



Creating cooler greener spaces and community connections to nature

Merri-bek

Our ask:

Invest in priority corridor and parklands projects in Merri-bek that improve biodiversity, urban cooling, stormwater outcomes and community connections with nature.

Victoria's *Climate Change Strategy 2026-30* recognises the need to strengthen our natural environment to protect communities from increasing heat, flooding and climate extremes. Expanding green spaces, planting canopy trees and protecting and enhancing biodiversity will help reduce pollution, combat urban heat and improve climate resilience.³¹

The Victorian Government's *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050* also recognises the need to maintain and improve our natural habitats, including waterways, both for habitat and biodiversity conservation and as opportunities for people to enjoy regular contact with nature in urban environments.³²

Merri-bek is bordered by the Moonee Ponds Creek to the west and the Merri Creek to the east; these waterways and open spaces offer connections to nature close to our dense urban areas. Investment to deliver improvements to our creek corridors can help to cool our neighbourhoods, restore nature, manage stormwater and create healthier, more connected communities.

Council has completed strategic planning for priority creek and parklands projects and seeks Victorian Government investment to deliver cooler, greener spaces for our community.

Chain of Ponds Moonee Ponds Creek Plan

\$2.035 million

The Chain of Ponds Plan and *Chain of Ponds Prospectus 2025-2028* identify priority works along the Moonee Ponds Creek catchment to achieve First Nations cultural uplift, naturalisation, litter and pollution reduction, improved access and social inclusion, and integrated water management. Victorian Government investment would enable delivery of high-priority projects, including planning, wetland construction, habitat restoration, nature trails, public realm improvements and bridge renewal.

Fawkner Merri Parklands Plan

\$5.7 million

The Fawkner Merri Parklands Plan provides a framework to protect and enhance environmental, cultural heritage and community open space values across a 71-hectare corridor in Fawkner and Coburg North. Victorian Government funding would support conservation management, improved walking and cycling connections, rest areas, essential public amenities and low-impact recreation opportunities that increase safe and inclusive use of the parklands.

Delivery of these works will improve access, comfort and amenity while protecting ecological values and supporting healthier, cooler neighbourhoods.

Westbreen Creek Conservation Plan

\$1.4 million

The Westbreen Creek Conservation and Development Plan identifies priority works to protect and enhance environmental, cultural heritage and community open space values along the Westbreen Creek corridor in Pascoe Vale. Priority projects include Austin Crescent Reserve Westbreen Creek Naturalisation and critical flood mitigation works with new pedestrian and cycling link between Westbreen and Moonee Ponds Creeks. Victorian Government funding would support naturalisation, biodiversity outcomes, flood mitigation and improved pedestrian and cycling connections, while balancing recreation needs with the creek's role as a key biodiversity corridor.