

APPENDIX 2 BACKGROUND FACTS

Biodiversity

The Moonee Ponds Creek has been identified as a potential area for added biodiversity (*Biodiversity Action Plan*, City of Melbourne, draft, 2006) including restoration of a riparian zone. Moonee Ponds Creek, Victoria Harbour and the Yarra River potentially support important estuarine and freshwater biodiversity. There have been a number of initiatives to improve stormwater quality in Docklands which can have positive impacts on the health of aquatic ecosystems by reducing the pollutants

reaching the waterways. This is particularly challenging as the Docklands area receives drainage emanating from a much larger urbanised region. Sightings of bottle nose dolphins in the Yarra in the 1990s support monitoring results indicating that water quality has improved¹².

There are opportunities to increase biodiversity by diversifying vegetation populations to enhance habitat for birdlife, wildlife, insect populations and other biological species of high conservation value.

- Areas containing sites of recorded biodiversity value
- Areas possibly containing sites of biodiversity value
- Potential additional sites identified
- Aquatic environments where biodiversity values have yet to be adequately assessed
- Study area: *Biodiversity Action Plan* (City of Melbourne, draft, 2006)



Fig 6.26 Areas with recorded or potential biodiversity value, 2006 (*Biodiversity Action Plan*, City of Melbourne, draft, 2006).

¹² Strengthening the Management of the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers. Melbourne Water, 2006.

Vegetation

Currently there are around 3,000 trees in Docklands. The most common trees species that make up the tree population are: *Corymbia maculata* (20%), *Platanus x acerifolia* (18%), *Angophora costata* (10%), *Ficus microcarpa var hillii* (10%). The City of Melbourne has set a target of no more than 5% of any one species in the total tree population by 2040¹³ to provide greater diversity of species for disease resistance. The 2011 tree canopy cover is 5.2% (with tree growth this will be around 20% by 2025). The City of Melbourne target for tree canopy cover in an area is 40%.

Challenges to tree and vegetation planting in the Docklands area include:

- planting on structures (wharves, podiums, bridges)
- adequate soil volumes
- soil conditions (saline, silt, contamination)
- wind exposure
- saline air
- solar access
- street canopies/awnings
- drought tolerance/water restrictions
- quality of new stock and planting preparation and conditions including soil volume and soil moisture
- species diversity
- long-term maintenance.

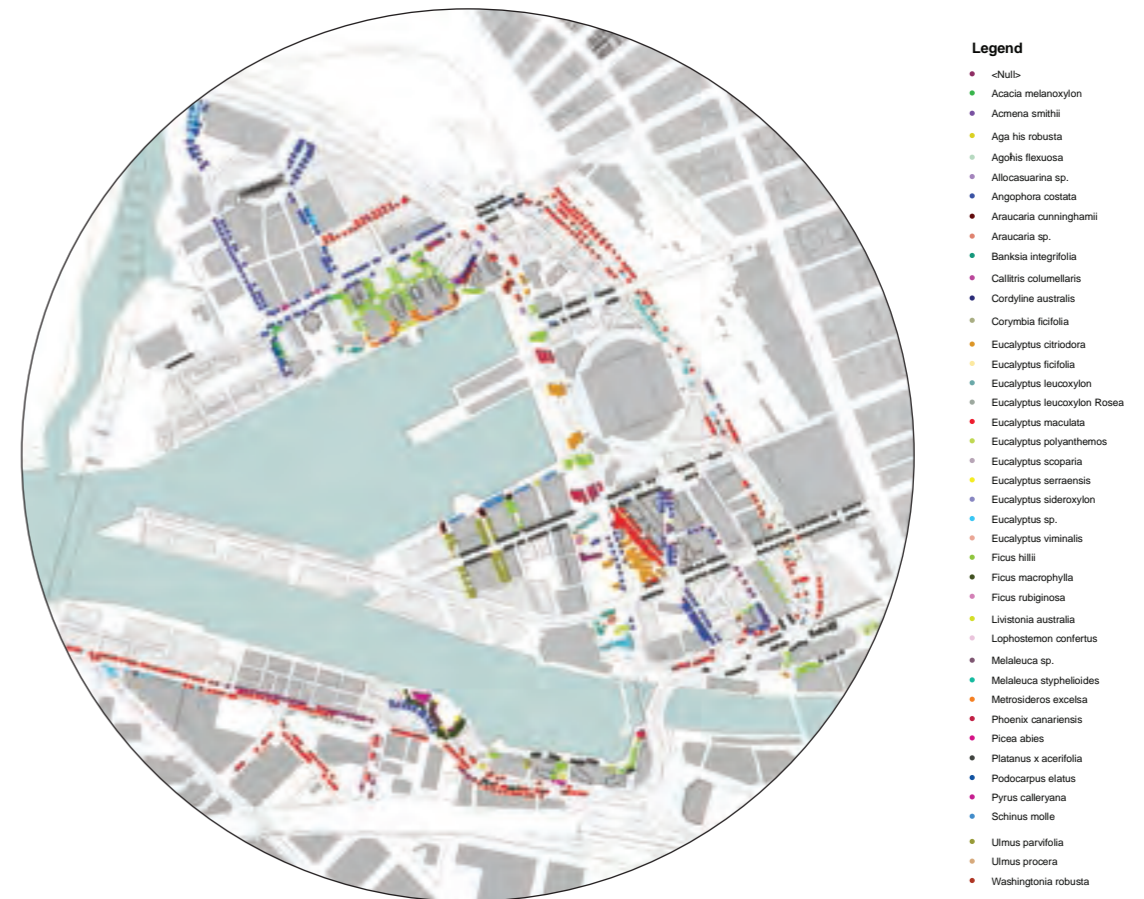


Fig 6.27 Tree mapping, 2012.

¹³ City of Melbourne Urban Forest Strategy (2012).