



# CHAIN OF PONDS

*Transforming the Moonee Ponds Creek*

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

*We acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi wurrung as the traditional custodians of the Moonee Ponds Creek and its catchment. We pay our respects to their ancestors and Elders, past and present. We recognise and respect their unique cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship to their traditional lands, which continue to be important to them today.*

### PURPOSE

**THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SETS OUT THE COMMITMENTS AND OBJECTIVES GUIDING STAKEHOLDERS COMMITTED TO COLLABORATION ON THE MOONEE PONDS CREEK CATCHMENT.**

### BACKGROUND

The Moonee Ponds Creek catchment is one of Melbourne's most urbanised and modified creek systems. Significant issues continue to exist across the catchment, including poor water quality, introduced species, habitat fragmentation, a narrow creek corridor through land acquisition and built form, poor storm water management, litter, flooding, restricted public access and movement, poor urban design outcomes, and fragmented management and decision making.

Since its inception in 2017, the Chain of Ponds Collaboration has demonstrated how key stakeholders and the community can facilitate positive change. The Collaboration has brought together all stakeholders, the community, friends' groups, local and state government agencies to develop a clear vision and deliver significant improvements for the Moonee Ponds Creek.

With a shared vision, commitment from all those who have a role to play in the management of the Creek and with clear roles and responsibilities, the Collaboration is revitalising the creek and its environs so it once again becomes a place for all to enjoy.

### VISION

To transform the Moonee Ponds Creek into an iconic Melbourne waterway that provides high social, environmental and cultural benefits.

### CORE COMMITMENTS

The collaboration group members are committed to taking a whole-of-catchment approach to work towards the vision. Specifically, the members will:

- Be **transparent** in all interactions;
- Be **considerate of each organisation's respective circumstances**, including, but not limited to community interests, commercial imperatives and strategic contexts, and to **'speak with one voice'** where possible;

- Collaborate to identify priorities and innovative projects with a best-for-catchment cultural, environmental and community benefit;
- Bring an 'appreciative' mindset to collaboration, focusing on strengths, abilities and energy of stakeholders to find enduring solutions to challenging problems;
- Share an understanding of all perspectives and build respect and trust between stakeholders;
- Share knowledge, learn together and co-create new ideas and solutions that are informed, sustainable and enduring.
- Facilitate suitable representation on the governance group together with active participation to agreed working and project groups.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE COLLABORATION GROUP**

The objectives of the collaboration group include:

- Take a whole-of-catchment approach to governance and management to overcome the limitations that stakeholder and land ownership boundaries impose;
- Develop and implement ideas, strategies and projects to protect, enhance and activate the catchment, including access and connectivity, open space, biodiversity, habitat and biolinks along the Creek corridor;
- Strengthen cultural heritage understandings and traditional owner involvement;
- Better capitalise on opportunities for stormwater management including 'naturalisation';
- Ensure approaches to development and waterway improvement are consistent with established strategic and environmental directions across the catchment and based on best practice;
- Demonstrate progress and learning through reporting which also considers options for co-investment in projects; and
- Enable stronger advocacy for waterway management through appropriate strategic and statutory planning mechanisms.

## **BENEFITS OF THE COLLABORATIVE APPROACH**

- Attracting Project Funding:
  - Essendon/Brunswick West pedestrian bridge (DELWP, Moonee Valley and Moreland Councils, \$1m in total)
  - Reimagining Moonee Ponds Creek, Strathmore/Oak Park (DELWP, Melbourne Water, Moreland and Moonee Valley Councils \$9.5m in total)
  - Litter Study and Assessment (Melbourne Water and IWM Forum)
- Shared advocacy and influence internally within the collaboration and externally with other organisations
  - Waterways of the West, Acquisition of land adjoining creek (John St, Oak Park)
- Working together on whole-of-catchment, multi-stakeholder and cross-boundary issues, including multiple perspectives and solutions from the start:
  - Litter and planning outcomes along the creek
  - Design Guidelines for Trails, Transport and Connectivity
  - Flood Mitigation and Modelling



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- o Integrated Water Management

Stronger relationships and understanding between agencies, community and Friends' groups

Access to multiple tools and working relationships to progress issues and align work

- o Working for Victoria programs – litter, access, revegetation, path, weed control
- o Litter management

### OBLIGATIONS

This Memorandum of Understanding does not impose a legally binding obligation on any parties to the document. The Memorandum of Understanding does not oblige any party to commit funding or enter into a contract, supplemental agreement or obligation with the other parties.

### REVIEW PERIOD

It is agreed that this Memorandum of Understanding will be reviewed within three years following the date of commencement.

### SIGNATORY PARTNERS



I, .....commit this organisation to work collaboratively with others across the Moonee Ponds Creek catchment in accordance with the commitments and objectives outlined in the Chain of Ponds Memorandum of Understanding.

**Signed:**

**Signature:**

**Organisation:**

**Date:**