

Kororoit Creek Regional Strategy 2005–2030

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(i) Executive Summary

Kororoit Creek is a major natural asset of Melbourne's western region, winding its way from its headwaters at Mount Aitken, Deverall Hill and Beattie Hill to enter Port Phillip Bay at Altona 81 kilometres downstream.

The Kororoit Creek Regional Strategy 2005–2030 covers approximately half of the catchment, from Holden Road in Toolern Vale to where it enters Port Phillip Bay in Altona – a linear distance of more than 40 kilometres. North of Holden Road, the creek has two branches that flow down from the volcanic hills around Mount Aitken in Gisborne South, in the Shire of Macedon Ranges. The Strategy does not look at these northern branches in detail but they are considered within the overall context of the report.

Kororoit Creek corridor in the study areas passes through four municipalities; Melton, Brimbank, Wyndham and Hobsons Bay and a variety of different land-uses including rural grazing land, new and established residential areas, industrial and commercial uses as well as significant flora and fauna reserves.

Previous studies have looked at small sections of the creek but never before has an integrated strategy been developed for a large part of the creek corridor. The Kororoit Creek Regional Strategy 2005–2030 summarises these background reports and includes a new, detailed analysis of the creek corridor addressing subjects such as biodiversity, planning controls, waterway management, trails and recreation, landscape character, cultural heritage and geomorphology.

The Strategy provides a planning framework for the Kororoit Creek corridor over the next 25 years and is underpinned by a number of guiding principles.

The following strategic actions are recommended to guide the protection and enhancement of the Kororoit Creek corridor.

Biodiversity

Strategy recommendations:

- introduce Planning Scheme amendments to help protect biodiversity and geomorphic values of the waterway corridor;
- protect native vegetation on public and private land;
- include land with high vegetation values in the new regional park west of Caroline Springs;
- continue to collect data about key species to assist their management and habitat needs;
- continue to manage weed and pest animals; and
- review management plans for coastal and estuarine areas in Altona.

Environmental Condition Improvement Works

Strategy recommendations:

- complete waterway rehabilitation projects as set out in Melbourne Water's Kororoit Creek Waterway Management Activity Plan;
- continue to implement indigenous revegetation programs;
- develop masterplans for priority sites to generate additional revegetation;
- revegetate rural areas through extension of Melbourne Water's Steam Frontage Management Program;
- continue to implement and review municipal Stormwater Management Plans to reduce litter and promote Water Sensitive Urban Design; and
- restrict dams on tributaries to protect stream flows.

Development of an Open Space Network

Strategy recommendations:

- complete a continuous shared trail along Kororoit Creek from the proposed regional park west of Caroline Springs to the Altona Coastal Park, particularly addressing existing gaps in the trail system;
- plan for the development of the regional park west of Caroline Springs and its integration with the Kororoit Creek corridor;
- develop links between the Kororoit Creek trail and other trails where required; and
- prepare plans for district parks within urban areas to add value to the overall corridor.

Conservation of Cultural Heritage

Strategy recommendations:

- protect the cultural heritage values of the Kororoit Creek corridor through improving knowledge of the heritage inventory;
- develop heritage site management plans; and
- install heritage signage at key sites.
- to work with relevant indigenous groups in protecting and managing Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

Waterway Management

Strategy recommendations:

- encourage Water Sensitive Urban Design in new and infill developments in the catchment;
- ensure drainage connections are visually unobtrusive and provide for soft engineering treatments;
- continue to implement key waterway rehabilitation projects as identified in the Kororoit Creek Waterway Management Activity Plan and seek value-adding projects with Councils; and
- prepare plans and undertake actions to ensure significant escarpments and stream pools are protected and actively managed.

Landscape Character

Strategy recommendations:

- seek inclusion of significant landscapes in upper reaches in Planning Scheme amendments; and
- protect and enhance landscape values through sympathetic vegetation management, especially for downstream areas such as Wide Bend, Cherry Lake and Altona Coastal Park.

For the purposes of this Strategy, the creek corridor is divided into nine different reaches, each with different issues and opportunities. Specific strategies are proposed to tackle issues within each of these reaches.

Reach One – Melton Rural

- Assess priorities for Melbourne Water's Stream Frontage Management Program as it expands into the upper reaches of Kororoit Creek.

Reach Two – Rockbank Rural

- Ensure proposed Planning Scheme amendments include protection of the wide alluvial flood plain upstream of Beattys Road; and
- Ensure planning of the new regional park west of Caroline Springs includes appropriate connection to the Kororoit Creek corridor.

Reach Three – Caroline Springs New Residential

- Plan for Kororoit Creek trail connections and integration with other trails; and
- Establish future open space nodes at the Caroline Springs Boulevard Bridge and Westwood Drive as part of planned trail.

Reach Four – Deer Park

- Assess heritage overlay potential for Bullum Bullum Reserve and the Neale Road ford; and
- Construct a trail to connect Davitt Drive to Rockbank Middle Road, build footbridges to connect Isabella Williams Reserve to Burnside, and construct a trail between Opie Road to Bullum Bullum Reserve.

Reach Five – Cairnlea New Residential

- Investigate application of heritage overlay for dry stone walls, former quarry area and ford; and
- Complete sections of a trail to link Station Road and Western Highway and plan for other secondary connections to activity areas in the local catchment.

Reach Six – Orica

- Undertake flora and fauna values assessment and archaeological/ heritage investigations as part of any future development of the Orica site; and;
- Seek to construct a shared trail through the Orica site as part of any future development proposal ensuring connection between Station Road and More Park.

Reach Seven – Sunshine Residential

- Construct footbridges at Ardeer Reserve and Buckingham Reserve; and
- Plan for connections to the Collenso Street powerline trail across Rideway Parade from the proposed trail crossing at Selwyn Park and from Learmonth Crescent to the existing pipe bridge in Brooklyn. Incorporate these changes into the proposed Federation Trail

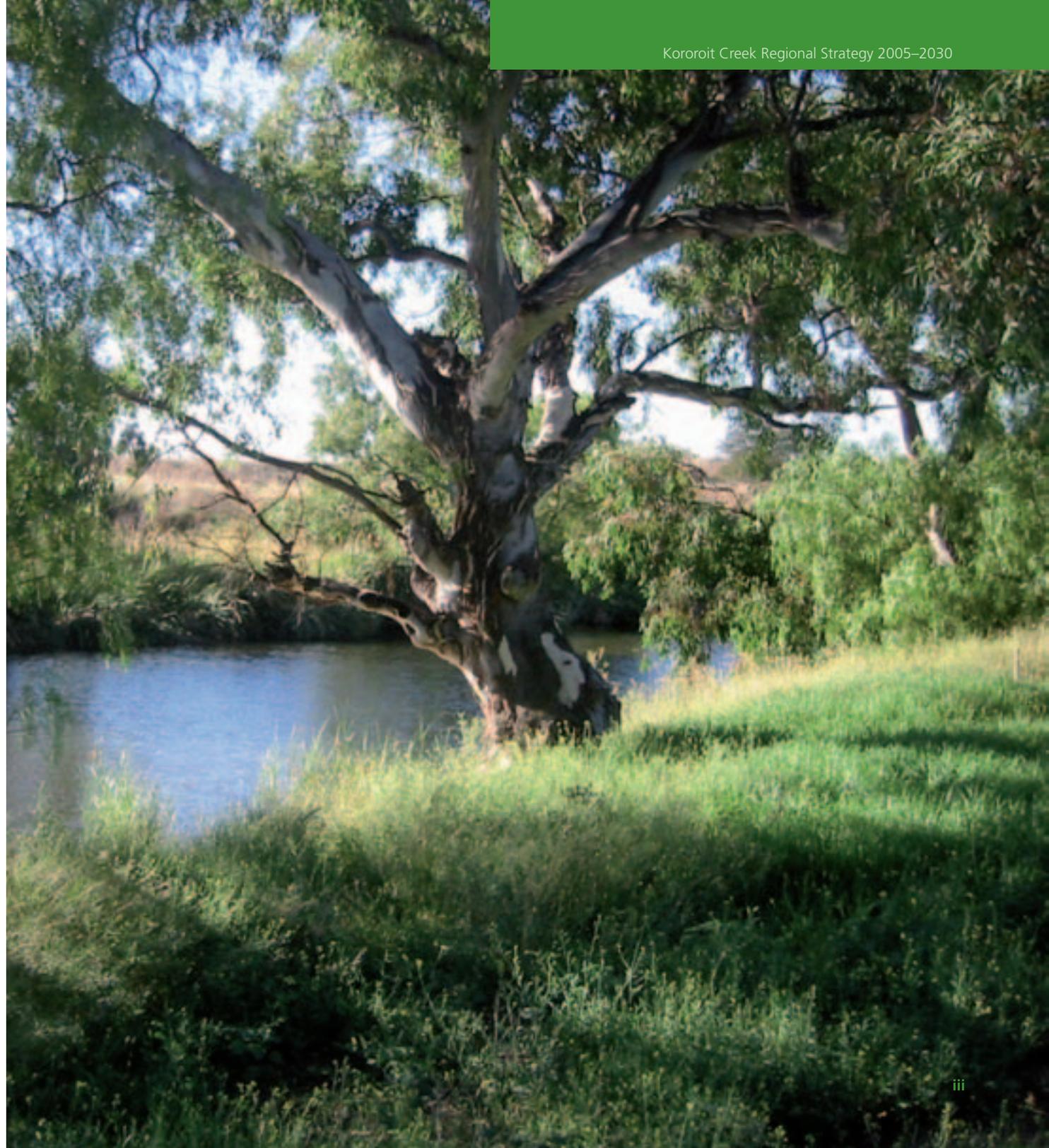
Reach Eight – Brooklyn/Altona Industrial

- Ensure the Kororoit Creek Trail links the proposed Federation Trail with the Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail; and
- Establish the G J Hosken Reserve as a major recreation node.

Reach Nine – Altona Coastal / Wetlands

- Identify saltmarsh degradation processes, including the impacts of recreation and devise appropriate responses;
- Ensure the creation of a safe connection of the Kororoit Creek Trail from north of Kororoit Creek Road to Cherry Lake and the Bay Trail.

The Kororoit Creek Regional Strategy 2005–2030 will ensure the creek corridor is protected and improved, with a range of actions to guide and assist Local and State Government agencies, as well as local Friends groups. These actions will address issues relating to bio-diversity, planning, landscape, recreation, heritage and waterway management.





LEGEND

-  Existing Creek Alignment
-  Existing Linear Trail Alignment
-  Proposed Future Linear Trail Alignment
-  Proposed Upgrades of Existing Reserves to Create Recreation Nodes, may include:
 - * Access to the Creek Corridor and the future linear shared trail system
 - * Public Open Space development
 - * Car parking areas, and
 - * Visitor Amenities.
-  Proposed New Public Open Space Areas to Create Recreation Nodes, comprising:
 - * Access to the Creek Corridor and the future linear shared trail system
 - * Public Open Space development
 - * Car parking areas, and
 - * Visitor Amenities.
-  Existing and Future Key Intersecting Trails
-  Roads and Highways
-  Railways



KOROROIT CREEK REGIONAL STRATEGY

SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Create a continuous cycling/walking trail along the creek.
- Develop new or upgrade existing parks along the creek to create 16 nodes that provide a key point of access to the trail and are a hub for visitor facilities.
- Undertake works to protect and rehabilitate the waterway.
- Improve the quality of stormwater entering the creek.
- Improve weed management and undertake revegetation along the creek.
- Protect cultural heritage sites and provide co-ordinated interpretation signage.
- Protect biodiversity, landscape and geomorphic values along the creek through planning scheme amendments.
- Protect stream frontages in the rural areas of the Melton Shire.
- Plan for the development of a new regional park, west of Caroline Springs.

(ii) Acknowledgements

The project group would like to thank all of the organisations and individuals who provided knowledge and input throughout the preparation of the Kororoit Creek Regional Strategy 2005–2030.

In particular we thank Geoff Mitchelmore and representatives of the various Friends Groups associated with the creek who provided invaluable assistance in the identification of issues along the waterway as well as inspiring us with their passion to see the creek revitalised.

We also thank Jason Summers for conducting a highly informative guided tour of the creek for the consultant team and Steering Committee members.

The contributions from the many stakeholders, combined with the research undertaken by the consultant team, provided the basis for setting the directions of this strategy.

The Project Steering Group would like to thank everyone who attended the community workshops in March 2006, and those who provided feedback and made submissions to the draft strategy. The Project Steering Group has considered all the submissions, which have provided valuable guidance in the completion of the strategy.

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The Kororoit Creek Regional Strategy has been prepared in consultation with a range of stakeholders and community representatives.

The Strategy can be downloaded the Department of Sustainability and Environment website at www.dse.vic.gov.au/planning

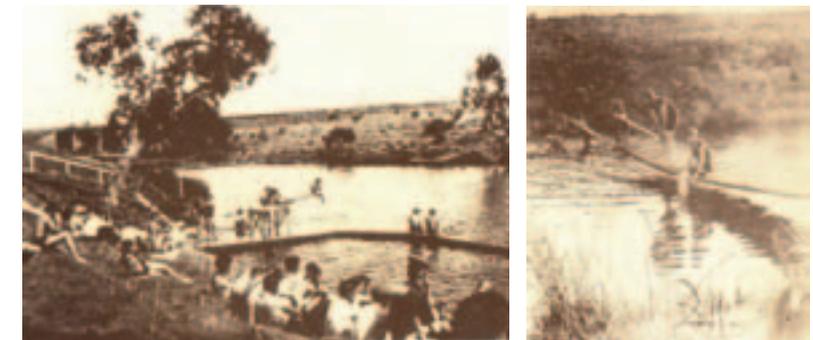
Hard copies of the Strategy are also available to read at the main offices of Hobsons Bay City Council, Brimbank City Council, the Shire of Melton and Wyndham City Council.



Figure 1: Kororoit Creek in the Shire of Melton (above)

Figure 2: Selwyn Park Swimming Hole, Sunshine (below left)

Figure 3: Selwyn Park Swimming Hole, Sunshine (below right)



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