



**11.2 ELSTER CREEK CATCHMENT PROJECT - APRIL-JUNE 2019 UPDATE**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER: LILI ROSIC, GENERAL MANAGER, CITY STRATEGY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To provide Councillors and the community with an update on delivery of the Elster Creek Catchment Project and other water-related activities occurring within the Elster Creek Catchment during the April to June 2019 period.

**2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The project partners have continued to work together to deliver the Elster Creek Catchment Action Plan 2018. This report details the delivery of the current Action Plan and development of a new Flood Management Plan for the catchment that will build upon the actions in the 2018 Action Plan.
- 2.2 Key activities and achievements during the April to June 2019 period include the following:
- 2.2.1 A CEO Forum meeting was held in April, and Working Group Meetings were held in April, May and June 2019. The purpose of these meetings was to develop an Elster Creek Catchment Flood Management Plan (FMP).
  - 2.2.2 Workshops were held on 23 May 2019 and 15 June 2019 to identify and prioritise actions for inclusion in the new FMP.
  - 2.2.3 Further engagement with the Community Reference Group and CEO Forum will occur in July 2019, before endorsement of the FMP.
  - 2.2.4 The multi-partner working group, led by Bayside City Council, continued planning for the Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve (EPNR) project.
  - 2.2.5 Bayside City Council has commenced further investigations into the flood mitigation potential, opportunities for water quality improvements, and a flora and fauna habitat study. The outputs from these studies will be used to inform the design.
  - 2.2.6 Bayside City Council endorsed the Project Plan at their Council meeting on 25 June 2019.

**3. RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

- 3.1 Notes the progress of completing actions to mitigate flooding included in the Elster Creek Action Plan 2018.
- 3.2 Continues to support CEO representation on the Elster Creek Catchment CEO Forum, Council Officer involvement in the Elster Creek Catchment Working Group and other related activities that support the identification and implementation of deliverables that are required to mitigate flood impacts in the catchment.



#### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 The project partners have continued to work together to deliver the Elster Creek Catchment Action Plan 2018. This report details the key activities and achievements during the April to June 2019 period and specifically the actions included in the development of a Flood Management Plan (FMP) for the catchment.
- 4.2 The FMP, identified as Action 5 of the Elster Creek Catchment Action Plan 2018, will replace the action plan as currently 11 of the 18 actions have now been completed, with 4 in progress and one (1) not yet commenced. Incomplete actions will be incorporated into the FMP.
- 4.3 A project dashboard is available on the City of Port Phillip website at the following location: <http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/elster-creek-catchment-action-plan.htm> to demonstrate transparency and accountability to the community on project progress.
- 4.4 Key activities and achievements during the April to June 2019 period include the following:
  - 4.4.1 Working Group Meetings were held in April, May and June 2019. In April, the Working Group planned two workshops to identify and prioritise actions for the FMP. The May meeting focussed finalising the agendas and content for the workshops. At the June meeting, partners discussed the outcomes from the community workshop and set the agendas for the CRG and CEO forum meetings in July. The development of a FMP is specifically identified as action 5 of the Elster Creek Catchment Action Plan 2018.
  - 4.4.2 The Elster Creek CEO Forum met on 2 April 2019. At this meeting, the Forum endorsed the process for developing the FMP, including the workshop and engagement process. The Forum also resolved to develop a new communications and engagement framework and committed to additional staff resources to deliver the project. The FMP will be developed over a number of consultation sessions. The first of these was with partner organisations in a full day workshop, the second was with a mini-public recruited from residents across the catchment and the third was with the established Community Reference Group. The outcomes of these workshops will inform the development of a DRAFT FMP which will be presented to the CEO Forum.
  - 4.4.3 Action identification and prioritisation workshops were held on 23 May 2019 and 15 June 2019.
  - 4.4.4 The 23 May 2019 workshop was attended by project partners and some members of the CRG. The workshop focussed on technical presentations on key issues and opportunities, followed by identifying and prioritising actions for the new FMP.
  - 4.4.5 The 15 June 2019 workshop was attended by project partners, some CRG members and eighteen community members, which were invited through a randomly generated process.
  - 4.4.6 Project partners and CRG members presented technical presentations based around the plan themes, followed by a panel session to answer community questions. Following this, community members identified and prioritised actions to be included in the FMP. The outputs from this will inform the development of a Draft Elster Creek Catchment FMP.



- 4.4.7 Further engagement with the CRG and CEO Forum will take place in July 2019 prior to any endorsement of a Draft FMP.
- 4.5 The following is a summary of additional activities undertaken by project partners and stakeholders not specific to the Action Plan, but relevant to Integrated Water Management (IWM) and flood mitigation within the Elster Creek Catchment:
- 4.5.1 The multi-partner working group, led by Bayside City Council, continued planning for the Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve (EPNR) project.
- 4.5.2 Community consultation on the EPNR project was undertaken between 12 March and 30 April 2019. Consultation was completed through an online 'Have your Say' platform, letter drops to surrounding residents, including residents of Elwood, and four drop-in sessions at Elsternwick Park during March and early April. Consultation was focussed around the adopted project priorities, with strong community commitment to nature/conservation and community involvement and access. Three overlapping categories of feedback emerged surrounding reserve features, community interactions with the reserve and considerations important to the success and usage of the reserve. Bayside City Council endorsed the Project Plan on 25 June 2019. Summary of outcomes for this consultation are included in **attachment 1**.
- 4.5.3 Bayside City Council has engaged consultants to complete further investigations into the flood mitigation potential, opportunities for water quality improvements, and a flora and fauna habitat study. The outputs from these studies will be used to inform the design. A Bayside-commissioned concept report around flood mitigation options is being finalised, an important step in this process is the coordination with Melbourne Water over quantifying the mitigation potential through their flood modelling team. City of Port Phillip officers continue to work closely with Bayside City Council and Melbourne Water to progress the flood mitigation potential of the Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve redevelopment.

## 5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 A project dashboard continues to be maintained on the City of Port Phillip website to ensure the community has access to up to date information and is able to monitor progress. The project dashboard is available on the City of Port Phillip website at the following location: <http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/elster-creek-catchment-action-plan.htm>
- 5.2 Targeted consultation was undertaken on the development of the Elster Creek Catchment Flood Management Plan with two workshops held through May and June 2019. The workshop on 23 May 2019 consisted mainly of representatives from the collaboration organisations with some attendance from Community Reference Group Members.
- 5.3 The workshop held on 14 June 2019 consisted of a representative group of catchment residents across the four local government partner areas (Port Phillip, Bayside, Glen Eira and Kingston). A randomly generated list of 5,000 properties from across the catchment were invited to attend. A breakdown of attendees is included below.

# ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL 17 JULY 2019



Suburb	Number of Participants
Balaclava	1
Elwood	4
Bentleigh	2
Carnegie	1
Caulfield South	2
McKinnon	2
Brighton	2
Brighton East	1
Hampton	1
Hampton East	1
Highett	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>

Age	Number of participants
18-24	1
25-34	4
35-44	2
45-54	4
55-64	4
65+	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>

- 5.4 Bayside City Council undertook consultation and engagement for EPNR which commenced on 12 March 2019 including a Have Your Say consultation and drop in sessions on 26 and 30 March 2019, and on 2 and 7 April 2019. Community feedback on the nature reserve contained three (3) categories: reserve features; community interactions with the reserve; and considerations important to the success and usage of the reserve. Summary of outcomes for this consultation are included in **attachment 1**.

## 6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.
- 6.2 There are continuing social, political and reputational risks associated with the Elster Creek Catchment. There is a risk that intense storm events could result in property flooding causing damage and hardship to the residents of Port Phillip. The Action Plan and deliverables contained within it look to minimise these risks as much as possible. It should be noted that a significant reduction in flooding and flooded properties remains a long-term outcome.

## 7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 There are no financial impacts associated with this update.



**8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

8.1 No environmental issues are impacted by this update. The Action Plan aims to increase understanding of flooding, respond to flood risks and develop community resilience to flooding.

**9. COMMUNITY IMPACT**

9.1 The community of Elwood continues to exhibit vulnerability to extreme weather and rainfall events with flash flooding likely to impact residential and commercial properties in Elwood.

**10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY**

10.1 This report updates Council on the Elster Creek Action Plan which directly addresses Direction 3 of the Council Plan 'We have smart solutions for a sustainable future', specifically 'Work with partners to develop a long-term Action Plan for the Elster Creek catchment to mitigate flooding'

10.2 The outcome and actions are linked strongly to Water Management, one of Councils four transformational areas.

**11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

**11.1 TIMELINE**

11.1.1 The development of an Elster Creek Catchment Flood Management Plan has commenced, further engagement is proposed with the Community Reference Panel on 3 July 2019, with a DRAFT FMP to be presented to the CEO Forum on 19 July 2019.

**11.2 COMMUNICATION**

11.2.1 Partner Councils, in collaboration with Melbourne Water, are committed to working towards addressing community concerns regarding flooding. The Elster Creek Catchment presents unique challenges as the distribution of the catchment is across multiple jurisdictional boundaries and there are multiple asset owners. By adopting whole of catchment approach, project partners can address flooding at a catchment scale, whereas historically the focus on flood impacts and mitigation was limited to within local government boundaries.

11.2.2 Communication regarding the Elster Creek Catchment will continue to be provided to the community throughout the project. The project dashboard is available on the City of Port Phillip website at the following URL:  
<http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/elster-creek-catchment-action-plan.htm>

11.2.3 The development of a new communications plan has commenced with the DRAFT document to be presented to the CEO Forum on 19 July 2019.

**12. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST**

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

**TRIM FILE NO:** 30/03/37

**ATTACHMENTS** 1. Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve Engagement Summary