



11.2 ELSTER CREEK CATCHMENT 2018 ACTION PLAN - Q1 UPDATE

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1. PURPOSE

1.1 To provide Councillors and the community with an overview of action in Elwood and the Elster Creek Catchment, work underway and scheduled actions that have been undertaken in the areas of advocacy, collaboration, asset investigation and maintenance from January to March 2018, a Quarter 1 update on the Elster Creek Catchment 2018 Action Plan

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 This report is being presented to Council as part of the collaborative approach to managing the impact of flooding in the suburb of Elwood. The project partnership has commenced work in achieving the deliverables in the Elster Creek Catchment Action Plan for 2018 and this report is provided to the Council and community to advise of progress and outcomes against this Action Plan.

2.2 Continued leadership with partners is pivotal to the influencing role the City of Port Phillip has in the Elster Creek catchment.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

3.1 Notes the information contained within the report and Quarter 1 status update of deliverables in the Elster Creek Catchment 2018 Action Plan.

3.2 Supports the community consultation and engagement activities within the Action Plan, noting this approach is being progressed to replace the bi-monthly community forums as previously resolved.

3.3 Continues to support officer involvement in work that supports and identifies actions regarding flood mitigation.

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 in working together for initiatives in the Elster Creek catchment to improve downstream impacts.



4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 Council resolved on the 5 April 2017 as part of a resolution responding to a petition and joint letter from the community that it would host bi-monthly community forums to keep the community informed around action involving Elster Creek.
- 4.2 Since that resolution implementation of the Elster Creek Catchment collaborative partnership has come into being and the partnership is now in the process of finalising a project communication and engagement plan. The project will further establish a community reference group which will look to provide valuable input into the project actions and outcomes. It is intended that this program of activities replace the previously resolved bi-monthly community forums.
- 4.3 The Elster Creek Catchment Action Plan for 2018 (the Action Plan) ([Attachment 1](#)) was endorsed by Council at the Ordinary Meeting of Council 15 November 2017.
- 4.4 To demonstrate transparency and accountability to the community on project progress, an online project dashboard has been established which identifies each deliverable's status. The project dashboard is available on the City of Port Phillip website on a dedicated page for the Elster Creek Catchment project.
- 4.5 Council Officers in collaboration with relevant officers from the partner organisations of Bayside City Council, Glen Eira City Council, Kingston City Council and Melbourne Water have begun enacting the Action Plan.
- 4.5.1 **Deliverables 2 and 3** are underway, with Melbourne Water completing a high-level screening assessment for the local mitigation options study in Ormond and McKinnon and a further study to review the 2011 GHD report recommendations. Melbourne water are also in discussion with Glen Eira City Council regarding the use of open space for flood mitigation.
- 4.5.2 **Deliverable 4** has not been started.
- 4.5.3 **Deliverables 5 and 6** have commenced with an initial discussion occurring at the Working Group Meeting on the 20 February 2018. Melbourne Water are putting together a proposal for the catchment flood management plan that includes a community education component.
- 4.5.4 **Deliverable 7** is underway. Melbourne Water coordinates with the State Emergency Service regarding coordination and response to flood events.
- 4.5.5 Glen Eira City Council have completed **Deliverable 8** with Hansen Consultants being engaged to undertake a review of planning policies and frameworks at a catchment level. Glen Eira have also commenced **Deliverable 9** with workshops scheduled in April 2018 to define the future planning policy opportunities with suitable representatives from partner organisations and other relevant participants.
- 4.5.6 Melbourne Water are underway on **Deliverable 10** with a review of the Distributed Storages and Melbourne Urbanisation Mapping Project with outputs to be available for review by April 2018.



- 4.5.7 Melbourne Water are looking to trial a stakeholder and engagement schedule for modelling and mapping projects as part of **Deliverable 11** with the upcoming planning scheme amendments for Glen Eira City Council and Kingston City Council.
- 4.5.8 **Deliverable 12** is underway with Melbourne Water undertaking investigations to determine what gauges may be best suited to urban piped catchments for implementation of a flood warning application.
- 4.5.9 **Deliverable 13a** is in the process of being finalised with a DRAFT Communications Plan being put to the Working Group for endorsement in March 2018.
- 4.5.10 **Deliverable 13b** is complete with a Lexicon available on the City of Port Phillip website with relevant terminology and definitions included. The Working Group will update this lexicon, if required, with input from the Community Reference Group once established.
- 4.5.11 **Deliverable 14** has not been started.
- 4.5.12 **Deliverable 15** has been completed with a consolidated stakeholder database established with input from the project partners. This stakeholder database will be a living document which can be amended as the working group is advised of changes to the relevant stakeholder group.
- 4.5.13 The establishment of the Community Reference Group, under **Deliverable 16**, is underway with nominations advertised from 13 March 2018 to 2 April 2018. Nominations received will be reviewed for alignment with the DRAFT Terms of Reference and recommendations to be put forward to the Working Group for the endorsement of the group's membership at the April 2018 meeting.
- 4.5.14 **Deliverable 17** has not been started.
- 4.6 Below is 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:
 - 4.6.1 A program of works has been initiated to install duck bill valves for storm water outlets into the Elwood Canal. These works will be completed by June 2018.
 - 4.6.2 Council Officers are currently undertaking a CCTV audit of the Council drainage network to prioritise maintenance and increase performance. The project is underway and expected to be ongoing for the remainder of 2018.
- 4.7 The following is a summary of advocacy activities undertaken by Council Officers in the Elster Creek Catchment:



- 4.7.1 Council Officers wrote to the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) on behalf of the Elster Creek Catchment Project (Attachment 2) partnership to advocate for inclusion of storm water retention within the redevelopment either underground or on the surface. Further to this the partnership requested that the VPA look to implement mitigation that creates a net positive benefit for the catchment. Presently, planning controls only require that developments do not increase the risk to downstream properties.
- 4.7.2 Council Officers have continued to advocate for redevelopment of Elsternwick Park North in accordance with the Council Resolution from 19 April 2017.
- 4.7.3 A letter to the Mayor of Bayside Council was prepared to inform Bayside Council about the Port Phillip resolution of 21 March 2018 relating to Elsternwick Park North. (Attachment 3)
- 4.7.4 Council Officers are currently in the process of negotiating with Bayside and Melbourne Water for flood modelling to be done within Elsternwick Park North to quantify what flood reduction is possible if some of this land was utilised for additional detention.
- 4.7.5 Council Officers on behalf of the City of Port Phillip are representing the Elster Creek Catchment priorities as part of the Dandenong Catchment Integrated Water Management Forum. The Elster Creek Catchment Project has been tabled as a project in this forum and is being put forward for consideration and prioritisation against other integrated water management project across the Dandenong catchment.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 Officers in the Asset Management Department have been consulted regarding the content of this report.
- 5.2 A project dashboard has been established on the City of Port Phillip website. The dashboard serves as a first point of reference regarding the Elster Creek Catchment Project. The dashboard provides project critical information about the progress and status of the deliverables from the Action Plan.
- 5.3 Deliverable 16 of the Action Plan, identifies establishment of a Community Reference Group for the purposes of providing feedback to the project Working Group. Nominations for interested members onto the Community Forum has been advertised from 13 March 2018 to 2 April 2018.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report
- 6.2 There are continuing social, political and reputation risks associated with the Elster Creek Catchment. While the risk of flooding persists, there is a risk that intense storm events could result in property flooding causing damage and hardship on 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 significant reductions 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 There are no environmental impacts exacerbated by this update. The environment flooding impacts that have instigated the Elster Creek Catchment Project remain.

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 the suburb of Elwood.

10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

10.1 This report looks to update 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 priority 3 of outcome C 'Work with partners to develop a long-term action plan for the Elster Creek catchment to mitigate flooding'

10.2 The outcome and action 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 approximately the 20th of each month.

11.1.2 Nominations for the Community Reference Group closed 2 April 2018. A recommendation on group membership will be submitted to the Working Group for endorsement at the April 2018 meeting.

11.1.3 Elster Creek Community Reference Group meetings will be scheduled with the members and will be linked to key milestones within the Action Plan.

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 in the distribution of the catchment across multiple jurisdictional boundaries and asset owners. By adopting whole of catchment approach the project partners can address flooding at a catchment scale where historically impacts and mitigation was limited the local government boundaries.



- 11.2.2 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 be undertaken through several processes. These are captured in the Communication and Engagement Plan but in brief include the following actions:
- Establishment of a Elster Creek Catchment Web page including a project dashboard.
 - Periodic email updates to members of the stakeholder database
 - Communication of project progress and feedback through the Elster Creek Community Reference Group.
 - Social media message for specific activities and events.
 - 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.

**TRIM FILE NO:
ATTACHMENTS**

F18/1

- 1. Elster Creek Catchment Action Plan**
- 2. Correspondence to VPA re:East Village**
- 3. Correspondence to Mayor, Bayside Council**