

## Green Wedge Management Plan Factsheet - Water

Part of the Whittlesea Green Wedge Management Plan 2011-2021

Version 5.0, July 2011

### Topics of Interest

The Whittlesea Green Wedge Management Plan (Management Plan) explores a range of themes important to the Green Wedge including land, biodiversity, water and its people.

A series of fact sheets have been developed for each topic. This fact sheet focuses on the waterways of the Green Wedge.

### Water

The Whittlesea Green Wedge contains many different waterways that have shaped the landscape and provide habitat. The flow of some waterways are seasonal, yet others flow year round.

The Plenty River dominates its surrounding landscape, forming vast floodplains and deep gorges in the municipality's east. The Darebin Creek begins in the Whittlesea Green Wedge. The Merri Creek flows along the western boundary. Many smaller creeks feed these waterways and all flow into the Yarra River.

### Goal

The goal for waterways and catchments within the Green Wedge is:

*Sustainable water use and healthy waterways, wetlands and groundwater.*

The chapter on water in the Management Plan focuses on one sub-theme:

- Waterways and Catchments

### Waterways & Catchments

Our communities have expressed their thoughts on the waterways and catchments within the Whittlesea Green Wedge in the following way:

**Council Offices**  
25 Ferres Boulevard  
South Morang VIC 3752  
  
Locked Bag 1  
Bundoora MDC VIC 3083

**Tel** 03 9217 2170  
**Fax** 03 9217 2111  
**TTY** 133 677 (ask for 9217 2170)  
**Email** [info@whittlesea.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@whittlesea.vic.gov.au)  
[www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au](http://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au)

#### Free Telephone Interpreter Service

عربي	9679 9871	Hrvatski	9679 9872
廣東話	9679 9857	Ελληνικά	9679 9873
Italiano	9679 9874	Türkçe	9679 9877
Македонски	9679 9875	Việt-ngữ	9679 9878
普通话	9679 9876	Other	9679 9879

**Our municipality is located at the headwaters of several significant water catchments, yet few restrictions are placed on the location of farm dams and the number of bores.**

Lack of knowledge of the hydrological cycle has been identified as an issue, while opportunities to tap into existing incentives have been applauded. As a result, the objective for this sub-theme is:

*To protect and improve the environmental health, and social and economic values of waterways, wetlands and aquifers.*

The Whittlesea Green Wedge contains the critical upper and middle catchments of a number of waterways. These areas provide opportunities for restoration, revegetation and passive recreation. To meet this objective, the following key actions are proposed:

<b>GWMP Action</b>	<b>Waterways &amp; Catchments Priority Actions</b>
W1	Ensure local provisions are consistent with State legislation through the Planning Scheme Review project.
W3	Research current signage at waterways and investigate funding opportunities to install <b>identification signage for all waterways</b> , particularly at the intersection of major roadways and paths. At a minimum, catchment signage should also be installed alongside the Plenty River, Merri Creek and Darebin Creek in prominent positions.
W5	<p>Strengthen planning provisions targeted at the protection and improvement of the environmental health of waterways as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add new schedules to the <b>Environmental Significance Overlay</b> to protect all major waterbodies;</li> <li>• Revise the extent of the mapping associated with the existing <b>Environmental Significance Overlay</b> schedule 3 to include unprotected waterways; and</li> <li>• Investigate the rezoning of the municipality's two <b>water storage catchments</b> from Public Use Zone to Public Conservation and Resource Zone.</li> </ul>
W7	Continue to encourage good <b>water sensitive urban design</b> from new developments abutting reserves and waterways, in order to protect aquatic and biodiversity values.

GWMP Action	Waterways & Catchments Priority Actions
W8	Investigate opportunities to contribute to <b>catchment projects</b> and support partnerships that research the effects of surface and subsurface water use, particularly due to increased numbers and declining water quality and quantity of local farm dams and bores.
This is a list of priority actions only. For a full range of proposed actions refer to the draft Whittlesea Green Wedge Management Plan.	

### Actioning the Plan

The success of the Whittlesea Green Wedge Management Plan relies on Local Government, State Government, Federal Government, agencies, organisations, community groups and residents working together.

The Whittlesea Green Wedge Management Plan proposes over eighty actions that are grouped according to priority:

- Short term priority (1-3 years)
- Medium term priority (4-7 years)
- Long term priority (8-10+ years)

The actions proposed in this fact sheet represent a variety of activities. Some can be delivered using local resources while others will require coordination from many sources.

Any proposed amendments to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme will provide further opportunity for community comment.

A range of funding sources will be needed in order to achieve many of these actions. And the challenge is there for the community to support and champion actions aimed at sustaining the Whittlesea Green Wedge into the future.

## **Where to get more information**

Visit Council's website [www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au](http://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au)

Send an email [Green.Wedge@whittlesea.vic.gov.au](mailto:Green.Wedge@whittlesea.vic.gov.au)

Speak to a Council Planner

- Call a Council Planner on 9217 2164.
- Call the Strategic Planning Department on 9217 2346.

Documents

1. Whittlesea Green Wedge Management Plan
2. Whittlesea Green Wedge Management Plan: Community Views Final Report

Copies of these documents can be found at Council Offices or by calling a Council Planner.