



8.5	ELSTER CREEK CATCHMENT - PROGRESS REPORT
WARD:	CANAL
GENERAL MANAGER:	CLAIRE FERRES MILES, PLACE STRATEGY & DEVELOPMENT
PREPARED BY:	RENAE WALTON, COORDINATOR SUSTAINABLE POLICY BRETT WALTERS, MANAGER SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORT
TRIM FILE NO:	30/21/18
ATTACHMENTS:	1. Report - Stormwater Management Response to Joint Letters

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Councillors and the community with an overview of action in Elwood and the Elster Creek Catchment and associated flooding issues, work underway and scheduled actions to be undertaken in the areas of advocacy, collaboration, asset investigation and maintenance from March to June 30 2017.

1. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1.1 Notes the information contained within the report.
- 1.2 Continues to support Council Officer involvement in working groups that support and identify collaborative action regarding flood mitigation.
- 1.3 Continues to advocate for positive intervention in the Elster Creek catchment to improve downstream impacts.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Elster Creek/Elwood Canal catchment is a large, complex heavily urbanised drainage catchment (approximately 4,100 hectares in area) that is located within the cities of Port Phillip, Kingston, Glen Eira and Bayside. Approximately 10% of the catchment is within the City of Port Phillip.
- 2.2 Melbourne Water has sole responsibility for the management, maintenance and capital works program for Elster Creek/Elwood Canal as the catchment feeding the Canal is larger than 60 hectares and forms part of the regional drainage network.



- 2.3 The major drainage system is designed to handle overland flows resulting from storms with a 100 year ARI. A roadway, a drainage channel in a reserve, a pipeline or a combination of the above may act as a drainage line. Council does not have operational control over this drainage network.
- 2.4 Council is responsible for the minor drainage system (with a catchment less than 60 hectares in area) and pipelines with sufficient capacity to contain the 'nuisance flows'. These pipelines prevent stormwater damage to properties and also limit the frequency and quantity of surface water to a level that is acceptable to the community.
- 2.5 Melbourne Water's Waterways and Drainage Strategy contains a target to reduce the currently known number of properties with an 'intolerable' (extreme) flood risk by a further 10% by 2018. Using the Melbourne Water Flood Risk Assessment Framework, flood risk by catchment can be ranked as medium, high or extreme. The flood risk for the Elster Creek/Elwood Canal catchment has been assessed to be 'extreme'. There are currently 2,352 properties identified located in the City of Port Phillip within this extreme risk catchment. These properties have varied levels of protection against flood waters as a result of the special building overlay (C111 – see below for more information).
- 2.6 City of Port Phillip maintains a strong relationship with Melbourne Water and has recently developed formal links with the other municipalities in the Elster Creek catchment. CoPP is also a participant in the activities of the Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities. Council regularly discusses drainage issues and advocates on behalf of residents for greater investigation into potential flood mitigation options for the city.
- 2.7 The most recent flooding even in Elster Creek was on 29 December 2016. During the storm event 14.6mm of rain fell in 10 minutes at St Kilda. This level of rainfall intensity and higher was seen across the catchment, and equated to a 1 in 20 year event.

3. KEY INFORMATION

Development of a 10 year Stormwater Management Plan

- 3.1 To respond to community concerns about the long standing flooding issues in the Elster Creek Catchment and extend the work that has already been done or is underway, a new 10 year plan for stormwater management will be developed. The Elster Creek Catchment will be a priority area of focus.
- 3.2 Two key documents will be developed. These are: a Stormwater Management Plan that outlines the priorities and activities to be undertaken over the next 10 years; and a 10 year Stormwater Asset Management Plan that will set out the renewal, expansion, upgrade and new stormwater works to be undertaken over the next 10 years. The asset management plan will be reviewed annually and will inform the development of the annual capital works and maintenance budgets.



- 3.3 Priority will be placed on developing a stormwater management plan for the component of Elster Creek Catchment that sits within the City of Port Phillip, with the focus being on what work Council can do to mitigate flooding. At the same time advocacy will continue for Melbourne Water to lead the development of a whole of catchment strategy as part of the state government's integrated water management policy development and regional catchment planning work.
- 3.4 Activities underway to support the development of a 10 year plan includes:
- A background paper describing all of the plans, strategies and policies that are currently in place, what they all mean (cumulative impact), what their status is (implementation of recommendations/actions) and identification of any gaps.
 - A CCTV condition audit of the drainage network to inform the development of strategic and operational plans. The information collected will feed into a reactive maintenance program to ensure Councils existing network is functioning to its current design capacity. A renewal and upgrade program will be modelled and designed to ascertain the priority locations that Council may be able to increase the capacity or storage within our existing network. This review will begin in the next two months and will take approximately 12 months to complete. Priority will be placed on Elwood and other flooding hotspots.
 - Review of flooding hot spots and prioritisation for further analysis of options for flood mitigation works.
 - Review of existing options that have been developed to address flooding hot spots, including cost benefit analysis, to inform development of a list of priority works.

Advocacy and other activities

- 3.5 On Thursday 9 March 2017, the Interim CEO Carol Jeffs and General Manager Place Strategy and Development Claire Ferres Miles, met with the City of Bayside CEO Adrian Robb and Director of Assets and Infrastructure Steven White, to discuss a collaborative approach to stormwater management in the Elster Creek Catchment. The meeting resulted in an agreement to take a collaborative approach and an offer from Bayside to share their stormwater asset management approach with CoPP officers.
- 3.6 Since September 2016 Council has worked with Melbourne Water to establish the Elster Creek CEO forum (The Forum).
- 3.7 The first meeting of the Elster Creek CEO Forum was held on March 31 2017. This was a facilitated discussion between the CEOs of City of Port Phillip, City of Kingston, City of Glen Eira and the City of Bayside and the Executive General Manager, Service Delivery at Melbourne Water, Charmaine Quick.
- 3.8 At the Ordinary Council meeting on 17 May 2017, Council endorsed the Memorandum of Understanding for this group.
- 3.9 At the Ordinary Council meeting on 19 April 2017, Council endorsed Officers speaking at the Bayside City Council Special Council Meeting on April 26 regarding the future of Elsternwick Park North.



- 3.10 The recommendation stated that Council:
- 3.10.1 Supports City of Port Phillip officers speaking at Bayside City Council Special Council Meeting on 26 April 2017, with the officer submission to include the following:
- Commend and congratulate the City of Bayside on the deliberative process that they have undertaken to review options considered by the community
 - Concern of residents that landform changes associated with the land use do not contribute negatively to downstream flooding.
 - Desire for inclusion of infrastructure or landform changes that maximise flood retardation and decrease downstream flow rates.
 - That every opportunity to increase water quality through wetlands and the installation of pollutant traps is taken.
 - Suggestion that multi-modal pedestrian connections through the park are maximised.
 - Notwithstanding the deliberative panel process recommended option 1a as the preferred option by the community and included flood mitigation as a priority, the City of Port Phillip requests that modelling to quantify positive or negative flood impacts is completed for all potential options. Subject to the analysis being completed Council will support the option that provides the optimal positive flood mitigation impacts and with maximum stormwater retention.
 - Acknowledging that reducing the impact of increased rainfall on flood vulnerable areas such as Elwood requires the Elster Creek Catchment to be managed with a whole-of-catchment approach, the City of Port Phillip is committed to co-operating across municipalities, including with the City of Bayside, the City of Glen Eira and the City of Kingston, and with water utilities and State Departments, including but not limited to,
 - collaboration with community engagement processes including community resilience;
 - respecting our differing community interest, commercial interests and strategic context; and
 - exploring co-funding of evidence-based and innovative solutions, subject to future Council budget processes.
- 3.10.2 Notes the Elwood community's concerns regarding future use of Elsternwick Park North and the potential impact change in land use and form may have on the shape and size of future flood events.
- 3.11 Three options regarding future use of Elsternwick Park North were presented to Bayside Council with Council choosing to proceed with 'Option 5': keeping the golf course, building a new pavilion associated with an upgraded Oval 2. This decision results in the least opportunity for flood mitigation and water quality improvement of those presented.



- 3.12 Council officers remain committed to working with Bayside Officers to pursue opportunities to increase flood mitigation during the upgrade of Oval 2.
- 3.13 The Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities convenes the Elster Creek Working Group, with Officers from CoPP joining with officers from the cities of Glen Eira, Bayside and Kingston as well as Melbourne Water, South East Water and DELWP.
- 3.14 The function of the group is to look holistically at what is occurring in the catchment and look for opportunities to decrease downstream flooding and increase resilience to storm events.
- 3.15 Council has been asked to partner on three grant applications all of which will have relevance to the catchment. Outcomes of the application process are not yet known.
 - 3.15.1 Application to the Port Phillip Bay Fund being led by Bayside City Council; *'A Regional partnership project engaging a network for citizen scientists in water quality sampling to build the capacity of communities and organisations to identify and prioritise stormwater quality improvement actions for Port Phillip Bay'*.
 - 3.15.2 Application to the Natural Disaster Resilience Grant Scheme being led by CSIRO; *'Integrated flood assessment tool enabling infrastructure and urban resilience planning'*.
 - 3.15.3 Application to the National Citizen Science Fund being led by CRCWSC; *'Citizens activating their private realm to increase climate resilience'*
- 3.16 At the Ordinary Council meeting held on 15 February 2017 Council considered a Joint letter from Isaac Hermann, Michael Newton and Andrew Serratore dated 23 January 2017 together with another Joint letter from Meni Christofakis, Geoffrey Love and Isaac Hermann dated 4 January 2017. The subject of all these letters was flooding in Elwood.
- 3.17 On April 5, Council Officers responded through the Council Chamber, to this letter. This response can be found as attachment 1.
- 3.18 Council passed the following recommendation to the report

3.18.1 MINUTES - ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL - 5 APRIL 2017

4. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

Item 4.1

Moved Crs Gross/Baxter

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the officers responses to a Joint letter from Isaac Hermann, Michael Newton and Andrew Serratore dated 23 January 2017 and the Joint letter from Meni Christofakis, Geoffrey Love and Isaac Hermann dated 4 January 2017 and the additional letter received from Mr Isaac Hermann on 15 February 2017.

2. Notes the work underway to develop a 10 year stormwater management plan, which will include an update on the status of works done to date and an assessment of the various mitigation options that have been proposed.



3. Notes the range of advocacy activities being undertaken with all key stakeholders.
4. Notes that laneway sealing works in Elwood have been halted pending further investigation into permeable surfaces.
5. Notes officers will prioritise review of Jerry's Milk Bar flooding issues.
6. Hosts a bi-monthly community forum to keep the community informed of all actions taking place around Elster Creek

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED unanimously.

- 3.19 In response to item 6 in the motion, officers met with Councillors to establish how the forum would be held. Officers are currently establishing the best format for this forum, the stakeholder groups invited to be involved and the terms of reference for this. Stakeholders will be kept informed as work progresses.
- 3.20 Key details in this response not included elsewhere in this report:
- 3.20.1 Council has 48 unsealed laneways, many very narrow, servicing properties as secondary access or just a few dwellings as driveway access to their properties. Seven (7) laneways were sealed as part of the Laneway Upgrade Program in 2016/17, with a further five laneways sealed through the Roads to Recovery program, with a total budget spend of \$550,000.
 - 3.20.2 Upgrading of Laneway assets supports delivery of Council's Road Management Plan (RMP). The RMP sets out Council's commitment to providing sustainable and safe public road networks and infrastructure for the community, of which the Laneway network is a part.
 - 3.20.3 The current whole of life costs of the unsealed laneways is high. Increased liability risks to Council, higher ongoing maintenance costs and accelerated rate of asset deterioration lead to increased reconstruction costs in the longer term.
 - 3.20.4 After major rain events the pavements are scoured with materials depositing into the storm water system, which reduces the networks capacity and increases the costs of maintaining our storm water network.
 - 3.20.5 By protecting these pavements with a seal coat the assets whole of life costs are reduced.
 - 3.20.6 Laneway sealing works have been halted pending further investigation into alternative treatments that increase permeability.
- 3.21 In addition, an update of the Flood Management Plan, March 2012 has begun. This is being led by Melbourne Water.
- 3.22 Senior Council Officers including the General Manager of Place Strategy and Design, Manager of Assets, Manager of Sustainability and Transport, Manager of Strategy and Growth and Coordinator Strategic Planning and Coordinator of Sustainable Policy met with Senior Managers within Melbourne Water on 1 May. Support to work collaboratively on options to reduce flooding in Elster Creek was again reiterated from both organisations.

AGENDA - ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL – 7 JUNE 2017



- 3.23 Conservation Volunteers Australia are undertaking tree planting in the Elwood area between May and July 2017.
- 3.24 Community tree planting days along Elwood Canal and at Point Ormond have been scheduled for 4 June, 2 July and 30 July.



FURTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 4.1 This briefing responds to the key objective 3.2 Support and increase community action for a resilient City.
- 4.2 There is significant community interest regarding actions being undertaken to mitigate flood impact in the Elster Creek Catchment from residents in Elwood. Council officers are undertaking a range of actions in the areas of advocacy, strategic actions and operational delivery. A multipronged approach to mitigation action across numerous organisations and local governments is needed to identify potential solutions to this complex problem.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 Officers in the Asset Management Department have been consulted regarding the contents of this report.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no legal or risk implications associated with this update.

7. SUSTAINABILITY – Triple Bottom Line

7.1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1.1 If council does not continue to support Officer engagement in relevant working groups, this could negatively impact on the health of Elster Creek as Officers will not be aware of projects that may reduce pollutant load and that they may be able to influence.

7.2 SOCIAL & CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.2.1 If council does not continue to support Officer engagement in relevant working groups, this could negatively impact on the community as Officers will not be aware of projects they may be able to influence.

7.3 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

- 7.3.1 There are no economic risks associated with this update.

7.4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.4.1 There are no economic risks associated with this update.

8. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

8.1 TIMELINE

- 8.1.1 The next Elster Creek CEO Forum is scheduled for May 24.
- 8.1.2 The next Elster Creek Working Group meeting for Officers has not yet been

AGENDA - ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL – 7 JUNE 2017



scheduled but is likely to be held in the first week of June.

8.2 COMMUNICATION

8.2.1 Officers will continue to communicate relevant updates on work within the catchment, to the community.

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.