

APPENDIX G MARIBYRNONG RIVER – RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Planning and management of the Maribyrnong River Valley involves both state and local government, in particular:

- > Department of Planning and Community Development
- > Department of Sustainability and Environment
- > Parks Victoria
- > Melbourne Water
- > Environment Protection Authority Victoria
- > Port of Melbourne Corporation
- > Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority
- > Aboriginal Affairs Victoria
- > Local councils

Department of Planning and Community Development

The Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) was established in August 2007, bringing together the planning, heritage and urban design functions of DSE with the former Department for Victorian Communities.

As the Maribyrnong River Valley project was an initiative of the planning portfolio, responsibility for completion moved from DSE to DPCD at this time.

DPCD has been established to closely link planning with community development to build active, confident, and inclusive communities.

The main functions of DPCD are:

- > planning and local government
- > community development
- > people and community advocacy
- > strategic policy, research and forecasting.

DPCD functions most relevant to this project involve management of the regulatory framework for land-use planning, heritage, and land subdivision, as well as providing advice on planning policy, post-contact heritage, urban design and strategic planning.

One of DPCD's priorities is to coordinate implementation of *Melbourne 2030: Planning for Sustainable Growth*, which was released in October 2002 and its update, *Melbourne @ 5 million. Melbourne 2030* is the guiding policy for managing growth and change across metropolitan Melbourne and the surrounding region over a 30-year time scale.

Melbourne 2030, together with the *Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy*, *Port Phillip and Western Port Native Vegetation Plan*, *Our Water Our Future* and the *Port Phillip and Westernport River Health Strategy* provide the policy context for planning and management of the Maribyrnong River.

Website: www.dpcd.vic.gov.au

Department of Sustainability and Environment

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) was established in December 2002 to bring together all responsibilities for managing Victoria's natural and built environments.

Responsibility for the built environment moved to the new DPCD in 2007. DSE retains responsibilities that contribute to the health and sustainability of the Maribyrnong River including:

- > ensuring the protection and management of Victoria's natural and cultural resource base, and the maintenance and enhancement of Victoria's biological diversity
- > protecting and restoring river health
- > working in partnership with farmers, Landcare groups, industry, catchment bodies and other key stakeholders to achieve sustainable development and conservation of land and water resources
- > managing plant and animal issues across Victoria, including the conservation of native fauna and flora, the control of pest plants and animals and the welfare of domestic animals
- > providing management services and information about land ownership, location of land parcels and boundaries, valuations and permissible uses.

Website: www.dse.vic.gov.au

Parks Victoria

Parks Victoria manages an extensive network of parks across Victoria, including national, state and metropolitan parks, marine national parks, many significant cultural assets and Melbourne's bays and waterways.

The total area under Parks Victoria management is 4.1 million hectares – 17 per cent of the state. Parks and open space for which Parks Victoria has direct management for along the Maribyrnong River are:

- > Organ Pipes National Park
- > Brimbank Park and Horseshoe Bend in Keilor

Parks Victoria has a role in the care, protection, management and use of the Maribyrnong River for the purpose of recreation, leisure, tourism and water transport. Responsibilities include licensing private jetties, issuing permits for commercial boating activities and enforcing regulations.

Parks Victoria is also responsible, under the *Marine Act 1988*, for recommending and enforcing regulations, maintaining navigation aids and recommending and enforcing river closures associated with the conduct of events.

Other activities Parks Victoria undertakes to enhance recreational use and visitor satisfaction include management/removal of water-borne litter and dredging and removal of obstructions to ensure safe navigation.

Website: www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Melbourne Water

Melbourne Water Corporation manages Melbourne's water supply catchments, removes and treats most of Melbourne's sewage, and is the waterway, drainage and floodplain management authority throughout the Port Phillip and Westernport region.

Melbourne Water licenses extractions of water from the Maribyrnong catchment as well as the Yarra, Skeleton, Stony, Laverton, Kororoit catchments.

Website: www.melbournewater.com.au

Environment Protection Authority

The Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) is a statutory body established under the *Environment Protection Act 1970*. This Act provides the legal framework by which environmental objectives, goals and regulations are established for the state.

Waterways are protected through State Environment Protection Policies (SEPP) which are legal tools made under the Act. SEPPs establish beneficial uses which reflect the values and uses the community wishes to protect, and give clear guidance on what needs to be done to protect them (the attainment program).

The SEPP (Waters of Victoria), last updated in June 2003, applies to the Maribyrnong River. Schedule F6 (Waters of Port Phillip Bay) is also relevant to the Maribyrnong River as its attainment program applies to the catchment of Port Phillip Bay.

Website: www.epa.vic.gov.au

Port of Melbourne Corporation

The Port of Melbourne Corporation (PoMC) is a Victorian Government owned business enterprise, established in July 2003 with objectives and functions as defined in the *Port Services Act 1995*.

The lower reaches of the Maribyrnong River is within the Port area. PoMC undertakes the integrated management and development of the land and maritime functions of the Port and its integration with the broader freight and logistics system. PoMC works closely with its customers (including shipping companies and cargo owners) to ensure their needs are met through the provision of specialised, high quality Port facilities. It also provides:

- > road, rail and associated infrastructure within the Port
- > value added services, including trade development, customised Port facilities and logistics advice on cost effective transport
- > a whole-of-Port response to Port safety
- > implementation of security procedures that fully comply with international standards
- > environmental management
- > safe and efficient shipping control in the Port waters of Melbourne
- > safe navigation and channels to the Port in Port Phillip Bay
- > education programs about the Port
- > adequate channel depth.

Website: www.portofmelbourne.com

Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority

The Port Phillip and Westernport CMA (PPWCMA) was established in October 2002, replacing the Catchment and Land Protection Board. The role of the PPWCMA under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* includes:

- > preparing a Regional Catchment Strategy which outlines the condition of natural resources; extent and causes of land and water degradation; objectives, measures, priorities and responsibilities for addressing degradation; and measures to coordinate and monitor implementation
- > developing an active partnership with stakeholders in catchment management
- > providing advice to government on catchment management and land protection, including regional priorities to guide resource allocation
- > promoting greater community awareness and understanding of land and water resources
- > reporting annually on the condition and management of land and water resources.

The first Regional Catchment Strategy for the region was released in 1997. The Port Phillip and Westernport Regional Catchment Strategy 2004-2009 can be downloaded at:

Website: www.ppwcm.vic.gov.au

Aboriginal Affairs Victoria

Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV) is responsible for administering Aboriginal heritage legislation in Victoria and is the Victorian Government's central point of advice on all aspects of Aboriginal affairs in Victoria.

This policy advice may relate to services provided by other Victorian Government agencies, Commonwealth departments, or to services delivered within the Aboriginal community. AAV is often the first point of call by members of the Aboriginal community and its organisations requiring information on a wide range of issues.

Website: www.aboriginalaffairs.vic.gov.au

Local Government

Local councils provide a broad range of services, facilities and infrastructure to local communities. Councils also play a key role in planning for their communities including land use, transport and environmental planning, and planning for the future provision of services and infrastructure.

Council activities and responsibilities that contribute to the health and enjoyment of the Maribyrnong River include:

- > planning and management of open spaces, parks and other recreation facilities
- > capital works to provide and maintain infrastructure and facilities including storm water drains and local roads
- > managing the use and development of land adjacent to the river including the approval of new development
- > administering local laws including control of animals, parking and littering.

Other activities that may have some impact on the rivers include:

- > environmental education programs and supporting local environmental initiatives
- > economic development programs that support the growth of local businesses and employment (e.g. tourism strategies)
- > cultural and sporting events
- > waste and recycling services.