

**Minutes
Elster Creek Community Reference Group (CRG)
Meeting #2: 12 September 2018**

Present: April Seymore, Geoffrey Love, Malcolm Dow, Michael Nugent, Nicola Mendleson (independent chairperson), Paul Caine, Phillip Popham, Sarah Eggleton and Wendy Smith (Melbourne Water), Tim Graffen (City of Port Phillip (CoPP))

Item	Discussion	Actions
1. Minutes of the last meeting	The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed with no changes. Moved: PC, seconded MN.	All to note
2. Matters arising from the previous meeting	<p>Minutes from the CEO Forum</p> <p>TG explained that an abridged version of the Working Group minutes was distributed to the CRG but he was not yet aware if the CEO Forum minutes were available for public distribution.</p> <p>Enforcement of existing planning schemes</p> <p>SE and TG explained that planning controls are governed under SBO permits and local government undertakes enforcement and compliance.</p> <p>Terms of reference</p> <p>The terms of reference have been updated in line with CRG members comments and will be distributed.</p> <p>Information about the Elster Creek Action Plan</p> <p>TG noted that the City of Port Phillip includes information about the Action Plan on its website and the other participating councils have a link to the dashboard on their website. It was asked whether information could also be included in council minutes.</p>	<p>TC to find out if an abridged version of the CEO Forum minutes can be distributed to CRG members.</p> <p>TG to distribute revised ToR.</p> <p>TG to discuss with the other participating councils including information about the Action Plan in council minutes.</p>



	<p>Lexicon</p> <p>TG noted that he has updated the lexicon in line with comments from CRG members and others.</p> <p>Early Warning System</p> <p>MN asked about the early warning system for flooding and if people could sign up. SE explained that this system is available but will be superseded by an app in around a year's time. In the meantime, if any of the CRG members or their group members would like to be signed up to the early warning system, CRG members can provide NM with names, address and mobile numbers by the end of October.</p>	<p>TG to distribute updated lexicon.</p> <p>Community members to send through details of any of their group members who would like to be signed up to the early warning system.</p>
<p>3. Effective group processes</p>	<p>There was a discussion about how to maximise the use of meeting time available. Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The possibility of a site tour was raised for the November meeting, however, community members felt that it was best to use this time for a formal meeting. They would welcome a site tour outside of official meeting times. • The Working Group will provide clear instructions for CRG members regarding any documents distributed prior to meetings. Usually, documents will be sent to the community members to consult further with their groups and provide feedback or documents will be sent to members to get their personal feedback as to whether these are clear documents in a suitable form to be released to the public. • All future communication and meeting administration to be coordinated via NM as the independent chair. 	



<p>4. Action Plan Output Review</p>	<p>Review of outputs</p> <p>CRG members were asked to review the following documents that are outputs of Action Plan items in terms of if they are clear communications to the community about the outputs. Each is a document that is almost ready for public release:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catchment Asset Project Map • Principles for Physical Mitigation Studies • Distributed storages study review • Communications schedule. <p>CRG members provided feedback about the first two items but there was insufficient time to review the other two items. It was requested that the members email any comments on the other two items to NM by Thursday, 27 September.</p> <p>Comments on the Catchment Asset Project Map included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need explanatory section to explain context and link back to action 2. • Explain the scale, benefit, timeframe and impact of the different types of works and the relationship to other works, e.g. pipe renewal to reduce cross contamination. Also whether they will have a local or catch-wide impact. • Name key landmarks e.g Head Street drain. <p>Comments on the Principles for Physical Mitigation Studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add context explaining that these are underlying principles around site selection between land managers and Melbourne Water, how principles will be used and how they will guide decision making. • Concern was expressed that the principles only cover physical mitigation options and that there is no principle about net gain to wildlife values and pollution reduction. SE explained that these additional principles best sit in a Planning Scheme, as they are for individual site selection for flood mitigation only and net gain to wildlife and pollution reduction requires a broader land management approach. 	<p>CRG to members email any comments on the distributed storages study review Or communications schedule to NM by Thursday, 27 September.</p>
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<p>5. Mitigation Option Review</p>	<p>WS from Melbourne Water’s Asset Management Team gave a review of the historical and current approach to flood mitigation in the Elster Creek catchment (ECC).</p> <p>There has been a lot of focus and investment on flood mitigation in the Elster Creek catchment over time including many pipe duplications and a large retarding basin in Elsternwick Park.</p> <p>A major report contracted in 2011 looked at identifying mitigation options for major flood events in the catchment. Options put forward were unfeasible due to movement of flooding to another area, site constructability constraints and costs of works. The Water Act 1989 precludes Melbourne Water from making flooding worse elsewhere by mitigating floods in one area.</p> <p>In 2015, the strategic approach to flood mitigation moved to looking for options to address more frequent, smaller floods.</p> <p>The ECC forum was established and has facilitated the investigation of new projects. These new projects include a study of local mitigation options in Ormond, the opportunity for flood mitigation through the redevelopment of Elsternwick Park and a distributed storages study. The first phase of actions of the plan are close to completion, these will now be reviewed and the next stage decided.</p> <p>The distributed storage study aims to retain and reuse water in the catchment. Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study looks at a residential approach in Caulfield and using larger roofs of industrial spaces in Moorabbin. WS will share this study when it is complete. • There are a number of policy questions to be addressed. Issues to consider include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If Melbourne Water maintains tanks and releases water when a storm is forecast and the forecast is incorrect, residents 	<p>WS to share study on distributed storages pilot when completed.</p> <p>TS to advise if the dashboard can provide a direct link to the documents such as summary and full mitigation review report asap.</p>
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	<p>won't have access to the water. If the tanks are not emptied, they can't mitigate the flood.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Issues around who owns and maintains the tanks. ▪ Cost for 5-10 year events compared to other options is expensive. ▪ Shifting from a self-managed system to one that requires more oversight and management. <p>Key points from the discussion include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community doesn't understand the role that RBs play in flood reduction. • It was noted that the Byron Street drain has a major impact on flooding downstream of the Elsternwick Park Retarding Basin and this will limit the effectiveness of any works in the park. • It was asked if the dashboard can provide a direct link to the documents such as summary and full mitigation review report. <p>AS noted that the Eco House runs community bike rides to different areas of the catchment and could run a bike ride discussing the issues raised in this presentation to share the information with the community.</p> <p>MN noted that their group is holding a function and it would be relevant to share this information.</p>	
<p>6. Other business</p>	<p>The issues raised by Paul Caine and Michael Nugent were tabled and this discussion was carried over to the November meeting.</p>	<p>All to note</p>

Meeting closed: 12pm

Next meeting: Wednesday November 14, 10am-12pm, City of Port Phillip offices.

