

Enquiries: Tim Graffen  
Telephone: (03) 9209 6693  
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18 December 2017

Mr Bruce Hunter  
Strategic Planning Manager  
Victoria Planning Authority  
Level 25  
35 Collins St  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Mr Hunter

**EAST VILLAGE STRATEGIC SITE**

I write to you regarding the East Village development currently being undertaken by the Victorian Planning Authority, in partnership with Glen Eira City Council. This letter is written on behalf of and representing 3 partners accountable for delivery of the Elster Creek Catchment Action Plan, namely the Cities of Bayside, Kingston and Port Phillip.

In 2017 the CEO's of Port Phillip, Glen Eira, Bayside, and Kingston Councils together with Melbourne Water, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to manage stormwater runoff within the Elster Creek catchment at a whole of catchment level, setting out core principles to promote collaboration:

*'to find effective evidence-based and innovative solutions to assess the catchment's flooding issues.'*

Flooding in the Elster Creek catchment and in particular in Elwood is a function of rainfall runoff exceeding the capacity of underground and surface drainage systems and waterways across the catchment. Increased urbanisation/infill development and climate change are very likely to exacerbate both the frequency and impact of flooding events in this catchment.

On behalf of the executive members of the Elster Creek Catchment Working Group, the Cities of Bayside, Kingston and Port Phillip ask the Victorian Planning Authority to consider as part of East Village inclusion of stormwater retention within the redevelopment – either underground or surface. Opportunities to reduce stormwater inflows and to install stormwater retention basins in the upper regions of the catchment has been identified as one of the most effective ways to reduce stormwater impacts downstream in the catchment.

We note the engagement of Cardno to advise on proposed drainage infrastructure for East Village, with the principle of 'no worse off' i.e. to not increase risk for downstream properties. The Elster Creek Catchment Working Group is shared in our view that a business-as-usual approach will not achieve the highest and best outcome for our collective communities. We seek to partner with the VPA to explore opportunities @ East Village for a 'better off' outcome, to go above and beyond that which is directed by current planning controls, whereby this strategic site results in a net positive stormwater benefit for all properties downstream in the catchment, by reducing stormwater flow and enhancing flood mitigation.

It is recognised that evidence-based and innovative solutions include co-existence of multiple land-uses and multi-functions to achieve optimal community benefit, noting that flood mitigation investment is mutually inclusive with both passive and active recreation. Executive members of the Elster Creek Catchment would be open to a discussion regarding co-funding of positive impact stormwater retention initiatives in the East Village development.

Yours sincerely

**CLAIRE FERRES MILES**  
General Manager – Place Strategy & Development  
City of Port Phillip

CC: Ms Rachele Quattrocchi, Manager Infrastructure, City of Kingston

**STEVEN WHITE**  
Director Environment, Recreation &  
Infrastructure,  
Bayside City Council

Cnr Carlisle St & Brighton Rd,  
St Kilda Victoria 3182

Private Bag No 3,  
PO St Kilda Victoria 3182,  
DX 35706 Balaclava VIC

Phone (03) 9209 6777  
Facsimile (03) 9536 2722  
assist@portphillip.vic.gov.au  
www.portphillip.vic.gov.au

ABN 21 762 977 945