

# STATEMENT OF INTENT/MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

## PURPOSE

This Statement of Intent/Memorandum of Understanding:

- Defines, at a high-level, the drainage problem of concern to communities living, working and visiting within the Elster Creek catchment
- Sets out the core principles to promote collaboration between the four relevant councils and Melbourne Water to find effective evidence-based and innovative solutions to address the catchment's flooding issues, where possible.

## DEFINITIONS

- The four relevant Councils are:
  - The City of Bayside
  - The City of Glen Eira
  - The City of Kingston
  - The City of Port Phillip.

## PROBLEM STATEMENT

Flooding is a function of rainfall runoff across the Elster Creek catchment, as well as storm surge and king tides. Climate change and infill development will exacerbate the frequency and impact of flooding events.

Downstream flooding within Elwood is disproportionate to its area of the catchment. Reducing the impact of increased runoff on flood vulnerable areas requires the Elster Creek catchment to be managed as a whole - all flood retention opportunities to reduce flood impact are to be considered irrespective of municipal boundaries.

It is recognised that evidence-based and innovative solutions should consider co-existence of multiple land-uses and multi-functions to achieve optimal community benefit, noting that flood mitigation investment is mutually inclusive with both passive and active recreation.

Previous attempts to adapt the built form of Elwood to flooding have resulted in some positive impacts but the community is eager for greater levels of change.

Flooding has a high social as well as economic cost and there is an opportunity to increase preparedness of residents.

## CORE PRINCIPLES

Councils and Melbourne Water are committed to cooperating across municipalities and with water utilities and State departments for the purpose of exploring a whole-of-catchment approach. Engagement with community members is paramount in developing a common understanding of effective ways to address the problem. Specifically, Councils and Melbourne Water will:

1. Be transparent in all interactions and share information with the intent of establishing a shared understanding of the factors influencing the problem.
2. Embed a common language in community engagement processes that is constructive and meaningful for community members.
3. Be considerate of each organisation's respective circumstances, including but not limited to, community interests, commercial imperatives and strategic contexts.
4. Collaborate to identify evidence-based and innovative solutions with a best-for-regional catchment community mindset.
5. Ensure opportunities to build community resilience are explored and actively pursued.

**Signed on behalf of:**

Melbourne Water

**Signed on behalf of:**

City of Bayside

**Signed on behalf of:**

City of Glen Eira

**Signed on behalf of:**

City of Kingston

**Signed on behalf of:**

City of Port Phillip