



MELBOURNE  
WATER



Moonee Ponds Creek Association Incorporated

# Moonee Ponds Creek Concept Plan

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Final Report  
1992.

## MOONEE PONDS CREEK CONCEPT PLAN

Prepared by Melbourne Water for Moonee Ponds Creek Association

Bill Johnsen – Project Manager

The project has been funded jointly by Melbourne Water, the Department of Planning and Housing (Northern Area Improvement Program) through the Moonee Ponds Creek Association, the municipalities of Melbourne, Essendon, Brunswick, Coburg and Broadmeadows and Vic Roads.

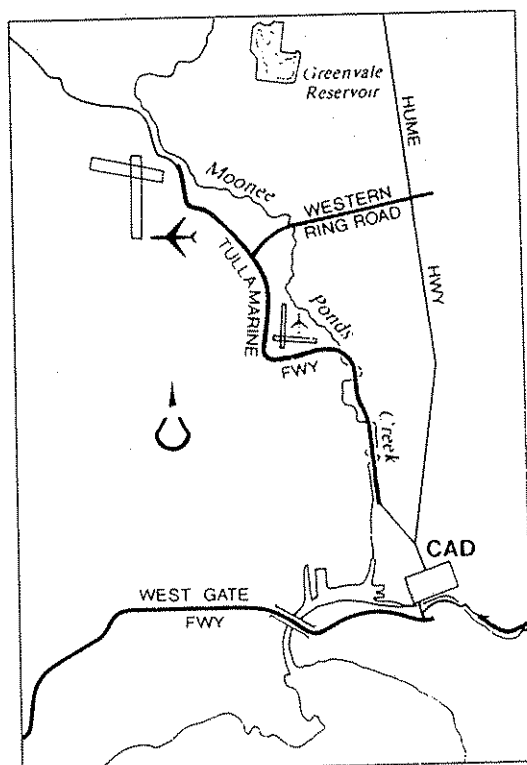
## Foreword

The Moonee Ponds Creek was once a charming and tranquil recreation area, with an abundance of natural vegetation and wildlife. Later, however, much of the creek was concrete lined and straightened, in conjunction with the construction of the Tullamarine Freeway. As a result of this and other indignities, the creek became a barren eyesore, and its earlier charm was lost.

The Moonee Ponds Creek Association was established in 1989 with a view to realising the true potential of this "Cinderella" among waterways. One of the steps taken by the Association was to secure from the Northern Area Improvement Program \$25,000 to assist in the preparation of a Concept Plan for the creek. This acted as a catalyst for financial contributions from the councils adjoining the creek, and from Melbourne Water.

Restoration of the Moonee Ponds Creek is an idea whose time has come. The creek runs from Gellibrand Hill to the Docklands, passing major Melbourne landmarks, and has the potential to be a major Melbourne landmark itself. The creek was originally a series of ponds and wetland areas rather than a continuous watercourse. With appropriate treatments to the concrete lined and straightened areas, we believe the ponds can be put back into the Moonee Ponds Creek.

Kelvin Thomson MLA  
Member for Pascoe Vale  
Chairman, Moonee Ponds Creek Association



## Overview

Rivers and streams have had major significance in changing the face of the earth over countless millions of years; and for people have become a symbol of life and its continuity.

Even so, we subject our watercourses to major abuses, but because of their linear nature and their continuing capacity to flood their banks and thus restrict the types of use to which their floodplains can be put, rivers frequently represent the last remnants of the natural environment. For many species they are life lines running through our cities.

As such, they serve not only as reminders of the natural systems and past landscapes but are important corridors for the movement of birds and other wildlife. As we become aware of this, there are strong and growing expectations that what remains will not only be preserved, but will be restored as closely as possible.

The Moonee Ponds Creek – its bed, banks and floodplains – has become a drain for our seepage and sewage, with channels to carry flood waters away, leaving private property intact. It has also become a dumping ground for our refuse. If we accept this, we turn our backs on a resource that could add considerably to our city. When we look at the water quality of the Moonee Ponds Creek with dismay, we should consider that this level of water quality reflects the care and responsibility our community has given to the husbanding of the creek's catchment.

Bringing the Moonee Ponds Creek back to something of its original nature, is an essential part of returning all our waterways to their former glory. They were once important wildlife corridors, with a rich and varied vegetation. Many of the species once found along their banks have gone, but the potential is still there to encourage some back. It may be a time consuming task and will require good environmental housekeeping by government departments, councils, business and the community, but the rewards will flow on to the broader community in pleasant parklands and a healthier environment.

The environmental improvement of the Moonee Ponds Creek will best be achieved if the local community has a central role in implementing the changes. Once the benefits of these improvements are realised the whole community – residents, industry and local government – will act as custodian of the creek, ensuring the long-term conservation of this valuable natural resource.

David Lloyd  
Chairman Concept Plan Steering Committee

## Introduction

The Moonee Ponds Creek Concept Plan is now being released as agreed strategic framework for the future development and use of this urban waterway and its environs, so that the total catchment can be managed with a common theme and vision. The Concept Plan describes how the area can be planned and managed to develop the recreational and aesthetic potential without degrading inherent natural and cultural resources. Once approved, this Concept Plan will provide a basis for future development. It forms a guide for the management of the creek and its environs and contains recommendations for implementation.

The plan is part of the Open Space 2000 Program, which aims to create a world-class network of parks, trails, river frontages and beaches for Melbourne – from the Bay to the Ranges.

Preparing the Concept Plan has involved a four stage process.

Stage 1 involved establishing the consultative processes to be adopted for the plan.

In Stage 2, professional research was undertaken into various aspects of the creek, and this culminated in a Community Workshop on 25 May 1991, which the results were presented. Armed with this knowledge, the community set a direction and targets for the implementors of the Concept Plan to achieve.

Stage 3 was the development of the plan itself. This required considerable consultation with the community through the Moonee Ponds Creek Association, others and the management authorities, to arrive at an agreed plan.

This plan is now available to the general public after being endorsed by the numerous agencies involved and included in their planning processes and works programs. This is the final stage of the Concept Plan, but it is the first stage of making this vision for the creek a reality.

As well as the Concept Plan, numerous resource and background documents were produced as part of the Concept Plan process. These documents include:

- "Visual Assessment and Recreation Resources and Opportunities of Moonee Ponds Creek", by Scenic Spectrums Pty Ltd, 1991.
- "The Flora and Fauna of Moonee Ponds Creek." by Dale Tonkinson and David Lloyd of Go Green, 1991.
- "The History and Heritage of Moonee Ponds Creek.", by Fiona Weaver, 1991.
- "Land Capability Assessment of Moonee Ponds Creek." by Ian Sargeant, 1991.
- "Background Information and Resources Descriptions", May 1991.
- "Alternative Drainage Assessment for Moonee Ponds Creek." by Scenic Spectrums and Neil Craigie and Associates, 1991.

These documents can be obtained from the Moonee Ponds Creek Association, the councils participating, or Melbourne Water.

## Acknowledgements

This Concept Plan has been prepared by Bill Johnsen, Senior Project Manager/Parks Division, Open Space Waterways and Environment Directorate, Melbourne Water, for the Moonee Ponds Creek Association; the cities of Broadmeadows, Brunswick, Coburg, Essendon and Melbourne; Vic Roads and the Department of Planning and Housing.

The project was overseen by a steering committee made up of representatives from the agencies involved.

David Lloyd	Go Green – Chairman of the Steering Committee
David Mulholland	Coburg City Council
John Phillips	Melbourne City Council
Wayne Harvey	Broadmeadows City Council
Lois Binnie	Essendon City Council
Jim O'May	Department of Conservation and Environment
Nick Ronan	Melbourne Water – Yarra Region
Phil Lenthall	Melbourne Water – Maribyrnong Region
Caroline Reddy	Department of Planning and Housing
Jackie Ross	Vic Roads
Mark Waldan and	
Josephine Connellan	Brunswick City Council
Kelvin Thomson MLA	Moonee Ponds Creek Association

The assistance of the many other individuals and organisations involved in the preparation of this concept plan is gratefully acknowledged.

## The Theme and Vision of Moonee Ponds Creek

Through workshops, the Moonee Ponds Creek Association and the consultation process, the community has consistently expressed its desire for a natural creek environment which incorporates extensive treed areas and a renewal of the creek to provide a visually attractive flora and fauna habitat. The creek is to be a community resource, and the link for many uses and is to be managed as a co-ordinated unit.

The targets set by the community have been broadly categorised as follows:



### To Revegetate/Conservation

Specific emphasis will be placed on creating a natural environment, removing willows and box thorns, developing conservation plans, conserving remnant vegetation, providing weed control, using suitable plants for the conditions in accord with an indigenous theme. There is a need to balance weed removal with new habitat development.



### To Provide Habitat

Emphasis will be placed on creating a wildlife corridor by rebuilding habitat in the concrete areas, managing dogs and cats, improving water quality, and providing lateral links for wildlife to move to other areas.



### To Create Wetlands

Emphasis will be placed on specific areas, such as West Melbourne, Jacana and estuary development in the docklands area. Meanders and habitats will be created, with a theme of bringing the ponds back to Moonee Ponds and reducing the impact of the concrete drain.



### To Develop Access

Emphasis will be placed on providing better public access to the creek, extending the linear trail along the entire creek, and developing lateral or cross links to other areas.



### To Ensure Co-ordinated Management

Responsible agencies will coordinate a range of activities from implementing visual and planning controls and guidelines; co-ordinating land ownership; resolving land use conflicts; controlling erosion and the use of chemicals; co-ordinating activities, financial evaluation and encouragement; minimising flood risk, litter, noise and air pollution.



### To Encourage Community Participation

Emphasis will be placed on continuing and increasing community involvement in revitalising the creek, creating a greater understanding of the environment and culture of the area, recognising it as an educational and science resource, and generally developing greater appreciation of the creek and what it has to offer.

## Overall Development of the Moonee Ponds Creek

The Concept Plan recommendations cover two aspects. There is a general review of matters which apply over the entire length of the creek, and a detail assessment of requirements for ten reaches of the creek.

The Concept Plan for the Moonee Ponds Creek has considered some 27.6 km of watercourse and an adjacent area of 600 ha which is under the responsibility of eight primary authorities and 6 councils. The following issues and recommendations reflect the desires of the community and land managers to have something done in various categories of work.

### The Action Program

A range of projects are listed which, when implemented, will help to achieve the vision for the creek. The action program identifies the agencies which will have some involvement in that particular action, but does not necessarily imply that they are the sole funding agency.

### Work Category

Each of the projects is also identified as being either:



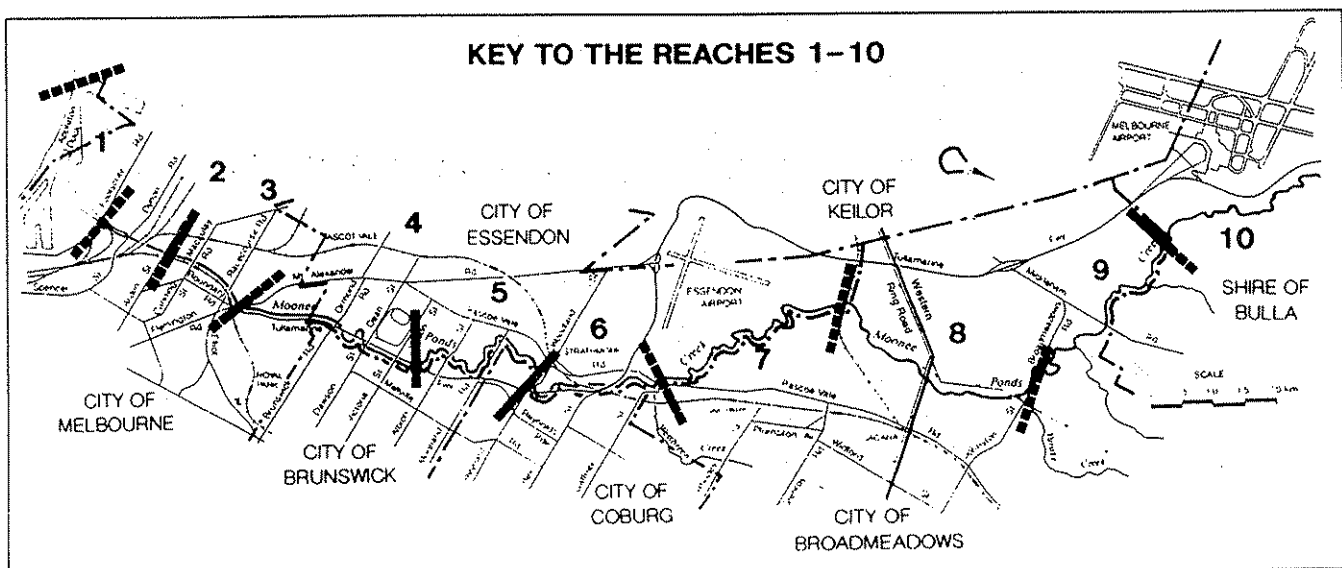
new development work,

or



an action that can fit in as part of an existing works program along the creek.

Cost and timing of the projects are also listed within the following general limits: costs below \$100,000 are indicated, however, costs calculated as being between \$100,000 and \$250,000 are shown as high and costs above \$250,000 are shown as "very high".





### Timing

The timing of works in the action program are indicated by the following keys:



Short-term action which could start straight away because all resources, approvals and access are readily available.



Medium-term action, which could start within the next three years, after the resources, approvals and access requirements have been arranged.



Long-term action, which will take at least three to five years to obtain the necessary resources, approvals and access to undertake the work.



Continuing, programmed works are those which will have to be regularly undertaken.

### Abbreviations

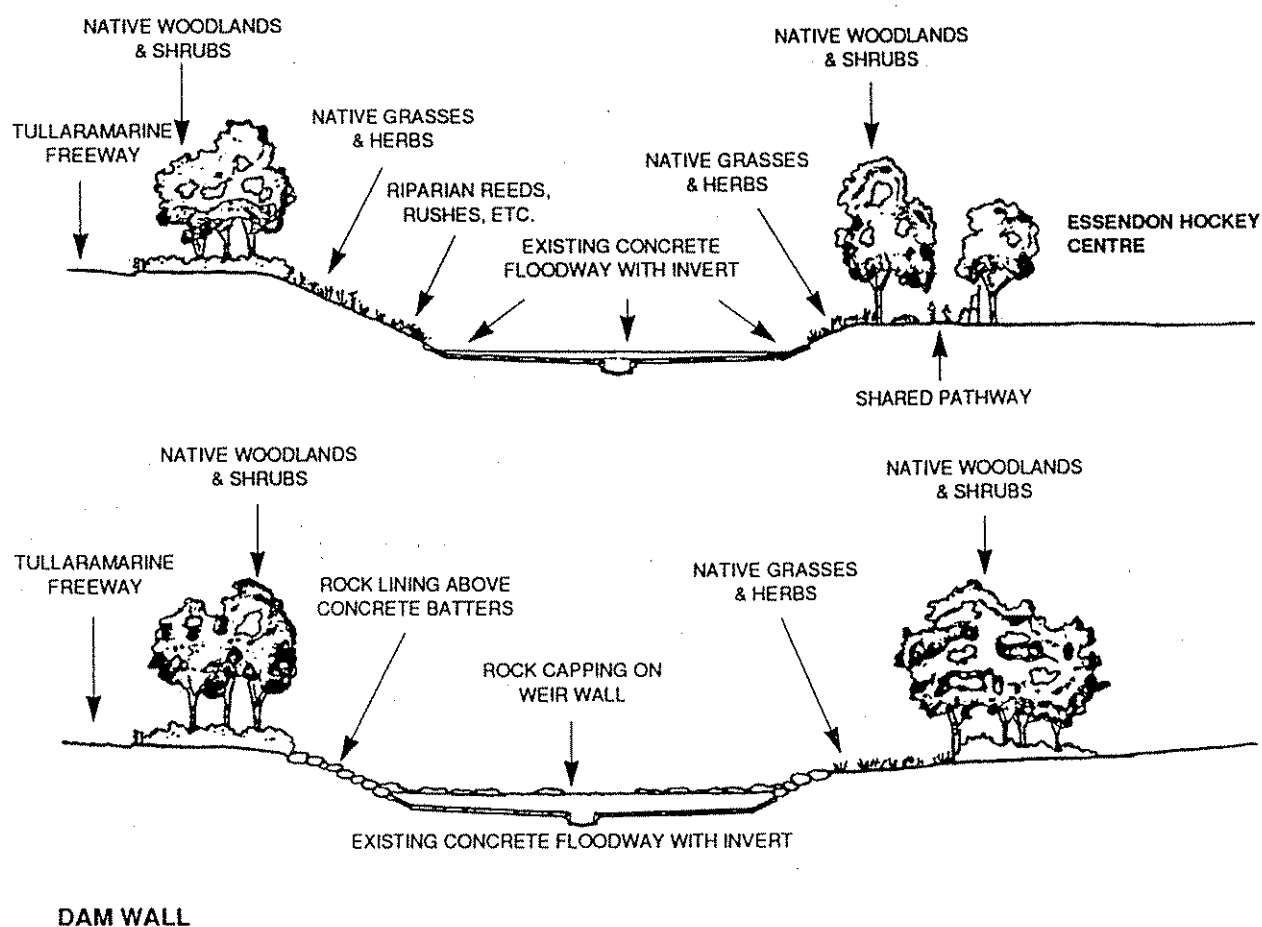
PTC	– Public Transport Corporation
VAS	– Victorian Archaeological Survey
DCE	– Department of Conservation and Environment
MPCA	– Moonee Ponds Creek Association
PMA	– Port of Melbourne Authority
MOET	– Ministry of Education and Training
DPH	– Department of Planning and Housing

## Improvement of the Appearance and Habitat of the Creek Bed and Banks

There is a strong desire for the development of alternatives to the current drainage system, which relies on concrete lining of the creek bed. These alternatives have been shown to be viable, but there is a cost in dollars, land and loss of existing facilities. The issue is not only to improve the look of the creek, but to develop a passive recreation resource for people and a habitat for wildlife. Some minor works and trial works are already underway, but further action will be required to enable the change to take place over the entire catchment.

Following the work undertaken as part of the Concept Plan, there is a need for a review of the hydraulic characteristics of the creek, including survey work, to produce an overall plan for the incorporation of creek revival works. Many of these works could be incorporated in Melbourne Water's normal maintenance programs as well as future Open Space 2000 initiative program.











Within each reach implementation of recommendations 1.01, 2.01, 3.03, 4.03, 4.04, 5.03, 6.03, 6.04, 6.05, 7.01, 7.02, 7.09, 8.07, 8.13, 6.16, 9.03, 10.01 will help to provide the overall improvement of the appearance and habitat of the creek bed and bank.



## Co-ordinated Management of the Creek and its Environs

The plethora of management agencies and interests along Moonee Ponds Creek may lead to a diversity of management practices. There needs to be a formal co-ordination mechanism and some rationalisation of land management practices. This would lead to an improvement in the area and savings on maintenance costs.

The viability of having a recognised co-ordinator should be considered. The Moonee Ponds Creek Association is seen to be a good basis for establishing the formal co-ordination.

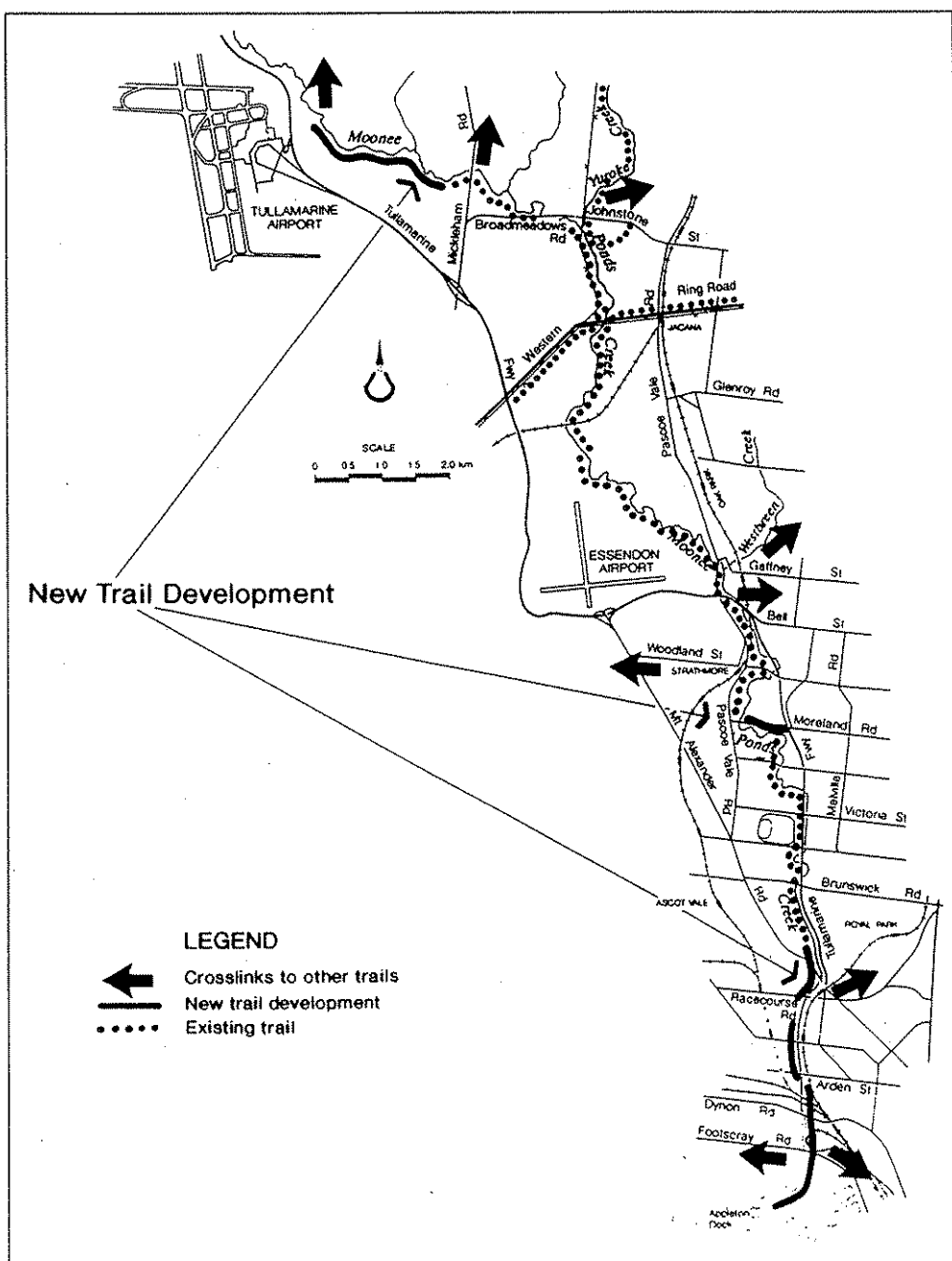
Action Program		Agency Responsible	Order of Cost \$000	Category/ Timing
001	Review existing co-ordination and establish the need for co-ordination.	MPCA	\$20	 
002	Involve all agencies in MPCA.	MPCA	\$5	 
003	Establish formal co-ordination mechanism under auspices of MPCA.	MPCA Melbourne Water	\$5	 
004	Implementation of strategies suggested by the review of co-ordination (see 001).	All	\$5	 
005	Develop maintenance prescriptions and standards of style for entire creek through standing local committee's.	MPCA	\$10	 

Within particular reaches, recommendations 4.02, 5.02, 6.02, 7.04 and 10.03 will also develop the required co-ordinated management.

## Linear Trail Development

The existing linear trail for the use of pedestrians and cyclists is to be extended and linked. At the moment the trail starts near Delhi Court upstream of Mt Alexander Road and finishes north of Mickleham Road, with a 1.2k m. gap between Primrose Street and Vanberg Road. It is proposed that the trail be constructed to bicycle standard to make it continuous from the Docklands to Gellibrand Hill. There will also be connections to other trails, such as the Maribyrnong and Yarra Trails, the Merri Creek Trail, Royal Park and along the Western Ringroad.

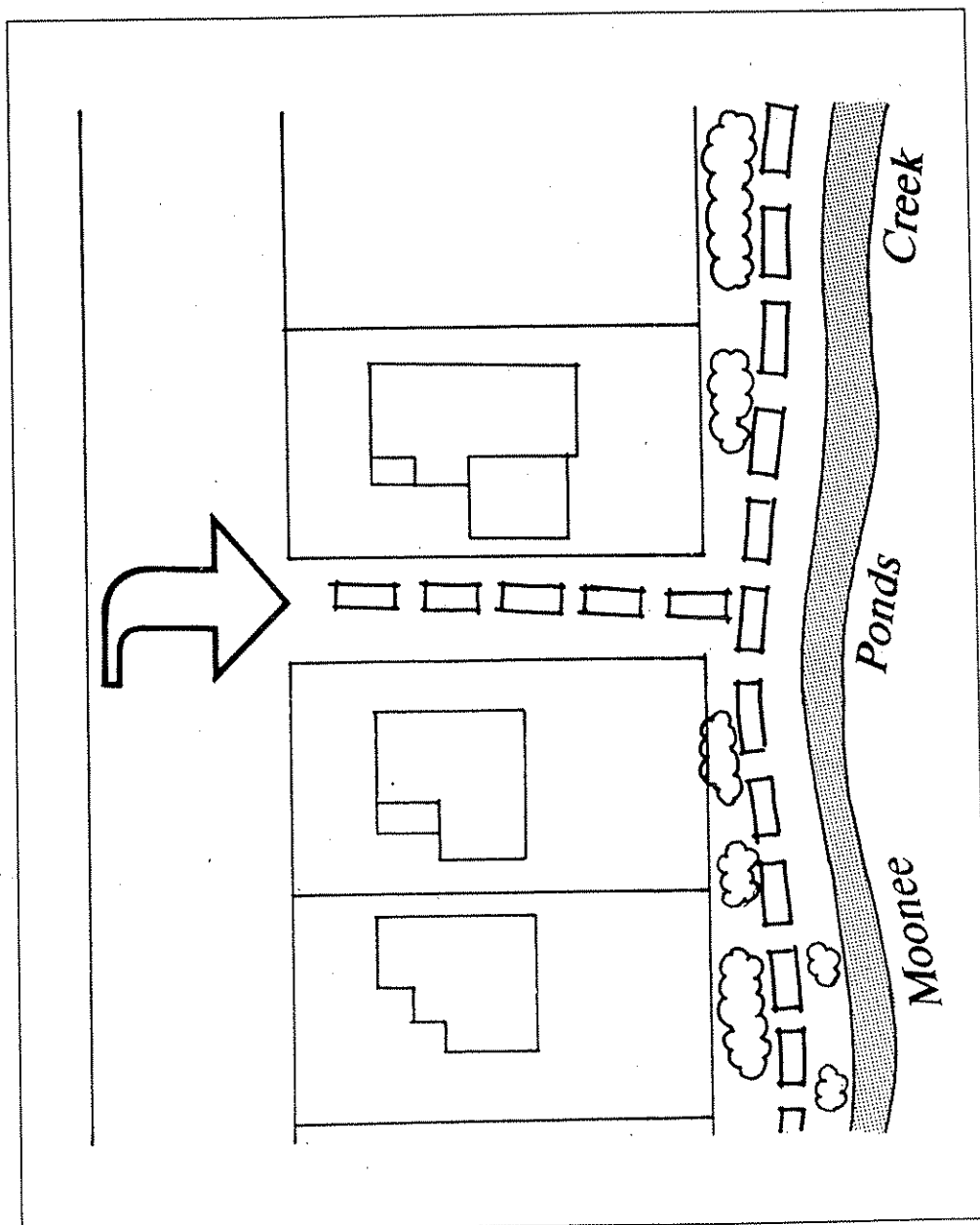
When implemented, recommendations 1.03, 2.03, 3.02, 4.06, 5.09, 9.04, 10.02 and 009 for the various reaches of the creek will ensure that the linear trail is continuous.



## Amenity and Access Improvements to Land Surrounding the Creek

The creek, generally, has not been treated as a focus for the area. This could now be changed, especially with some of the waterway improvements proposed. This would require consideration of the design of some parkland areas so that views and trails are directed towards the creek, with hindrances to access such as inappropriate fencing and screen planting, needing to be removed.

Recommendations 3.02, 3.05, 3.03, 4.10, 5.10, 5.11, 6.06, 6.07, 7.10, 7.11, 7.04, 8.05, 8.06, 9.10 and 10.06 within each reach will help to achieve this overall objective.

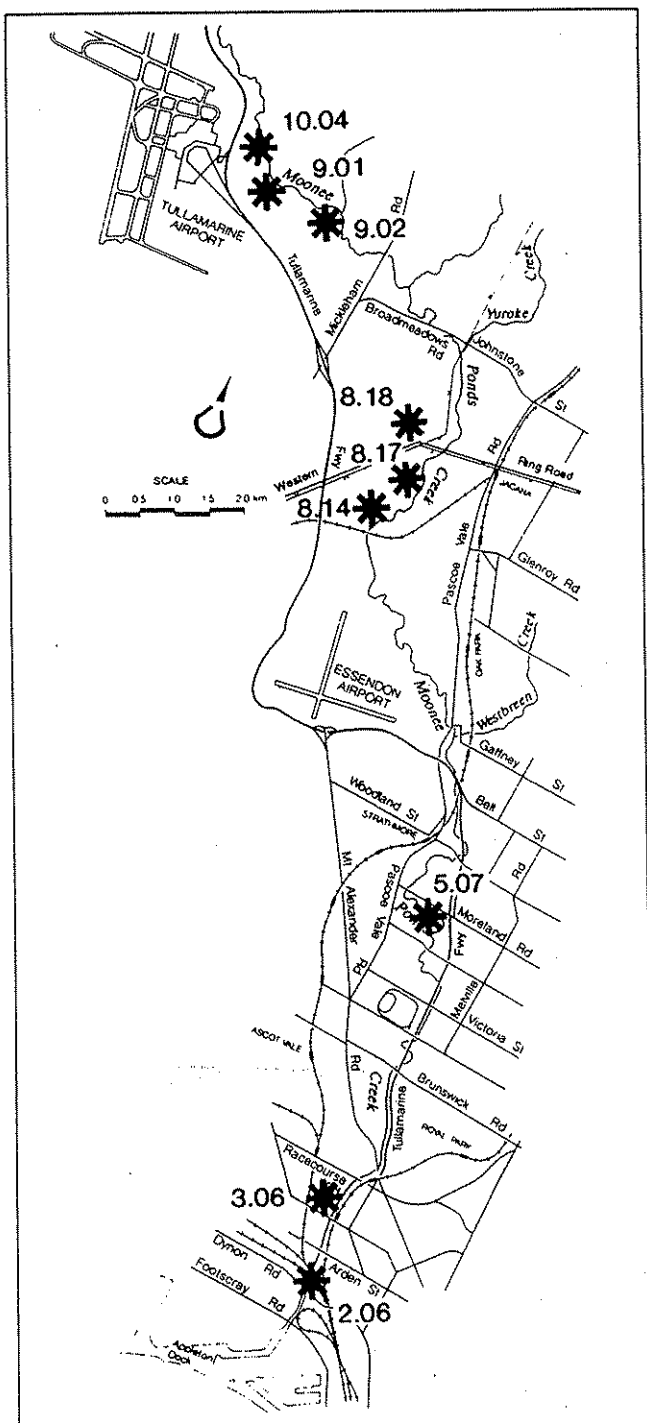


## Land Acquisition Program

There are several parcels of land along the creek that are not publicly owned or accessible. It is proposed that a program of acquisition and securing use be undertaken to ensure that the public can have unrestricted access over the entire length of the creek environs. This program would be a major consideration in the development of the total trail system.

### Action Program

- 2.06 Secure public access between the Docklands and Macaulay Road.
- 3.06 Acquisition of industrial land along Stubbs Avenue Melbourne.
- 5.07 Secure public access along the north bank of the creek between Hopetoun Avenue and Moreland Road.
- 8.14 Acquire industrial buildings downstream of Jacana flood basin.
- 8.18 Secure open space use of the Jacana flood basin.
- 8.17 Acquire land on the west bank downstream of the Jacana flood basin.
- 9.01 Purchase privately owned Melbourne Water zoned land between Wright and Victoria streets.
- 9.02 Secure use of Melbourne Water land near Koala Crescent.
- 10.04 Acquire land along the south side of the Creek - West of Victoria Street.

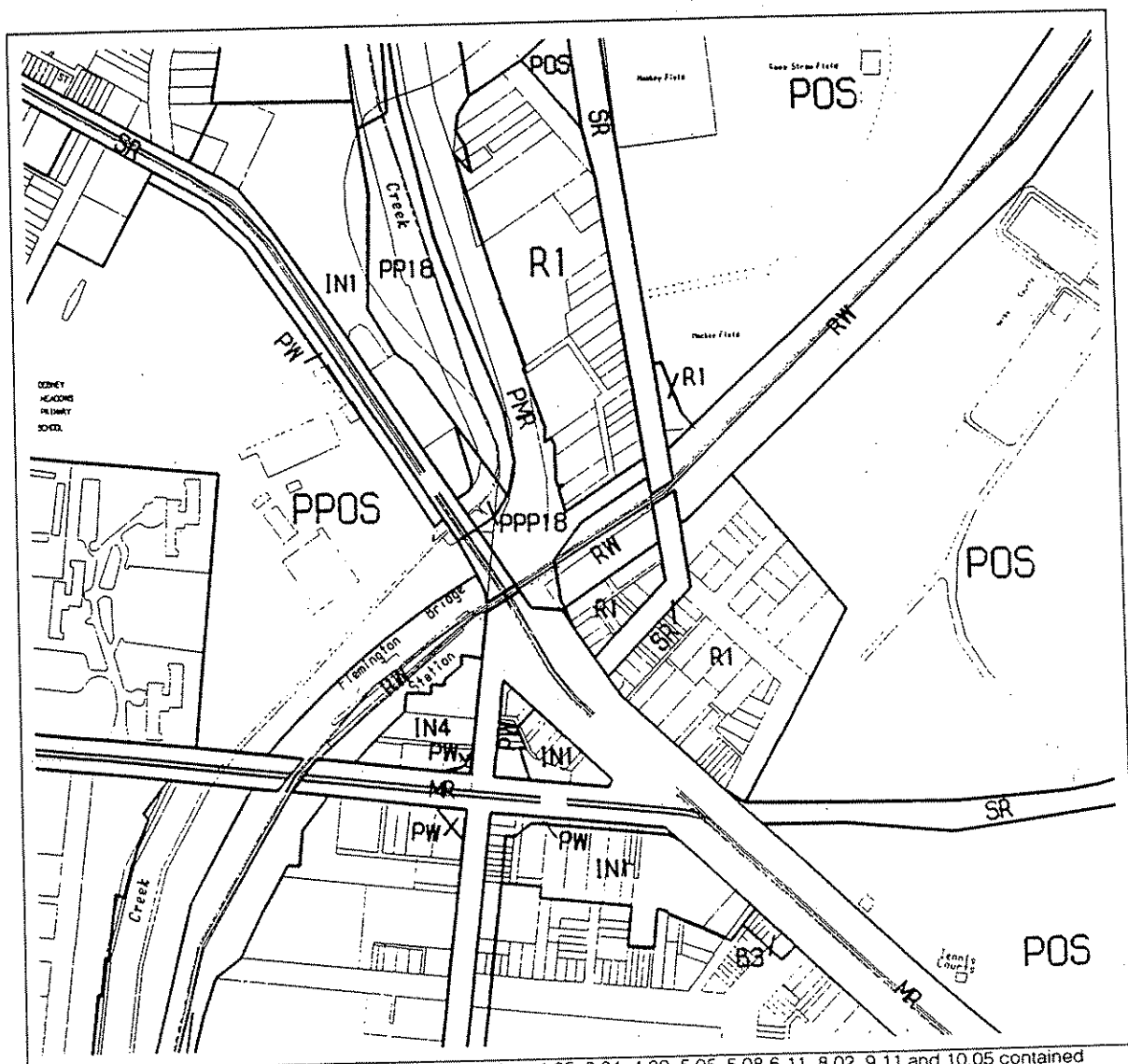


## Planning Controls, Land Use and Zoning Rationalisation

The whole thrust of planning controls, land usage, zoning rationalisation and building regulations along the creek will be to turn the focus onto the creek. In the past, the community has turned its back to the creek and adjacent parkland, but with a slight change in emphasis and a realisation by the authorities and the community, a whole new dimension in improved amenity and lifestyle can be achieved.

At the moment there is a range of zonings along the creek. These should be updated with visual planning controls introduced where they are required to protect or enhance some visual amenity of the creek.











To ensure the focus of the authorities is on the open space development of the creek, each council and agency will be asked to adopt a policy of incorporating the visions of the Concept Plan into all their activities along the creek.



When implemented recommendations 1.05, 3.04, 4.09, 5.05, 5.08, 6.11, 8.02, 9.11 and 10.05 contained within the reaches, will assist in making this change in attitude achievable.

## Development of Education and Information Programs along the Moonee Ponds Creek











It has been identified that there is a desire by schools and others for an education and information program focused on the Moonee Ponds Creek. This is an activity that could be consistent with the roles of the management co-ordinator or as an independent co-ordinator attached to the Ministry of Education and Training. Alternatively, Melbourne Water has significant capabilities in this regard which are to be further strengthened.

Action Program	Agency Responsible	Order of Cost \$000	Category/ Timing
006 Approach the Ministry of Education and Training to elicit its involvement under auspices of MPCA.	MPCA	\$0	 
007 Appoint co-ordinator.	MPCA	\$0	 
008 Develop School and Information Programs.	MPCA MOET	\$25	 
009 Install information, direction and interpretation signs along entire creek.	Melbourne Water Councils.	\$50	 
010 Provide specific interpretation points along the creek to highlight natural and cultural features.	Melbourne Water Councils.	\$50	 








## Continuing Community Participation

The community has shown that it wishes to be involved in the revitalisation of the Moonee Ponds Creek and this will therefore be a continuing feature of the redevelopment. The Moonee Ponds Creek Association is seen as a focus for this and will act as the co-ordinator and instigator of many of the activities.

Action Program	Agency Responsible	Order of Cost \$000	Category/ Timing
011 Develop the Association as an identifiable community contact point.	MPCA	\$5	 
012 Involve consultation in all specific plans.	All	0	 
013 Develop stronger links with other groups.	MPCA	0	 
014 Publish quarterly news sheet/newsletters and write regular newspaper columns..	MPCA Councils	\$5	 
015 Refer all plans and proposals for works along the creek to the MPCA	MPCA	0	 

### Legend for Reaches Plans

	Concept Plan Area Boundary
	Existing Trail
	Proposed Trail
	Watercourse
	Plantings

## **Details of the Reaches of the Moonee Ponds Creek**

The creek has been divided into ten reaches and the issues, development options and action programs for each are detailed on the following pages.

### **Reach 1: Docklands – from the Yarra River to New Footscray Road**

Length considered: 1.5 km

Area Involved: 36+ ha

Municipality: Melbourne

Ownership: land vested in the Port of Melbourne Authority

Relevant Authority – Docklands Authority, PMA

#### **Description**

A tidal unused piece of land.

#### **Issues**

- Proposed developments in association with Docklands and Victorian Ports Land Use study could substantially affect the preferred option. In particular the construction of docks: Appleton, F and G.
- Ownership and management of land.
- Western By-pass development. The location will have major impact on many proposals in area.
- Possible rail and infrastructure developments in area.

#### **Vision for the Reach**

##### **Watercourse**

The watercourse should be developed with an estuarine theme, with the west bank retained as isolated nature area.

##### **Land**











Planting and habitat creation, land management, observation points and access tracks should be subject to future development proposals.

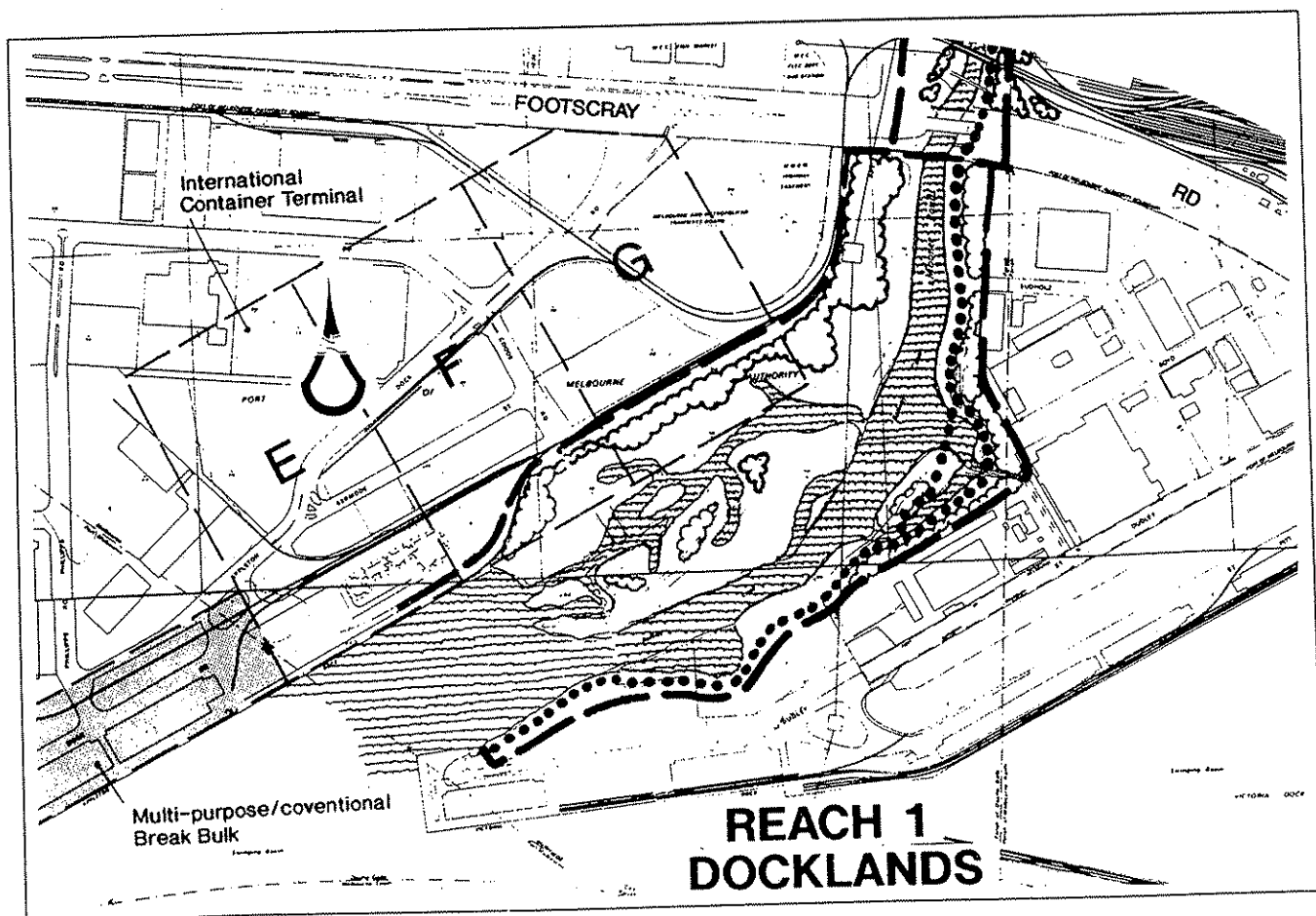
##### **Management**

Development and maintenance of area should be co-ordinated.

##### **Social**

Public access should be provided along the east bank of the creek.

Action Program	Agency Responsible	Order of Cost \$000	Category/ Timing
1.01 Incorporate concept plan theme into Docklands Development Plan, by Taskforce, and also the Ports Land Use Study.	Docklands Taskforce PMA	\$5	 
1.02 Rationalise control and management of creek and open space environs to best achieve the concept theme and conserve remnant saltmarsh vegetation	Melbourne Water PMA	\$5	 
1.03 Shape and prepare ground – including site design – and plant with suitable species.	Melbourne Water	\$100	 
1.04 Construct paths, signs interpretation facilities, boardwalks and other facilities.	Melbourne Water	\$200	 
1.05 Develop new building controls and enhance existing ones, so as to improve the visual amenity of areas in the vicinity of the creek.	PMA	\$200	 



## **Reach 2: Railyards – from New Footscray Road to Arden Street**

Length Considered: 1.3 km

Area Involved: 15 ha

Municipality: Melbourne

### **Description**

The creek runs through the midst of railway sidings and is crossed by numerous low bridges. The area has very sparse vegetation and is visually dominated by surrounding heavy industry.

### **Issues**

- Safe pedestrian and cycle access to the bay, Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers must pass through this industrial area.
- Proposed Western By-Pass location.
- Ownership of land and responsibility for the creek.
- Security of PTC assets.
- National Rail Freight Authority interests.

### **Vision for the Reach**

#### **Watercourse**

The creek should be cleared and deepened at the centre to enable canoes etc. to pass, and the edges should be planted out with aquatic species to establish habitat.

#### **Land**





















Screen planting and fencing should be provided to separate the creek environs from industry and the rail yards. Paths, fishing platforms and boardwalks should be constructed.

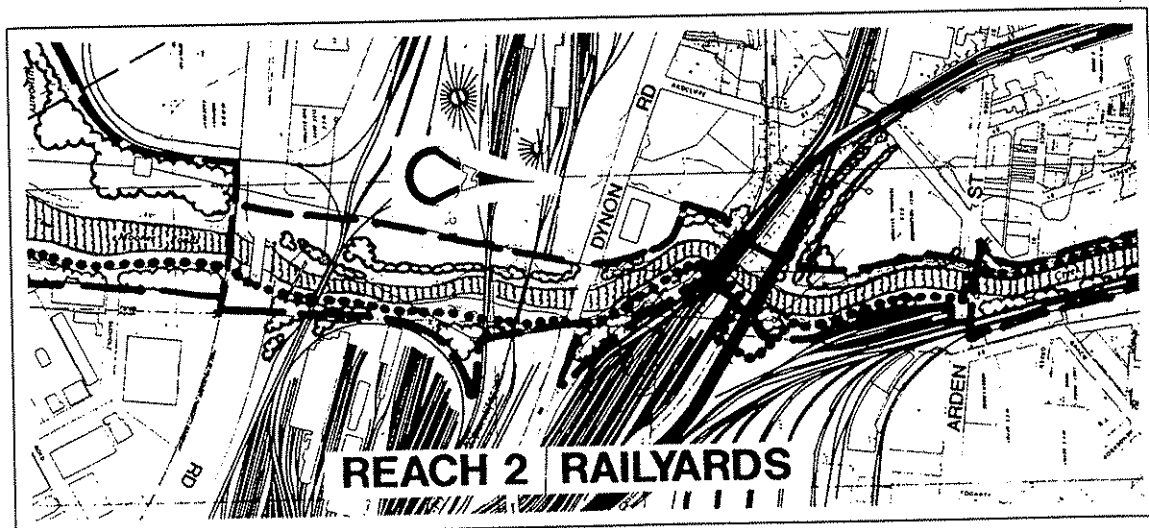
#### **Management**

Management and maintenance should be co-ordinated between adjoining land managers and creek authorities.

#### **Social**

Safe public access should be provided to the creek and its environs.

Action Program		Agency Responsible	Order of Cost \$000	Category/ Timing
2.01	Study possible contamination of land along the creek.	Melbourne Water PTC VicRoads Melbourne	\$20	 
2.02	Secure the strip of land owned by railways and others between McCauley Road and the Docklands to establish a linear link.	Melbourne Water PTC	\$5	 
2.03	Arrange appropriate rezoning of land in conjunction with other necessary rezonings.	Melbourne Water VicRoads Melbourne	\$10	 
2.04	Detail design of trails and plantings.	Melbourne Water Melbourne	\$10	 
2.05	Dredge and clean up creek.	Melbourne Water	Very High	 
2.06	Implement a planting program.	Melbourne Water Melbourne PTC	\$30	 
2.07	Construct trail.	Melbourne Water Melbourne PTC VicRoads	High	 
2.08	Construct platforms, including boat launching and fishing platforms.	Melbourne Water PTC	\$30	 
2.09	Co-ordinate management.	MPCA Melbourne Water PTC Melbourne	\$5	 
2.10	Finalise proposed Western By-Pass location.	VicRoads	\$0	 



## **Reach 3: Macaulay – from Arden Street to Mt Alexander Road**

Length considered: 1.6 km

Area Involved: 23 ha

Municipality: Melbourne

### **Description**

The creek consists of wide expanses of grass between levee banks with the water confined to a relatively small channel upstream of Macaulay Road, but as a wide canal downstream. The immediate surrounding area is industrial in nature, with the Upfield railway line defining the east bank. The area has a large residential population concentrated in highrise flats, which provides an incentive to create open space in this area.

### **Issues**

- Flooding is a major consideration in the development of the drainage system, and controls the type of development possible.
- Negotiations on maximising availability of usable land.
- Provision of open space and recreation opportunity for local residents as well as forming regional links.
- Location and timing of proposed Western By-pass.
- Co-ordination between authorities.
- Transfer of silt down the creek to this reach.

### **Vision for the Reach**

#### **Watercourse**

Complete flood mitigation works in such a way that they encourage recreational use of the waterway, by improving water quality and litter control, with estuarine planting in the lower part of the reach and representative planting in the upper part.

#### **Land**













The focus of development and activities along the creek should be turned around to use the open space along the creek and to provide links and access to the surrounding streets and community. The area should be developed as a linear open space and recreation corridor, with appropriate planting and facilities.

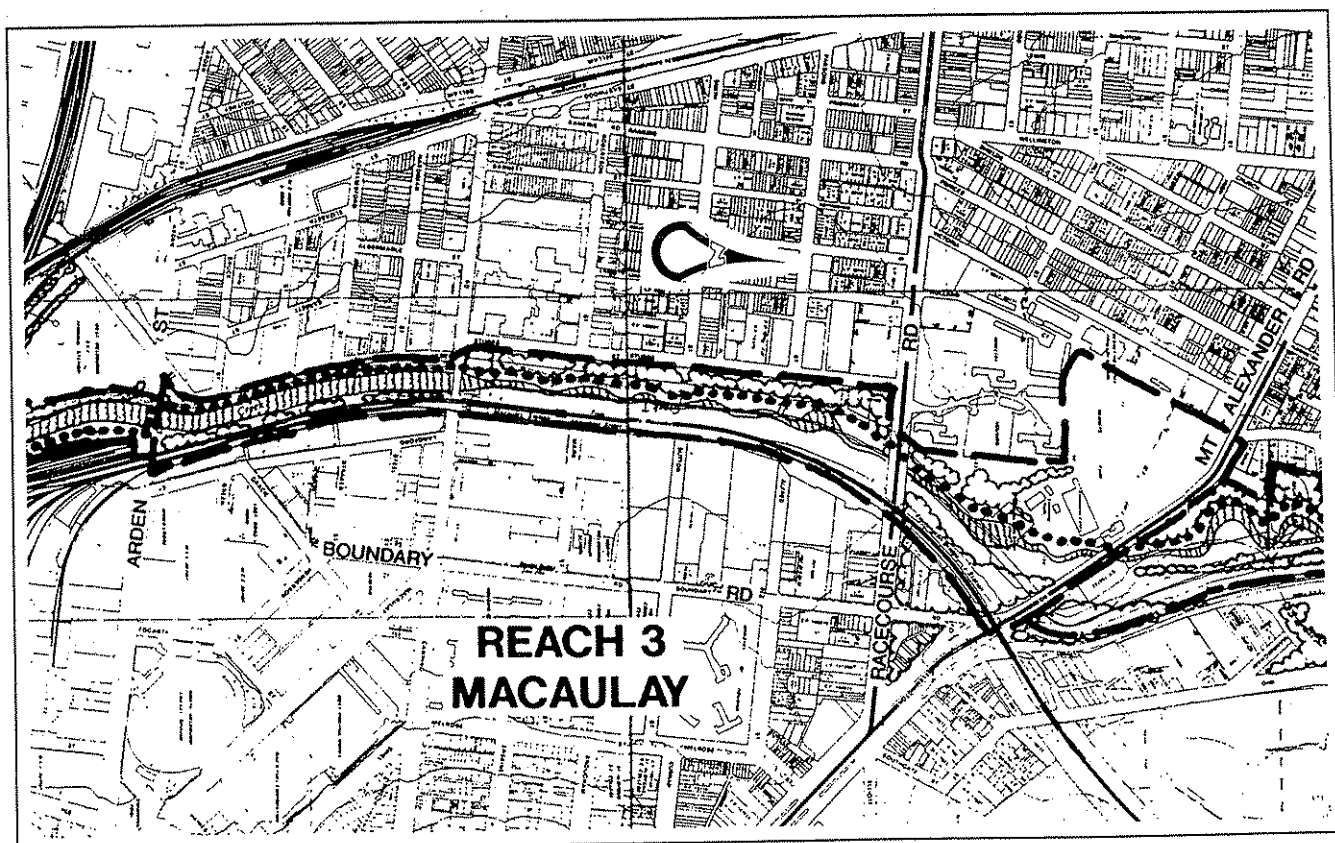
#### **Management**

Co-ordinated management of the creek, with agreed maintenance prescriptions and funding arrangements should be adopted. Visual and planning controls should focus attention on the creek and should stop inappropriate development. Total catchment management arrangements should control silt before it reaches this area.

#### **Social**

Social equity for area should be improved by providing proportionally more open space. People should feel more secure in the area when more people are attracted there for recreation.

Action Program		Agency Responsible	Order of Cost \$000	Category/ Timing
3.01	Complete hydraulic investigation of the creek, including development of a silt and litter management program and flood mitigation.	Melbourne Water	\$40	 
3.02	Develop linear trail access along and across creek, with links to other recreation facilities nearby.	Melbourne Melbourne Water	High	 
3.03	Improve the amenity of the open space corridor by reshaping the land form, undertaking appropriate planting and relocating facilities.	Melbourne Water Melbourne	\$100	 
3.04	Establish visual controls to enhance the amenity of the area and structures facing onto creek.	Melbourne Melbourne Water	\$20	 
3.05	Improve physical and visual access to the creek and surrounding open space.	Melbourne Melbourne Water	\$100	 
3.06	Arrange for ultimate acquisition of industrial land along Stubbs Street.	Melbourne Melbourne Water	High	 



## **Reach 4: Ormond – from Mt Alexander Road to Near Evans Street**

Length considered: 3.6 km

Area: 46 ha

Municipalities: Melbourne, Essendon, Brunswick

### **Description**

The reach is dominated by the wide expanses of concrete channel and the Tullamarine Freeway on the east bank. There is an area of well-maintained sports ovals along the west bank.

### **Issues**

- The dominant visual aspect of the concrete.
- Access for Brunswick residents.
- Impact of the proposed Western By-pass, including any widening of the Tullamarine Freeway.
- Continuity of the linear trail.
- Control of flooding and erosion.
- Impact of creek development on the sports grounds.
- Landslips along the creek.

### **Visions for the Reach**

#### **Watercourse**

The concrete drain should be converted into a more natural looking creek, but without affecting flood levels.

#### **Land**

The surrounding parkland should be further planted and, along with sports grounds, should be integrated as a natural creek surround.

The linear trail should be continued and cross links to the east bank should be developed.

#### **Management**























Co-ordination of development management, implementation and maintenance of parkland should be undertaken where appropriate.

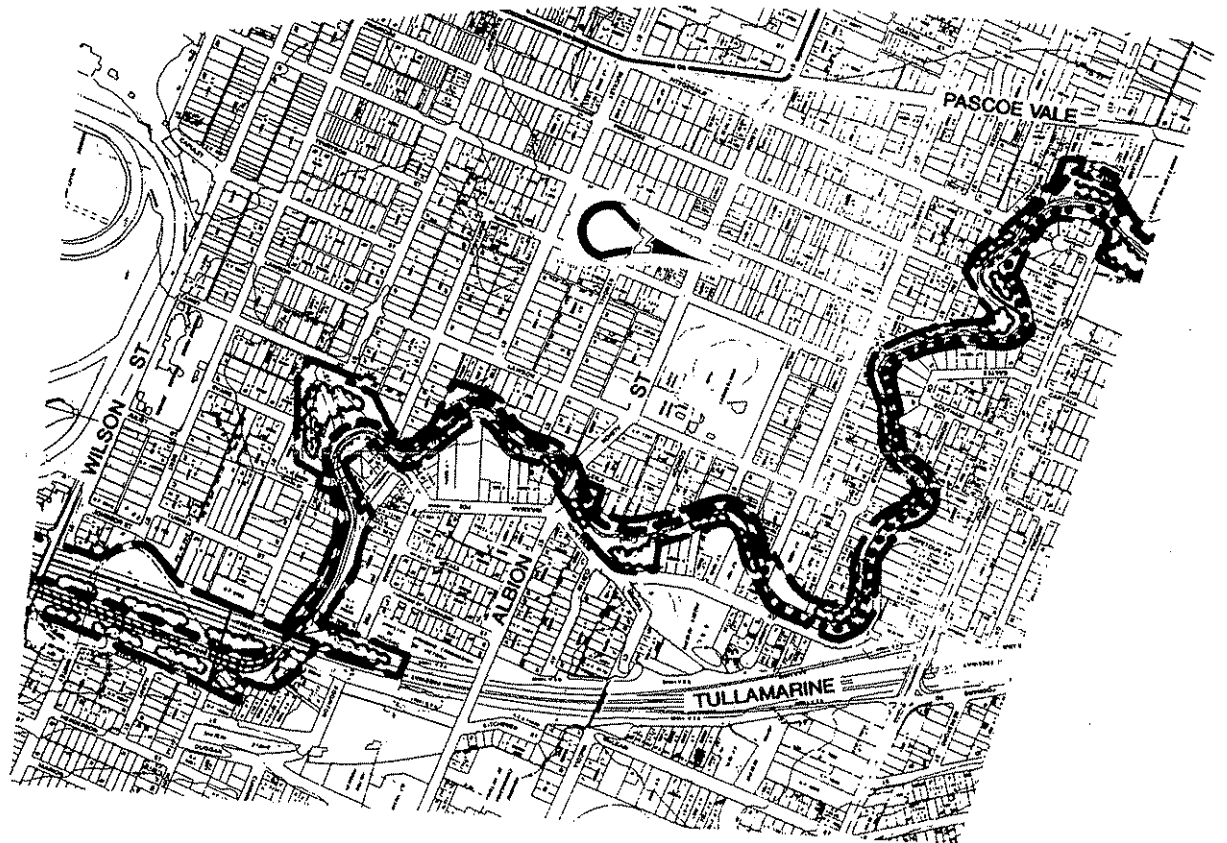
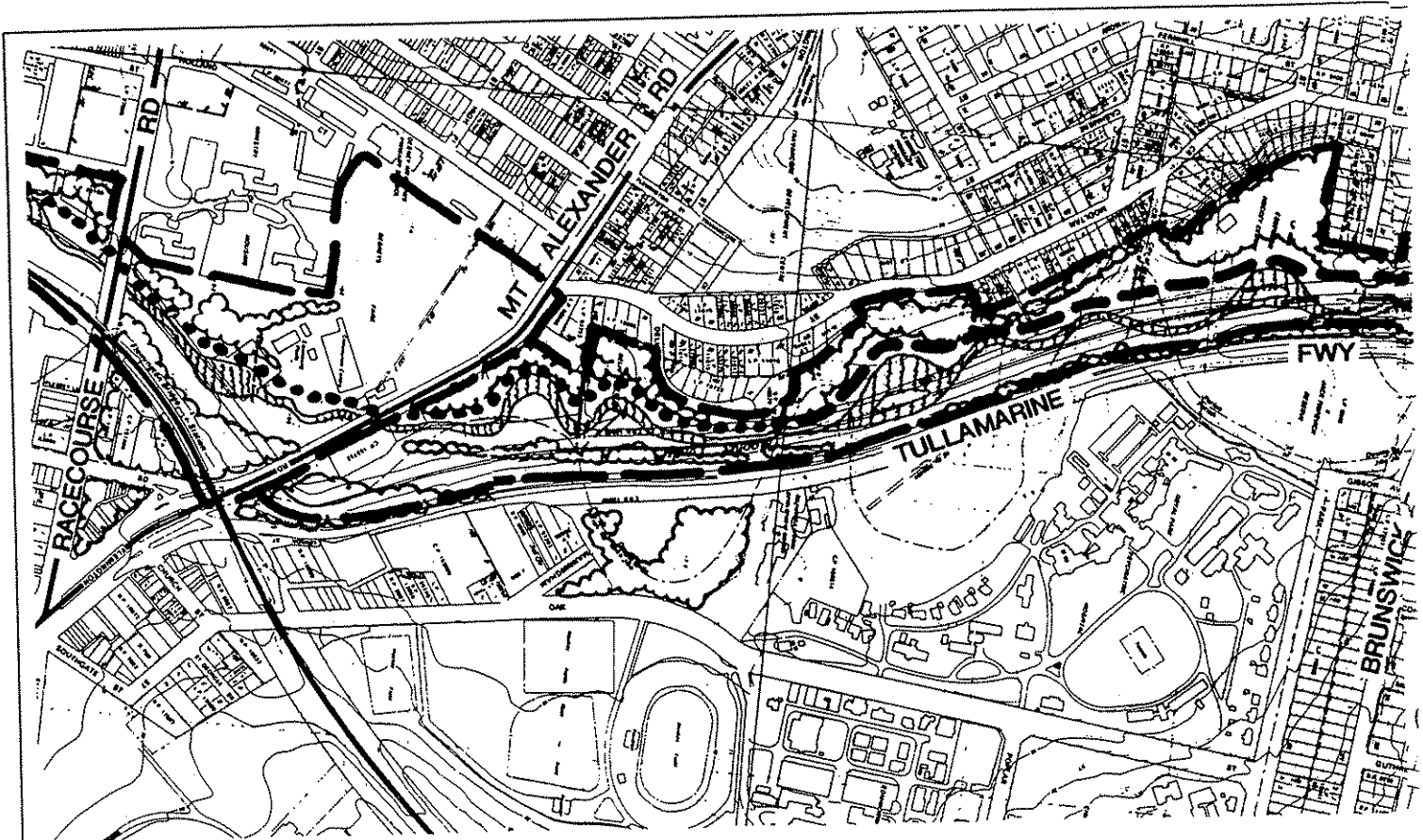
Zoning should be rationalised to suit the existing situation.

#### **Social**

Better access to the creek and information about its revitalisation should be provided for people.



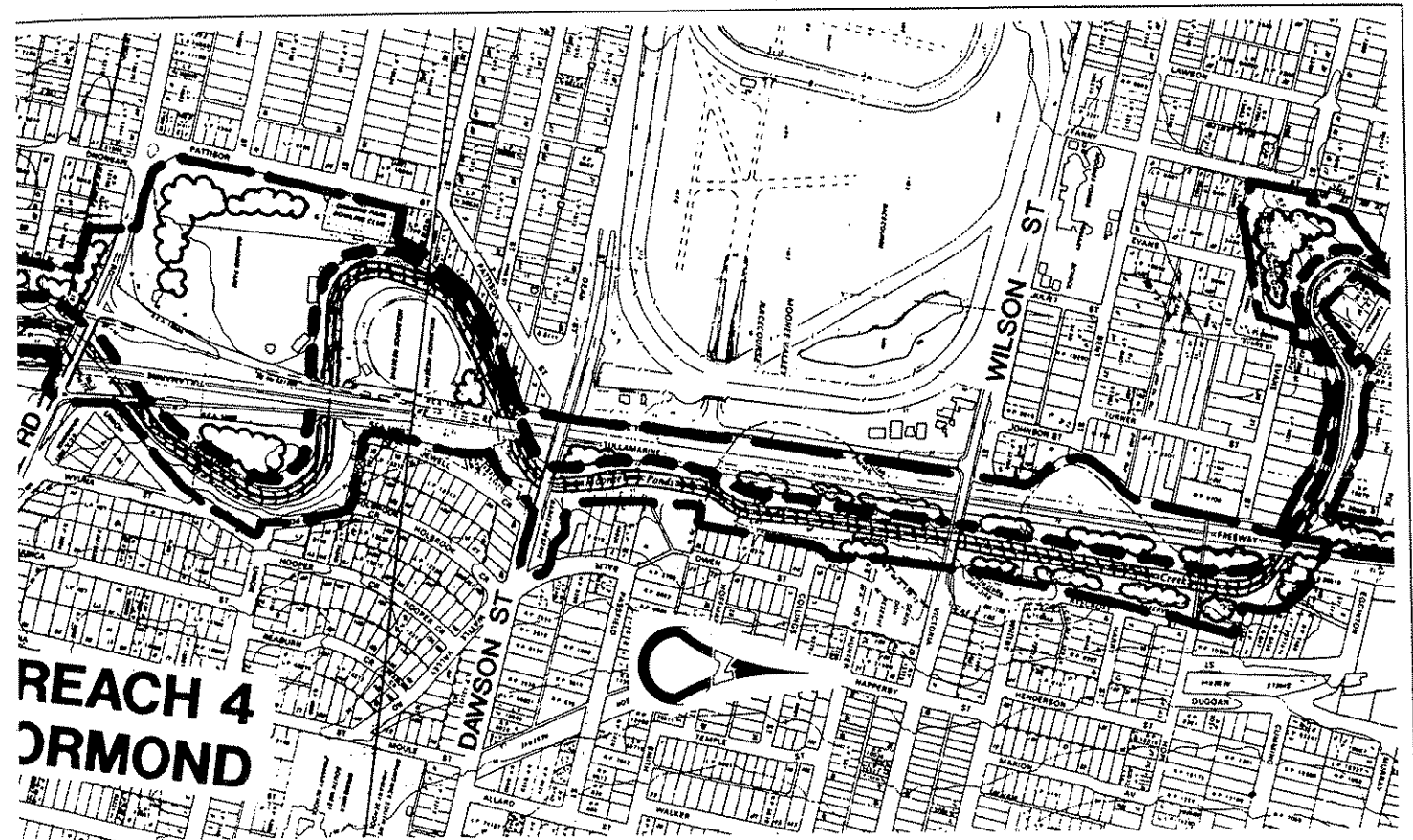
Action Program		Agency Responsible	Order of Cost \$000	Category/ Timing
4.01	Prepare detailed landscape plans and documentation consistent with the overall reach and concept plan vision for discrete areas along the creek.	Melbourne Water Melbourne Brunswick Essendon	\$50	 
4.02	Co-ordinate future management responsibilities along the creek for this reach.	Melbourne Water Vic Roads Melbourne Brunswick Essendon	\$10	 
4.03	Implement interim alternative drainage schemes to visually hide the concrete with the ultimate aim of providing complete cover for the concrete in a more natural stream and pond form.	Melbourne Water	Medium	 
4.04	Identify land required to accommodate ultimate removal of concrete.	Melbourne Brunswick Essendon	\$5	 
4.05	Plant suitable species while allowing for the ultimate drainage system.	Melbourne Brunswick Essendon Melbourne Water	\$100	 
4.06	Extend the linear trail to pass underneath the Mt Alexander Road Bridge	Melbourne	\$100	 
4.07	Construct small bridges across the creek to provide lateral access.	Brunswick Essendon	\$100	 
4.08	Provide access via the bridge or other means to Royal Park and the Merri Creek	Melbourne Vic Roads	Very High	 
4.09	Arrange for appropriate rezoning of land.	Melbourne Brunswick Essendon	\$10	 
4.10	Remove inappropriate fencing and install safety fencing where required.	Melbourne Water Melbourne Brunswick Essendon	\$10	 
4.11	Construct a signage system along the trail.	Melbourne Brunswick Essendon	\$10	 





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MOONEE PONDS CREEK CONCEPT PLAN



## **Reach 5: Moreland – from Evans Street to Woodland Street**

Length Considered: 3.75 km

Area Involved: 27 ha

Municipalities: Coburg, Essendon, Brunswick

### **Description**

The creek has been shaped and along half the reach has been concrete lined. It follows a meandering course in a relatively narrow reserve surrounded by intense residential development. Nonetheless, the area contains two most attractive landscape settings. The linear trail is not continuous along the creek, but is located along residential streets for several kilometres.

### **Issues**

- Continuity of the parkland and the linear trail along the creek.
- Lack of vegetation.
- Aesthetic improvements to the concrete channel.
- Fire risk and emergency access.

### **Vision for the Reach**

#### **Watercourse**

The visual impact of the straightened and concrete-lined creek should be minimised by the construction of a series of ponds. Revegetation and improvement in water quality and litter control along the creek and its tributaries will be necessary in creating a wildlife corridor.

#### **Land**

























Continuity of the creek-side parkland and the linear trail should be established, and lateral open space links to other parks and trails should be constructed across the creek in the form of bridges and fords.

#### **Management**

Co-ordination of management by the three councils and Melbourne Water should be developed. Planning and fencing controls and visual guidelines on property adjacent to the creek should be produced as part of an effort to turn the focus back on the creek.

#### **Social**

Equitable distribution of open space and providing personal security in the environment should be allowed for in the development.

Action Program	Agency Responsible	Order of Cost \$000	Category/ Timing
5.01 Prepare detailed landscape plans and documentation consistent with the overall reach and concept plan vision for discrete areas along the creek.	Melbourne Water Essendon Coburg Brunswick	\$20	 
5.02 Co-ordinate future management responsibilities along the creek for this reach.	Melbourne Water Essendon Coburg Brunswick	\$10	 
5.03 Construct a series of ponds.	Melbourne Water	High	 
5.04 Remove weeds and revegetate.	Coburg Essendon Brunswick Community	\$100	 
5.05 Implement visual planning controls for areas along the creek to encourage painting or screen planting of existing obtrusive buildings and structures.	Coburg Essendon Brunswick Councils	\$10	 
5.06 Implement measures for noise attenuation near the freeway	Vic Roads	\$100	 
5.07 Acquire private drainage reserves and open space land.	Melbourne Water	\$10	 
5.08 Rezone open space .	Essendon	\$10	 
5.09 Construct linear trail in conjunction with Melbourne Water maintenance track and make it continuous.	Melbourne Water Essendon Brunswick	Very High	 
5.10 Construct bridges and fords across the creek to develop lateral links with other parklands.	Coburg Brunswick Essendon Melbourne Water	Very High	 
5.11 Develop specific lateral open space links.	Essendon	\$50	 
5.12 Investigate open space reserve potential in some areas.	Essendon Coburg Brunswick	\$10	 

## **Reach 6: Junction – from Woodland Street to Pascoe Vale Road**

Length Considered: 2.5 km

Area Involved: 33 ha

Municipalities: Coburg and Essendon

### **Description**

This reach is dominated by man-made structures such as the road and rail transport systems, and sections of the creek are gunbarrel straight and concrete lined. The road junction is overpowering. This reach is one of the least attractive along the creek, with minimal recreation opportunities and requires particular attention. On the plus side, this reach also has large areas of unused land with open space potential.

### **Issues**

- Stark appearance of area and dominance of structures.
- Lack of recreation potential.
- Pedestrian access and lateral links.
- Lack of vegetation.

### **Vision for Reach**

#### **Watercourse**

Naturalisation of the creek should be undertaken to cover the concrete and to mitigate the gun barrel appearance by introducing visual meanders by sculpting the bank and planting vegetation.

#### **Land**





























Mounding and planting with suitable species should be undertaken to screen some of the major negative visual aspects. Planting, rendering or artistic treatment of some of the major concrete structures in the area should also be carried out. There is a potential for Art in Public Places in the area of the Bell Street Overpass.

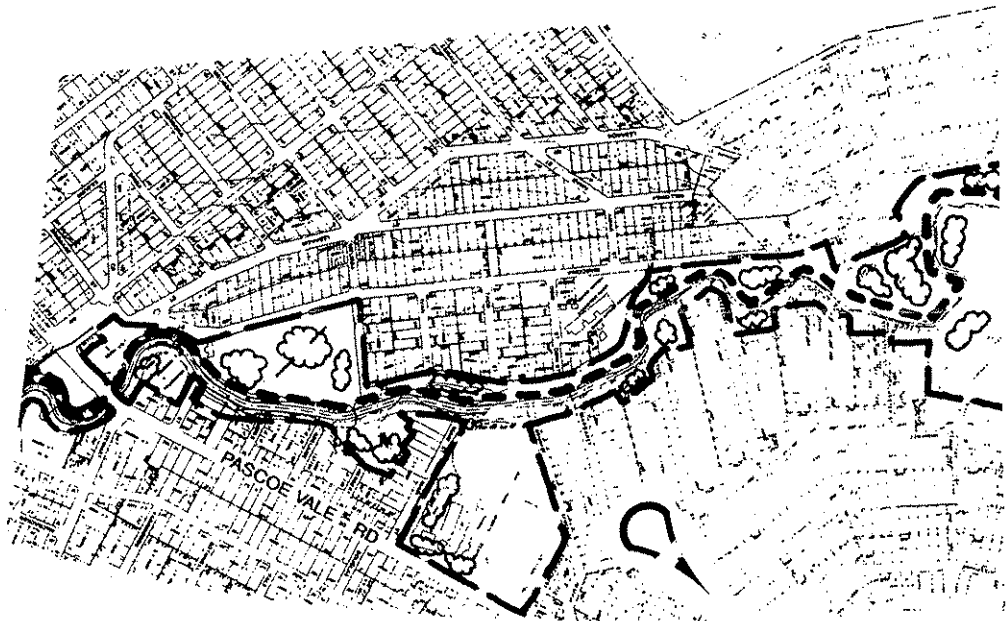
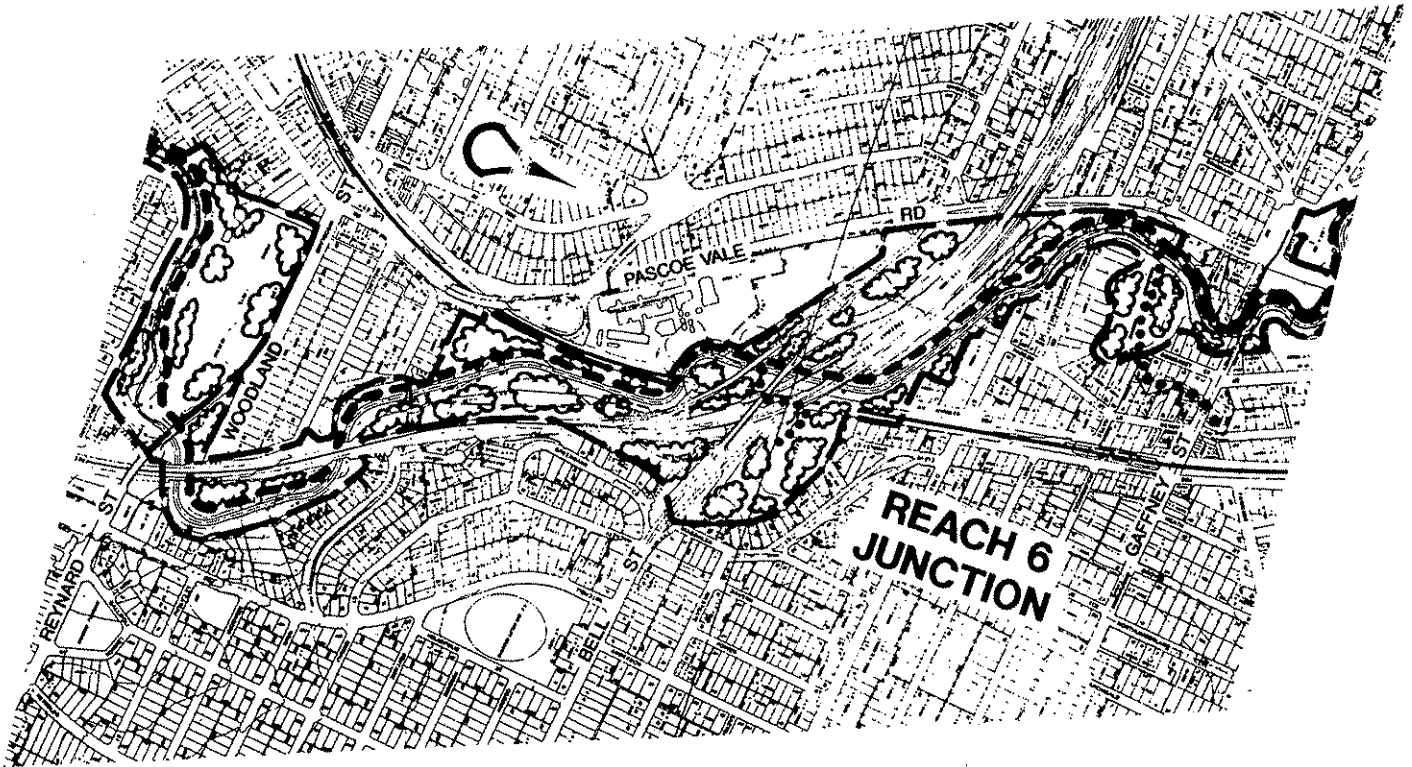
#### **Management**

Management and maintenance should be co-ordinated between the authorities with responsibilities in this reach.

#### **Social**

Public access for all and the provision of personal security and environmental improvement of under-utilised land should create a better image for entrances to the cities of Coburg and Essendon.

Action Program	Agency Responsible	Order of Cost \$000	Category/ Timing
6.01 Prepare detailed landscape plans and documentation consistent with the overall reach and concept plan vision for discrete areas along the creek.	Melbourne Water Coburg Essendon	\$20	 
6.02 Co-ordinate future management responsibilities along the creek for this reach.	Melbourne Water Essendon Coburg	\$10	 
6.03 Recontour the creek banks.	Melbourne Water	\$100	 
6.04 Construct a series of ponds.	Melbourne Water	\$100	 
6.05 Plant suitable species along the creek and in its environs.	Melbourne Water Essendon Coburg, Go Green MPCA.	\$100	 
6.06 Screen major facilities, where possible, with plantings.	Essendon Coburg Vic Roads MPCA/PTC	\$50	 
6.07 Improve the appearance of structures.	Vic Roads PTC	\$20	 
6.08 Investigate noise alleviation potential.	Vic Roads	\$10	 
6.09 Remove and replace fences, where possible.	Melbourne Water Coburg Essendon	\$20	 
6.10 Construct fords for lateral links, and assess existing bridges.	Melbourne Water Coburg Essendon	\$50	 
6.11 Develop planning controls, where required, along the creek.	Coburg	\$10	 
6.12 Develop lateral links between Moonee Ponds and the Merri Creek.	Coburg	\$20	 
6.13 Develop a lateral link from Kelvin Thomson Park to Strathmore High School.	Coburg PTC Vic Roads	\$20	 
6.14 Develop Art in Public Places projects.	Melbourne Water Vic Roads Councils	\$20	 







## **Reach 7: Oak Park – from Pascoe Vale Road to Trestle Bridge**

Length considered: 4.5 km

Area Involved: 90 ha

Municipalities: Essendon and Broadmeadows

### **Description**

This reach is characterised mainly by the extensive sports grounds along the creek. The valley starts to spread out, and with less residential impact, there is a less constrained feel to the area of the creek. The creek is concrete lined to near Strathmore North Primary School, and is unlined, straightened and uniformly shaped for the remainder of the reach. The linear trail is continuous through this reach.

### **Issues**

- The visual amenity of sporting facilities in the vicinity of the creek.
- The proximity of Essendon Airport and the flight path.
- Undeveloped open space.
- The location of Broadmeadows nursery within Essendon.

### **Visions for the Reach**

#### **Watercourse**

Re-creation of meanders and ponds is considered desirable, and suitable aquatic and riparian species should be planted to provide shade and habitat.

#### **Land**

Future development beside the creek should focus on it.

Suitable species should be planted in broad areas to provide habitat and shade. Open-space links to Essendon Airport land should be preserved.

Unique species of trees within the Broadmeadows nursery should be retained.

The amenity of the area should be improved by reducing advertising etc.

#### **Management**























Management of the sports areas and other facilities should be co-ordinated.

#### **Social**

Equitable access should be possible for all.

The amenity of the area should be enhanced.

Vandalism should be reduced.

Action Program		Agency Responsible	Order of Cost \$000	Category/ Timing
7.01	Construct weirs and meanders.	Melbourne Water	Very High	 
7.02	Plant suitable riparian species.	Melbourne Water	\$100	 
		Greening of Broadmeadows Essendon Broadmeadows		
7.03	Plant suitable species in broad areas along creeks and on hillsides.	Melbourne Water	\$100	 
		Greening of Broadmeadows Essendon Broadmeadows		
7.04	Co-ordinate management within the reach including maintenance of bridges.	Broadmeadows Essendon	\$5	 
7.05	Subject to redevelopment of Essendon Airport: preserve and develop open-space links to Essendon Airport land and through Boeing Reserve and un-made Peck Avenue; the drainage reserve b/n Eldorado Street and Lebanon Street, and K. Smith Reserve b/n Mascoma Street and Eldorado.	Essendon	\$5	 
7.06	Encourage new building developments to take advantage of Moonee Ponds Creek open space.	Essendon Broadmeadows D.P.H.	\$5	 
7.08	Implement a weed eradication program along the creek.	Melbourne Water Essendon Broadmeadows	\$50	 
7.09	Cover concrete with water, where possible, and lay back banks.	Melbourne Water	High	 
7.10	Upgrade buildings and/or screen planting to improve amenity.	Essendon Broadmeadows	\$100	 
7.11	Remove unnecessary fencing to improve amenity.	Melbourne Water Broadmeadows Essendon	\$50	 
7.12	Prepare guidelines for location of trails and bike paths.	Essendon	\$5	 

## **Reach 8: Jacana – from Trestle Bridge to Deviation Road**

Length considered: 4.2 km

Area Involved: 260 ha

Municipality: Broadmeadows

### **Description**

This reach features a huge undeveloped valley, with housing creeping over the skyline from the east and some large facilities, such as the retarding basin and the Tullamarine Freeway.

The reach contains examples of remnant escarpment vegetation extending from Yuroke Creek junction to Deviation Road.

### **Issues**

- Trail bikes.
- Proposed golf course.
- Proposed active recreation facilities.
- Expressway route along west escarpment adjacent to Gladstone Park.
- Fire hazards.

### **Vision for the Reach**

#### **Watercourse**

Wetlands should be created within the vicinity of existing creek and aquatic habitats.

#### **Land**

The valley should be extensively planted using appropriate species.

#### **Management**

Management and maintenance of the area should be co-ordinated.






































Appropriate management to preserve grasslands.

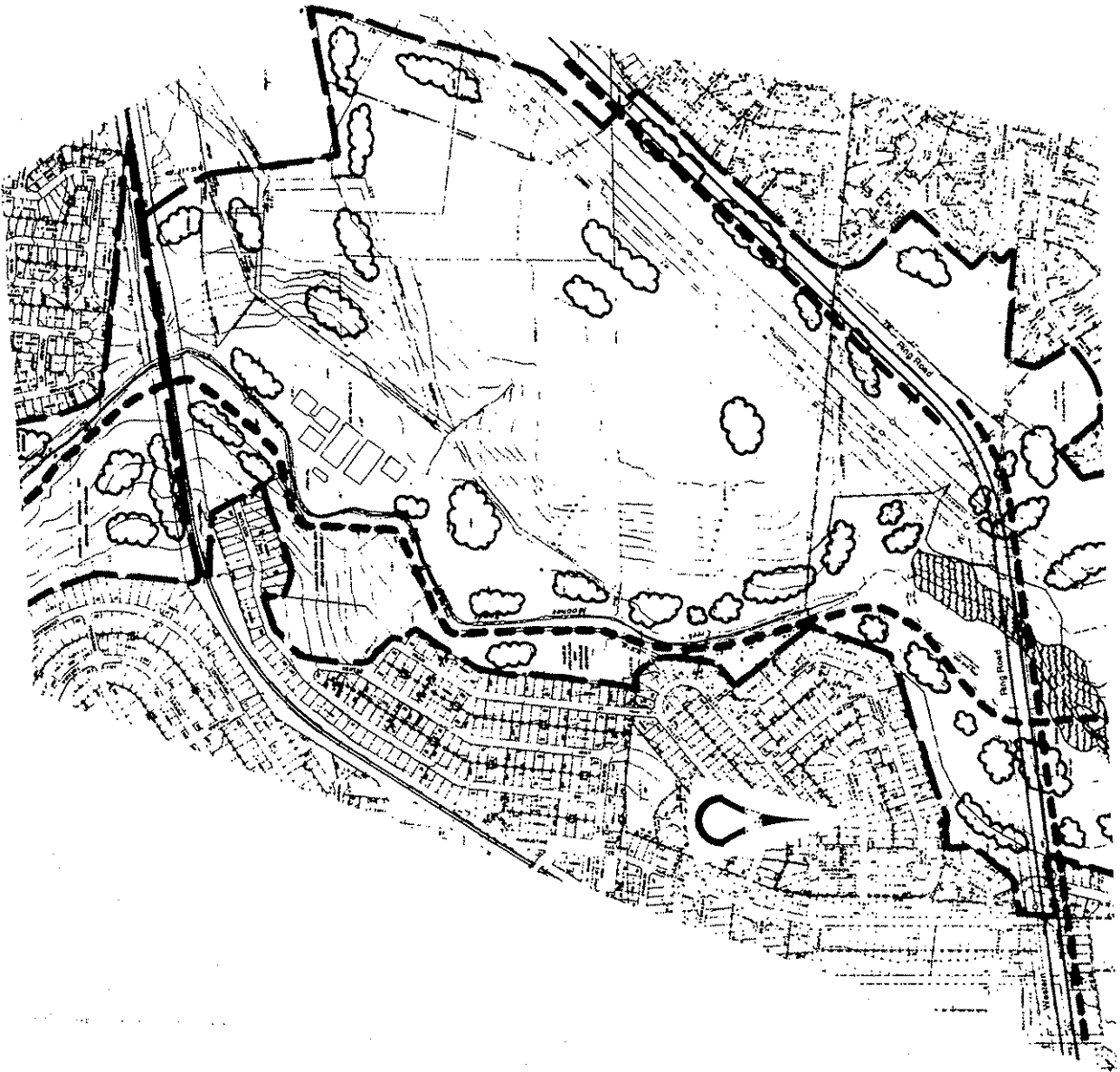
#### **Social**

There should be equitable access for all.

Security of area should be considered in terms of fire hazards and trail bikes.

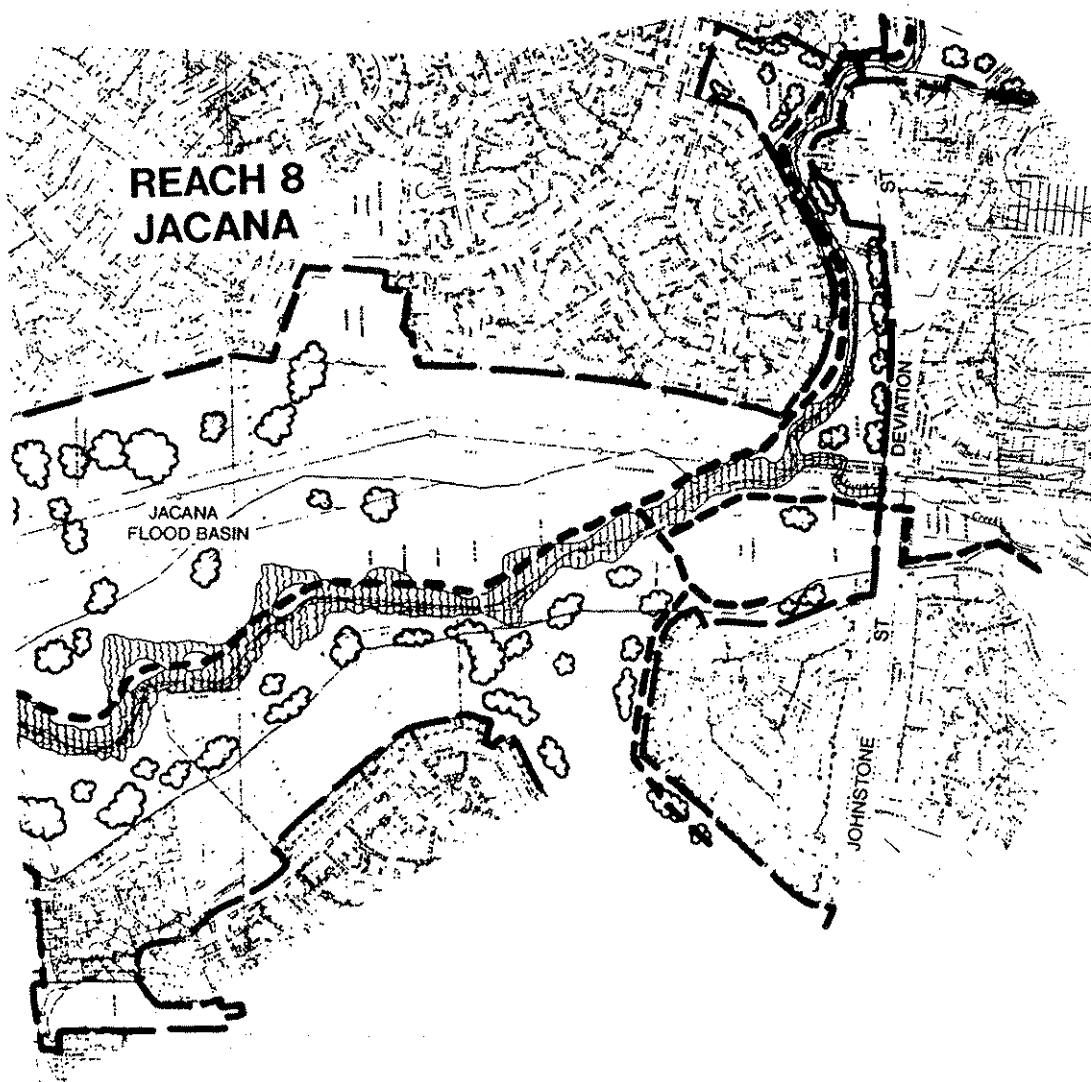
Vandalism should be reduced.

Action Program	Agency Responsible	Order of Cost \$000	Category/ Timing
8.01 Prepare a landscape design and management plan for the entire area with regard to potential wetlands and sites identified with significant remnant vegetation.	Melbourne Water Broadmeadows	\$5	 
8.02 Ensure that permits have regard for views and vistas.	Broadmeadows	\$0	 
8.03 Trial cable fencing to replace chain mesh fencing (Jacana).	Melbourne Water	\$50	 
8.04 Review fencing to control use of trail bikes etc.	Melb. Water Broadmeadows Vic Roads	\$50	 
8.05 Co-ordinate noise attenuation works and improvements to the visual amenity of the area.	Vic Roads	0	 
8.06 Undertake indigenous planting of freeway embankments.	Vic Roads	\$20	 
8.07 Beach the creek beneath the freeway with natural rock in wetland style.	Vic Roads	\$100	 
8.09 Construct a linear trail near the freeway.	Vic Roads	\$40	 
8.10 Connect the of trail along freeway to the creek trail.	Vic Roads	\$40	 
8.11 Revegetate the entire available valley with indigenous vegetation, using mass planting techniques, while allowing for future development options by Broadmeadows Council.	Melbourne Water Broadmeadows Greening of Broadmeadows Go Green	High	 
8.12 Develop a fire suppression and control technique to protect local residences.	Melbourne Water Broadmeadows	\$10	 
8.13 Develop wetlands along the reach, including naturalisation of the creek.	Melbourne Water	\$100	  
8.14 Ultimately purchase and remove factories from the land west of the creek at Morgans.	Melbourne Water	High	 
8.15 Paint and screen factories to blend into the environment.	Broadmeadows Private	\$10	 
8.16 Carry out drainage works to control erosion from Clarke Reserve.	Broadmeadows	\$20	 
8.17 Acquire land west of the creek b/n railway line and Jacana Flood Basin	Melbourne Water Broadmeadows	\$100	 
8.18 Secure open-space use of the Jacana floodbasin currently owned by Melbourne Water	Melbourne Water Broadmeadows	0	 
8.19 Develop maintenance regime which will conserve existing grassland remnants.	Melbourne Water Broadmeadows	\$5	 





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## **Reach 9: Westmeadows – from Deviation Road to Victoria Street**

Length considered: 4.8 km

Area Involved: 72 ha

Municipalities: Broadmeadows, Bulla

### **Description**

This reach is mostly natural creek but with some realignment. In contrast to the suburban character of the creek downstream, the creek here has more of a rural nature being a meandering stream upstream of Willowbrook Reserve. It contains the best and most extensive remnant vegetation in the study area. (Site A - Flora and Fauna Report).

### **Issues**

- Trail bikes.
- Development of land to north of creek (Bulla).
- Location of the rapid Rail Line to the Airport.
- Control of vehicle access.
- Rubbish dumping.
- Grazing of remnant vegetation.
- Weed control in remnant vegetation.

### **Vision for the Reach**

#### **Watercourse**

The retarding basin site should be retained and a wetland area developed for sediment and pollution control.

#### **Land**

Appropriate species should be extensively planted. The linear trail should be continued and lateral connections provided.

#### **Management**























Management of the reach should be co-ordinated.

Management of the reach should be co-ordinated and focused on preserving remnant vegetation.

#### **Social**

Equitable access should be provided for all.



Action Program	Agency Responsible	Order of Cost \$000	Category/ Timing
9.01 Land purchases for Board of Works zoned land.	Melbourne Water	\$25	 
9.02 Retain retarding basin site for environmental purposes.	Melbourne Water	0	 
9.03 Design and construct a wetland at the retarding basin and vegetate.	Melbourne Water Broadmeadows	\$100	 
9.04 Construct the trail from Fawkner Street to Victoria Street.	Broadmeadows Melbourne Water	\$100	 
9.05 Plant trees in the vicinity of Wright Street, in association with the Wetland Development.	Melbourne Water Broadmeadows MPCA	\$20	 
9.06 Protect Aboriginal sites identified near the Moonee Ponds Creek, in the Archaeological survey. Erosion control at some sites.	Melbourne Water Broadmeadows	\$10	 
9.07 Undertake further recording of Aboriginal Hearth upstream of Mickleham Road.	VAS Melbourne Water Broadmeadows	\$5	 
9.08 Undertake further Archaeological research upstream of Mickleham Road.	VAS Melbourne Water Broadmeadows	\$5	 
9.09 Design and implement specific landscaping and implementation in consultation with residents of Billabong, between Kelma Court and Pascoe Street (Westmeadows Island).	Melbourne Water Broadmeadows	\$20	 
9.10 Develop the area along the Broad Street drain.	Melbourne Water Broadmeadows	\$50	 
9.11 Review the need for visual and planning controls on land in Bulla north of the creek.	Bulla	\$0	 

## **Reach 10: Gellibrand – from Upstream of Victoria Street**

Municipality: Bulla – DCE Gellibrand Hill Park

### **Description**

This reach embraces State parks and farmland, with the creek starting to erode severely in some places.

### **Issues**

- Gellibrand Hill Park – Visitor use – Park as a destination.
- Recreation and access links compatible with the conservation values of the park.
- Erosion of the watercourse.
- Land management in the upper catchment.
- Future relocation of the Tullamarine Freeway.

### **Visions for the Reach**

#### **Watercourse**

Erosion should be controlled by adopting suitable measures that retain the park character.

#### **Land**

Development of the park should involve construction of trail connecting with the rest of the Moonee Ponds Creek linear trail and other suitable lateral links to residential areas.

















#### **Management**

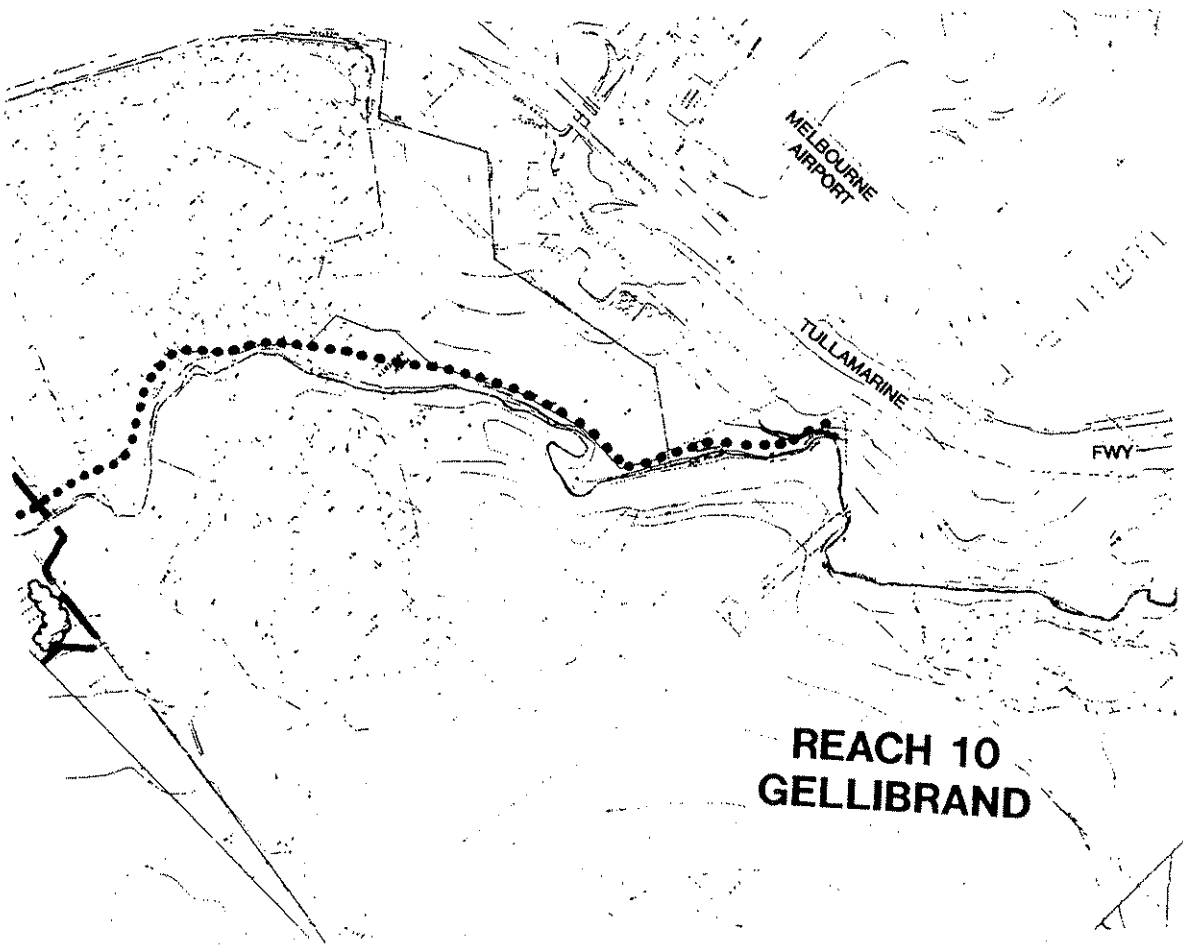
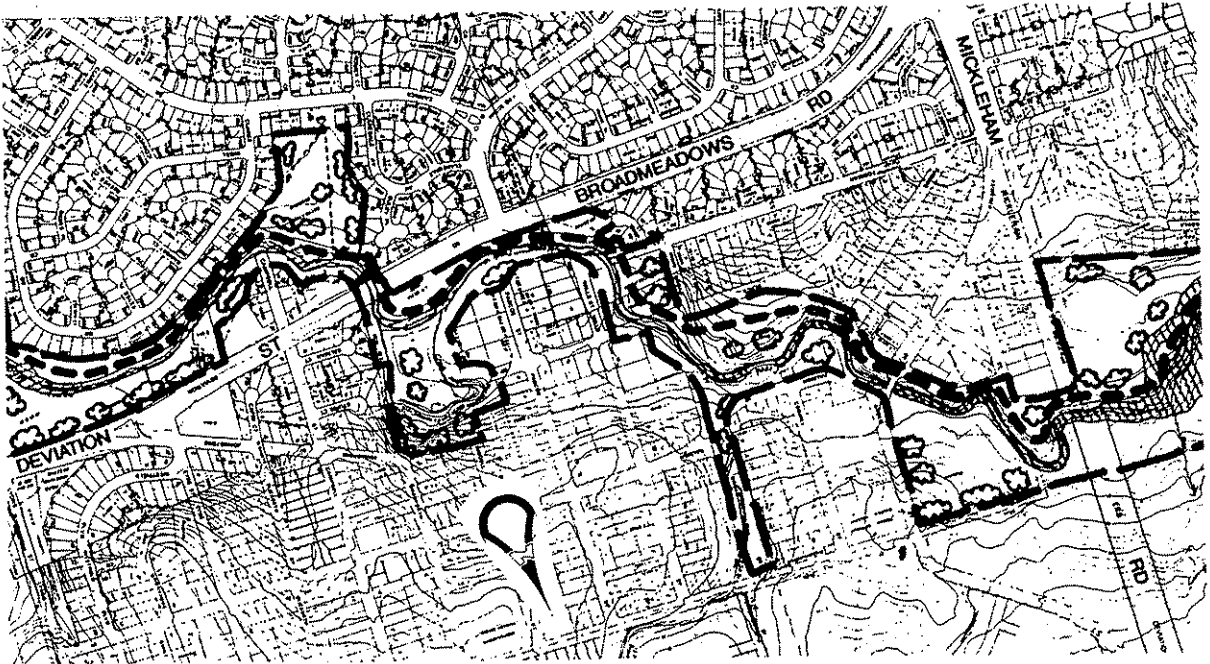
Park management of upper catchment via Landcare etc.

#### **Social**

Equitable access should be provided for residents.

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Action Program	Agency Responsible	Order of Cost \$000	Category/ Timing
10.01 Adopt erosion control measures in Gellibrand Park.	DCE	\$100	 
10.02 Construct trails within the Park.	DCE	\$100	 
10.03 Encourage management of creek environs upstream of Gellibrand Hill. Control silt and Pollutants.	DCE Bulla Melbourne Water	\$5	 
10.04 Secure management of airport land between the Tullamarine Freeway and the creek.	DCE Melbourne Water	\$50	 
10.05 Ensure appropriate open space zonings are incorporated along the creek.	Bulla	\$10	 
10.06 Develop access to trails in Mickleham Road and along the Broad Street Drain.	Bulla Melbourne Water	\$100	 
10.07 Undertake further archaeological research the area along northern tributaries of Moonee Ponds Creek.	VAS Bulla DCE	\$2	 
10.08 Undertake further research into historic fords and structures identified in the Moonee Ponds Creek Archaeological Survey.	VAS Bulla DCE	\$2	 





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