



11.2 YARRA AND DANDENONG CATCHMENT INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT PLANS

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1. PURPOSE

1.1 To present the draft Yarra and Dandenong Integrated Water Management (IWM) Plans (**the Plans**) to Council for endorsement.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 The Victorian Government introduced its Water Plan, *Water for Victoria*, in 2016. One of the actions in this Plan is to 'Represent community values and local opportunities in planning' by facilitating Integrated Water Management (IWM) Forums designed to facilitate a collaborative, catchment-based approach to water planning and management.

2.2 IWM Forums were established and the City of Port Phillip are part of the Dandenong and Yarra Catchment Forums. Forums are comprised of executive and CEO level representatives. The Forums are supported by officer level working groups.

2.3 Both IWM Forums developed Strategic Direction Statements which were endorsed by Council at the 1 August 2018 Council Meeting.

2.4 Both IWM Forums have now developed Draft Catchment Integrated Water Management Plans, which are included in **Attachments 1 and 2**. Summaries of these Plans are included in **Attachments 3 and 4**.

2.5 Endorsement by Council of the Catchment IWM Plans will demonstrate ongoing support for Forum activities including priority projects that relate directly to the Sustainable Port Phillip direction of the Council Plan. It would also provide an opportunity to participate in associated State Government grant funding opportunities. The Plans do not commit Council to any specific actions or targets.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

3.1 Endorses the draft Integrated Water Management Plans for both the Yarra and Dandenong Catchments contained at **Attachments 1 and 2** and delegates to the CEO the endorsement of the final Plans to the extent that they contain minor amendments which do not alter their substantive intent.

3.2 Continues to support Council Officer involvement in the Yarra Integrated Water Management Forum and Dandenong Integrated Water Management Forum.



4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 The Victorian Government introduced its Water Plan, *Water for Victoria* in 2016. This Plan takes a long-term view of our water resources in order to prepare Victoria for the challenges of climate change and population growth.
- 4.2 One of the Actions in this Plan is to 'Represent community values and local opportunities in planning' by facilitating Integrated Water Management (IWM) Forums designed to facilitate a collaborative, catchment-based approach.
- 4.3 IWM Forums were established in 2017 and the City of Port Phillip is a member of the Dandenong and Yarra Catchment Forums. Forums are comprised of executive and CEO level representatives of participating organisations. There are 23 participating organisations in the Dandenong Forum catchment area and 29 participating organisations in the Yarra Forum catchment area. The Forums are supported by officer level working groups.
- 4.4 The objectives of the IWM Forums are to facilitate and coordinate a shared vision, approach and actions which progressing integrated water management to deliver multiple benefits and best community value solutions.
- 4.5 Forum members, including Water Authorities, Catchment Management Authorities, Councils and Traditional Owner Corporations, participated in workshops to develop Strategic Direction Statements. These set the strategic and place-based priorities relevant to the Forum area. These were endorsed by Council at the 1 August 2018 Council meeting. The Council report, attachments and minutes can be viewed on Council's website here: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/media/vxdh2nfw/report-11-2.pdf>.
- 4.6 Forum members acknowledged that the lack of existing IWM Plans at the catchment scale presented a barrier to effectively achieving the Forum's vision and strategic outcomes. This prompted agreement to develop Catchment Scale IWM Plans for each metropolitan Forum Area.
- 4.7 The Catchment Scale IWM Plans are intended to bridge the gap between regional scale State led IWM planning and local scale planning, such as our IWM strategy contained within the *Council Plan and Act and Adapt: Sustainable Environment Strategy*.
- 4.8 Forum Members have worked together to develop Draft Catchment Integrated Water Management Plans for their Forum areas. This work involved a range of bio-physical and strategic assessments which set a baseline understanding for each catchment. This has been utilised to develop evidence-based plans with a strategic and collaborative focus.
- 4.9 These Plans are included in **Attachments 1 and 2**. Summaries of these Plans are included in **Attachments 3 and 4**.
- 4.10 The Plans contain medium and long term (2030 and 2050) catchment scale targets. Targets are framed around seven key measures:
 - Safe, secure and affordable water supplies in an uncertain future
 - Effective and affordable wastewater systems
 - Existing and future flood risks are managed to maximise outcomes for the community



- Healthy and valued waterways and marine environments
- Healthy and valued urban and rural landscapes
- Community values are reflected in place-based planning
- Jobs, economic benefits and innovation.

4.11 These priorities broadly align with the Council Plan 2021 and *Act and Adapt: Sustainable Environment Strategy 2018-28*. They do not commit Council to any specific actions or targets.

4.12 'Priority projects' have also been identified. Three highly relevant projects to the City of Port Phillip are currently included in the Dandenong and Yarra Catchments:

- Elster Creek Catchment Flood Management (Dandenong)
- Elsternwick Park (Dandenong)
- Fishermans Bend IWM Plan (Yarra)

4.13 The next phase of the Forum process will include the development of detailed project implementation plans and a monitoring and reporting framework. This work will commence in coming months.

4.14 Participation in the Forums provides an opportunity to participate in associated Department of Environment Land Water and Planning grant funding opportunities.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

5.1 The Catchment IWM Plans have been workshopped and developed through the respective Working Groups and Forums over the past two years.

5.2 It is anticipated that community participation and engagement will occur on an individual project basis.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no identified risks associated with participating in the Forums or endorsing the Plans.

6.2 Failing to endorse the Plans could lead to the risk that Council misses out on future State government funding opportunities and has less influence over key priority projects that are significant to the municipality.

7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

7.1 There is no anticipated financial impact from endorsing the Plans. For instance, there is no requirement for partners to fund any additional activities.

7.2 Participation in the Forums provides an opportunity to participate in associated Department of Environment Land Water and Planning grant funding opportunities.

7.3 Staff participation in Forums and Working Groups is covered through BAU budgets.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 Endorsement of the Catchment IWM Plans should result in a positive environmental impact. This is because they have a strong focus on environmental protection, resource efficiency, alternative water use and climate adaptation



- 8.2 Projects under consideration by the Forums span the spectrum from policy through to infrastructure and contribute to achieving Council's targets for water use, water quality, flood mitigation and adaptation.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 The endorsement of the Plans is anticipated to have a positive community impact. For instance, the Forum process is intended to facilitate 'optimal community benefit' and the methodology drives cross sector collaboration to improve service delivery to the community.

10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 10.1 The Catchment IWM Plans and participation in the Forums will support the *Sustainable Port Phillip*, Strategic Direction of the Council Plan. Specifically: *'The City is actively mitigating and adapting to climate change and invests in designing, constructing and managing our public spaces to optimise water sustainably and reduce flooding (blue/green infrastructure).'*
- 10.2 Collaborating on priority projects relevant to Port Phillip will contribute to achieving water targets in the *Act & Adapt: Sustainable Environment Strategy*.

11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

11.1 TIMELINE

- 11.1.1 The Minister for Water is expected to announce both the Dandenong and Yarra Catchment Integrated Water Management Plans in the coming months, once endorsed by Forum Members.

11.2 COMMUNICATION

- 11.2.1 Department of Environment Land Water and Planning are leading the process and facilitating the working group, the forum and collaboration. There are 23 organisations in the Dandenong and 29 in the Yarra IWM Forum areas.
- 11.2.2 It is anticipated that community participation and engagement will occur on an individual project basis.

12. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

- 12.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any material or general interest in the matter.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Yarra Catchment Integrated Water Management Plan
2. Draft Dandenong Catchment Integrated Water Management Plan
3. Summary Yarra Catchment IWM Plan
4. Summary Dandenong Catchment IWM Plan