

### 3.4 IMPROVE OVERALL GOVERNANCE

This report sets out an overall vision for the Maribyrnong River, which identifies how development can be managed to reinforce the preferred character of the river valley.

Significant, ongoing commitment by all parties is needed to achieve this vision, particularly in relation to recommendations for the acquisition of land to connect linear trails, and to protect landscape values by excluding or limiting development in some sections of the river.

At present there is no coordinated, whole-of-Government governance structure for the Maribyrnong River corridor although the Victorian Government’s 2004 White Paper, *Our Water, Our Future* appointed Melbourne Water as the caretaker of river health for the entire Port Phillip and Western Port region.

However, in practice, coordination of planning and management of public and private land alongside rivers and creeks relies largely on local councils. Appendix G summarises the key roles and responsibilities of the various government agencies with an interest in the Maribyrnong River.

All five local councils and relevant Victorian Government agencies (DPCD and Parks Victoria) have committed to the establishment of a Maribyrnong River Valley Coordinating Committee for a two year trial period to take responsibility for implementation of the actions in this report.

The purpose of this committee will be to provide a forum for local councils and relevant Victorian Government agencies to work together on strategic planning for the river valley, ensure consistent and effective planning controls, seek funding from a range of sources, oversee consistent public land management and design elements, maximise community engagement and promote the river valley to the wider community.

The broad objectives of the committee will be:

- > to improve existing cooperation to achieve effective and efficient management
- > to involve the community in river valley management
- > to inspire and facilitate action to improve the valley and river
- > to ensure planning provisions reflect agreed policy, objectives and guidelines.

#### Improve overall governance

Action	Responsibility	Priority
24. Establish a Maribyrnong River Valley Coordinating Committee as a two-year trial involving the five councils, DPCD, and Parks Victoria. This committee will commence implementation of key priorities, including coordinating the introduction of planning scheme amendments where needed. The effectiveness of the committee will be reviewed within two years.	All councils, DPCD, Parks Victoria	Immediate