Report to the Future Melbourne (Environment) Committee

Agenda item 6.3

Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Opportunities Plan 20 August 2019

Presenter: Krista Milne, Acting Manager Placemaking and Engagement

Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement of the final Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Opportunities Plan (the Plan).
2. The Plan (Attachment 1), a vision and advocacy document, identifies significant opportunities to transform the neglected Moonee Ponds Creek corridor within the City of Melbourne (CoM) to increase the ecological, recreational and cultural heritage values.
3. The Plan has been prepared on the basis of the background technical report in 2018 and reflects relevant Council strategies, including Arden and Macaulay structure planning and wider catchment strategies, primarily the Chain of Ponds Masterplan prepared by the Cities of Moonee Valley and Moreland.
4. On 19 March 2019 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) endorsed the draft Plan to be released for stakeholder and community engagement.
5. Community engagement took place between 20 March and 28 April 2019. This included five locally based 'pop up' engagement stations and a digital survey. Traditional Owner Groups and 'friends of' groups were invited to individual consultation sessions. These activities generated over 86,000 social media impressions, reached 2081 people, and resulted in 237 contributions (see Attachment 2).

Key issues

6. Feedback from the community engagement process showed a high level of support for the vision and a strong desire for action. Priority themes and opportunities identified by the participants were: enhancing biodiversity, open space and movement along and across the corridor.
7. To reflect and respond to community feedback the final Plan has been revised. Two new opportunities have been included: improving litter collection and improving access to creek-side land at Bent Street, Kensington. Also, 'Collaborative Governance' has become a foundational theme reflecting the importance of collaboration to realise transformational change.
8. The Plan also addresses Council resolutions in March 2019, including strengthening recognition of the background technical and strategic work that supports the Plan, and highlighting the significant public health, urban growth and environmental challenges the Plan seeks to address.
9. Using the Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Opportunities Plan as a Masterplan document that sets the vision for the corridor, in parallel the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) is developing an Implementation Plan. Given the CoM has limited control over land in the creek corridor, CoM is contributing to development of the Draft Implementation Plan to ensure priority opportunities are identified and governance and financing matters are progressed.
10. As a first action of the Implementation Plan, it is recommended that CoM sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Moonee Ponds Creek Chain of Ponds Catchment Collaboration Group. The MOU articulates collaboration between all stakeholders focused on future planning for the entire creek corridor from Hume to the Yarra River. This Collaboration Group provides a valuable forum to consider and advocate for creek corridor enhancements with representation from across government, water authorities and the community.

Recommendation from management

11. That the Future Melbourne Committee:
    - 11.1 Approves the final Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Opportunities Plan (Attachment 1).
    - 11.2 Notes the Victorian Planning Authority are currently developing a draft Implementation Plan for Moonee Ponds Creek using the Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Opportunities Plan as a Masterplan document that sets the vision for the corridor.
    - 11.3 Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign the Moonee Ponds Creek Chain of Ponds Catchment Collaboration Group MoU.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 2 of 62)
2. Moonee Ponds Creek SOP - Community Engagement Summary Report GR FINAL 21-06-2019 (Page 4 of 62)
3. Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Opportunities Plan - 1 August 2019 version (Page 23 of 62)

Supporting Attachment

Legal

1. There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations made in this report.

Finance

2. The VPA are currently developing a draft Implementation Plan for Moonee Ponds Creek using the Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Opportunities Plan as a Masterplan document that sets the vision for the corridor. The Implementation Plan will identify project leads, responsible agencies, governance and funding options for delivery of projects identified within the Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Opportunities Plan.

3. Any implementation actions for the CoM are subject to future budget bids, including Capital Works.

Conflict of interest

4. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a direct or indirect interest in relation to the matter of the report.

Health and Safety

5. In developing this proposal, no Occupational Health and Safety issues or opportunities have been identified.

Stakeholder consultation

6. Community and stakeholder engagement on the draft Plan included separate briefings with key government agencies, community groups and traditional owner groups between 20 March and 28 April 2019, with both on-line and a program of face-to-face engagement activities.

7. The community were invited to participate in one of five locally based pop up' engagement stations and to complete a digital survey. Traditional Owner Groups and 'friends of' groups were invited to individual consultation sessions. In total, these activities generated over 86,000 social media impressions, reached 2081 people, and resulted in 237 contributions which have shaped and refined this final Plan (see Attachment 2).

8. Participant feedback indicated the three themes that were considered most important in guiding future action, in order of support, were:
   8.1 Biodiversity – A healthy waterway and thriving ecosystem.
   8.2 Open Space – A diverse network of open spaces to support the growing needs of the city.
   8.3 Water management – A resilient creek adapted to current and future extreme weather events.

9. The opportunities identified as being most important to respondents, were:
   9.1 Moonee Ponds Creek Cycling and Walking Trails – opportunities for enhanced cycle and pedestrian infrastructure.
   9.2 Moonee Ponds Creek Forest – reforestation and revegetation opportunities in open space zones along the creek.

10. CoM will continue to work closely with the VPA on the Implementation Plan as part of 2019–20 Annual Plan Initiative 8.16 'partner with the Victorian Government to commence delivery of the Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Opportunities Plan'.

Relation to Council policy

11. The draft Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Opportunities Plan responds to the City of Melbourne's Future Melbourne 2026 Plan, as well as the following current City of Melbourne strategies and strategic plans:

    10.1 Transport Strategy 2012–2030
    10.2 Bicycle Plan 2016–2020
    10.3 Heritage Strategy 2013
    10.4 Creative Strategy 2018–2028
    10.5 Total Watermark – City as a Catchment 2014
    10.6 Municipal Integrated Water Management Plan 2017
    10.7 Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2017
    10.8 Open Space Strategy 2012
    10.9 Green our City Strategic Action Plan 2017
    10.10 Nature in the City 2017
    10.11 Urban Forest Strategy 2012–2032 and Central City Precinct Plan
    10.12 Climate Change Mitigation Strategy (refresh currently in development)
    10.13 Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy (refresh currently in development).

Environmental sustainability

12. This Plan provides the framework to strengthen flood management and environmental service functions of the Moonee Ponds creek catchment.

Attachment 2
Agenda item 6.3
Future Melbourne Committee
20 August 2019

Global Research
Turning **Information** Into **Insight**

Moonee Ponds Creek Draft Strategic Opportunities Plan

ANALYSIS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

SUMMARY REPORT

14 June 2019

Prepared by Global Research Ltd
For
CITY OF MELBOURNE

WE'RE PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF MOONEE PONDS CREEK

The Moonee Ponds Creek is an important north-south waterway in the City of Melbourne, that links several central city urban renewal precincts. The creek has been highly degraded by the impacts of industry and infrastructure over decades, and floods frequently impact the corridor.

The Draft Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Opportunities Plan (MPC SOP) proposes a future vision for the creek corridor to increase the creek's ecological, recreational, cultural heritage and economic value.

This vision is underpinned by six thematic Goals; Water Management, Open Space, Biodiversity, Movement, History and Culture, and Collaborative Governance. Thirty-one Strategic Opportunities are presented to help realise these Goals.

This document presents a summary of the community engagement feedback received between 20 March and 28 April 2019, as part of the City of Melbourne's public consultation on the MPC SOP.

> "Moonee Ponds Creek will become a thriving corridor that supports the liveability and resilience of the city."

Both the Draft Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Opportunities Plan and the full Analysis of Community Engagement Report can be accessed via https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/moonee-ponds-creek.

MOONEE PONDS CREEK FLOWS FOR **5KM** THROUGH THE CITY OF MELBOURNE

AFTER **2025** URBAN DEVELOPMENT WILL ACCELERATE

BY **2100** FLOODING RISKS INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY

How we engaged with community

Community and other stakeholder engagement on the draft MPC SOP involved both on-line and face-to-face engagement activities. The purpose of the engagement was threefold:

- to raise awareness for Council's draft vision
- to gather feedback on the key themes and the strategic opportunities presented – so as to refine the drafted list of ideas and establish if additional Opportunities should be added – and gauge whether any emerge as clear public priorities to advocate for
- to mobilise community support for action along the corridor.

A range of methods were used to directly and indirectly engage the public, including; newspaper articles, social media posts and direct emails. Paid advertisements invited the broader community, and particularly residents in suburbs neighbouring the creek, to participate in one of five 'pop-up' engagement stations, or to complete a digital survey. Traditional Owner groups, and 'friends of' groups were invited to individual consultation sessions.

Consultation contributions:

FACE TO FACE CONTRIBUTORS

ONLINE SURVEY RESPONDENTS

EMAILED SUBMISSIONS

Engagement reach:

FACE-TO-FACE CONTACTS

WEBSITE VISITORS

Social media reach:

IMPRESSIONS

REACTIONS

LIKES

RETWEETS/SHARES

VIDEO VIEWS

WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT THE GOALS

Face-to-face participants were asked to mark their "top three" of the six Goals, using stickers on large format banners; they were also encouraged to share their views on the Opportunities via 'post-it' notes or through the online survey. Online survey respondents were required to choose their "top three" Goals and Opportunities, as well as explain why those ideas were important to them. An optional question gave space for people to suggest any additional Opportunities that we should consider.

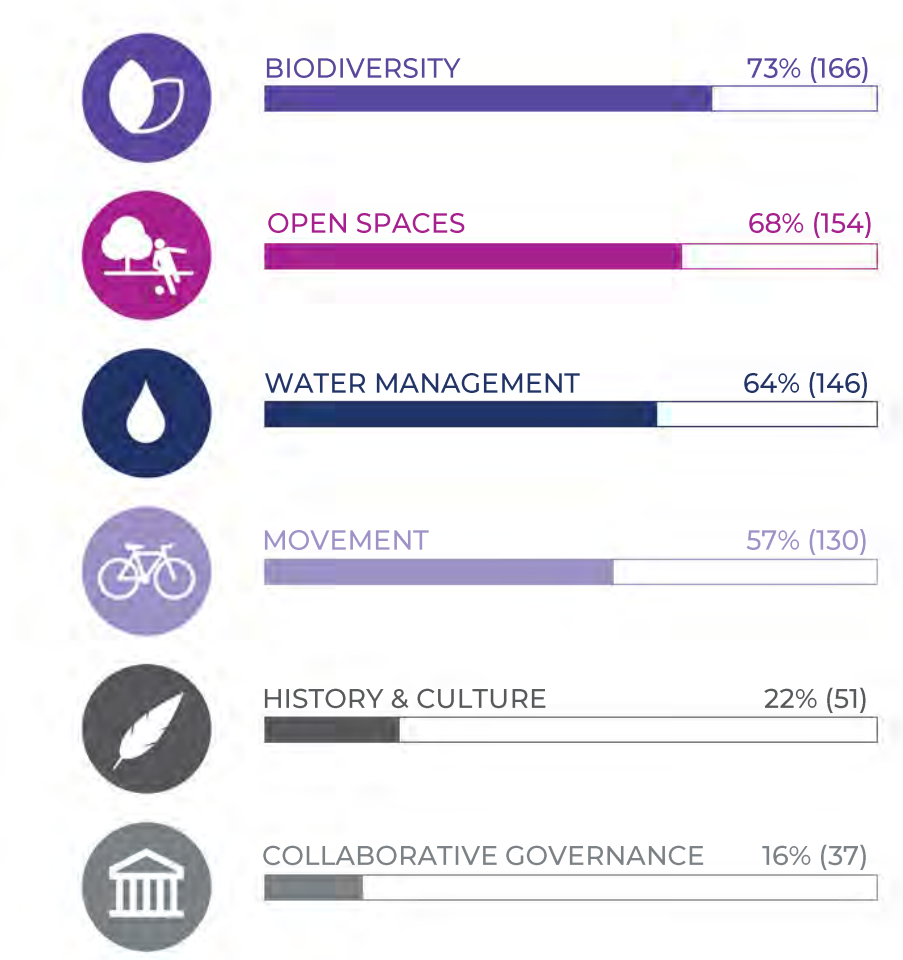
Every response and comment recorded as part of the consultation activities has been read by analysts and synthesised within the findings.

Top Three Goals

When asked: *Which goals are most important to you?* – (Select your top three), participants selected their top three Goals from the list.

The bars on the right present the percentage and number of times each Goal was selected as one of the 'top three' by the 228 respondents.

Overall, Goals which relate to the natural environment rated higher than those which relate to human interpretation and management. **Biodiversity** ranked highest, selected by 73% or 166 participants, **Open Space** (68% or 154) and **Water Management** (64% or 146). **Movement** was within the top three for just over half of the participants (57% or 130). **History and Culture** (22% or 51) and **Collaborative Governance** (16% or 37) were the least commonly selected goals.



Biodiversity

A healthy waterway and thriving ecosystem

You said:

> “Reclaiming and providing habitat to ecology / flora and fauna which is quickly being lost in cities and opportunity to engage with nature”

We heard:

- Restoring Moonee Ponds Creek to a natural state, developing healthy ecosystems and building habitats for flora and fauna are all important.
- Biodiversity is also linked with public enjoyment. Natural spaces are limited in the urban setting and the creek provides an excellent opportunity for the public to come together, engage with and appreciate the natural wildlife the creek offers.
- Litter and pollution negatively impact biodiversity in the creek. Rubbish, weeds, polluted water and contaminated soil are concerns.
- Preserving nature and minimising species loss is a priority, with wildlife placed under increasing pressure from urban development and climate change.

Open Space

A diverse network of open spaces to support the growing needs of the city

You said:

> "...Melbourne and its surrounds have become ugly with over-development and over-populated. We have lost our spaciousness and it is important to physical, mental and spiritual health to get it back."

We heard:

- Open space is highly supported for the recreational benefits it offers. Space is valued for activities such as jogging, dog walking, engaging with nature and generally enjoying the creek and surrounding environment.
- Liveability and wellbeing are closely linked with open space – the creek provides an effective break from the highly developed city environment. Usable, natural and safe public spaces are necessary to bring people together and provide some relief from the urban setting.
- The current condition of Moonee Ponds Creek is viewed unfavourably and is visually unappealing. Open space is an important component of improving the overall aesthetic of the area.

Water Management

A resilient creek adapted to current and future extreme weather events

You said:

> “water quality management is important for maintaining biodiversity in the Moonee ponds creek and to reduce the impacts of flooding on surrounding infrastructure.”

We heard:

- Effective water management influences the success of other Goals.
- Flooding inhibits movement, disturbs open space use, threatens biodiversity, undermines the natural environment, damages surrounding infrastructure, and impacts open space usability.
- Pollution, particularly rubbish in the creek is a problem. It degrades the natural environment and detracts from public enjoyment of the area.
- Effective water management that considers climate change impacts, improves liveability, and ensures the creek isn’t an arid environment.

Movement

A highly accessible and connected creek corridor

You said:

> "...there is great potential for the Moonee Ponds Path to be a valuable cycling link but at the moment sections of it are genuinely dangerous, especially for beginner cyclists. It needs a lot of work."

We heard:

- Moonee Ponds Creek is a significant commuting corridor and improvements that promote safe and efficient pedestrian and cycle movement are welcomed.
- Current cycling and pedestrian infrastructure are criticised, with many improvements suggested. Bike paths are uneven, poorly lit, overrun with weeds, subject to flooding and too narrow to accommodate current use levels.
- Safety is a high priority for cyclists and pedestrians who want better maintained, well-lit trails. Cycle separation from pedestrians is necessary to support safe and efficient movement through the corridor.

History & Culture

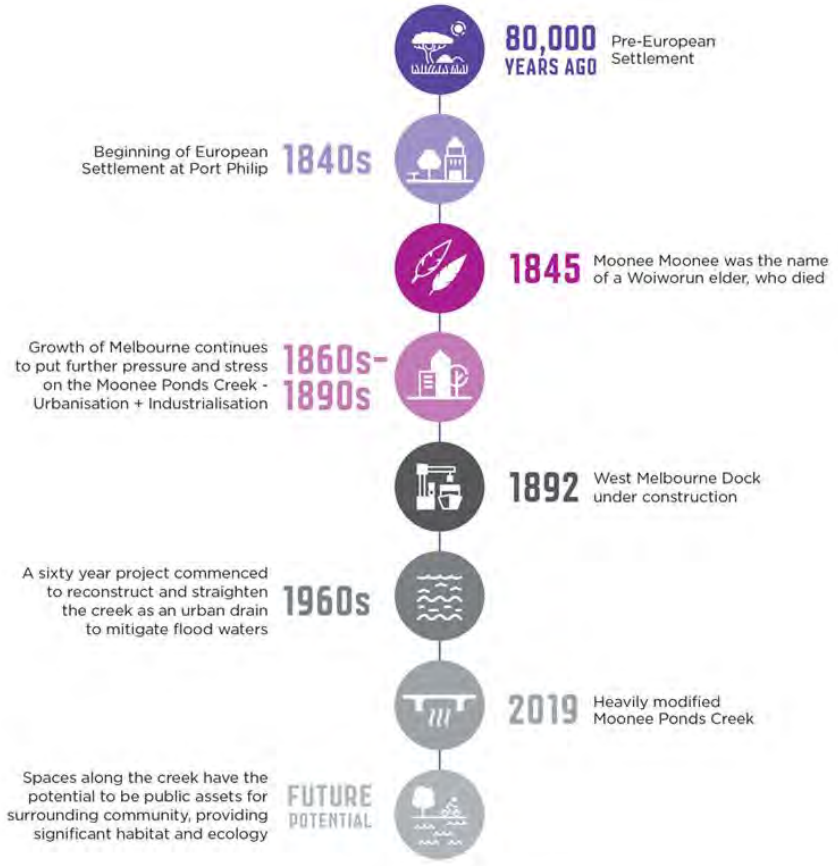
A celebrated past and shared vision for the future

You said:

> "We need to be recognising and prioritising the history of this land and the Indigenous people who's land it still is. This can help forge an understanding and appreciation of Indigenous people and history."

We heard:

- Recognition of Aboriginal peoples and their culture is valued highly.
- Acknowledgement of the Aboriginal connection to Moonee Ponds Creek is a step towards righting past wrongs and respecting the importance of the area for Aboriginal peoples.
- Educational interpretation strategies that increase public appreciation and understanding of Aboriginal peoples, knowledge and history are supported.
- Breaking down cultural barriers and enhancing Melbourne's identity is linked to this Goal.



Collaborative Governance

Advocate for transformational change

You said:

> "The city of Melbourne won't be able to do these works on their own and collaborative work is crucial for the success of any public spaces at present. Locals need to have a say in their priorities so that they help conserve projects and enforce them."

We heard:

- Collaborative governance is deemed necessary to progress the development of Moonee Ponds Creek.
- A variety of groups have linked interests, roles and responsibilities in the creek's management.
- Groups must work together to achieve productive and positive results.

Inter-Connected Goals

You said:

> "Biodiversity along with water management must be integrated to optimally provide multiple benefits, for both environmental conservation and human recreation."

We heard:

- The success of **individual Goals** is dependent on and influenced by the **success of others**.
- **Water management** is important to manage flooding, which is inhibiting **movement**, damaging **biodiversity** and impacting the usability of **open space**.
- **Open space** contributes to enjoyment of **movement** through Moonee Ponds Creek and offers opportunities for **water management**.
- **Biodiversity** enhances water management and can protect and enhance **open space**.
- **Movement** is more enjoyable when Moonee Ponds Creek's **biodiversity** and **open space** are enhanced.

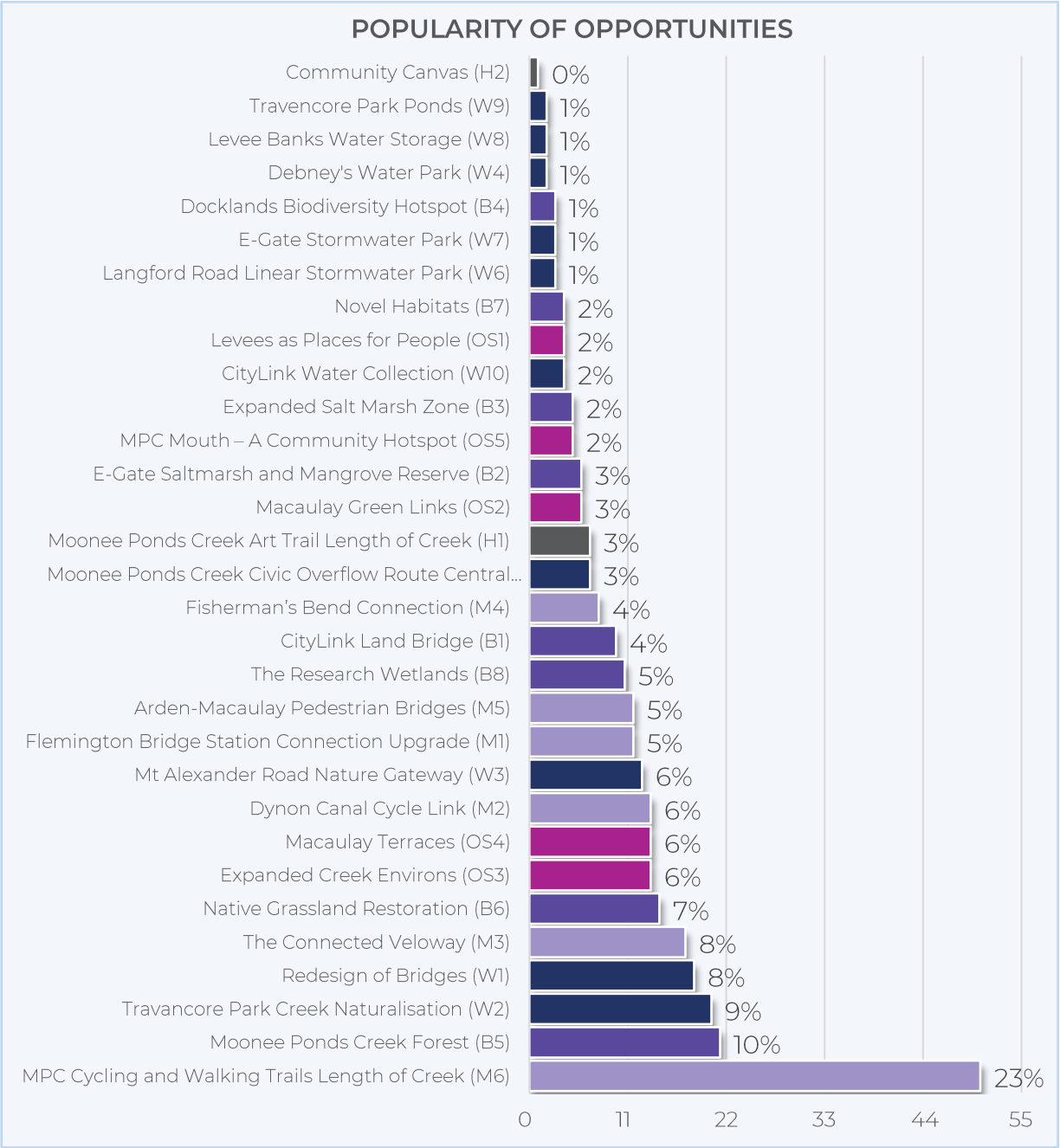
WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITIES

When asked: *Which opportunities would you most like to see created for Moonee Ponds Creek?* – (Select your top three), participants selected three out of the 31 options. They went on to explain why.

The chart on the right presents the number and percentage of times that each of the 105 respondents selected an Opportunity as one of their 'top three'.

Results

Selected by 23% or 52 times, **Moonee Ponds Creek Cycling and Walking Trails Length of Creek (M6)** was by far the most important Opportunity for participants. Other Opportunities that were selected as important by more than 15 participants were: **Moonee Ponds Creek Forest (B5)** (10% or 22); **Travancore Park Creek Naturalisation (W2)** (9% or 21); **Redesign of Bridges (W1)** (8% or 19); and, **The Connected Veloway** (M3) (8% or 18).



Number (horizontal axis) and percentage of times each opportunity was selected

Your top three Opportunities

Moonee Ponds Creek Cycling and Walking Trails Length Of Creek (M6)

PRIORITISED BY: 23% (52)

You said:

> "The need for improved cycling and active transport infrastructure is critical, particularly with regard to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The existing ad-hoc bike paths need to be taken seriously as important transport corridors"

We heard:

- **Separated, adequately maintained**, well-lit and reliable cycling and walking infrastructure is needed to overcome the current **poor state** of the track and low perceptions of safety.
- Walking and cycling **network improvements** will have flow on benefits, that may entice thousands of users. There is potential to create a trail which is: a non-stop trip, the fastest possible route, cheaper than roads and **pays for itself** with health benefits.
- **Connected**, active transport reduces congestion and environment damaging emissions.
- **Community cohesion** and well-being can be enhanced through improved liveability, connections to nature and shared experiences.

Moonee Ponds Creek Forest (B5)

PRIORITISED BY: 10% (22)

You said:

> "... Not only good for the environment to encourage Australian flora and fauna, but good for the community to come together, appreciate the parklands and benefit the economic status of the community."

We heard:

- The creek is in **urgent need** of vegetation and a forest is an excellent way to **restore biodiversity**.
- Benefits for wildlife from **improved habitat**, biodiversity and encouraging a green corridor, will enhance indigenous species relationships and improve the water quality of the **creek system**.
- A forest will improve the **natural experience** of the area and create open green spaces to attract visitors and be widely **enjoyed** by the community.
- Will provide **relief** from the negative impacts of the urban environment, breaking the "sea of concrete" with enjoyable **green spaces**.

Travancore Park Creek Naturalisation (W2)

PRIORITISED BY: 9% (21)

You said:

"Moonee Ponds Creek between Brunswick Rd & Racecourse Rd is a drain and is a crime against nature. Restoring the section of the creek to its pre-colonisation condition (or as close as is reasonably practicable at the moment) is a high priority."

We heard:

- Will bring the creek back to a more **natural state**. The creek's concrete lining is an "eyesore" and a "crime against nature" and natural environment **restoration is necessary** for human enjoyment, habitat and biodiversity.
- The area **regularly floods** and that naturalisation will help slow water, increase recharge and **improve water** quality.
- Will acknowledge a **catchment-based** approach to resolving flooding and illustrate a **collaborative approach** between bordering councils; Melbourne Water, CityLink and the local community.

Your views and suggestions for each opportunity

31 OPPORTUNITIES WERE PRESENTED	WE HEARD	NUMBER OF COMMENTS
Moonee Ponds Creek Cycling and Walking Trails Length of Creek (M6)	> Cycling safety and condition improvements > Walking and cycling network improvements > Improve Melbourne connectivity > Benefits of prioritising active transport > Community use, wellbeing and cohesion > A variety of positive and negative cycle path comments	60
Moonee Ponds Creek Forest (B5)	> Increased biodiversity, wildlife habitat and water quality improvements > A variety of comments discussing urban forest benefits	21
Travancore Park Creek Naturalisation (W2)	> Returning the Creek to its natural state > A variety of environment improvement topics	19
The Connected Veloway (M3)	> Walking and cycling improvements > Improved safety from improved cycle infrastructure > Cycle connectivity for commuting > Vehicle reduction and general support	19
Redesign of Bridges (W1)	> Redesign bridges for safety > Better connections from redesigned bridges > Other topics, including heritage, flooding and human interaction	18
Macaulay Terraces (OS4)	> Open space public land for recreation use > A variety of environmental and community benefits to be delivered	16
Native Grassland Restoration (B6)	> Improved amenity and public enjoyment > Improved natural environment, reduced emissions and general support	14
Expanded Creek Environs (OS3)	> Improved natural amenity > Improved open space, increasingly important as population grows > Water management particularly with regard to flooding	14
Dynon Canal Cycle Link (M2)	> Enhanced active transport experience through improved cycling and walking > Cycle safety improvements > Improved connectivity, encouragement of cycling and reduced emissions	13
Flemington Bridge Station Connection Upgrade (M1)	> Improved cycle commuting, connectivity and safety > Reduced cycle congestion and better train access	13
Arden-Macaulay Pedestrian Bridges (M5)	> Improved connectivity between Melbourne suburbs > Improvements to cycling infrastructure and safety > Improved accessible space and general amenity	12

31 OPPORTUNITIES WERE PRESENTED	WE HEARD	NUMBER OF COMMENTS
The Research Wetlands (B8)	> Restoration of biodiversity and the creeks natural state	10
Mt Alexander Road Nature Gateway (W3)	> Improved amenity and engagement with nature	9
CityLink Land Bridge (B1)	> Support for connectivity, some improvement suggestions proposed	9
Fisherman's Bend Connection (M4)	> Improved connections and safety > Pedestrians and cycling conditions supported	7
Moonee Ponds Creek Civic Overflow Route Central (W5)	> Improvements to access and space provision, flood management, good management needed	7
Moonee Ponds Creek Art Trail Length of Creek (H1)	> A colourful space, telling traditional stories and benefiting the whole community	7
Macaulay Green Links (OS2)	> Open space and biodiversity improvements	7
Levees as Places for People (OS1)	> An enhanced space to improve recreation use and community respect	7
Expanded Salt Marsh Zone (B3)	> Support for regeneration of native aquatic plants, integration with other Opportunities	6
CityLink Water Collection (W10)	> Improved water management, water quality and improvement to surrounding areas	6
Novel Habitats (B7)	> Habitat and biodiversity restoration supported	5
Docklands Biodiversity Hotspot (B4)	> A variety of ideas including increased biodiversity, boating, native vegetation restoration	5
Travancore Park Ponds (W9)	> Benefits to water management, biodiversity and water open space supported, alternative underground storage suggested	5
E-Gate Saltmarsh and Mangrove Reserve (B2)	> Biodiversity benefits, particularly for tidal marine life	4
Langford Road Linear Stormwater Park (W6)	> Increased recreation space and biodiversity enhancement for the growing population	4
E-Gate Stormwater Park (W7)	> Working with nature to improve wetlands and accommodate flooding	4
Debney's Water Park (W4)	> General comments, one supporting Moonee Valley Council design	2
Levee Banks Water Storage (W8)	> Environmental sensitivity needed in delivering this Opportunity	2
Moonee Ponds Creek Mouth – A Community Hotspot (OS5)	> Natural environment improvements	1
Community Canvas (H2)	> One comment opposed to wasted energy and light pollution	1

HOW YOUR FEEDBACK WILL BE USED

We've received overwhelming community and stakeholder support for this vision.

Your feedback is helping us revise our Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Opportunities Plan. Specific suggestions to refine concepts and new opportunity ideas put forward are now being investigated for possible inclusion in the final Strategic Opportunities Plan document. This Plan will then be recommended for endorsement by the Future Melbourne Committee later this year. The vision and priorities articulated in the Plan will provide Council with a formal position from which to advocate to the State government, and to better facilitate collaboration across the full length of the creek corridor.

Your feedback is also being shared with and considered by the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA), who is tasked with undertaking further in-depth technical and feasibility studies to understand cost and implementation issues. The insights gained through our consultation activities will provide them with an understanding of which thematic Goals are most important to the realisation of our vision and why, as well as the range of Opportunities for creek improvement that have the greatest community support. The VPA will formulate advice to the Victorian Government later this year, about how to move forward with the creek's revitalisation, including any possible short-term project opportunities.

Thank you to everyone who's shown interest in this Plan and contributed to our consultation process. Your positivity and constructive ideas are helping Melbourne make the most of the incredible natural asset that is Moonee Ponds Creek.

This report has been prepared by:

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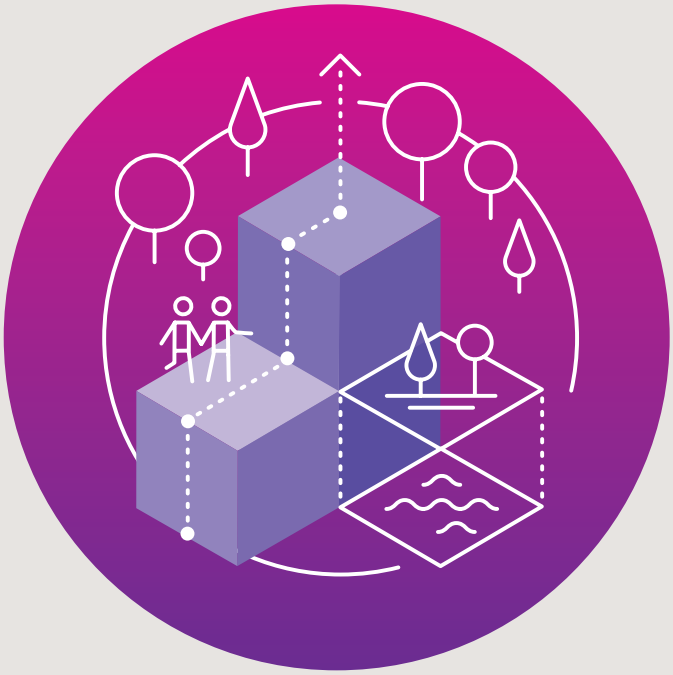
Global Research
Turning **Information** Into **Insight**

Attachment 3
Agenda item 6.3
Future Melbourne Committee
20 August 2019

MOONEE PONDS CREEK STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES PLAN

CITY OF MELBOURNE



A CITY PLANNING FOR GROWTH

Melbourne will be a leader in planning for growth and technological advancement. We will guide and influence the future development of the city for the benefit of all city users and in a way that values and celebrates its historical and cultural identity.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The City of Melbourne respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land, the Boon Wurrung and Woiwurrung (Wurundjeri) people of the Kulin Nation and pays respect to their Elders, past and present.

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August 2019

Cover Image: ‘Macaulay Terrace’ A Sunny Afternoon. Credit: McGregor Coxall (McGC)

Disclaimer

This report is provided for information and it does not purport to be complete. While care has been taken to ensure the content in the report is accurate, we cannot guarantee is without flaw of any kind. There may be errors and omissions or it may not be wholly appropriate for your particular purposes. In addition, the publication is a snapshot in time based on historic information which is liable to change. The City of Melbourne accepts no responsibility and disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information contained in this report.

To find out how you can participate in the decision-making process for City of Melbourne’s current and future initiatives, visit **melbourne.vic.gov.au/participate**

NO
STOPPING
ON
FREEWAY
IN CASE OF
EMERGENCY
EXIT FREEWAY

FOREWORD FROM THE LORD MAYOR OF MELBOURNE AND COUNCILLOR

Moonee Ponds Creek is the forgotten waterway of Melbourne – but has so much potential to be transformed into a world-class open space designed for people.

The population of the City of Melbourne is projected to double within the next 20 years. With growth concentrated in the urban renewal precincts of Arden and Macaulay, Docklands, Dynon, E-Gate, and Fishermans Bend.

Five of those urban renewal areas back onto Moonee Ponds Creek. The sixth, Fishermans Bend, sits on the other side of the waterway where the creek and the Yarra River meet.

The revitalisation of the Moonee Ponds Creek has an important role to play, in creating people-friendly neighbourhoods and as a playground for the growing inner city, with a chain of parks, wetlands, paths and public spaces. Municipal boundaries should not be an artificial barrier stopping the development of new green spaces for local residents and their families to enjoy.

This plan demonstrates how and why Moonee Ponds Creek is important to the liveability and sustainability of inner metropolitan Melbourne. Council's vision for the future of the creek and surrounding land proposes a range of opportunities for revitalisation. If properly managed, the creek corridor will strengthen Melbourne's biodiversity and reduce the risk of flooding in inner city areas.

Before European settlement it was an ancient highway to the north and a valuable source of food for the Aboriginal people of the Kulin Nation. After settlement, Melbourne parked its trains beside it, drove its cars over it, poured its industrial waste into it and ignored it. We'd like to recognise the continued advocacy from local community groups such as the Friends of the Moonee Ponds Creek who have been working to clean up and transform the creek since the 1980s.

The time has come to embrace Moonee Ponds Creek again – and create a green oasis on the doorstep of the central city.

We cannot achieve this alone. That's why we look forward to working with local communities and businesses, as well as the State Government, to make our vision for Moonee Ponds Creek a reality.

Sally Capp
Lord Mayor

Cr Cathy Oke
Portfolio Chair, Environment

CONTEXT

Before European settlement in 1835, Moonee Ponds Creek was an integral part of the 'temperate Kakadu' that was Melbourne.

The Creek – which was a chain of ponds during drier months and a flood plain during heavy rains – was a travel route and water and food source for the Aboriginal peoples of the Kulin nation. It also fed into a picturesque saltwater lake near to what is now Southern Cross Station.

Food sources included the tuber daisy yam - of which Moonee Ponds Creek was a noted source - and bull-rush roots which were collected from the waterway and roasted; and eels, which were a seasonal food caught in stone weirs and long fibre nets.

In the decades after 1835, everything changed.

The Creek's cultural importance to local Aboriginal people was ignored. The saltwater lake was turned into a tip, then filled in. Meanwhile, for much of the next 150 years, Moonee Ponds Creek was treated as an industrial drain and transport corridor.

> **"Billabongs and swamps were sprinkled right around the bay, and they teemed with brolgas, magpie-geese, Cape Barren geese, swans, ducks, eels and frogs. So abundant was the wildlife that we can imagine the Melbourne area in 1830 as a sort of temperate Kakadu and, as in Arnhem Land, it was the wetlands that were the focus of life."**
>
> – Tim Flannery, The Birth of Melbourne (2004)

Since late last century, supporters of the Creek have worked hard to change perceptions of the Creek and to advocate to restore its natural functions. The Friends of the Moonee Ponds Creek (formerly the Moonee Ponds Creek Association) have worked hard to protect the Creek from further damage. Their leadership led to the 1992 Moonee Ponds Creek Concept Plan.

Since then, many organisations – including local government, state government agencies and the local community groups – have worked hard to address the complex challenges of the creek. Most recently, this work has included the development of the Moonee Ponds Creek Chain of Ponds Plan, prepared jointly by the Moonee Valley City Council and Moreland City Council.

In turn, there has been a growing public awareness and valuing of the social, economic and environmental importance of the creek.

- It is economically important because it runs through and connects many of the new inner-city suburbs that will be central to Melbourne's efforts to become a global hub for innovation – especially the Arden and Macaulay urban renewal precincts. The Creek meets the Yarra River in the Port of Melbourne area, home to Australia's largest container port. This part of the Creek is home to freight and rail operations that service the whole city.
- It is socially important because it could, via walking and cycling paths, become a major local and regional transit route – connecting urban renewal precincts, established suburbs and the central city, as well as creating new public spaces on the doorstep of the central city.
- It is environmentally important because it could – by creating a chain of parks and wetlands and linking to existing parklands such as Royal Park – strengthen the biodiversity of the city and lessen some of the impacts of climate change (such as increased flooding) through integrated water design and management.

Melbourne is already globally recognised as one of the most liveable cities in the world.

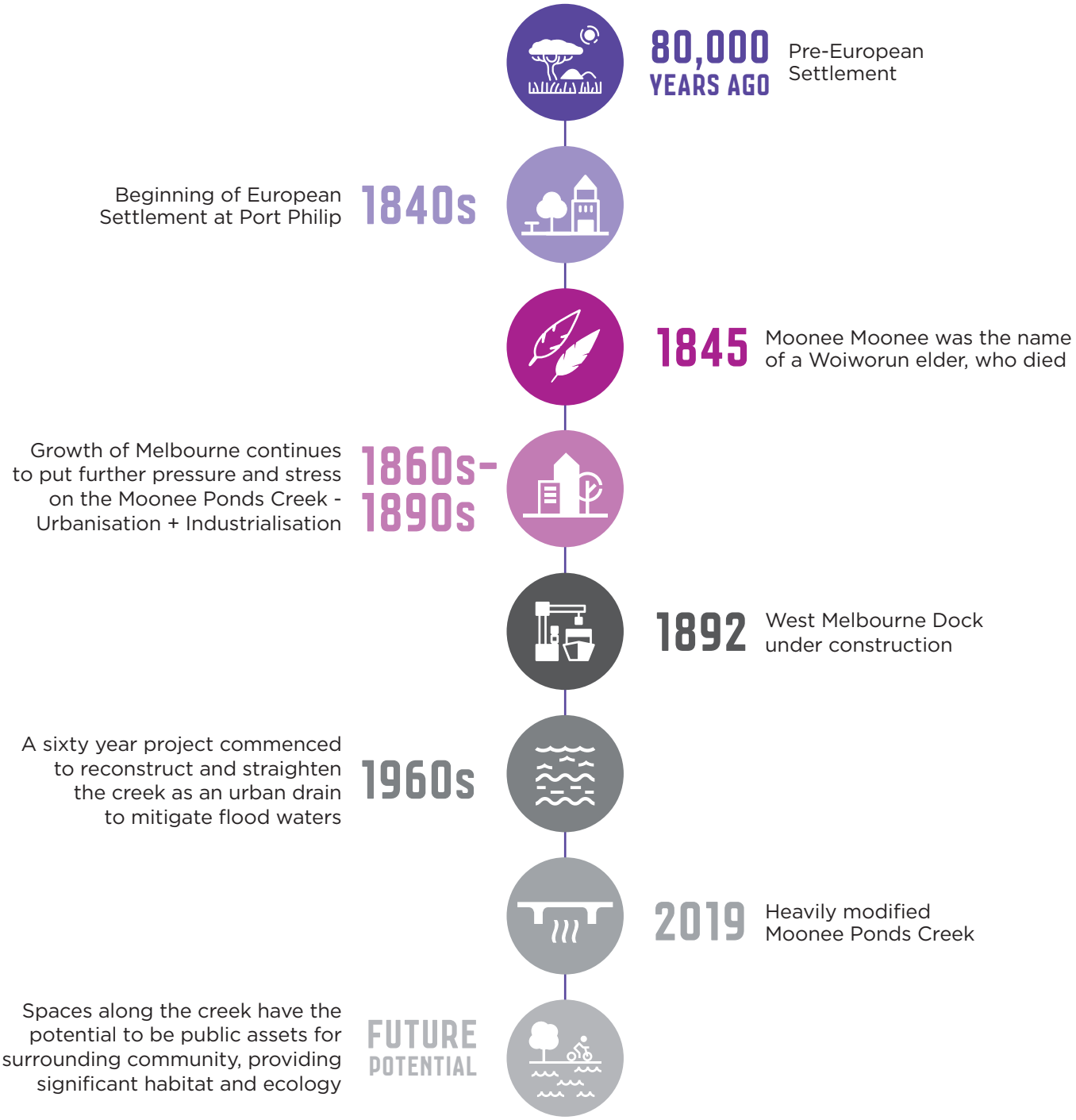
With Greater Melbourne in the midst of its greatest surge in population since the Gold Rush, the City of Melbourne needs to find new ways to manage growth. To achieve this, the City needs to extend best practice planning and design into former industrial neighbourhood precincts like Arden and forge new partnerships with stakeholders such as the Victorian Government, universities and local communities.

The urban renewal precincts that run along Moonee Ponds Creek corridor have the potential to – through a combination of bold planning and strong partnerships – become a green oasis and enhance the liveability of the City.

The Arden and Macaulay, Dynon and E-Gate urban renewal precincts, along with Docklands are opportunities to enhance the inner city's liveability, sustainability and affordability; set benchmarks for smart, sustainable development; and strengthen the city's biodiversity. However, those opportunities for economic, social and environmental renewal cannot be fully realised without the revival of the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor.

Renewing the creek corridor will support a new inner city of existing and developing neighbourhoods – as well as creating urgently needed public spaces for the inner city's rapidly growing population. Ignoring the Creek corridor will dislocate local suburbs and urban renewal precincts – and harm Melbourne's liveability, sustainability and prosperity.

Figure 1. History - Diagram showing evolution of the creek corridor



"Australia's First Peoples have a history of more than 80,000 years, their Descendants have developed intimate knowledge and spiritual connection to their natural environment."

PURPOSE

The City of Melbourne does not own or control the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor. The Creek corridor is largely controlled by Victorian Government agencies.

Consequently, our role is that of an advocate for the current and future residents and communities along the creek corridor. That is why we want to work in partnership with the Victorian Government, neighbouring councils, community groups and other partners to revitalise the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor.

The purpose of this document is to detail our vision for the future of the creek corridor. This document sets out the opportunities that the City of Melbourne believes should be taken to turn the creek into an exemplar corridor for water management, public space and community activity, active transport, biodiversity, heritage and culture.

We believe these actions will:

- revitalise an ancient and vital waterway
- reconnect the creek corridor to its Aboriginal heritage and local history
- create new, high quality and restorative public spaces
- connect new and established communities
- protect and enhance opportunities for biodiversity
- reduce the severity and impacts of a changing climate
- enable the region's urban renewal projects to set new benchmarks for water management and sustainable development.

This plan will deliver on several Council strategies that have been informed by extensive community engagement over many years, including the Open Space Strategy (2012); Urban Forest Strategy; Making a Great City Greener 2012-2031; Nature in the City Strategy (2017); Arden-Macaulay Structure Plan (2012); and, Municipal Integrated Water Management Plan (2017).

"Community sentiment is strong – the creek is a vital asset that needs restoring along with better access and, integration – and there is no time to waste in delivering these outcomes."

The liveability of Melbourne is connected to the future of Moonee Ponds Creek. We look forward to working with the Victorian Government and the local community to strengthen that connection, and achieve the right balance of growth, sustainability and liveability for local communities and the city as a whole.

Figure 2. Map showing growth narrative around the Creek

Legend

- City of Melbourne municipal boundary
- Port of Melbourne
- Existing open spaces
- Train line
- Metro Tunnel (under construction)
- Tram line
- Bicycle routes
- Capital City trail
- West Gate Tunnel (under construction)
- New Metro Station (under construction)
- Growth Areas
- Moonee Ponds Creek

OVERVIEW

The lower reaches of Moonee Ponds Creek – the parts that flow through the City of Melbourne – are set to become some of the most intensely developed parts of Greater Melbourne.

Moonee Ponds Creek runs for 25 kilometres – starting close to Melbourne Airport and winding through the north west of the city before merging with the Yarra at Docklands.

Within the City of Melbourne, the creek starts in the north at Brunswick Road – beside CityLink – and ends in the south at Docklands.

This document focuses on the strategic opportunities along Moonee Ponds Creek between Brunswick Road and Docklands, building on and complementing the Chain of Ponds Masterplan developed by Moreland and Moonee Valley Councils to the north.

This part of Moonee Ponds Creek can be divided into three reaches.

1. *North: Brunswick Road to Racecourse Road.*
   This is a concrete stormwater drain, with minimal public amenity.

2. *Central: Racecourse Road to Dynon Road.*
   This runs through a rapidly-transforming industrial area alongside and beneath CityLink, with minimal connections east and west of the creek for pedestrians and cyclists.

3. *South: Dynon Road to the Yarra.*
   This runs through largely Victorian Government-owned land and is overshadowed by the elevated approach to the Bolte Bridge and CityLink.

The creek is a popular active transport route from north-to-south, with the Capital City Trail giving cyclists and pedestrians direct access to the central city and Docklands. From east-to-west though, there is a need to link local communities by creating more pedestrian and cycling crossings over the creek.

Once additional factors are taken into consideration – such as the opening of the new North Melbourne train station scheduled in 2025 – an already strong case for action becomes urgent.

Without planned, coordinated action, the potential of the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor will be squandered and the full social and economic value of the area's urban renewal sites will not be realised.

There is an urgent need to make plans and take actions that ensure the Creek can meet current and future requirements for:

- public space and community activity
- biodiversity
- water management
- active transport
- heritage and culture.

This Plan proposes a series of strategic opportunities to transform the creek corridor and restore its ecological, cultural and recreational values.

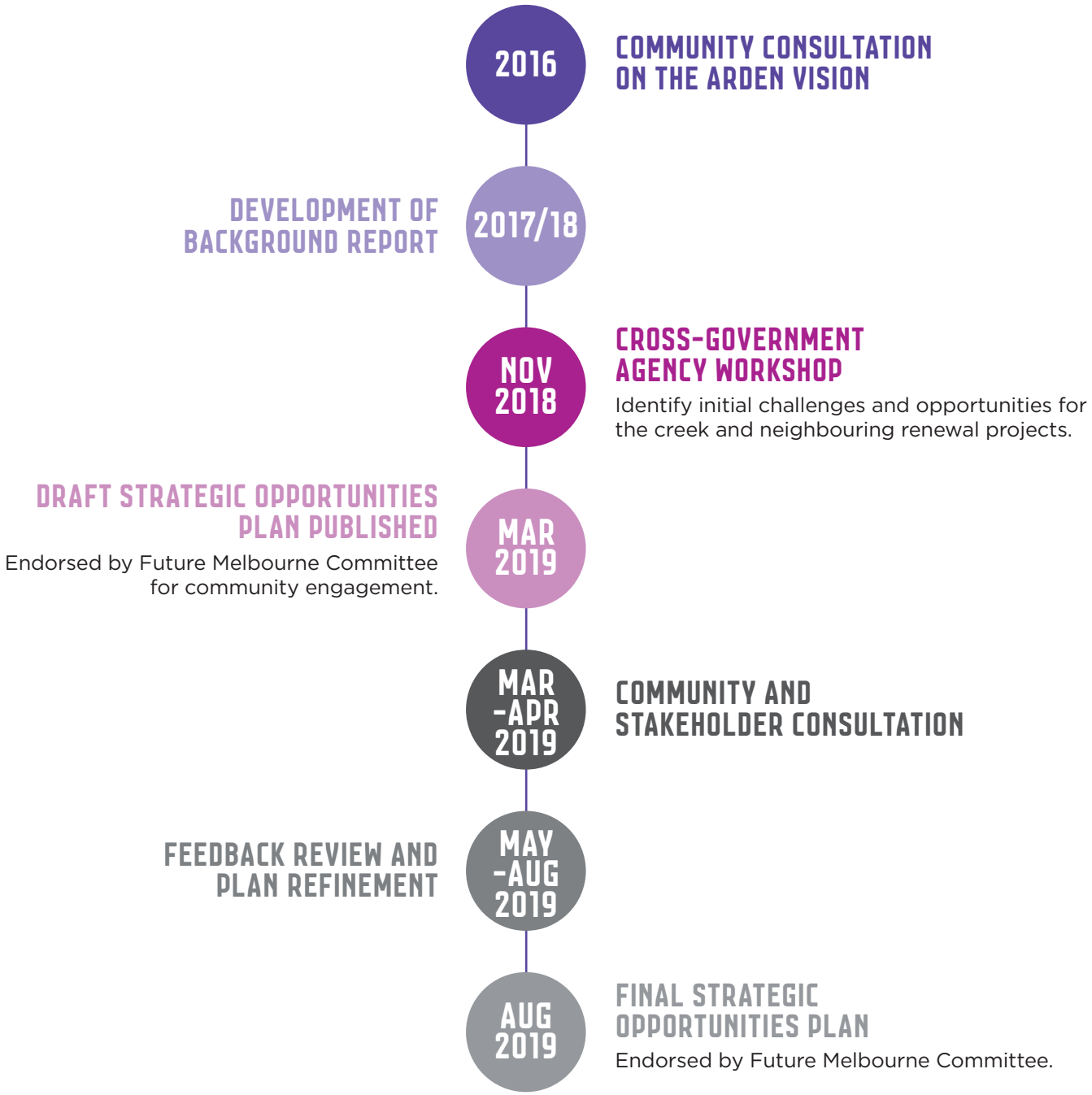
The Plan has been supported by a comprehensive Background Report prepared by expert consultants McGregor Coxall and Wave Consulting.

This includes an analysis of existing City of Melbourne integrated water, land and open space policies, as well as a review of past technical work in the lower reaches of the Moonee Ponds Creek Corridor, including flood modelling from 2016. A rigorous assessment of international best practice in integrated urban and water management also informed the identification of opportunities as part of the Background Report.

The final version of the Strategic Opportunities Plan has been supported by a comprehensive program of community and stakeholder engagement that took place between March and April 2019. We invited the broader community, and particularly residents in suburbs neighbouring the creek, to participate in one of five 'pop-up' engagement events and to complete a digital survey. Traditional Owner groups, and 'friends of' groups were invited to individual consultation sessions.

In total, our activities generated over 86,000 social media impressions, we reached 2081 people and we received 237 contributions, which have shaped and refined this final plan.

Figure 3. Development timeline



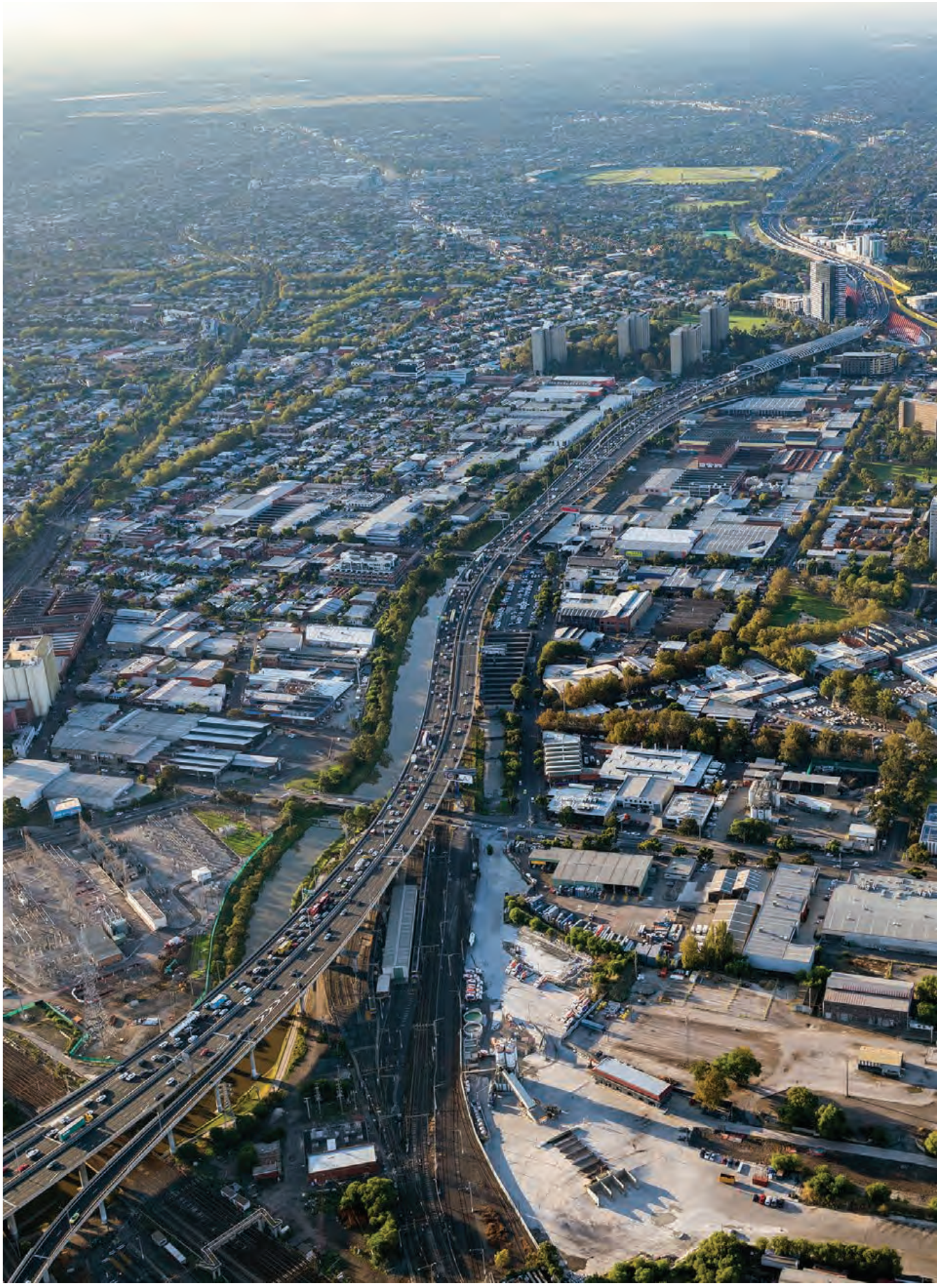


Figure 4. Current Image of creek

Figure 5. Moonee Ponds Creek North

CHALLENGES

The liveability of Melbourne is connected to the future of Moonee Ponds Creek. Increased flooding risk caused by urban intensification as well as climate change-induced sea level rise, highlight the urgent need for innovative ways to manage the flooding risk in the creek corridor. Urban growth also brings increased demand for open space and social infrastructure; there is a pressing need to restore both the recreational as well as ecological potential of the creek.

But to realise that potential, three major challenges must be turned into opportunities.

1. Growth
2. Water management
3. Governance.

Growth

The lower reach of Moonee Ponds Creek is set to become one of the most intensely developed parts of Greater Melbourne.

This growth will be driven by a chain of urban renewal sites that run along the creek, from Arden and Macaulay in the north to Dynon, E-Gate and Docklands in the south.

Development will accelerate after 2025 with the completion of Metro Tunnel project. This will connect Arden to Parkville and the central city via a new train line and the construction of a new 'North Melbourne' train station, with the existing North Melbourne train station to be renamed West Melbourne.

The Moonee Ponds Creek corridor needs to be the green equivalent of the Metro Tunnel – connecting local communities to each other and the central city through a chain of new public spaces, strengthening local biodiversity, and protecting the city through better water management.

The West Gate Tunnel project is another growth-related issue to consider locally. The City of Melbourne is working with the Victorian Government to minimise the potential impacts of this project by seeking to increase tree canopy cover and active transport links, and develop the Moonee Ponds Creek Implementation Plan with the Victorian Planning Authority.

> **"The Moonee Ponds Creek corridor needs to be the green equivalent of the Metro Tunnel."**

Water management

Moonee Ponds Creek has always had a long history of flooding.

Modelling indicates that, by 2100, flooding risks will significantly increase along Moonee Ponds Creek. This is due predominantly to increasing runoff from urban densification and more extreme rainfall events and rising sea levels due to climate change.

There is an urgent need for the development and implementation of sophisticated water management strategies. This includes integrating levees and floodable spaces into the public realm.

Some water management actions will need to be taken up-stream – north of the Brunswick Road boundary of the City of Melbourne.

Governance

The City of Melbourne does not own or manage the land in the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor. The majority of the creek corridor – together with the Arden, E-gate and Dynon urban renewal areas it bisects– is owned and managed by various agencies and departments of the Victorian Government, for a variety of different purposes.

Consequently, the governance and management of the Creek corridor is complex.

For instance:

- the creek runs through four municipalities, Hume, Moonee Valley, Moreland and Melbourne; with different sides of the creek falling within different municipalities
- being at the southern end of the creek catchment, the extent of flooding and quantity of litter in the City of Melbourne section is impacted significantly by actions further north upstream in the creek
- its water resources are managed by Melbourne Water
- the Victorian Government owns most of the land in the creek corridor through VicTrack, Development Victoria and the Port of Melbourne Operations; and
- CityLink's elevated road is privately operated.

To unlock the economic, social and environmental potential of the Creek and the adjacent renewal areas – and create a vibrant new part of the inner city – there is a need for a catchment-wide approach to the governance of the Creek corridor, incorporating the Victorian Government and local councils.

To work, catchment-wide governance will need to be collaborative and incorporate the views of residents, stakeholders, agencies and municipalities.

In all governance-related issues, the City of Melbourne has acted – and will continue to act – as an advocate for the current and future communities of the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor.

MOONEE PONDS CIVIC OVERFLOW ROUTE

Figure 6. Artistic impression of 'Moonee Ponds Creek Civic Overflow Route'- after a high water event.

STRATEGIC VISION

Moonee Ponds Creek will become a thriving corridor that supports the liveability and resilience of the city.

Transformation

To achieve that vision, the three reaches of the Creek that run through the City of Melbourne need to be transformed.

1. *North: Brunswick Road to Racecourse Road.*
   What is now a concrete stormwater drain will be remediated – becoming a focal point for the local community and biodiversity.

2. *Central: Racecourse Road to Dynon Road.*
   What is now an industrial area will become an area for mixed-use development. The area needs to be revitalised so it connects and supports the growing communities east and west of the Creek.

3. *South: Dynon Road to the Yarra.*
   What is now an inaccessible, infrastructure dominated area will become a significant source of public open space in the City of Melbourne, with regionally significant benefits as well as benefits for local communities and the local environment.

Goals

To transform Moonee Ponds Creek five goals must be achieved.

1. *Water management*
   Ensure that the creek copes with increased flooding risk caused by urban densification as well as climate change-induced sea level rises and more frequent extreme weather events.

2. *Open space*
   Create a diverse network of open spaces large and numerous enough to cater to a rapidly-growing population.

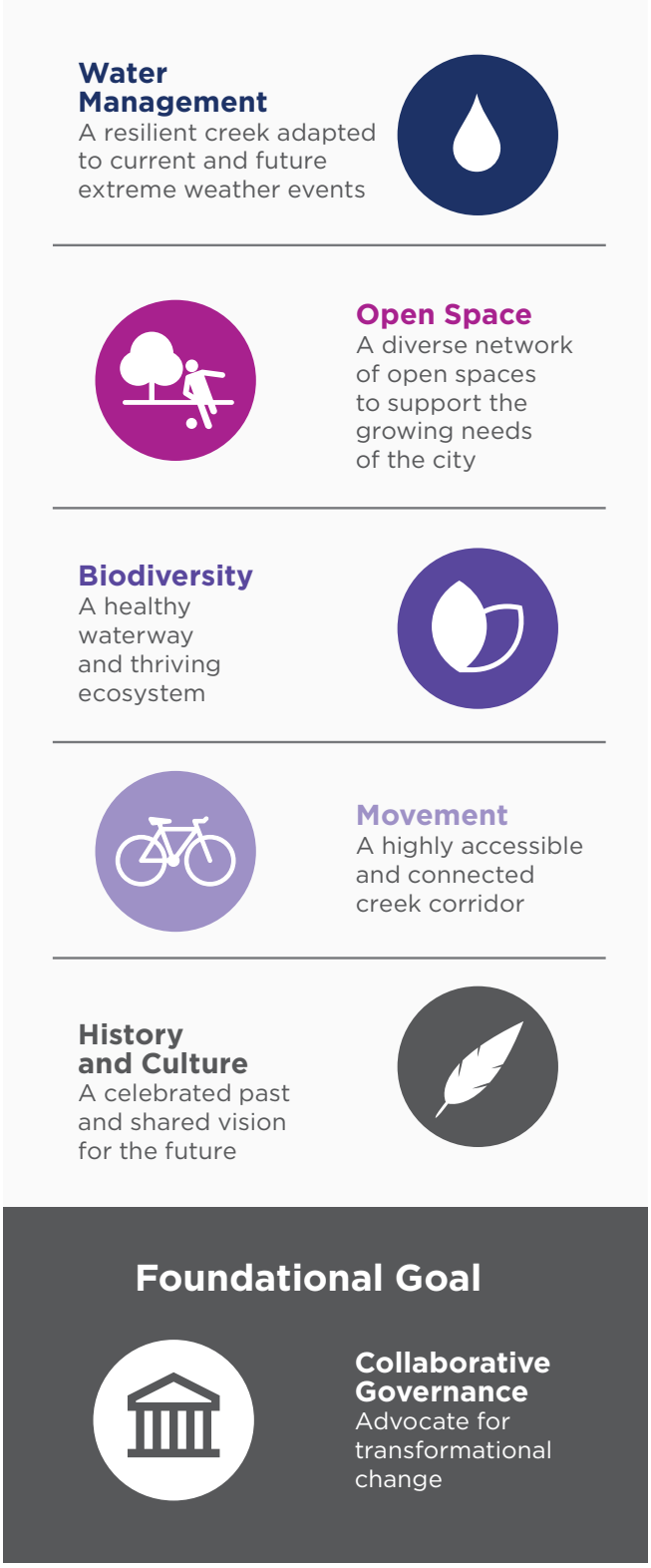
3. *Biodiversity*
   Revitalise the creek so that it becomes a rich corridor of biodiversity and a thriving habitat for native flora and fauna.

4. *Movement*
   Create safe, accessible paths that connect pedestrians and cyclists to local communities and facilities on either side of the Creek, as well as the Central City.

5. *History and culture*
   Ensure that the revitalised creek corridor celebrates and connects to its Aboriginal heritage and local history, and provides new spaces for creativity and public art.

These five goals can only be effectively realised through a foundational goal of “Collaborative Governance” - Advocating for transformational change and continuing to work with Councils, Authorities and the community to take an integrated catchment management approach.

Moonee Ponds Creek: Key goals by theme



Future Character Reach

Key projects identified in the strategic opportunities section are spatially located in the following pages under each character reach. Visualisations, and text describe the potential character and programme of each project.

North

Brunswick Road to Racecourse Road

'The Collector'

A green open space, collecting and cleansing water, attracting and growing community.

Central

Racecourse Road to Dynon Road

'The Urban Connector'

An urban creek interface creating engaging places for people.

South

Dynon Road to the Yarra

'The Tidal Underpass'

A stormwater park and biodiversity hotspot. A place to meander and rest by the waters edge.

Figure 7. Plan: Future vision of Moonee Ponds Creek.

OPPORTUNITIES

The strategic opportunities proposed to improve the creek corridor and achieve the vision, are identified over the following pages. Some are focussed on specific opportunities at points along the waterway, while others are in multiple locations or intended for the whole corridor.

The information concerning the proposed opportunities, their location, the major themes they respond to as well as the additional co-benefits, are contained in the table at Appendix 1. All initiatives have been assigned a reference number and these reference numbers are used to locate the initiatives on the corresponding creek corridor maps.

Interpreting the Key:

The letter identifies the key theme, for example, 'W1' relates to opportunity number 1 under the water management theme. The icons underneath each opportunity identifies the related themes or co-benefits that the opportunity can also deliver.

For example:

W1 - Redesign of Bridges

Remove or re-construct pipe bridges and transport bridges to reduce the hydraulic constraints they impose, while improving cycle and pedestrian connections and respecting heritage constraints.

W1 has both a water management theme and a movement co-benefit.

"Community engagement on the draft Strategic Opportunities Plan highlighted additional opportunities for enhancement and enjoyment of the creek corridor."

North: Brunswick Road to Racecourse Road

Create a green gateway to the municipality:
a parkland and waterway equivalent to the Metro Tunnel.

Travencore Park Creek Naturalisation (in the City of Moonee Valley)

Remove the existing concrete channel and re-naturalise the creek by reinstating a chain of ponds featuring indigenous plantings, rockwork and wetlands that create a habitat for threatened species. Address flood mitigation and connect the naturalised creek with Travancore Park in the City of Moonee Valley.

Community Canvas

Use the motorway noise wall as a canvas for art, light installations and cinema screenings. Integrate the wall as a feature of the park and as a backdrop for community and council activities.

Mt Alexander Road Nature Gateway

Increase the capacity of the detention basin at Melbourne's art gateway to help mitigate flooding. Create a natural landscape for the basin to provide amenity in high and low flood conditions.

Debney's Park Wetland (in the City of Moonee Valley)

Create physical connections between Flemington Housing Estate and the creek. Mitigate against flooding by investigating the creation of a Debney's Water Park.

Redesign of Bridges

Remove or re-construct pipe bridges and transport bridges to reduce the hydraulic constraints they impose, while improving cycle and pedestrian connections and respecting heritage constraint.

CityLink Water Collection

Harvest runoff from CityLink and divert it into reconstructed ponds, wetlands and water treatment zones along the creek.

Moonee Ponds Creek Cycling & Walking Trails (length of creek)

Create a separated, commuter path for cyclists that promotes the safety and accessibility for both pedestrians and cyclists, as well as create local bike hubs, rest spots and picnic facilities.

CityLink Land Bridge

Explore a new connection that links the communities divided by CityLink, potentially creating a biodiversity connection between Royal Park (on the east side of the motorway) and the creek (on the west side) as proposed in the Chain of Ponds Masterplan.

Flemington Bridge Station Connection Upgrade

Upgrade the connections between the creek and Flemington Bridge Station.

Novel Habitats

Where natural habitats cannot be achieved, create novel habitats such as bee hotels, wildlife hollows and in-stream habitat structures. Create nesting boxes and wildlife habitats in hard structures, such as bridges and the noise wall.

Figure 8. Future strategic vision for 'The Collector'

Central: Racecourse Road to Dynon Road

Create a green oasis on the doorstep of the CBD: the first major addition of parklands to the inner north-west since the Gold Rush

Arden-Macaulay Pedestrian Bridges

To connect Arden-Macaulay with existing communities through new lightweight pedestrian bridges that could incorporate art initiatives.

Expanded Creek Environs

Merge existing open spaces with the waterway, create a new pedestrian connection along the western edge of the creek and expanding the creek environs to facilitate recreation opportunities and extensive tree planting.

Macaulay Green Links

Increase green spaces and boost stormwater management and biodiversity links on the east side of the creek by expanding the creek parklands to include roads that currently connect to railways.

Langford Road Linear Stormwater Park

Manage stormwater and create more public open space by creating a linear stormwater park at Langford Road.

Moonee Ponds Creek Art Trail (length of creek)

Investigate creative art and naming opportunities along the creek that celebrate the Aboriginal and local heritage of the area and the role of the creek in water management.

Moonee Ponds Creek Cycling & Walking Trails (length of creek)

Create a separated, commuter path for cyclists that promotes the safety and accessibility for both pedestrians and cyclists, as well as create local bike hubs, rest spots and picnic facilities.

Moonee Ponds Creek Forest (length of creek)

Increase vegetation, in particular canopy tree coverage, in appropriate open space zones along the length of the creek.

Bent Street Access

Explore enhanced access points on the western bank of the creek along Bent Street to improve opportunities for passive recreation.

Levees as Places for People

Design levees that as well as increasing flood capacity also create places for recreation and habitats to support ecology.

Macaulay Terraces

Create a major new open space connecting to the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail,Macaulay Train Station, and surrounding neighbourhoods.

Moonee Ponds Creek Civic Overflow Route

Create an overflow creek pathway behind the levee that connects Racecourse and Macaulay Roads.

Levee Banks Water Storage

Construct culverts under levees to re-engage the floodplain storage and improve use of western creek berms south of Macaulay Road to improve open space.

Expanded Creek Environs

Expand the creek corridor environs to Arden Central providing connections to future open spaces and explore opportunities to celebrate water in the landscape.

Native Vegetation Restoration

Restore native vegetation, including brackish grasslands of the creek corridor.

Redesign of Bridges

Remove or re-construct pipe bridges and transport bridges to reduce the hydraulic constraints they impose, while improving cycle and pedestrian connections and respecting heritage constraints.

Figure 9. Future Strategic Vision For 'The Urban Connector'

KEY STRATEGIC PROJECT

OS4 Macaulay Terraces

Shared street

- Raised, shared street with public park/plaza.
- Tree lined, street and park with tables and chairs.

Levee Wall

- Levee wall as dynamic flood gate with integrated grassed berm. Berm to include terrace seating facing plaza.

Stormwater-cleansing terraces

- Terraced landscape as stormwater cleansing system capturing street and bridge water runoff and cleansing before water enters Moonee Ponds Creek.

Picnic terraces

- Terraces with shelter and picnic facilities.

Figure 10. Artistic impression of 'Macaulay Terrace'

Sloped lawn

- Sloped lawn with trees running down to creek as an activated edge.
- Accessible ramp down to waters edge.

Expanded riparian zone

- Widening of creek riparian zone.

Creek corridor rehabilitation

- Revegetation of native riparian species.

Celebration of water transition

- Formalisation and celebration of saltwater/freshwater transition. Inviting public interaction with water.

'MACAULAY TERRACE' A SUNNY AFTERNOON

Figure 11. Artistic impression of the 'Macaulay Terrace' a sunny afternoon.

‘MACAULAY TERRACE’ A MAJOR RAIN EVENT

Figure 12. Artistic impression of 'Macaulay Terrace' - a major rain event.

South: Dynon Road to the Yarra

Create a wetlands wilderness on the doorstep of the central city: a re-connection to the 'temperate Kakadu' of Aboriginal Melbourne.

Dynon Canal Cycle Link

Investigate rehabilitation of the Dynon Road tidal canal and build a shaded and shared path for cyclists and pedestrians.

The Research Wetlands

Create a series of biodiverse wetlands with varying vegetation, habitat and ecologies as a site for research and education. Opportunities to research the value of carbon sequestration ecologies such as mangroves. A simple boardwalk system would allow passive public enjoyment of the landscape.

The Connected Veloway

Leverage West Gate Tunnel works to improve cycling connections, including a new veloway that gives safe access to Footscray Road and the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail.

Docklands Biodiversity Hot Spot

Expand the creek corridor, creating wetlands and detention ponds with a focus on flood mitigation and new habitat for threatened species - its isolation could be beneficial for fragile ecologies.

Moonee Ponds Creek Mouth - A Community Hot Spot

Consider making the mouth of Moonee Ponds Creek – where it meets the Yarra – a community meeting place with a boardwalk and recreational activities.

Moonee Ponds Creek Cycling & Walking Trails (length of creek)

Create a separated, commuter path for cyclists that promotes the safety and accessibility for both pedestrians and cyclists, as well as create local bike hubs, rest spots and picnic facilities.

Litter management (length of creek)

Improve litter management in the waterway including through a review of litter trap location and maintenance, as well as ongoing whole of catchment collaboration for litter reduction measures.

E-Gate Stormwater Park

A series of wetlands capture and cleanse catchment stormwater before entering Moonee Ponds Creek that could be used for park irrigation and other grey water uses.

E-Gate Saltmarsh and Mangrove Reserve

Create saltmarsh and mangroves reserves, converting decommissioned rail bridges into pedestrian and bicycle bridges to link both sides of the creek and investigate a tidal barrier to guard against tidal surges.

Expanded Salt Marsh Zone

Create opportunities for enhanced biodiversity and habitats in the creek at Docklands through expanded salt marshes that are important for carbon sequestration.

Fishermans Bend Connection

Create a link from Docklands to Fishermans Bend, connecting the urban renewal areas of Melbourne and the water story of the city.

Redesign of Bridges

Remove or re-construct pipe bridges and transport bridges to reduce the hydraulic constraints they impose, while improving cycle and pedestrian connections and respecting heritage constraints.

CityLink Water Collection

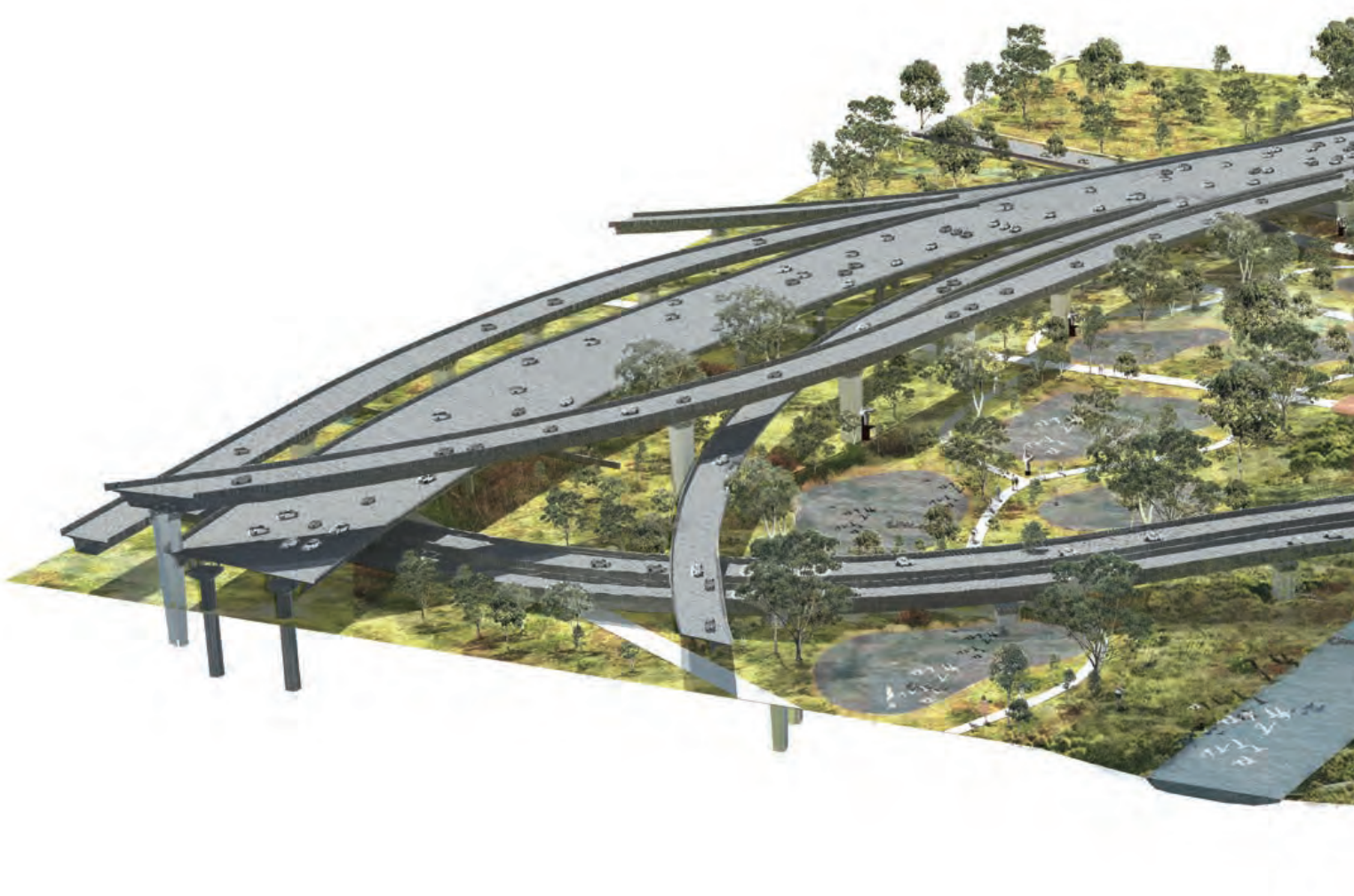
Harvest runoff from CityLink and divert it into reconstructed ponds, wetlands and water treatment zones along the creek.

Figure 13. Future strategic vision for 'The Tidal Underpass'

The Tidal Underpass

B8 **The Research Wetlands**

- Salt-water wetlands fed by Moonee Ponds Creek. Piped network allows flexibility and control over water levels. Varying water levels, and therefore and salt, create varying vegetation, habitat and ecologies. Area to be a site for education and research, with links to surrounding universities.
- Capture of Citylink stormwater to be pre-treated and discharged into wetlands for cleansing.
- Simple boardwalk system moving through site allow passive public enjoyment with the landscape.

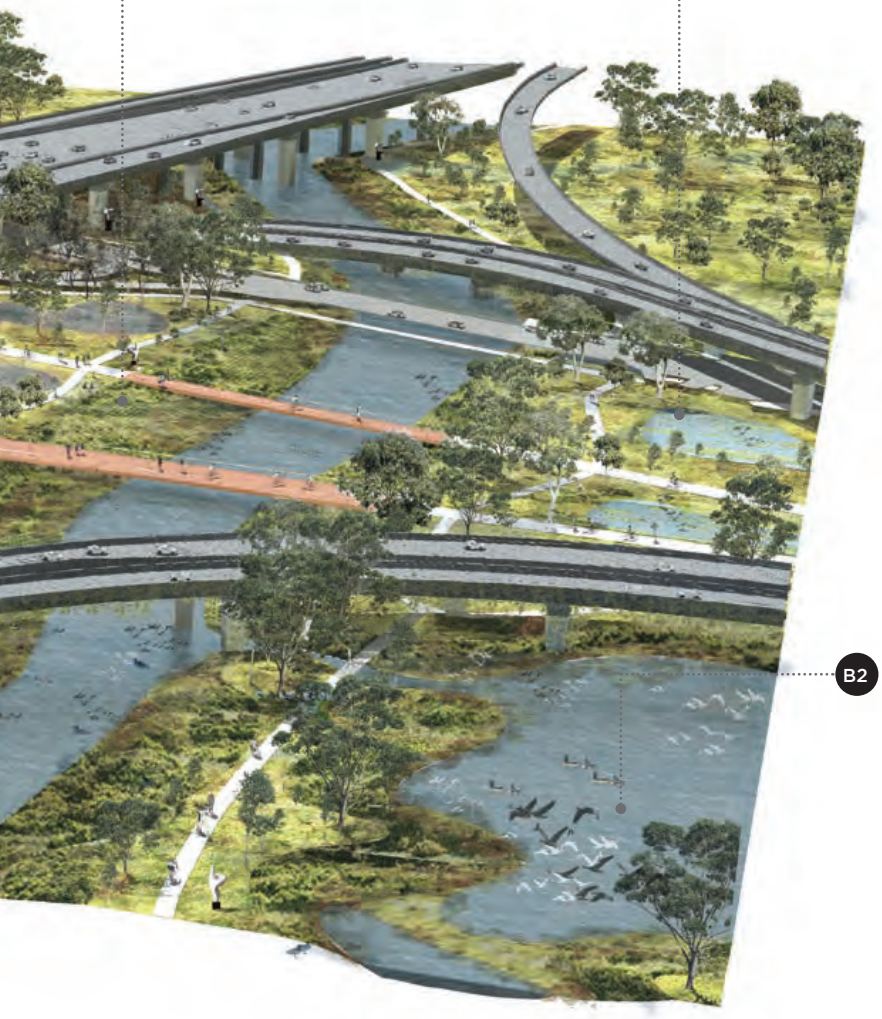


The alignments of the West Gate Tunnel project shown here are indicative only and may be subject to further changes. City of Melbourne is not a proponent of the Westgate Tunnel project.

Figure 14. Artist impression of the northern section of 'The Tidal Underpass'

Moonee Ponds Creek

- Widened salt marsh and mangrove zone.
- Reuse of train bridges as pedestrian crossing



W7 E-Gate Stormwater Park

- Capture of stormwater to be pre-treated and discharged into wetlands for cleansing before entering Moonee Ponds Creek.
- Simple boardwalk system moving through site allow passive public engagement with the landscape, with connections to North Melbourne.

B2 E-Gate Saltmarsh and Mangrove Reserve

- Expansion of creek to create a widened water body and increase the perimeter ecology.

‘TIDAL UNDERPASS’ SUNDAY MORNING

Figure 15: Artistic impression of the 'Tidal Underpass' - Sunday morning

WHAT NEXT?

While the City of Melbourne does not own or manage the waterways or banks of the Moonee Ponds Creek, we are working closely with Victorian Government partners, land owners, neighbouring councils and community groups to ensure that the vision is realised and that the creek meets the needs of our current and future community.

For further information about the Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Opportunities Plan and to stay up to date with project news, please visit:
participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/moonee-ponds-creek

The City of Melbourne is working in partnership with the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA). The VPA is responsible for preparing an Implementation Plan for the creek corridor which will identify project priorities, make recommendations for governance arrangements and accountabilities and facilitate the commencement of 'quick-win' projects.

Readers interested in understanding more about the Implementation Plan, including the land management arrangements in the creek corridor, please visit:
vpa.vic.gov.au/project/moonee-ponds-creek

APPENDIX I

The next page provides a table listing all identified strategic opportunities by project location and identifies the project co-benefits.

ID	INITIATIVE NAME	LOCATION	PROJECT CO-BENEFITS				
			Water management	Open Space	Biodiversity	Movement	History & culture
	LEAD THEME: WATER MANAGEMENT						
W1	Redesign of Bridges	Multiple locations	■				
W2	Travencore Park Creek Naturalisation	North	■	■	■		
W3	Mt Alexander Road Nature Gateway	North	■	■	■	■	■
W4	Debney's Park Wetlands	North	■	■	■	■	■
W5	Moonee Ponds Creek Civic Overflow Route	Central	■	■	■	■	■
W6	Langford Road Linear Stormwater Park	Central	■	■	■	■	■
W7	E-Gate Stormwater Park	South	■	■	■		
W8	Levee Banks Water Storage	Central	■	■			
W9	CityLink Water Collection	Multiple locations	■		■		
W10	Litter Management	Length of Creek	■				
	LEAD THEME: OPEN SPACE						
OS1	Levees as Places for People	Central	■	■	■	■	■
OS2	Macaulay Green Links	Central	■	■	■	■	
OS3	Expanded Creek Environs	Central	■	■	■	■	■
OS4	Macaulay Terraces	Central	■	■	■	■	■
OS5	Moonee Ponds Creek Mouth – A Community Hotspot	South		■		■	
OS6	Bent Street Access	Central		■		■	
	LEAD THEME: BIODIVERSITY						
B1	CityLink Land Bridge	North		■	■	■	
B2	E-Gate Saltmarsh and Mangrove Reserve	South	■	■	■		
B3	Expanded Salt Marsh Zone	South	■	■	■		
B4	Docklands Biodiversity Hotspot	South		■	■		
B5	Moonee Ponds Creek Forest	Length of Creek		■	■		
B6	Native Vegetation Restoration	Central	■	■	■		
B7	Novel Habitats	North			■		
B8	The Research Wetlands	South	■	■	■		
	LEAD THEME: MOVEMENT						
M1	Flemington Bridge Station Connection Upgrade	North		■		■	
M2	Dynon Canal Cycle Link	South	■	■		■	
M3	The Connected Veloway	South				■	
M4	Fisherman's Bend Connection	South		■		■	
M5	Arden-Macaulay Pedestrian Bridges	Central		■		■	
M6	Moonee Ponds Creek Cycling and Walking Trails	Length of Creek		■		■	
	LEAD THEME: HISTORY & CULTURE						
H1	Moonee Ponds Creek Art Trail	Length of Creek		■		■	■
H2	Community Canvas	North		■			■

APPENDIX II - GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Structure Plan - Provides a long-term vision and associated actions to manage change and growth in a defined area.

Riparian Zone - Wetlands area adjacent to rivers, streams, creeks and water bodies.

Berm - a flat strip of land, raised bank or terrace bordering a river or creek.

APPENDIX III – ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Melbourne would like to acknowledge and thank the following people who contributed to this plan:

McGregor Coxall and Wave Consulting;
Victorian Planning Authority;
Melbourne Water;
Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek;
Kensington Association;
North and West Melbourne Association;
Friends of Royal Park;
Traditional Owner Groups.

All participants and community members who provided their time and feedback to help shape this document and a vision for the creek.

APPENDIX IV – CREEK MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The City of Melbourne does not have direct authority over these waterways and banks. Various state government agencies and some private landowners own and manage parcels of the creek. Much of the land is leased from VicTrack to public transport providers and commercial operations, while the lower portion is owned by the Port of Melbourne Operations.

Here is a summary of land owner and land management responsibilities along the creek:

Melbourne Water

The creek itself is owned by Melbourne Water. They are responsible for guaranteeing the supply of affordable, high-quality water, reliable sewerage, healthy waterways, integrated drainage and flood management. Councils, however, are responsible for local drainage. Within the City of Melbourne area, Council manages most of the local flood mitigation connected to the Creek, while Melbourne Water is responsible for whole of catchment water management and planning.
www.melbournewater.com.au

VicTrack

VicTrack owns Victoria's transport land, assets and infrastructure. VicTrack is the nominal land owner for large portions of land along the Creek within the City of Melbourne, which is managed by other agencies, (e.g. V-line and Metro Trains) primarily for transport purposes.
www.victrack.com.au

Port of Melbourne Operations

Port of Melbourne Operations owns the titles to the land and Creek area at the bottom of the Creek. The commercial lease of the Port of Melbourne includes responsibility for managing that land.
www.portofmelbourne.com

City of Melbourne

The City of Melbourne manages most of the local flood mitigation connected to the Creek, while Melbourne Water is responsible for whole of catchment water management and planning.
www.melbourne.vic.gov.au

APPENDIX V - PHOTO REFERENCES

Figure 1. History - Diagram showing evolution of the creek corridor

Figure 2. Map showing growth narrative around the Creek

Figure 3. Development timeline

Figure 4. Current Image of creek
Credit: City of Melbourne

Figure 5. Moonee Ponds Creek North
Credit: McGregor Coxall

Figure 6. Artistic impression of W5 'Moonee Ponds Creek Civic Overflow Route - after a high water event'
Credit: McGregor Coxall

Figure 7. Plan: Future vision of Moonee Ponds Creek
Credit: McGregor Coxall

Figure 8 Future strategic vision for 'The Collector'
Credit: McGregor Coxall

Figure 9. Future Strategic Vision For 'The Urban Connector'
Credit: McGregor Coxall

Figure 10. Artistic impression of 'Macaulay Terrace'
Credit: McGregor Coxall

Figure 11. Artistic impression of the 'Macaulay Terrace' A Sunny Afternoon
Credit: McGregor Coxall

Figure 12. Artistic impression of 'Macaulay Terrace' - a major rain event
Credit: McGregor Coxall

Figure 13. Future strategic vision for 'The Tidal Underpass'
Credit: McGregor Coxall

Figure 14. Artist impression of the northern section of 'The Tidal Underpass'
Credit: McGregor Coxall

Figure 15. Artistic impression of the 'Tidal Underpass' - Sunday Morning
Credit: McGregor Coxall

NOTES

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