



20 July 2018

Melbourne Water  
PO Box 4342  
Melbourne Vic 3001

**Ask for:** Patricia Fitzsimons  
**Phone:** 9932 1622  
**Our Ref:** A2900487

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Submission to the draft Healthy Waterways Strategy 2018**

Hobsons Bay City Council is pleased to provide input to Melbourne Water's draft Healthy Waterways Strategy 2018.

Council has developed Living Hobsons Bay: an Integrated Water Management Plan 2014-19 which is our strategic document to guide Council's water management activities, including protecting waterways and Port Phillip Bay from key pollutants that reduce environmental outcomes and its recreational value. The draft Healthy Waterways Strategy provides a valuable framework and support to Council's policy implementation.

Our submission supports the collaborative approach being taken and the extensive actions being proposed to deliver on the strategy's vision and objectives. We look forward to continuing to work with you on the implementation of this strategy.

If you would like to discuss this submission further, please contact Patricia Fitzsimons, Coordinator Sustainability on 9932 1622 or email [pfitzsimons@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](mailto:pfitzsimons@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron van Egmond', written over a horizontal line.

Aaron van Egmond  
Chief Executive Officer



## **Hobsons Bay City Council Submission to the draft Healthy Waterways Strategy 2018**

Hobsons Bay is situated on the western shoreline of Port Phillip Bay (the Bay), approximately seven to 20 kilometres south west of Melbourne's Central Business District. The community has told Council through a range of strategic planning and community engagement processes that they value Hobsons Bay for its foreshore, beaches, waterways and natural open spaces.

Council's Integrated Water Management Plan 2014-19 is a key strategic document that guides Council's water management activities. It outlines a number of objectives that align with the draft Healthy Waterways Strategy. As a consequence, there is support for actions that improve the quality of our waterways, including:

- protecting waterways and the Bay from key pollutants that reduce its recreational value by encouraging best practice stormwater management
- increasing public health by working with key stakeholders to prevent pollutants from entering the stormwater system
- increasing biodiversity by working with residents and developers to reduce peak stormwater flows and pollutants running off hard surfaces through the use of sustainable stormwater treatment

Water and our local waterways are also an important part of the cultural heritage of Hobsons Bay and particularly to the traditional owners of the Kulin Nation.

As part of the development of this strategy Council has attended a number of collaborative workshops, which we feel has contributed to and influenced the development of the strategy. Some of the relevant actions/objectives of the draft strategy include continual support of the Altona Skipper butterfly habitat at Cherry Lake and increasing estuary connectivity at the Altona Coastal Park (this will assist climate change adaptation for migrating/retreating saltmarsh).

Council would also like to recognise that the relationships developed between Council officers and the Melbourne Water River Health Officer has been paramount in assisting local actions. These include on ground works, pest weed and animal control, revegetation and exclusionary fencing, to name a few. It is important that this collaboration continues to ensure the effective delivery of the final strategy and its vision.



The following is provided as specific feedback to the draft Strategy as requested in the Feedback Form on the following site:

<https://yoursay.melbournewater.com.au/healthy-waterways/give-your-feedback>

### **Q3. Part A: Regional overview and strategic content**

Section 2.4: There is an opportunity to focus on increasing canopy cover, reducing urban heat impacts and enhancing human wellbeing.

Melbourne's western suburbs are some of the fastest growing in Australia. They receive less rainfall than other parts of Melbourne meaning they are drier and can experience warmer daytime temperatures. As the population increases, so too does pollution, heat stress and pressure on the environment.<sup>1</sup> Council is a partner in the Greening the West initiative that has important goals including maximising urban greening, improving environmental quality and maximising sustainable water supplies to establish and maintain green space. The Greening the West Strategic Plan demonstrates that greener urban environments can offer low-cost preventive strategies to improve community health, reduce heat stress, increase amenity and foster social cohesion.

Consideration should be given to adding this issue to the list of opportunities in the draft strategy.

### **Q5. Part C: Regional Works Program (2018-2028)**

#### **12.1 Monitoring**

It should be acknowledged that more and more data is becoming available from various sources and technologies. Whilst all data is valuable, the true value of data is in the ability of people to analyse the data and tell a coherent story. As a consequence, there should be a concerted effort to establish methods and tools to capture and analyse any available data to inform action.

Central and accessible databases would be extremely valuable and something that the Victorian Government should be developing and maintaining as a service. An open source approach would allow anyone to contribute and utilise data as required.

### **Q6. Part D: Catchment Works Program**

Council's submission relates to the following catchment:

- 6a)** Werribee catchment
- 6b)** Categories of feedback

<sup>1</sup> <https://greeningthewest.org.au/about/>



Council's submission relates to the following categories:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Performance objectives  | <input type="checkbox"/> Litter   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waterway value targets             | <input type="checkbox"/> Participation in waterway management               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stormwater              | <input type="checkbox"/> Pest plants and animals                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water for the environment          | <input type="checkbox"/> Implementation Partnerships and Funding            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Alignment with other strategies/policies/ projects |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water quality/pollution | <input type="checkbox"/> Other(s)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to waterways                |   |

**6c) Feedback on Part D: Catchment Works Program**

Page 10 Waterways Targets and Performance Objectives

With rising sea levels and existing drainage systems at or near capacity, there should be a performance objective that relates to the potential impact on waterways as a result of an inability to discharge to downstream drainage systems or water bodies (e.g. Port Phillip Bay). Increasing salinity and the build-up of sediment due to the same issue should also be addressed.

Page 66 Jawbone Reserve

The map on this page is incorrect and does not show Jawbone Reserve.