

21.09 ENVIRONMENT, WETLANDS AND WATERWAYS

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21.09-1 Overview

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The environmental landscape of the City of Kingston is recognised for its diversity and significance in both a local and regional context.

Degradation has occurred in many of Kingston's natural environments as a result of the impacts of urbanisation, loss and fragmentation of indigenous vegetation, and invasion of pest plants and animals in key remnant natural areas.

Kingston is located at the receiving end of a regional catchment system and shares responsibility for integrated catchment management with adjoining municipalities and a range of public agencies. With significant major drainage networks running through the City and the consequential role they have in influencing water quality in Mordialloc Creek, Patterson River and eventually Port Phillip Bay, water resource management is a high priority for Kingston. Council is seeking to integrate water management to become a Water Sensitive City. A Water Sensitive City is a city that is viewed as part of a catchment where water and waste water resources are predominately managed within the catchment's boundary. The need to provide adequate flood storage and improve stormwater management practices is also a key objective in Kingston's land use planning as there are significant urban and non urban areas in Kingston which are affected by flood risk. The limitations of the existing drainage system make it imperative that flood risk is considered in land use planning to avoid intensifying the impacts of flooding through inappropriately located uses and development.

Within the City of Kingston there are a number of exotic, native and indigenous trees that are notable because of their horticultural value, location or context, are rare or have a localised distribution, are particularly old, are of an outstanding size, provide aesthetic value or are of curious growth form, are outstanding examples of their species or are of cultural or historical significance. The City of Kingston Register of Significant Trees, May 2007 identifies trees on both private and public land, including road reserves and public parks. It is important that the significance of these trees be taken into account in the development approval process and that they be retained and enhanced.

21.09-2 Key issues

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- Rehabilitation of the Mordialloc Creek floodplain and creation of Chain of Wetlands.
- Loss of diversity of natural habitats, indigenous plant and animal species and the need to protect remnant vegetation communities.
- Degradation of waterways and water quality as a result of past drainage works and upstream pollution.
- There is an increasing focus on managing the water cycle more holistically to improve the efficiency of water use and the quality of our water.
- Complexity involved with the coordination of multiple government stakeholders due to Kingston's location at the receiving end of a regional catchment system.

21.09-3 Objectives, strategies and implementation

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Objective 1

To integrate the water quality treatment functions, habitat and recreation importance of waterways and floodplains.

Strategies

Strategies to achieve this objective include:

- Support the creation of a chain of wetlands within the Mordialloc Creek environs as a strategy for combining water storage with opportunities for enhancing water quality, creation of wildlife habitat, and extension of strategic open space links.
- Improve the aesthetic, cultural and conservation value of the Mordialloc Creek and its surrounding natural landscape to add value to its primary drainage and flood management function.
- Ensure that any recreation of wetland morphologies gives consideration to wetland size, shape, buffers, accessibility and integration into the natural landscape.
- Ensure that all development within and adjacent to existing floodplains is consistent with floodplain management objectives and maximises the potential for creation of public open space, wetlands and recreational and cultural activities.
- Protect the physical and habitat diversity of the Edithvale-Seafood wetlands to recognise its role as an internationally significant wetland area.
- Promote community awareness and education of the value of floodplains and wetlands through the development of recreational and tourism opportunities.

Objective 2

To improve water quality within the municipality's waterways and Port Phillip Bay

Strategies

Strategies to achieve this objective include:

- Prevent polluted surface runoff from land uses which impact on waterways and floodplains.
- Avoid use and development that may generate significant adverse impacts on the performance of local waterways and the capacity of the local drainage system.
- Provide for appropriate stormwater treatment measures in new development.
- Avoid construction activities from adversely impacting on the regional drainage function and performance of waterways, floodplains, drains and other water bodies.
- Support water sensitive urban design treatment measures along:
 - Port Phillip Bay, the foreshore reserve and land within a 300m wide coastal strip.
 - Braeside Park, the Edithvale wetlands, Mordialloc Creek and Patterson River estuary.
 - The proposed Chain of Parks corridor linking Karkarook Park and Braeside Park.
 - The Mordialloc Settlement Drain catchment (Clayton South drain) between Kingston Road and Lower Dandenong Road.
 - The Centre Swamp drain between Mordialloc Creek and Patterson River and within the contributing residential catchment on the west side.
 - Industrial precincts including Moorabbin, Braeside and Clayton South.
 - Catchment areas that contribute to flood affected land.

Objective 3

To conserve and reuse water.

Strategies

- Implement best practice integrated approach to water cycle management.
- Promote the provision of water saving devices in new development.

Objective 4

To maintain the diversity of flora and fauna habitats and promote opportunities for reinstating local native flora.

Strategies

Strategies to achieve this objective include:

- Support the enhancement, restoration and re-creation of pre-settlement vegetation communities and landscapes.
- Protect identified areas of botanical or zoological significance from further degradation.
- Ensure that new development does not reduce the extent or integrity of significant indigenous vegetation and provides for the reinstatement of native vegetation and/or the creation of wildlife corridors where development is proposed adjacent to areas of environmental sensitivity.
- Promote the values and significance of existing flora and fauna habitats, and support initiatives that aim to protect and restore the integrity of these.

Objective 5

To manage and protect floodplains and flood prone areas to minimise the impacts of flooding.

Strategies

Strategies to achieve this objective include:

- Liaise with Melbourne Water to identify urban and non urban areas affected by flood risk.
- Prevent incompatible land use and development in areas affected by flood risk to avoid intensifying flooding impacts in urban and non urban areas.

Objective 6

To protect and enhance trees that have been identified as significant in the City of Kingston Register of Significant Trees, May 2007.

Strategies

Strategies to achieve this objective include:

- To identify trees of significance and provide controls to protect and enhance their significance.
- To ensure that buildings and works do not adversely affect the health, appearance, stability and values of trees that have been identified as significant in the City of Kingston Register of Significant Trees, May 2007.
- To work with the community to increase understanding and support for the protection of trees that have been identified as significant in the City of Kingston Register of Significant Trees, May 2007.

Implementation

These strategies will be implemented by:

Policy and exercise of discretion

- Using local policy to manage stormwater and regional catchment issues.
- Using local policy to promote the restoration of natural ecosystems and wetland morphologies in non urban areas (*South East Non Urban Policy, Clause 22. 04*).
- Using local policy to protect remnant vegetation on public and private land (South East Non Urban Policy, Clause 22. 04; Sandbelt Open Space Project Policy, Clause 22.03).
- Encouraging the creation of wetland treatment facilities at Karkarook Park, Woodlands Estate, the former Epsom Training Facility and the Mordialloc Creek environs.

Zones and overlays

- Applying the Public Park and Recreation Zone and Public Use Zone to provide for the management of natural environments by public agencies.
- Applying the Environmental Significance Overlay to the Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands to protect it as an internationally significant wetland area.
- Applying the Environmental Significance Overlay to properties which contain or are affected by tree(s) identified in the City of Kingston Register of Significant Trees, May 2007.
- Applying the Public Conservation and Resource Zone to significant areas of remnant vegetation at the Grange Heathland Reserve, Rowan Woodland, Bradshaw Park, Caruana Woodland and the former Epsom Training Facility.
- Applying the Urban Floodway Zone to land identified as part of the active floodway.
- Applying the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay to land along open waterways which has been identified as being liable to flooding as a result of a 1 in 100 year storm event.
- Applying the Special Building Overlay to land liable to overland flows from the urban drainage system.
- Applying the Vegetation Protection Overlay to significant local examples of scarce indigenous vegetation in the Springvale Industrial estates and in the vicinity of Lance Close, Aspendale Gardens and Caruana Drive, Dingley Village.

Further strategic work

- Continuing to undertake local drainage survey work to identify areas which are liable to flooding from the City of Kingston's local drainage system, and giving effect to the survey findings through the application of the relevant overlay controls in the planning scheme.
- Developing Catchment Management Plans in partnership with Melbourne Water, the EPA and upstream municipalities to protect natural elements of the stormwater system, control and minimise pollution load at or near the source, and treat and reuse stormwater.
- Developing Stormwater Management Plans which identify strategies for managing urban stormwater to protect receiving environments in Kingston.

- Finalising Flora and Fauna Habitat Survey and investigate future application of Environmentally Significant Overlays and Vegetation Protection Overlays in areas of identified significance.

Other actions

- Continuing the monitoring of ecosystem diversity, extent and condition, as well species diversity, through the State of the Environment Reporting processes.
- Continuing the monitoring of water quality and other key environmental indicators through State of the Environment Reporting processes.

Reference Documents

City of Kingston Register of Significant Trees, May 2007

Kingston Integrated Water Cycle Strategy Plan, February 2012

City of Kingston Environment, Wetlands and Waterways Framework Plan

