



11.1 ELSTER CREEK CATCHMENT 2018 ACTION PLAN - Q2 UPDATE

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: LILI ROSIC, ACTING GENERAL MANAGER, PLACE STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT

PREPARED BY: TIMOTHY GRAFFEN, SENIOR SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide Councillors and the community with a progress report on delivery of the Elster Creek Catchment Action Plan (October 2017) and other water related activities within the Elster Creek Catchment. This update relates to Quarter 2 - April to June 2018.

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 Elster Creek Catchment Action Plan and this report details the progress towards achieving the outcomes contained in the Action Plan for April to June 2018.
- 2.3 Detail on the progress on each deliverable in the Action Plan can be found in Attachment 1. A summary of key achievements from April to June 2018 includes the following:
- 2.3.1 Development of a single asset investment view across the catchment has been completed including the development of a catchment wide asset register. This register will be used to inform future asset and mitigation requirements including renewal and upgrades.
 - 2.3.2 Melbourne Water is developing an Elster Creek Catchment Flood Management Plan specific to the Elster Creek Catchment. The Plan will be used to provide a consolidated flood management plan catchment wide and be used in place of the current system of local government based flood management plans.
 - 2.3.3 A Planning Policy and Provision Discussion Paper has been developed and reviews options available through the planning scheme policy for mitigating and minimising flood risks associated with the Elster Creek Catchment. The paper follows the completion of a collective review of the four partner Councils planning schemes.
 - 2.3.4 Melbourne Water have completed the distributed storages study review. the review identified that distributed storages should be considered as flood mitigation options when undertaking urban flood studies. Distributed



storages are more likely to be effective in catchments that are highly urbanised and have existing flooding problems, but that specific catchment modelling is required to quantify the estimated benefits. This has resulted in the commencement of two further distributed storages studies specifically for the Caufield South Main Drain and the Moorabbin Main Drain.

- 2.3.5 Completion and endorsement of the Communications and Engagement plan for the Elster Creek Catchment Project.
 - 2.3.6 Establishment of the Elster Creek Community Reference Group with community membership from participating Councils.
 - 2.3.7 Elsternwick Park forms part of the Elster Creek Catchment. An Elsternwick Park North Working Group has been established following the Bayside City Council's decision to discontinue golf at Elsternwick Park North. Project partners include Bayside City Council, Glen Era City Council, the City of Port Phillip, and Melbourne Water.
 - 2.3.8 The Elsternwick Park North Working Group Group will work together to identify, develop and agree on shared outcomes for landscape and infrastructure changes at Elsternwick Park North, formerly the Elsterwick Golf Course site. A PACE framework developed to guide the development and implementation of the project has been endorsed by Working Group Members. The Working Group is determining the project timelines and resource requirements.
 - 2.3.9 The Elsterwick Park North Working Group reports to the Elster Creek Catchment CEO Forum.
- 2.4 Continued leadership with our partners is pivotal to influencing flood management outcomes in the Elster Creek catchment.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Notes the information contained within the report and Quarter 2 status update of deliverables in the Elster Creek Catchment 2018 Action Plan.
- 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 actions that are required to mitigate flood impacts in the catchment.
- 3.3 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 Elster Creek Catchment Action Plan (October 2017) (the Action Plan) was endorsed by Council at the Ordinary Meeting of Council 15 November 2017.
- 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 action. 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 Detail on progress on each deliverable in the Action Plan can be found in Attachment 1; a summary of key achievement during the April to June 2018 period can be found below:
- 4.3.1 Development of a single asset investment view across the catchment has been completed including the development of a catchment wide asset register. This register will be used to inform future asset and mitigation requirements including renewal and upgrades.
- 4.3.2 Melbourne Water is developing an Elster Creek Catchment Flood Management Plan specific to the Elster Creek Catchment. The Plan will be used to provide a consolidated flood management plan catchment wide and be used in place of the current system of local government based flood management plans.
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- 4.3.4 Melbourne Water have completed the distributed storages study review. the review identified that distributed storages should be considered as flood mitigation options when undertaking urban flood studies. Distributed storages are more likely to be effective in catchments that are highly urbanised and have existing flooding problems, but that specific catchment modelling is required to quantify the estimated benefits. This has resulted in the commencement of two further distributed storages studies specifically for the Caufield South Main Drain and the Moorabbin Main Drain.
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partners include Bayside City Council, Glen Era City Council, the City of Port Phillip, and Melbourne Water.

- 4.3.8 The Elsternwick Park North Working Group Group will work together to identify, develop and agree on shared outcomes for landscape and infrastructure changes at Elsternwick Park North, formerly the Elsternwick Golf Course site. A PACE framework developed to guide the development and implementation of the project has been endorsed by Working Group Members. The Working Group is determining the project timelines and resource requirements.
- 4.3.9 The Elsternwick Park North Working Group reports to the Elster Creek Catchment CEO Forum.
- 4.3.10 A summary of infrastructure maintenance and renewal works that have been undertaken by the City of Port Phillip in the Elster Creek Catchment during the reporting period includes the following:
 - 4.3.11 A one directional valve has been installed in Elwood Canal for outlets from the local storm water drainage system. Two valves have been installed at outlets at the Barkly St crossing. Eight further valves will be installed. One directional valves allow the flow of stormwater in one direction, in this instance from the existing stormwater network discharging into the Elwood Canal.
 - 4.3.12 Council Officers are undertaking a CCTV audit of the City of Port Phillip's drainage network to assess the condition, prioritise maintenance and increase performance. The project will continue throughout 2018.
- 4.4 The following is a summary of additional activities undertaken by Council Officers not specific to the Action Plan but relevant to the Elster Creek Catchment:
 - 4.4.1 Following the resolution of Bayside City Council to discontinue golf at Elsternwick Park North, the opportunity to provide catchment-wide input into the redevelopment of the site has arisen. 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.
 - 4.4.2 Council Officers are also representing Elster Creek Catchment priorities at the Dandenong Catchment Integrated Water Management (IWM) Forum. The Elster Creek Catchment and Elsternwick Park North Projects have been tabled as projects in this Forum and are being put forward for consideration and prioritisation against other integrated water management project across the Dandenong catchment which includes creeks and rivers south of the Yarra river that discharge into Port Phillip Bay.

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 Elster Creek Community Reference Group nomination process is now completed with membership endorsed by the Elster Creek Catchment Project Working Group.
- 5.3 Elster Creek Community Reference Group nominee applications were evaluated by each member of the Working Group and scored against the Terms of Reference and selection criteria. Two members from each council area were offered membership.
- 5.4 All successful and unsuccessful nominees have now been advised and officers from the City of Port Phillip and Melbourne Water have met with each Reference Group member to provide an overview of the roles of members and the purpose of the group.
- 5.5 The purpose of the Elster Creek Community Reference Group is to:
 - 5.5.1 Draw upon the knowledge and experience of the Community Reference Group Members;
 - 5.5.2 Engage with the community to maximise feedback to ensure informed decision making;
 - 5.5.3 Inform the community on key projects and initiatives being undertaken in Elster Creek by partner councils and State agencies; and
 - 5.5.4 Inform the Elster Creek Catchment Working Group how best to deliver project information and outcomes to the community.
- 5.6 The first Community Reference Group meeting was held in the first week of July 2018.
- 5.7 Officers in the Asset Management Department 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, and respond to flood risk 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 Elster Creek Community Reference Group meetings focus is linked to key milestones within the Action Plan.

11.1.3 The actions and deliverables within the Action Plan will continue to be undertaken and delivered within resourcing capabilities. A review of the Action Plan deliverables was presented to the CEO forum on 12 July 2018.

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 The key to project success is having an active and engaged community who are eager to tackle the challenges alongside the project partners.
- 11.2.3 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:
- a) Establishment of a Elster Creek Catchment Web page including a project dashboard;
 - b) Periodic email updates to members of the stakeholder database;
 - c) Communication of project progress and feedback through the Elster Creek Community Reference Group;
 - d) Social media messaging for specific activities and events; and
 - e) Council quarterly updates.

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.

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ATTACHMENTS 1. Elster Creek Catchment Project Action Plan Status