



11.1 ELSTER CREEK CATCHMENT 2018 ACTION PLAN - Q3 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 Action Plan 2018 (Action Plan) and other water-related activities within the Elster Creek Catchment during the July to September 2018 period (Quarter three).

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Elster Creek Catchment Action Plan (October 2017) was developed by the City of Port Phillip in partnership with Bayside City Council, Glen Eira City Council, Kingston City Council and Melbourne Water, the floodplain management authority.
- 2.2 The project partners have continued to work together to deliver the Action Plan during the July to September 2018 period.
- 2.3 On 12 July 2018, the Elster Creek Catchment CEO Forum endorsed changes to the Action Plan. A copy of the revised Action Plan can be found in Attachment 1. Key changes to the Action Plan include:
- 2.3.1 The Governance Structure was amended to also include governance of the Elsternwick Park North Redevelopment Project.
- 2.3.2 Timelines for completion of some of the deliverables were amended in order to allow sufficient time for investigations and to better reflect the inter-dependency of some of the deliverables. Two new deliverables to reduce flooding were added.
- 2.4 Detail on the progress on each deliverable in the Action Plan can be found on the project dashboard available on the City of Port Phillip website at the following URL: <http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/elster-creek-catchment-action-plan.htm> .
- 2.5 A summary of key activities and achievements during the July to September 2018 period includes the following:
- 2.5.1 CEO Forum Meeting #6, held on the 12 July 2018 endorsed the updated Action Plan 2018, Attachment 1.
- 2.5.2 A Working Group Meeting was held in August, the minutes are included in Attachment 2.
- 2.5.3 The Elster Creek Community Reference Group consisting of community representation from Bayside, Glen Eira, and Port Phillip, was established and meetings were held in July and September 2018. Minutes from these meetings can be found in Attachment 3 and Attachment 4.



- 2.5.4 An asset map (Attachment 5) was prepared showing recently constructed projects, current projects and projects planned for the immediate future across the catchment.
- 2.5.5 Melbourne Water completed a distributed storages study, Attachment 6, for a residential and an industrial area of the Elster Creek Catchment. Distributed storage involves installing multiple small-scale water detentions (e.g. rainwater tanks) across the catchment on private property.
- The report identified that distributed storages are likely to be effective in catchments that are highly urbanised and have existing flooding problems, but that specific modelling is required to quantify the estimated benefits.
- Melbourne Water have commenced catchment modelling for the Caulfield South Main Drain (residential) and the Moorabbin Main Drain (industrial) sub-catchments. This contributes to Deliverable 3 of the Action Plan *‘Review all options to reduce flood risk’*.
- 2.5.6 Melbourne Water have completed the review of the Elster Creek Flood Mitigation Study. The study assessed the viability of various flood mitigation options for the 1% Average Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood events only. Melbourne Water have undertaken a review of this study, Attachment 7, and changed their strategy to consider mitigation for all flood frequencies. This means that smaller-scale mitigation opportunities which had not previously been considered can be investigated. The Working Group will be investigating these opportunities. This contributes to Deliverable 3 of the Action Plan *‘Review all options to reduce flood risk.’*
- 2.5.7 A set of principles was developed to inform decision making around flood mitigation within public open space. This document is currently under review pending changes prompted by comments and concerns raised by the Community Reference Group. It will be made available once the amended version has been agreed by the project partners.
- 2.5.8 The Communication and Engagement plan, Attachment 8, for the Elster Creek Catchment Project was endorsed.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Notes the information contained within the report and Quarter three status update of deliverables in the Elster Creek Catchment 2018 Action Plan.
- 3.2 Endorses the revised Elster Creek Catchment Action Plan 2018, as included at Attachment 1.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 Acknowledges the positive engagement and commitment demonstrated by our partners Melbourne Water, City of Bayside, City of Glen Eira and City of Kingston to working together to identify and implement initiatives in the Elster Creek Catchment to reduce downstream flooding impacts.



4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 The project partners have continued to work together to deliver the Elster Creek Catchment Action Plan and this report details the progress towards achieving the outcomes contained in the Action Plan for July to September 2018.
- 4.2 To demonstrate transparency and accountability to the community on project progress, an online project dashboard has been established which identifies the status of each deliverable. 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>
- 4.3 The Elster Creek Catchment Action Plan (October 2017) was reviewed and the revised Action Plan (Attachment 1) was endorsed by the CEO Forum at its meeting on 12 July 2018. A summary of changes is included in Table 1 below:

Table 1 – Action Plan review changes.

Section	Change
Governance Structure (pg 2)	Amended to include Elsternwick Park North Redevelopment Project.
Catchment View of Flood Risk (pg 3)	Timeline amended from May 2018 to July 2018
Review all options to reduce flood risk (pg 3 & 4)	3b) Timeline amended from March 2018 to Sept 2018 Two new deliverables were added: 3c) <i>Develop a range of principles for use in open space to focus the scope of studies. The principles will be applied to Elsternwick Park Golf Course redevelopment and Ormond Flood Mitigation Study.</i> 3d) <i>Initiate a distributed storages study specifically for the Elster Creek catchment in two sub-catchments – Caulfield South Main Drain and Moorabbin Main Drain</i> 4. Timeline amended from March 2018 to Sept 2018
Preparedness for flood events (pg 5)	5. Timeline amended from April 2018 to February 2019 6. Timeline amended to July 2018 to February 2019
Collaborating with our partners (pg 5)	11. Timeline changed from April 2017 to July 2019 - July 2020
Innovation (pg 5)	12. Timeline amended from May 2018 to June 2019
Building our understanding, validating what we know (pg 6)	14. Timeline amended from April 2018 to June 2019
Our engagement is focused (pg 6)	17. <i>Develop a specific education program for Councillors, MP's, Senior Council Executives and Stakeholder Advocacy Groups to:</i>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Build understanding of the characteristics of the Elster Creek Catchment in relation to flooding</i> • <i>Understand mitigation options (i.e. 2011 GDH Flood Mitigation Study)</i> <p>This deliverable was removed. It was agreed that a specific education campaign was not required and communications to these groups will be delivered as part of the Communications and Engagement plan.</p>
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4.4 A summary of key activities and achievements during the July to September 2018 includes the following:

- 4.4.1 CEO Forum Meeting #6 was held on the 12 July 2018. The Forum endorsed an updated Action Plan 2018, Attachment 1.
- 4.4.2 A Working Group Meeting was held in August, the minutes are included in Attachment 2.
- 4.4.3 The Elster Creek Community Reference Group consisting of community representation from Bayside, Glen Eira, and Port Phillip, was established and meetings were held in July and September 2018. Minutes from these meetings can be found in Attachment 3 and Attachment 4.
- 4.4.4 An asset map, Attachment 5, was prepared showing recently constructed projects, current projects and projects planned for the immediate future across the catchment. This map will help to identify further opportunities for collaboration and integrated water management.
- 4.4.5 Melbourne Water have completed a distributed storages study (Melbourne Water completed a distributed storages study, Attachment 6, for a residential and an industrial area of the Elster Creek Catchment. Distributed storage involves installing multiple small-scale water detentions (e.g. rainwater tanks) across the catchment on private property.

The report identified that distributed storages are likely to be effective in catchments that are highly urbanised and have existing flooding problems, but that specific modelling is required to quantify the estimated benefits.

Melbourne Water have commenced catchment modelling for the Caulfield South Main Drain (residential) and the Moorabbin Main Drain (industrial) sub-catchments.

This contributes to Deliverable 3 of the Action Plan *'Review all options to reduce flood risk'*.

- 4.4.6 Melbourne Water have completed the review of the Elster Creek Flood Mitigation Study. The study assessed the viability of various flood mitigation options for the 1% Average Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood events only. Melbourne Water have undertaken a review of this study, Attachment 7, and changed their strategy to consider mitigation for all flood frequencies. This means that smaller-scale mitigation opportunities which had not previously been considered can be investigated. Due to the volume and magnitude of these events, the study struggled to identify solutions that were feasible and or



constructible. The review looks to revisit these mitigation options with smaller scale (i.e. 2%, 5%, 10% and 20% AEP events). The Working Group will be investigating these opportunities. This contributes to Deliverable 3 of the Action Plan 'Review all options to reduce flood risk.'

- 4.4.7 A set of principles was developed to inform decision making around flood mitigation within public open space. This document is currently under review pending changes prompted by comments and concerns raised by the Community Reference Group. It will be made available once the amended version has been agreed by the project partners.
- 4.4.8 The Communication and Engagement plan (Attachment 8) for the Elster Creek Catchment Project was endorsed.
- 4.5 The following is a summary of additional activities undertaken by project partners not specific to the Action Plan but relevant to Integrated Water Management in the Elster Creek Catchment:
- 4.5.1 Victorian State Emergency Service facilitated a flood risk tour of the Elwood Canal on Wednesday 15 August 2018, which was attended by City of Port Phillip Officers. This tour will inform updates to the Municipal Flood Emergency Plan, which is due for review later this year. The purpose of this MFEP is to detail arrangements agreed for the planning, preparedness, prevention, response, and recovery from flood incidents within the City of Port Phillip.
- 4.5.2 Following the resolution of Bayside City Council to discontinue golf at Elsternwick Park North, an opportunity to provide catchment-wide input into the redevelopment of the site was identified. A multi-partner working group, led by Bayside Council, has been established to consider the potential to incorporate Integrated Water Management outcomes in any redevelopment of the park to reduce the flooding risk of downstream areas.
- 4.5.3 Melbourne Water are undertaking modelling of flood retardation options in the former golf course lease area. Bayside City Council are in the process of engaging a suitably qualified consultant to undertake a constraints analysis and work with Melbourne Water to further refine design options that can be implemented.
- 4.5.4 A Community Reference Panel has been established to inform the Elsternwick Park North redevelopment project. Membership of the group consists of representation from the following groups:
- a) Elsternwick Park Association
 - b) Friends of Elster Creek
 - c) Earthcare Experience
 - d) Elwood Flood Action Group
 - e) Port Phillip EcoCentre
 - f) Friends of Bayside
 - g) Friends of Native Wildlife
- The first meeting of the Community Reference Panel occurred in September 2018.



5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 A project dashboard has been established on the City of Port Phillip website to keep the community informed about the Elster Creek Catchment Project Working Group. The dashboard provides project critical information about the progress and status of the deliverables included in the Action Plan.
- 5.2 The first Community Reference Group meeting was held in the first week of July 2018. The second Community Reference Group meeting was held 12 September 2018. The third meeting is scheduled for 14 November 2018. The purpose of the Elster Creek Community Reference Group (ECCRG) is to:
- 5.2.1 Provide a regular, scheduled opportunity for dialogue between the community and the Parties and where possible relevant State agencies – a time for mutual sharing of information:
- drawing on the expertise of the community;
 - engaging with the community to maximise feedback to ensure informed decision making;
- 5.2.2 Inform the community on key projects and initiatives being undertaken in Elster Creek either by Council's or State agencies.
- 5.2.3 Utilise those involved to assist with development of a communication strategy, including:
- Informing the content and pitch of information collateral
 - Informing how best to deliver this information to the community
- 5.3 Council's Asset Management Officers have been consulted regarding the content of this report and provided input in relation to asset maintenance and planned capital works to ensure programmed works are aligned to the Elster Creek Catchment Project.

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. While the higher risk of flooding persists, 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 items.

11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

11.1 TIMELINE

- 11.1.1 Elster Creek Working Group Meetings occur on the third Tuesday of each month.
- 11.1.2 The next meeting of the Elster Creek Community Reference Group is in November 2018.
- 11.1.3 The actions and deliverables within the Action Plan will continue to be undertaken and delivered by project partners.

11.2 COMMUNICATION

- 11.3 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.
- 11.4 The key to project success is having an active and engaged community who are eager to tackle the challenges alongside the project partners.
- 11.5 Communication regarding the Elster Creek Catchment will continue to be provided to the community throughout the project. The Communication and Engagement Plan includes the following actions:
- 11.5.1 Establishment of a Elster Creek Catchment Web page including a project dashboard.
- 11.5.2 Periodic email updates to members of the stakeholder database.
- 11.5.3 Communication of project progress and feedback through the Elster Creek Community Reference Group.
- 11.5.4 Social media messaging for specific activities and events.
- 11.5.5 Council quarterly updates.

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL 7 NOVEMBER 2018



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:

30/03/35

ATTACHMENTS

1. Action Plan Elster Creek Catchment - 2018
2. Elster Creek Catchment Working Group August Meeting Minutes Summary
3. Elster Creek Catchment Community Reference Group Meeting #1 Minutes
4. Elster Creek Catchment Community Reference Group Meeting #2 Minutes
5. Elster Creek Catchment Asset Map
6. Elster Creek Catchment Distributed Storages Review Summary
7. Elster Creek Catchment 2011 GHD Flood Mitigation Study Review Summary
8. Elster Creek Catchment Project Communications Schedule September 2018