



**11.2** **INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT FORUMS -  
DANDENONG & YARRA CATCHMENTS - STRATEGIC  
DIRECTION STATEMENTS**

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POLICY**

**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To present the DRAFT Integrated Water Management (IWM) Forum Strategic Directions Statements (SDS's) for the Dandenong and Yarra Catchments for endorsement.

**2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The Victorian Government introduced its Water Plan, *Water for Victoria (WfV)* in 2016 and Integrated Water Management Framework Victoria 2017.
- 2.2 One of the Actions in this Plan is to 'Represent community values and local opportunities in planning' by facilitating IWM Forums designed to facilitate a collaborative, catchment based approach to water planning and management.
- 2.3 IWM Forums have been established and the City of Port Phillip are part of the Dandenong and Yarra Catchments. Forums are comprised of executive and CEO level representatives of 23 participating organisations in the Dandenong and 29 in the Yarra Forum areas. The forums are supported by officer level working groups.
- 2.4 Both IWM Forums have developed a Draft SDS (Attachment 1 and 2) for presentation to the Minister for Water as per the IWM Governance Structure (Attachment 3).
- 2.5 Endorsement by Council of the SDS's will demonstrate ongoing support for Forum activities including priority projects that relate directly to Council's Strategic Direction 3 of the *Council Plan*, "We have smart solutions for a sustainable future".

**3. RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

- 3.1 Endorses the Strategic Direction Statements for both the Dandenong (attachment 1) and Yarra (attachment 2) Integrated Water Management Forums.
- 3.2 Supports Council Officer involvement in the Dandenong Integrated Water Management Forum and Yarra Integrated Water Management Forum.



#### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 The Victorian Government introduced its Water Plan, *Water for Victoria (WfV)* in 2016 and Integrated Water Management Framework Victoria 2017.
- 4.2 This Plan takes a long-term view of our water resources in order to prepare Victoria for the challenges of climate change and population growth.
- 4.3 One of the Actions in this Plan is to ‘Represent community values and local opportunities in planning’ by facilitating Integrated Water Management (IWM) Forums designed to facilitate a collaborative, catchment based approach.
- 4.4 IWM Forums have been established and the City of Port Phillip is a member of the Dandenong and Yarra Catchment Forums. Forums are comprised of executive and CEO level representatives of participating organisations. The Forums are supported by officer level working groups.
- 4.5 The objectives of the IWM Forums are:
- Facilitate enduring collaboration in water management planning across organisations sectors and disciplines;
  - Create a shared vision for water management at a defined geographical scale;
  - Develop a pathway to achieve the vision, including identifying and prioritising projects;
  - Coordinate and oversee the ongoing planning and delivery of priority projects at the IWM Forum area scale;
  - Ensure community and traditional owner values are represented in water management planning;
  - Identify barriers to efficient IWM delivery; and
  - Ensure investment in water management projects is optimised to deliver multiple benefits and best community value solutions.
- 4.6 Forum members including Water Authorities, Catchment Management Authorities, Councils and Traditional Owner Corporations have participated in workshops to set the strategic and place-based priorities relevant to the Forum area.
- 4.7 Three highly relevant projects to the City of Port Phillip have been included in the SDS for the Dandenong and Yarra Catchments as ‘priority projects’:
- Elster Creek Catchment – Flood Management (Dandenong)
  - Elsternwick Park North (Dandenong)
  - Fishermans Bend IWM Plan (Yarra)
- 4.8 The Albert Park Lake Stormwater Harvesting Project has also been identified as an ‘important IWM opportunity’ (Yarra)



**5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS**

- 5.1 The SDS's have been workshopped and developed through the respective Working Groups and Forums over the past six months.
- 5.2 It is anticipated that community participation and engagement will occur on an individual project basis.

**6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no identified risks associated with participating in the Forums.

**7. FINANCIAL IMPACT**

- 7.1 There is no requirement for partners to fund any additional activities. Council officer participation in the IWM Forums is funded by the Council operational budget.

**8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 8.1 The Strategic Outcomes of the SDS include sustainability outcomes which are articulated under the outcome area – Healthy and Valued Waterways and Marine Environments.
- 8.2 Projects under consideration by the Forums span the spectrum from policy through to infrastructure and contribute to achieving Council's targets for water quality, flood mitigation and adaptation.

**9. COMMUNITY IMPACT**

- 9.1 The Forum process is intended to facilitate 'optimal community benefit'. The methodology is driving cross sector collaboration to improve service delivery to the community.

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

- 10.1 Participation in the Forums will support Strategic Direction 3 of the Council Plan, *We have smart solutions for a sustainable future*, in particular Outcomes 3.4, *A water sensitive City* and Outcome 3.3 *A City that is adapting to climate change*.
- 10.2 The Forums support the Transformation - Water Management in the Council Plan.
- 10.3 Collaborating on priority projects relevant to Port Phillip will better enable us to achieve water targets in the *Act & Adapt: Sustainable Environment Strategy*.
- 10.4 Council endorsed the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at its ordinary meeting 8 September 2015. Including Goal 11 'Sustainable Cities and Communities', Goal 14 'Life Below Water' and Goal 15 'Life on Land'.

**11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

- 11.1 TIMELINE

# ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL 1 AUGUST 2018



The Minister for Water is expected to announce both the Dandenong and Yarra Integrated Water Management Strategic Direction Statements during August on a date yet to be confirmed.

## 11.2 COMMUNICATION

Department of Environment Land Water and Planning are leading the process and facilitating the working group, the forum and collaboration. There are 23 organisations in the Dandenong and 29 in the Yarra IWM Forum areas.

## 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:** 30/05/77

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. *Confidential*- Final Draft Strategic Direction Statement Dandenong IWM Forum
2. *Confidential*- Final Draft Strategic Direction Statement Yarra IWM Forum
3. IWM Forum Governance Structure