



8.12	ELSTER CREEK CATCHMENT - ACTION PLAN ENDORSMENT
WARD:	CANAL
GENERAL MANAGER:	CLAIRE FERRES MILES, PLACE STRATEGY & DEVELOPMENT
PREPARED BY:	RENAE WALTON, COORDINATOR SUSTAINABLE POLICY
TRIM FILE NO:	30/21/18
ATTACHMENTS:	1. Action Plan Elster Creek Catchment - FINAL Oct 2017 2. Elster Creek Catchment - signed MOU - 20170721

PURPOSE

- To seek Council's endorsement of the Elster Creek Catchment Action Plan – for 2018 including the governance structure.

1. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1.1 Endorses the Elster Creek Catchment Action Plan for 2018 (Attachment 1) noting it:
 - 1.1.1 Is a high level document with overall deliverables for each action.
 - 1.1.2 Includes three themes:
 - 1.1.2.1 One Catchment, one plan
 - 1.1.2.2 Strategic planning
 - 1.1.2.3 Informed communities.
 - 1.1.3 Shows shared responsibility across the organisations involved.
- 1.2 Notes that each action within the Action Plan will be scoped in detail by the working group.
- 1.3 Notes the commitment by Melbourne Water and the Cities of Port Phillip, Glen Eira, Bayside and Kingston to work collaboratively with a shared approach to enable investigation of improvement opportunities with respect to flooding in the Elster Creek Catchment.

2. BACKGROUND



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- 2.1 Since September 2016 Council has worked with Melbourne Water and the cities of Kingston, Glen Eira and Bayside to establish the Elster Creek CEO forum.
- 2.2 In May 2017 all five organisations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (endorsed at the Ordinary Council Meeting 17 May 2017).
- 2.3 The Memorandum of Understanding ([Attachment 2](#)) included the following core principles:
 - 2.3.1 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, the parties will:

 - 2.3.1.1 Be transparent in all interactions and share information with the intent of establishing a shared understanding of the factors influencing the problem.
 - 2.3.1.2 Embed a common community engagement language and process that is constructive and meaningful for community members.
 - 2.3.1.3 Be considerate of each organisation's respective circumstances, including but not limited to, community interests, commercial imperatives and strategic contexts.
 - 2.3.1.4 Collaborate to identify evidence-based and innovative solutions with a best-for-regional catchment community benefit.
 - 2.3.1.5 Ensure opportunities to build community resilience are explored and actively pursued.
- 2.4 A working group consisting of General Manager/Director level staff from each organisation developed the draft Action Plan.
- 2.5 The Elster Creek Catchment Community Forum was held on 7 September. The purpose of the forum was to get community feedback and input into the draft Elster Creek Catchment Action Plan.
- 2.6 The draft Action Plan was presented to those in attendance and feedback was sought.
- 2.7 Attending the forum were:
 - 2.7.1 Mayor Bernadene Voss, Cr Dick Gross, Cr Louise Crawford and Cr Tim Baxter.
 - 2.7.2 Invited community members and representatives from a number of interested community groups across the four municipalities
 - 2.7.3 Senior staff from each Council and Melbourne Water.
 - 2.7.4 Three members of the Victorian State Emergency Services.



- 2.8 The forum was independently facilitated and a report on feedback received from community representatives at the event has been drafted. Once finalised it will be forwarded to those who attended the forum.
- 2.9 The draft Community Forum feedback report was resented to and discussed at the Elster Creek CEO forum on 27 September, with the draft Action Plan amended to respond to this feedback.
- 2.10 Key Amendments included:
- Inclusion of governance structure
 - Additional actions:
 - Review of 2011 Flood Mitigation Study
 - Investigation of CRC modelling and mitigation options
 - Creation of a Community Reference Group
 - Information sessions for stakeholder advocacy groups (i.e. Elsternwick Park Coalition)

3. KEY INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Elster Creek Catchment Action Plan for 2018 was endorsed at the Elster Creek CEO Forum on 27 September 2017.
- 3.2 It contains details regarding the governance structure that will facilitate its delivery.
- 3.3 It contains three themes
- 3.3.1 *One catchment, One Plan* – Understanding and responding to flood risk at a catchment scale, further developing community resilience to flooding. This theme will be led by Bayside City Council.
- 3.3.2 *Strategic Planning* – Develop a consistent approach to land use planning across the Elster Creek Catchment which minimises the impacts of urban runoff. Opportunities are sought to further minimise flood risk across the catchment through innovation, research and collaborative partnerships. This theme will be led by the City of Glen Eira.
- 3.3.3 *Informed Communities* – Build community and agency awareness and a shared understanding of flooding in the Elster Creek Catchment. This theme will be led by the City of Port Phillip.
- 3.4 The Action Plan incorporates feedback received from the community via the Community Forum held on September 7.
- 3.4.1 Key Amendments included:
- Inclusion of governance structure
 - Additional actions:
 - Review of 2011 Flood Mitigation Study
 - Investigation of CRC modelling and mitigation options

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- Creation of a Community Reference Group
 - Information sessions for stakeholder advocacy groups (i.e. Elsternwick Park Coalition)
- 3.5 Initial discussion regarding a shared communications approach include:
- 3.5.1 The same communications including the MoU to be published on each partners website
 - 3.5.2 Each council will keep a list of interested stakeholders for regular updates via an email distribution list.
 - 3.5.3 A summary of minutes from the CEO and Working group meeting will be distributed via this distribution list.



FURTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 4.1 Endorsing the Action Plan directly meets a priority action within outcome 3.3, *A City that is adapting to climate change*, in Direction 3 of the Council Plan – work with partners to develop a long-term action plan for the Elster Creek catchment to mitigate flooding.
- 4.2 Endorsing the Action Plan indicates to our community that Council has every intention of working collaboratively with the other local governments in the catchment and with Melbourne water to identify opportunities to mitigate, adapt and respond to the impact of localised flooding in Elwood.
- 4.3 Address the water transformation priority in the Council Plan.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 Interested community members were invited to attend the Elster Creek Catchment Community Forum on 7 September, and their feedback has informed the Elster Creek Catchment Action Plan from 2018.
- 5.2 Internal consultation regarding the action plan has occurred with the communication and engagement team.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Endorsing the Action Plan has no immediate legal and risk implications.
- 6.2 Not endorsing the Action Plan has reputational impacts for Council.

7. SUSTAINABILITY – Triple Bottom Line

7.1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1.1 Endorsing the Action Plan sets Council's intention to work with the organisations involved to reduce flooding impacts on the local environment including opportunities to improve water quality with reduced pollution and nutrient levels.

7.2 SOCIAL & CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.2.1 Endorsing the Action Plan indicates to our community Council's commitment to work with Melbourne Water and the other Local Governments in the Elster Creek catchment, to identify and deliver feasible projects to mitigate, adapt and respond to the impact of localised flooding in Elwood.
- 7.2.2 Not endorsing the Action Plan may result in social impact on the local Elwood community.

7.3 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

- 7.3.1 Endorsing the Action Plan may result in the delivery of projects that will reduce the number of occasions and/or the severity of flooding. This has economic impacts on the local community and business impacted by flooding and on the renewal or maintenance of council's own infrastructure.



7.4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.4.1 Endorsing the Action Plan does not commit council to investing funds on Melbourne Water land or in other municipalities.

8. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

8.1 TIMELINE

- 8.1.1 Should the Action Plan be endorsed, the working group will coordinate Officers within each organisation to deliver the actions throughout 2018.
- 8.1.2 The dates listed in the Action Plan are when the delivery of the action will begin.

8.2 COMMUNICATION

- 8.2.1 Council Officers from the Sustainable Policy and Communication and engagement teams will develop a communications plan to inform the community of the decision to endorse the Action Plan and to outline delivery of the actions within the plan.

9. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

- 9.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in the matter.