

update

I love living here
So please protect our rivers & creeks™



Melbourne Water's river health incentive programs



Fencing and revegetation works undertaken as part of the Stream Frontage Management Program.

As part of the Victorian Government's *Our Water Our Future* action plan, Melbourne Water's waterways and drainage boundary has been extended by more than 5,000 square kms to cover the majority of the Port Phillip and Westernport catchment.

With the extension of the waterways and drainage boundary to encompass your local area comes access to Melbourne Water's river health incentive programs.

The river health incentive programs take the form of grants which are designed

to help individuals, community groups and agencies carry out river health projects, develop practical skills and work more effectively together.

Since introducing the initiative in our operating area 11 years ago, the Stream Frontage Management Program alone has allocated over 2,700 grants, totalling more than \$6.7 million. Works include planting 980,000 trees and shrubs and installing 626 kms of fencing.

For more information about Melbourne Water's River Health Incentive Programs visit melbournewater.com.au

Looking after the Growling Grass Frog

Rivers and creeks provide important habitat corridors for native species including the endangered Growling Grass Frog.

The frogs use these corridors as they migrate between breeding sites, and also as temporary refuges during times of drought. A healthy wetland, river, or creek environment is therefore extremely important to Growling Grass Frog survival.

Recent successes include the discovery of a population of Growling Grass Frogs living at the Western Treatment Plant at Werribee.

Melbourne Water has successfully modified the management of their habitat to improve their breeding success, so much so that this site now supports one of the largest Growling Grass Frog populations within greater Melbourne.

The presence of a diversity of frogs is an excellent indicator of a healthy environment.

Did you know...

- Over the next five years, Melbourne Water will undertake works to improve our rivers and creeks, which includes over 1,000 kms of revegetation and over 2,000 kms of weed control along our waterways.
- Melbourne Water processes more than 24,000 town planning referrals, applications to subdivide land, flood level requests and related items of business each year.

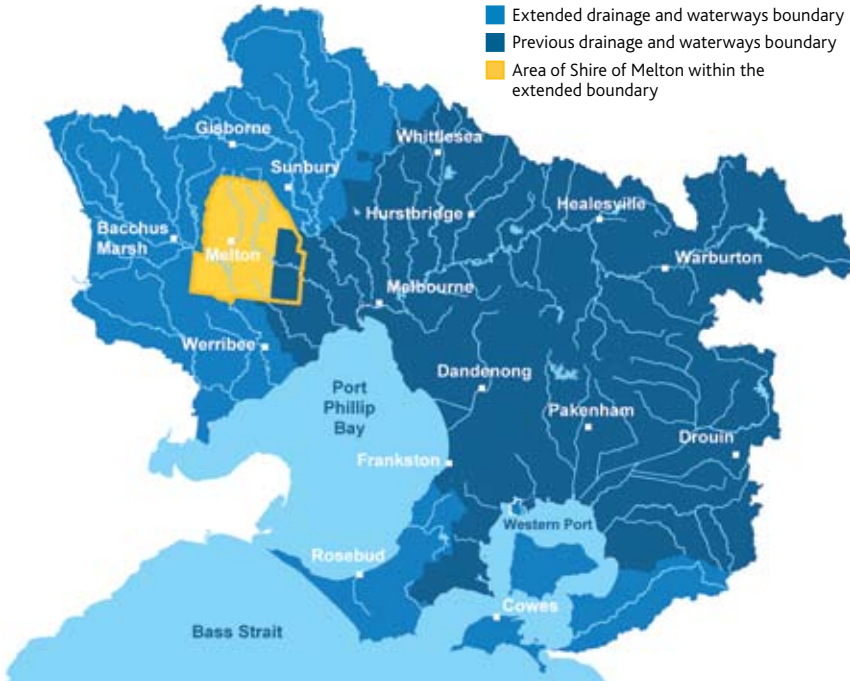


Melbourne Water has a number of regional offices including Sunbury, Koo Wee Rup, Brooklyn, Carrum, Winneke and Werribee, with our head office located in East Melbourne.

For more information, please call 131 722 or visit melbournewater.com.au

Municipalities in Melbourne Water's Extended Area

- Extended drainage and waterways boundary
- Previous drainage and waterways boundary
- Area of Shire of Melton within the extended boundary



Waterways Charge

Melbourne Water is now responsible for the management of waterways, drainage and floodplains in your area. These services are funded through a property based Waterways Charge. From July 2008, subject to approval from the Essential Services Commission, this charge will come into effect for property owners in your area for the first time. The charge will be collected by your local water retailer on behalf of Melbourne Water.

Monitoring river health

Melbourne Water has over 100 water quality monitoring sites across the Port Phillip and Westernport region. A new long-term water quality sampling site has been added within the Melton Shire. This will allow Melbourne Water to gather long-term data while also providing the opportunity to measure compliance with various standards, identify changes and trends over time, identify pollution sources and continue to inform the community about the health of local waterways.



Toolern Creek, Melton Shire.

Melbourne Water – looking after your waterways and drainage

With the extension of our drainage and waterway boundaries, Melbourne Water now services all of the Melton Shire.

Under these arrangements, Melbourne Water is the caretaker of river health and the authority responsible for regional drainage, waterways and floodplain management for the Port Phillip and Westernport region.

Our new area within Melton Shire Council extends westward from Diggers Rest encapsulating the entire western part of Melton Shire Council. Within this area flow Toolern, Kororoit and Djerrivarrh creeks.

As part of the extension of our waterways and drainage boundary, Melbourne Water has assumed responsibility for over \$39 million of infrastructure assets within the new area.

Managing sustainable development

Melbourne Water is responsible for preparing Development Services Schemes (DSS) to ensure that urban development achieves appropriate standards of flood protection, river health and stormwater quality.

In 2006/7, over \$35 million of new waterways and drainage related works were undertaken to service urban growth across the Port Phillip and Westernport region. This included 21 kms of major drains, 5 retarding basins and 25 wetlands for improving stormwater run-off quality. All works were funded by charges levied directly on developers.

Priority catchments have been identified in the Melton Shire, and schemes are underway for:

- Brookfield Creek (in Exford),
- Toolern Creek, and
- Arnolds Creek.

The Eyensbury development strategy is also under review – this development is located at the boundary of Melton and Wyndham municipalities on the banks of the Werribee River. Within Melbourne Water's previous area of responsibility in the Shire of Melton, four schemes have been identified and are either underway or complete.

Local grants update

Under Melbourne Water's Stream Frontage Management Program, 40 private landowners in the Melton Shire have received grants totalling just under \$158,000.

These grants have resulted in over 17,900 trees being planted and 6.7 kms of fencing erected to protect various waterways.