



Community bulletin

Little Yarra River waterway improvement works

October 2022

In Melbourne’s iconic Yarra Valley, rivers and creeks are essential to our way of life. They provide places for the community to connect with nature and for our native wildlife to live and thrive.

Healthy, well managed streamside or riparian zones are critical to the overall health of waterways. That’s why at Melbourne Water, we have been working hard to enhance the condition of the Little Yarra River by removing weeds such as blackberry and willows, and replanting indigenous vegetation to protect the stream banks and provide habitat for native animals.

Weed control and revegetation

Over the last few months we’ve been removing a range weed species along Little Yarra River between the Barrier Creek confluence and the Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail.

You may have seen our crews working in the area including the use of large machinery at times – this is to remove willow trees which are a serious and problematic riparian weed, with most species considered Weeds of National Significance. Some excellent progress has been made to date and follow up weed treatments will be undertaken before revegetation can commence next year.

We are replacing weeds with indigenous vegetation and in some places installing temporary fencing around the revegetation areas to protect the new plants from damage by deer. The fencing will protect the young plants while they establish so that they can thrive. In other locations we will also be fumigating warrens and removing harbour to reduce the impacts of rabbits on the revegetation. We thank you for your patience as we carry out these important works.



Little Yarra River weed removal works underway



Temporary fencing protects new plants from feral deer

Little Yarra River Trail

To improve amenity, community access and connection to the waterway, we are also planning to construct a new walking trail along the river which connects with the existing Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail.

The new trail will provide you with more opportunities to exercise, relax, socialise and connect with nature – now and into the future.

What's happened

We asked the community how Little Yarra River can further contribute to your way of life and what additions would help you enjoy this place more in the future.

PHASE 1 - 2020 CONCEPT DESIGN

We asked for your feedback on the proposed concept designs to understand how you use the area now and what you would like to see as part of the trail design.

PHASE 2 – 2021 YOUR FEEDBACK

We collated your ideas and feedback to inform the functional designs.

PHASE 3 – 2022 FUNCTIONAL AND DETAILED DESIGN

Developing the functional design and are investigating the constructability and feasibility of the key concepts.

What's next

We are finalising the functional designs and will present them to the community later this year. It is anticipated that construction will soon follow in early 2023 and take around 6 months to complete.

We will keep you informed as we progress through the construction phase and make every effort to minimise the impact of these works on the local community and environment.

How are these works funded?

These works are funded by the Waterways and Drainage Charge collected through Melburnians' water bills. We work to deliver river health projects efficiently and responsibly.

Little Yarra River waterway improvement works contributes to the *Healthy Water Strategy 2018-28* and complements past and present projects undertaken by Yarra Ranges Council and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

Keep up to date with what's happening

For more information about this project or our other activities please call 131 722, scan the QR code or visit www.melbournewater.com



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