potential amendments to the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and the planning policy framework to embed Traditional Owners and their values. This will include development of tools to support agencies, Traditional Owner groups and planning practitioners to implement any amendments to the Act and the planning policy framework.

#### Action 2.6 RCS reporting Traditional Owner aspirations

- **Status:** Planned
- **Led by:** Melbourne Water

Melbourne Water has committed to work with Bunurong, Wadawurrung and Wurundjeri Woi wurrung to include an assessment by the Traditional Owners of RCS activities in mid- and end-of-term RCS reporting to give effect to Traditional Owners' aspirations and Country plans. The mid-term review is expected to take place in 2025.

#### Action 2.7 Bunurong, Wadawurrung and Wurundjeri Healthy Waterway Strategy Partnership

- **Status:** Planned

- **Led by:** Melbourne Water

Regular discussions and on-Country meetings are taking place with Bunurong, Wadawurrung and Wurundjeri Woi wurrung Traditional Owners in preparation of a review of the 2018 Healthy Waterways Strategy.

## **Direction 3: Strengthen planning policy and controls for waterways**

### **Shorter-term**

#### **Action 3.1 Stronger planning policy and guidance**

- **Status:** Delivered in 2022
- **Led by:** DTP

#### **Action 3.2 Interim landscape and environmental controls for key waterways**

- **Status:** Delivered in 2022
- **Led by:** DTP

### **Longer-term**

#### **Action 3.3 Interim built-form controls for key waterways**

- **Status:** Planned
- **Led by:** DTP

DTP has conducted background studies to support stronger built-form planning controls for Mirrangbamurn/Maribyrnong River, Moonee Moonee/Moonee Ponds Creek and Wirribi Yaluk/Werribee River.

#### **Action 3.4 Planning controls for additional waterways**

- **Status:** In progress
- **Led by:** DTP

DTP is currently investigating planning controls for the Mirrangbamurn/Maribyrnong River, Moonee Moonee/Moonee Ponds Creek and Wirribi Yaluk/Werribee River beyond the urban growth boundary, as well Cherry Creek, Stony Creek and Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha.

This work complements the Victorian Government's commitment to delivering planning controls across 14 waterways in Melbourne to protect their landscape, environmental and cultural characteristics through the [Planning Controls for Waterways program](#).

#### **Action 3.5 Review of interim planning controls**

- **Status:** Planned
- **Led by:** DTP

Review is planned to occur in 2025-26.

## **Direction 4: Improve waterway amenity to meet community expectations**

### **Shorter-term**

#### **Action 4.1 Waterway amenity values in RCS**

- **Status:** Delivered in 2022

- **Led by:** Melbourne Water

## **Action 4.2 Develop a Lower Werribee Waterway Amenity Action Plan**

- **Status:** Delivered in 2022
- **Led by:** Melbourne Water

## **Action 4.3 Waterway amenity advocacy**

- **Status:** In progress
- **Led by:** Melbourne Water

Melbourne Water continues to lead the implementation of the Healthy Waterways Strategy in the West with many actions contributing to both environmental and amenity outcomes. Amenity value mapping of waterways for the RCS is now complete and supports more detailed and strategic amenity planning outcomes such as the development of the Lower Werribee Waterways Amenity Action Plan.

Melbourne Water has also commenced the process for renewing Waterway Corridors: Guidelines for areas within the Port Phillip and Westernport Region.

Melbourne Water is working with DTP to support improved outcomes for amenity along waterways through the Planning Controls for Waterways program.

## **Longer-term**

### **Action 4.4 Melbourne Water statement of obligations to reflect amenity role**

- **Status:** In progress
- **Led by:** DEECA

Melbourne Water is progressing the investigation of options for expanding its amenity advocacy role. An updated Statement of Obligations for water corporations including Melbourne Water is expected to be released in 2024.

### **Action 4.5 Victorian Waterway Management Strategy – urban waterway values**

- **Status:** In progress
- **Led by:** DEECA

The new Victorian Waterway Management Strategy is due to be released in 2025. Work is underway on a chapter outlining urban waterway values and priorities.

## **Direction 5: Better protection of the region's wetland values**

## **Shorter-term**

### **Action 5.1 Wetland mapping data update**

- **Status:** Delivered in 2022
- **Led by:** DEECA

### **Action 5.2 RCS wetland mapping**

- **Status:** Delivered in 2022
- **Led by:** Melbourne Water

## **Longer-term**

### **Action 5.3 Adaptation strategies for western shoreline wetlands of Port Phillip Bay**

- **Status:** In progress
- **Led by:** DEECA

The Port Phillip Bay western shoreline Regional and Strategic Partnership was gazetted by the Minister for Environment in February 2024.

*See Implementation in Focus – Port Phillip Bay western shoreline Regional and Strategic Partnership (RASP).*

### **Action 5.4 Western shoreline wetlands master plan**

- **Status:** Planned
- **Led by:** DEECA

Masterplan to follow Port Phillip Bay western shoreline RASP development (Action 5.3)

## **Direction 6: Identify opportunities to meet environmental and cultural water needs**

### **Shorter-term**

#### **Action 6.1 Funding for Traditional Owner cultural water assessment priorities**

- **Status:** Delivered in 2022
- **Led by:** DEECA

### **Longer-term**

#### **Action 6.2 Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy water options for environment and culture**

- **Status:** In progress
- **Led by:** DEECA

The Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy (CGRSWS), released in September 2022, includes commitments to returning an additional 10GL to Wirribi Yaluk/Werribee River and 7GL to Mirrangbamurn/Maribyrnong River over the next 10 years.

Short-term environmental water commitments for Wirribi Yaluk/Werribee River have been progressed through water savings from the Macalister Irrigation District and Bacchus Marsh Irrigation District projects. Long-term commitments are dependent on the Werribee system reconfiguration, for which water resource modelling to identify system configuration options has occurred. Design and costing for this work is expected to conclude in 2024.

Initial investigations are underway regarding use and/or trade of unused water in the Maribyrnong system for use as environmental water.

Catchment-scale Integrated Water Management plans for Werribee and Maribyrnong catchments to increase use of recycled water, treated stormwater and rainwater have been finalised. Their associated Actions Plans were released in April 2024. All plans are available at [IWM forums \(water.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.water.vic.gov.au/iwm-forums).

## **Direction 7: Protect the Waterways of the West from pollution**

### **Shorter-term**

#### **Action 7.1 Pollution prevention taskforce**

- **Status:** Delivered
- **Led by:** DEECA & EPA

The Waterways of the West Pollution Prevention Taskforce was a collaborative approach to strengthen implementation of the general environmental duty (GED) in the industrial precincts of the Waterways of the West. The taskforce completed its investigations in late 2022.

There were 5 broad taskforce recommendations that built on EPA's existing regulatory tools and the general environmental duty provision of the Environment Protection Act 2017. These related to:

- improving business awareness of and compliance with their obligations
- building on Traditional Owner connections to Country to promote protection of Country
- strengthening water quality and pollution data arrangements within and between agencies
- leveraging community education and citizen science programs
- supporting industry to improve environment protection practices, including recognising excellence in stormwater management on businesses' premises.

The taskforce provided high-level estimates of the implementation costs of its recommendations and, where possible, identified potential sources of funding to support delivery.

Coinciding with its leadership of the taskforce, EPA conducted several preventative inspection campaigns in areas of the inner-west in 2022, including around Kororoit Creek and Cherry Creek. The campaigns aimed to raise awareness among small to medium businesses and ensure compliance with obligations under the Environment Protection Act 2017. This was part of a state-wide focus on the protection of local waterways.

## Longer-term

### Action 7.2 Priority pollution prevention projects

- **Status:** Planned
- **Led by:** DEECA and EPA

The longer-term commitment of the Action Plan is to undertake actions proposed by the Pollution Prevention Taskforce. DEECA is currently considering recommendations developed by the taskforce and reviewing funding and partnerships options pending the outcome of the 2024/25 budget.

### Action 7.3 Implementation of place-based stormwater objectives

- **Status:** In progress
- **Led by:** Melbourne Water

Melbourne Water has committed funding to deliver the first stages of the Sunbury Stormwater Harvesting Scheme (2021-2026). The scheme is currently in the design and delivery phase. This scheme will harvest approx. 3.8GL of excess stormwater from the Sunbury growth area to protect and prevent further degradation of Emu and Jacksons Creeks by 2050. It will be a smart network of approximately 36 stormwater harvesting wetlands, pumps, pipelines and storage, which has been designed to enable flexibility with supplying multiple end-use options.

Melbourne Water is also leading a project to investigate the potential to harvest up to 80% of new stormwater from the Melton Growth Area. The Werribee Reconfiguration Project – Melton Stormwater Harvesting to Merrimu Reservoir is also investigating further options to build a pipeline from Melton Reservoir to Merrimu Reservoir to transfer the harvested stormwater from Melton Growth Area and Bacchus Marsh for fit-for-purpose end uses. Stage 1 of the Melton scheme is expected to save 1.5GL per year of stormwater from the Melton Growth area. This project is in the business-case-in-development stage.

## Direction 8: Increase community connection, education and participation

### Shorter-term

#### Action 8.1 Community engagement about Traditional Owner culture and values

- **Status:** Delivered
- **Led by:** Melbourne Water

Community engagement and cultural awareness programs for community groups with Bunurong, Wadawurrung and Wurundjeri Woi wurrung Traditional Owners was completed in May 2024. The program

included cultural heritage training and on-Country site visits with all Traditional Owners, as well as the production of a Wadawurrung-specific cultural heritage and cultural values short film.

## **Action 8.2 Community engagement strategy, including CALD**

- **Status:** Delivered
- **Led by:** Melbourne Water

This project has seen increased community participation, stewardship and capacity to value and take action to improve waterways achieved through several activities.

In partnership with the Werribee River Association, Melbourne Water's CALD Engagement program delivered over 50 community engagement events, more than 20 urban walks and 4 events with Traditional Owners. It also hosted combined Landcare and Waterwatch meetings. In targeting local CALD communities, the program opened up opportunities for education, participation and an enhanced connection to the natural environment.

The Growing Waterway Knowledge and Engagement in the West Project has run 10 events to date, including a community planting day in July 2024. The Grow West project received further funding under the Green Links Grants program in February 2024. This will fund further events and by its end, an estimated 600+ people will have engaged with the project since its inception.

## **Action 8.3 CALD engagement toolkit**

- **Status:** Delivered in 2022
- **Led by:** DEECA

## **Action 8.4 Community Vision inclusion in RCS**

- **Status:** Delivered in 2022
- **Led by:** Melbourne Water

## **Longer-term**

## **Action 8.5 Community Vision inclusion in Healthy Waterway Strategy programs**

- **Status:** In progress
- **Led by:** Melbourne Water

The mid-term review of the Healthy Waterways Strategy was completed in mid-2024. The co-designed catchment programs for the Wirribi Yaluk/Werribee and the Mirrangbamurn/Maribyrnong River catchments will be amended to include the Waterways of the West community vision.

# **Direction 9: Ensure accountability and transparency for Action Plan delivery**

## **Shorter-term**

## **Action 9.1 Annual implementation report**

- **Status:** Ongoing
- **Led by:** DEECA

The first Annual Report was published in April 2023. This report was for the second year of implementation, from March 2023 to February 2024.

## **Longer-term**

## **Action 9.2 Final review of implementation**

- **Status:** In progress

- **Led by:** DEECA

Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Implementation frameworks have been developed.

### **Action 9.3 Waterway condition reporting through Healthy Waterways Strategy**

- **Status:** In progress
- **Led by:** Melbourne Water

The Healthy Waterways Strategy Annual Report for 2023 and mid-term review will be released in 2024. Melbourne Water will provide an assessment of waterway performance objectives and the values and condition in the Werribee and Maribyrnong catchments for insights on the impact of the Action Plan, Healthy Waterways Strategy and other initiatives.

## **Looking ahead to 2024-25**

The Waterways of the West Action Plan will enter the third year of its 5-year implementation timeframe in 2024-25. Some highlights of the year ahead include:

- Engagement with Traditional Owners across the Waterways of the West and beyond on waterways as living entities, exploring possible legislative models in more detail
- Ongoing work by Port Phillip and Western Port Regional and Strategic Partnership towards developing a Coastal Hazard Adaptation and Resilience Plan
- New Victorian Waterway Management Strategy policy development and drafting will continue to be developed in close collaboration with Traditional Owners, catchment management authorities and other project partners, with input from key stakeholder groups and the broader Victorian community. It follows on from the 2023 release of a discussion starter, and public and stakeholder consultation to explore issues and opportunities for the new strategy. The strategy is expected to be finalised in 2024-25
- Conclusion and outcomes from the 2022 Iconic Urban Waterways (Waterways of the West) Grants Program. 10 projects were funded including:
  - work on developing a concept design around improving amenity and access for Bungies Hole in Werribee
  - community engagement activities and CALD program development
  - a functional design report for a stormwater harvesting project on Cherry Creek, Altona
  - funding to support Wurundjeri to work with the Chain of Ponds Collaboration to enhance cultural heritage values and self-determined priorities along Moonee Moonee/Moonee Ponds Creek
- The [Green Links Grants Program](#) awarded over \$6 million to 23 projects in 2023-24. Of these, 10 are in the Waterways of the West region and will collectively receive \$1.5 million in funding. Planning and on-ground revegetation works for all projects is expected to commence in 2024-25.

