PART ONE **1. Introduction**

1.1 Background

Kororoit Creek is regarded as an important and valuable asset by local communities. It is used extensively for walking, cycling, dog walking and picnics. Friends groups are particularly active in revegetation and general improvements along the creek corridor, while Local Councils are also committed to improving the amenity of the creek as an open space corridor and providing increased opportunities for cycling and walking trails.

In terms of its geological history, Kororoit Creek is part of the extensive western basalt plains, which was formed by volcanic activity at least two million years ago. The natural escarpments and deep pools of Kororoit Creek are a distinguishing characteristic and make it a significant waterway within Melbourne's west and north.

This region and its waterways formed an important part of ancestral lands inhabited by the Wurundjeri, Bunurong and Taungeroung people who established intricate cultural and economic links across the plains. The name 'Kororoit' is thought to be derived from an Aboriginal word meaning male kangaroo. In the 1850s the waterway was also known as Tea Tree Creek.

Kororoit Creek played a significant role in the rural, urban, and industrial development of Melbourne's western region. The earliest graziers around Melbourne took their flocks west and Kororoit Creek was an important source of fresh water. During the 1930s the creek's deep pools provided the setting for the Sunshine Swimming Club. Over time industrial uses started to occupy parts of the catchment, including explosives manufacturing in Deer Park and petroleum processing in Altona. These activities, along with residential subdivision, placed significant pressures on the creek and led to its poor condition.

Fortunately, community values have changed, and efforts to improve Kororoit Creek have occurred during the last 20 years. More recently, the Victorian Government acknowledged the need for more effort to restore the condition of Victorian waterways and released the Regional River Health Strategy to deliver measurable improvements over time. The ongoing Melbourne Water Waterway Management Activity Plan forms part of that strategy.

There is an urgent need to view Kororoit Creek as more than just a creek, but as a natural corridor containing a number of environmental assets. While highly modified, the creek corridor is still home to significant species such as the Growling Grass Frog and the Striped Legless Lizard as well as internationally recognised migratory birds at the saltmarshes of the creek mouth. Remnant native vegetation survives, including the River Red Gum and White Mangroves. Culturally, the waterway corridor contains extensive Aboriginal archaeological material, and notable places of post-contact heritage. Initiatives to halt the pressures and impacts on the Kororoit Creek corridor are encouraging, but further challenges remain for all the land managers involved in this task.

Kororoit Creek passes through a diverse range of landscapes, land-uses and ownership. South of Holden Road, in the Shire of Melton, the setting in Rockbank is largely rural in private ownership or leasehold. The creek then runs through the growing outer suburbs of Caroline Springs and Burnside before it passes into the City of Brimbank through the established suburb of Deer Park and then through the new housing estate of Cairnlea. Kororoit Creek passes under the Western Highway and through the private, restricted industrial premises of Orica. The creek then passes under the Western Ring Road and through the suburbs of Ardeer and Sunshine. The next section is largely industrial, in the suburbs of Brooklyn and Altona North. Within these industrial areas the creek corridor is encroached upon and in some instances the creek profile has been significantly altered, as in the case of abutting landfill sites. The last section of the creek opens into a flood plain and passes through rich mangrove and saltmarsh habitats before entering Port Phillip Bay.

The soon to be constructed Federation Trail will cross Kororoit Creek over the historic Metropolitan Outfall Sewer bridge, just north of the Princes Highway, providing shared trail links to Werribee and beyond. Within the Altona North area, the creek abuts the Altona Memorial Park and large industrial complexes such as Toyota and Toll Transport. The creek then passes under the Geelong Railway and Kororoit Creek Road, flowing into the wetlands and bird sanctuary area known as 'Wide Bend' or 'Rowdens Swamp' which is adjacent to Cherry Lake – a major local recreation attraction. Offsetting these valuable open space resources are the imposing oil refinery Altona North Mobil that adjoins the creek corridor.

Kororoit Creek finally passes under Millers Road into the Altona Coastal Park before entering Port Phillip Bay near the Jawbone Marine Sanctuary at Williamstown. The Marine Sanctuary and Coastal Park are home to thousands of migratory birds. These valuable wildlife reserves are also served by excellent open space and trail systems, especially the Bay Trail.

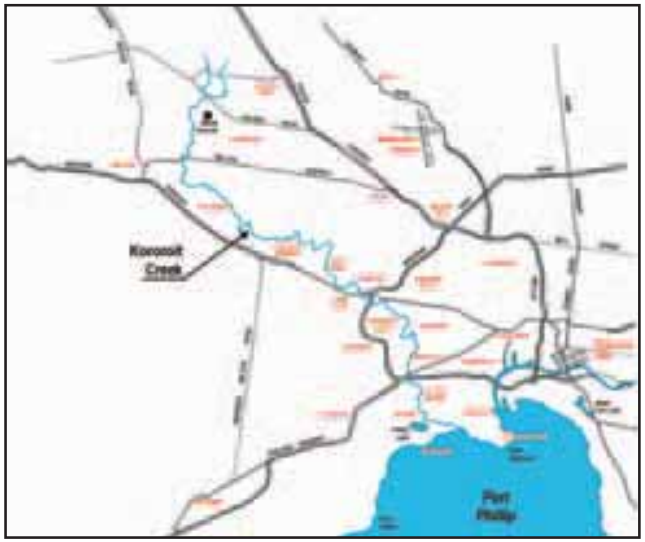

Figure 4: Creek Corridor Landscape in Deer Park

1.2 Purpose and Goals

The Kororoit Creek Regional Strategy provides a framework for preparing local masterplans and developing programs and policies to improve the assets of the creek corridor. It also encourages synergies between various land managers and agencies while complementing Melbourne Water's Waterway Management Activity Plan.

The purpose of the strategy is to:

- document the values of the Kororoit Creek corridor, identify issues and provide justification for the protection and enhancement of those values and the means by which that can be achieved;
- develop strategic actions to achieve identified goals;
- prioritise actions to guide works during the life of the plan;
- provide direction about regional initiatives for the Kororoit Creek corridor so that more detailed, local masterplans have a wider planning context from which to develop; and
- develop a vision for the Kororoit Creek Corridor.

The goals of the Kororoit Creek Regional Strategy are:

1. **The application of consistent planning controls to better protect the values of the creek corridor.** More consistent planning and policy development along the length of Kororoit Creek will deliver increased certainty when handling planning matters and ensure greater protection of the corridor's values. Overlay controls are the most likely planning tool for consideration, however local policy and the use of common guidelines for determining planning applications may also play a role. Current planning policies across the municipal planning schemes are neither consistent nor adequate in recognising and protecting the breadth of values found along Kororoit Creek.

2. **Development of a new regional park**. In addition to providing new recreation opportunities for the local and regional community, the park will raise the profile of the creek corridor. Planning for the regional park will consider the connections to the Kororoit Creek Trail, and other open spaces along the corridor.

3. **Increased resources for the planning and development of open space along the corridor**. The Kororoit Creek corridor has considerable amounts of open space, however this is largely underdeveloped and is not equitably accessible to the community. Local Government is the primary manager of open space along the corridor. Their challenge is to maintain and improve visual amenity and the visitor experience, and to link recreation nodes along the creek corridor. This challenge is in the context of increasing environmental degradation, increased demand for open space and quality recreational opportunities and reduced sources of external funding. The identification of priority areas or nodes is important for the staging and resourcing of the development of continuous, quality open space along the corridor.

4. **The completion of the Kororoit Creek shared use trail**. The Kororoit Creek Trail is one of the least well-connected waterway trails in the metropolitan area, with numerous gaps in established urban areas. The Victorian Government strategy, Linking People and Spaces identifies a strategic alignment for the Kororoit Creek trail as part of the Metropolitan Trail Network. The identification of priority trail sections and secondary trail connections is important for the staging and resourcing of open space and trail development.

5. **Increased resources for rehabilitation of the waterway corridor.** The Kororoit Creek Waterway Management Activity Plan sets out a program for major waterway rehabilitation projects to be undertaken by Melbourne Water. These works are supported by other stakeholders. One of the purposes of this Strategy is to identify where opportunities may exist for value adding and synergistic projects by Local Councils.

   It is also recognised that about half of the study area lies outside of the former Melbourne Water drainage boundary and as such will be subject to resolution of funding arrangements over the next few years. Until those arrangements are put in place, Melbourne Water cannot, in the short term, provide regional drainage and waterway management services at the same level as for areas downstream of Rockbank. This Strategy will offer some broad guidance about where priorities for waterway corridor works might be located in anticipation of these increasing resources.

6. **Increased protection and enhancement of natural geological form and cultural heritage values**. Numerous past and contemporary studies have indicated the Kororoit Creek corridor is an area rich in natural and cultural values. These range from Aboriginal archaeological values to sites of European historical significance, as well as values associated with the natural form of the stream and its flora and fauna. Kororoit Creek is an outstanding example of a Victorian basalt plains stream. In an urban Melbourne context it is one of the most valuable streams in Melbourne, with its natural pools and escarpments rivalling and surpassing most others. The retention of much of its natural form makes it a worthwhile site for rehabilitation.

Figure 5: Kororoit Creek Landscape near Holden Road Bridge

1.3 Vision

Kororoit Creek will be a major focus for recreation and community activities. The creek corridor provides a visual break in the surrounding urban and industrial areas and links a variety of places where people can find open spaces for relaxation, exercise, playing and socialising with friends.

Walkers and cyclists will be able to travel on a continuous trail from historic rural areas in the Melton area to the beautiful coastal and estuarine reserves near Williamstown and Altona.

With its connecting pathways, the trail will enable large numbers of people to commute to work or school, walk or cycle for fitness and fun, and to get to local community destinations and shops. Much interest and patronage will have been generated over the years through revegetation works, park improvements, shared trail connections, the cultural preservation and interpretation of historic places and improved marketing by Victorian and Local Government bodies.

The community will have access to many parks and reserves that adjoin Kororoit Creek, particularly in the suburbs of Sunshine, Deer Park and Altona North. These open spaces provide a sense of identity for the local community and are important places for visitors to start and finish their journey along the Kororoit Creek Trail.

An important destination of the journey along Kororoit Creek will be the new Regional Park west of Caroline Springs. Here, visitors will have a unique chance to experience Kororoit Creek in a major park setting as well as being able to use the park as a starting point to explore nearby places of historical or scenic interest.

Most importantly, the old perception of the creek as, essentially, a drain will have long faded. The creation of the continuous trail and parkland system will have introduced many people to the varied landscapes of the creek corridor – from the impressive Mount Kororoit and ancient River Red Gum trees to wide expanses of grasslands, from spectacular rock and cliff formations to open flood plains, from formalised parks and reserves to coastal mangroves and saltmarshes.

The identity of the creek is no longer associated with the industrial uses and factories in its lower reaches, but with the Kororoit Creek Trail, quality open spaces and community activities. By creating a focus on the corridor, the creek and its environs have improved with River Red Gums flourishing along most of its length and its banks stabilised with indigenous sedges and grasses. The creek itself will be home to many different species of aquatic life and the corridor will have become an important habitat link, especially for native birds.

Local Councils and the Victorian Government will continue to work in partnership to improve the creek and its environs with coordinated and consistent policies.

1.4 Guiding Principles for Kororoit Creek Management

The following guiding principles provide a framework for the strategic objectives, main strategies and reach actions of the Kororoit Creek Regional Strategy 2005–2030.

Biodiversity

1. Biodiversity values of Kororoit Creek and its environs (native vegetation communities, fauna habitat and populations of flora and fauna species) should be protected from further direct and indirect losses and degradation.
2. In-stream values are high or relatively high along most of the length of Kororoit Creek, with habitat for a variety of indigenous flora and fauna. Activity within and adjacent to the creek corridor should not impact negatively on these values.
3. The creek banks and land at the top of the banks, while degraded, contain a number of sites supporting remnant vegetation or providing valuable faunal habitat. Such sites should be protected from activities that diminish its values.
4. Management of the creek corridor's biodiversity should include realistic goal setting. Initiatives to improve biodiversity values, such as revegetation and weed management, should seek improvement rather than complete restoration of the creek corridor to pre-European conditions.
5. A sense of creek corridor ownership, stewardship and involvement should be promoted at all levels in the community to assist in the protection and improvement of biodiversity values.

Cultural Heritage

6. Future conservation strategies for the Kororoit Creek should adhere to the principles provided by the 1999 Burra Charter of Australia ICOMOS, in particular the following two tenets in heritage conservation:
   - development should include a process to improve the knowledge base of the heritage inventory and a means for the preservation of significant components of the inventory.
   - heritage materials are non-renewable assets.
7. Development and works within the creek environs should be undertaken with a full understanding of their impact on heritage materials. Generally, conservation of sites should have primacy over development and works. Where appropriate, conservation plans should be prepared for ongoing heritage site management. Where loss of heritage materials is permitted, an appropriate level of documentation and research should be undertaken.

Indigenous Cultural Heritage

8. There are a large number of identified and potential sites that contain relics of Aboriginal activity along the Kororoit Creek corridor. These sites are easily disturbed and lost. Where it is suspected that works may impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage objects or places, the applicant should make provision for an Aboriginal cultural heritage impact assessment of the area by a suitably qualified heritage consultant in conjunction with representatives of the relevant Aboriginal stakeholders. If materials are affected, prior written permission must be obtained from the relevant local Aboriginal community, to disturb, destroy or otherwise interfere with an Aboriginal object or place, as required by the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act* 1984.
9. Consultation with Indigenous custodial groups on the conservation of Aboriginal cultural material should be standard practice when preparing a conservation plan within the creek corridor.

Post-Contact Cultural Heritage

10. The Kororoit Creek corridor is home to a number of sites of post-contact activity. While these sites are more apparent and stable than Indigenous sites, they nevertheless require protection and should become part of the community's experience of the creek through presentation and interpretation.
11. Where appropriate, the shared trail along Kororoit Creek should provide links with significant heritage elements.
12. Where important heritage elements (such as bridges, old buildings, exotic plantings) interact with the creek landscape, the contrast with the predominantly 'natural' character of the creek corridor should be retained, as distinct places within the creek corridor experience.

Land Management

13. To create a continuous, publicly managed and accessible waterway corridor, privately owned sections of the corridor should be acquired or transferred to public ownership as opportunities arise, or managed in a compatible manner.

Waterway Management

Stream Form

14. Works to rehabilitate Kororoit Creek need to focus on protecting and enhancing rock escarpments and associated pools (located on publicly and privately owned land), as they are key features of the stream corridor. In some cases these works will be shared between Melbourne Water and Local Councils as some escarpments are above the top-of-stream bank and on land owned by municipalities, Government (Altona Memorial Park) and private land holders.
15. Works need to address rehabilitation of areas subject to past trapezoidal shaping and modification in order to: return a semblance of naturalness to the corridor; mimic the former stream morphology; overcome fish barriers; improve habitat diversity; improve opportunities for more effective vegetation management; and provide for greater continuity of stream processes.

Established Urban Areas

16. Opportunities for significant improvement to water quality in established urban areas is limited due to the lack of available space for stormwater treatment wetlands and the ubiquitous nature of polluted urban runoff. Where resources are not available to disconnect runoff, efforts should be made to mitigate these impacts. Municipal Stormwater Management Plans provide a sound vehicle for identifying stormwater pollution sources and developing actions to address those issues at a local level. Continual monitoring and review of Stormwater Management Plan actions will be required. Identifying sources of litter and developing a program of trapping litter near the source will be a key initiative.
17. As much of the Kororoit Creek catchment is within a comparatively low rainfall area, it is important that streamflows are maintained and future extraction is managed so that stream health is maintained.
18. In circumstances where large infill development opportunities arise, such as the recent Cairnlea development, the application of Water Sensitive Urban Design principles will provide the best opportunity to protect and mitigate impacts on Kororoit Creek.

Urban Fringe Areas

19. New stages of the Caroline Springs development will require the use of Water Sensitive Urban Design to minimise potential impacts on receiving waters and Kororoit Creek. The aim should be to retain as much stormwater on-site and seek any discharge to the stream through swale systems and sediment ponds/wetlands.
20. Site building practices should be improved to reduce sediment runoff and litter. These activities could be sought through more stringent local by-laws as well as investment in the education of the building industry.
21. The Melton growth corridor will need to provide adequate buffers and reserves to protect the natural valley morphology of Kororoit Creek and provide opportunities for stormwater treatment, as well as recreation spaces.

Rural Areas

22. The Stream Frontage Management Program, run by Melbourne Water and targeted at landowners, should be applied where possible to encourage take-up of grants to bring about improvements to rural frontages to Kororoit Creek. Municipal programs, which support improved management of frontages need to be continued and developed.
23. With the extension of Melbourne Water's drainage authority , the prospects for improved waterway rehabilitation and management, as well as regional drainage and floodplain management will be enhanced. Priorities for action under the new arrangement should be identified with stakeholders.

Open Space and Trails

24. The Kororoit Creek corridor will provide open space links with adjacent communities through the creation of a continuous, linked open space network of local parks, linear green spaces, a regional park and trail connections.
25. A continuous shared trail will be created along the creek as part of the Metropolitan Trail Network (MTN), which will connect to the Federation Trail and Bay Trail. These connections are fundamental to the development of a regional open space network. The Kororoit Creek Trail will connect open spaces along the creek corridor and provide the spine for local trails to link to Western Ring Road Trail.
26. Local links will be created to improve public access between the creek corridor and adjacent parks, schools, recreation and community facilities.
27. The planning of trails and recreation nodes within the creek corridor will protect and enhance natural values, cultural heritage and landscape character through sensitive siting and design of facilities. In particular, the alignment of trails will avoid the top of the creek escarpment and locations where the creek buffer is constrained.
28. Existing and identified open space and recreation nodes will be planned and developed to provide a diverse range of recreational experiences.
29. The location and design of trails and recreation facilities along the waterways must maximise the safety and security of visitors. In particular, trails must satisfy AusRoads construction standards and approvals must be sought from Melbourne Water.
30. Planning for open space and recreation within the creek corridor will be sustainable, providing a local framework for a range of recreational opportunities with appropriate levels of service.
31. Interpretation signage of the creek ecosystem, geomorphology, environmental and cultural heritage values should be incorporated as an important element in the linear park along the creek corridor.

Landscape Character

32. In some urban areas the Kororoit Creek corridor is the only vestige of landscape from the early 20th century – the only "natural" element remaining in an otherwise modified landscape. Improvements to the landscape character of the creek corridor should be based largely on elements of that original landscape, particularly through the planting of indigenous vegetation.
33. Development and improvement of the creek corridor landscape (particularly through revegetation) should, through careful and responsive design, also reflect the landform and geomorphology of the creek valley so that these landforms are enhanced or maintain their significance.
34. The Kororoit Creek Corridor is a connecting space in the diverse urban areas through which it flows. This role should be reinforced through the use of unifying elements, including the use of indigenous planting and consistent built landscape elements, such as signage, pathways, furniture and the like.
35. All exotic vegetation within the creek corridor, which is not of heritage significance, should be progressively replaced with native vegetation based on appropriate Ecological Vegetation Class templates.
36. Plantings in adjoining parks should avoid the use of exotic species that present the risk of spreading significant pest plants to the creek corridor.
37. Utilities and infrastructure, including powerlines, drains, car parks and signage should be sensitively placed and designed to minimise the visual impact on the creek corridor. This is particularly relevant to important natural and built landscape elements, such as historic bridges, ancient trees, high grounds and rock escarpments.
38. While the spatial character of the creek corridor varies along its length, adjoining spaces should be visually linked to lead visitors through the valley landscape, reveal key attractions and activity points, and highlight linkages with the local area.
39. The existing profile of the creek corridor should not be altered through inappropriate landfill.

Figure 6: Kororoit Creek landscape near Beattys Road in Rockbank

1.5 Kororoit Creek Main Strategies

Objective 1 – Protect the biodiversity of the Kororoit Creek corridor.

Apply land management policy and programs to halt the rate of degradation of the environmental values of the Kororoit Creek corridor and significant adjoining wetlands, grasslands and estuarine areas

	Biodiversity Strategies	Lead Agency	Priority
1.1	Prepare, exhibit and implement Planning Scheme Amendments for the municipalities of Hobsons Bay, Brimbank and Melton, to protect the biodiversity and geomorphic values of the Creek corridor.	Municipalities DSE Melbourne Water	High
1.2	Protect remnant native vegetation on public land through fencing, weed control and other site management works, or where it occurs on private land, seek its protection through cooperative management or other measures to ensure its tenure and viability.	Melbourne Water Municipalities	High
1.3	Incorporate land with very high native vegetation values into the Regional Park proposed near Caroline Springs	Parks Victoria	High
1.4	Continue to gather data about key flora and fauna species (eg Growling Grass Frog, Water Rat) and develop programs and works to enhance fauna habitat.	Melbourne Water Municipalities	High
1.5	Reduce the impact of pest plants through the development and implementation of priority weed management programs by responsible agencies linked to both rehabilitation and prevention objectives. The program to be targeted for achievable outcomes (see Victorian Pest Management A Framework for Action, Weed Management Strategy 2002).	Melbourne Water Municipalities	High
1.6	Ensure monitoring occurs in relation to landfill, discharges, refuse dumping and such activities that impact on the creek corridor environment, and undertake appropriate responses.	Melbourne Water Municipalities	High
1.7	Reduce the impact of pest animals on public land through agency control programs linked to both rehabilitation and prevention objectives. Engage private landowners in control programs through incentives and cooperative works such as Melbourne Water's Stream Frontage Management Program.	Municipalities Melbourne Water	High
1.8	Reduce impacts on saltmarsh and estuarine areas and develop a staged rehabilitation works program.	Melbourne Water Hobsons Bay City Council	High

Figure 7: Footbridge over Kororoit Creek at the end of Billingham Road in Deer Park

Objective 2 – Undertake works to improve the environmental condition of the Kororoit Creek corridor.
Undertake works to directly assist in the recovery of the in-stream, riparian and terrestrial sections of the creek corridor.

	Environment Improvement Strategies	Lead Agency	Priority
2.1	Continue to progressively implement waterway rehabilitation projects with major revegetation components as outlined in Melbourne Water's Kororoit Creek Waterway Management Activity Plan (Melbourne Water, revised 2004). The nine key rehabilitation packages, in order of priority, are; 1. Main Road West to Station Road; 2. Cairnlea Frontage – Station Road North Drain to Western Highway; 3. Upstream of Esmond Street to Ardeer Reserve; 4. Norwood Street, Albion to Kosky Street Footbridge; 5. Footbridge downstream of Wright Street to Glengala Drain Floodway; 6. Grieve Parade to McArthurs Road; 7. Millers Road to Altona rail line; 8. Derby Street to Wright Street; and 9. McArthurs Road to Werribee Rail line	Melbourne Water	High
2.2	Continue to implement revegetation programs within each agency's area of responsibility, taking into account relevant modified Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) templates.	Melbourne Water Municipalities	High
2.3	Develop masterplans and other plans to generate additional revegetation programs and works for priority sites identified by municipalities.	Municipalities	High
2.4	Undertake further revegetation through the extension of Melbourne Water's Stream Frontage Management Program into the Kororoit Creek catchment and the use of other available incentive schemes through local government.	Melbourne Water Shire of Melton	High
2.5	Ongoing management of areas subject to revegetation works.	Melbourne Water Municipalities	High
2.6	Continue to implement and regularly review municipal Stormwater Management Plans to: • reduce catchment generated litter near and at source; • identify opportunities to undertake increased treatment of stormwater through retrofitting in established urban areas; and • promote the use of Water Sensitive Urban Design , stormwater retention and disconnection in new developments.	Municipalities	High
2.7	Restrict dams on tributaries of Kororoit Creek to protect stream flows and health. Take corrective action where illegal dams have occurred.	Southern Rural Water Municipalities Melbourne Water	High
2.8	Protect the creek corridor from the impacts of existing landfill sites through continued enforcement of planning conditions, discussion and refinement of rehabilitation plans with new future land managers and monitoring of possible stream water quality impacts.	Municipalities	High
2.9	Reduce stock access impacts on Kororoit Creek through the engagement of private land owners / lease holders in cooperative incentive and works programs.	Municipalities Melbourne Water	High
2.10	At the time of any future subdivision / development along the Kororoit Creek corridor, continue to set aside municipal and drainage reserves overseen by boulevard roads so that: • adequate buffer areas are created between developments and the stream corridor with surveillance provided by lots addressing the corridor; • significant flora and fauna are provided with some opportunity for survival within areas of relative potential protection; • the valley form of the stream can enjoy some protection; and • opportunities for stormwater treatment and recreation provision can be preserved.	Municipalities Melbourne Water	High
2.11	Ensure adequate resourcing of both enforcement and educational materials so that building sites abutting Kororoit Creek do not cause in-stream litter.	Municipalities	High
2.12	Encourage community involvement to improve the creek environs.	Municipalities	High

Figure 8: Jones Creek outlet into Kororoit Creek with the Western Highway running above

Objective 3 – To develop a continuous and linked open space network along the Kororoit Creek corridor from Altona Coastal Park to the proposed Regional Park near Caroline Springs.

- Create a continuous shared use trail along the creek by completing gaps in the Kororoit Creek Trail.
- Improve connections between existing open spaces, community facilities and the creek.
- Integrate the proposed Regional Park near Caroline Springs with the Kororoit Creek corridor.

	Open Space Strategies	Lead Agency	Priority
3.1	Complete gaps in the Kororoit Creek Trail to create a continuous shared use trail.	Parks Victoria (Through Metro Trail Network Grants) Municipalities	High
3.2	Establish a series of park nodes along the Kororoit Creek corridor to provide a diverse range of connected recreational experiences.	Municipalities	High
3.3	Investigate options and define the boundary for the new Regional Park along Kororoit Creek west of Caroline Springs.	Parks Victoria	Medium
3.4	Ensure that clear connections are made to the regional open space network by linking the Kororoit Creek Trail to the Bay Trail, Western Ring Road Trail, and the future Federation Trail.	Municipalities	High
3.5	Prepare and develop secondary trail links branching off the main trail where: demand is demonstrated; environmental and other constraints can be managed; following completion of main trail links within that municipality; and where additional trail construction is assessed and clearly warranted alongside other priorities.	Municipalities	Medium
3.6	Prepare plans to upgrade parks at identified locations to create major recreation nodes along the creek corridor as follows: Buckingham Reserve (Sunshine), Station Waters Park (Cairnlea), Selwyn Park (Albion), Isabella Williams Memorial Reserve (Albanvale), and G.J.Hosken Reserve (Altona North).	Municipalities	Medium
3.7	Implement local park plans developed in strategy 3.6.	Municipalities	On going
3.8	Construct new footbridges in Sunshine (at Ardeer Reserve and Buckingham Reserve)	Brimbank City Council	Medium
3.9	Upgrade or replace existing footbridges, as appropriate for public safety and in line with Melbourne Water Guidelines for Constructed Paths.	Brimbank City Council	Medium
3.10	Secure reserves along the creek corridor, which are currently privately owned and are part of the preferred trail alignment. Such reserves would be set aside as part of future subdivision, development or rezoning proposals. Sites of interest include Orica in Sunshine.	Brimbank City Council Hobsons Bay City Council	On going
3.11	Develop connections, particularly trail links, between the creek corridor and adjoining residential areas and community 'attractors'.	Municipalities	Medium

Objective 4 – Conserving Cultural Heritage

Ensure places of cultural heritage are conserved and, where appropriate, are interpreted and have desirable settings.

	Cultural Heritage Strategies	Lead Agency	Priority
4.1	Protect the cultural heritage values of Kororoit Creek through the Guiding Principles (Cultural Heritage) for Kororoit Creek Management.	Municipalities	Medium
4.2	Provide interpretive signs for heritage sites at: • Bullum Bullum Reserve, Deer Park; • Swimming hole at Selwyn Park, Ardeer • Former Williamstown Racecourse, Altona • Bluestone Bridge, Altona North	Shire of Melton Brimbank City Council Hobsons Bay City Council	Medium

Objective 5 – Waterway Management

Ensure appropriate responses to waterway, drainage and catchment interface issues for Kororoit Creek, to complement the Melbourne Water Kororoit Creek Waterway Management Activity Plan.

	Waterway Management Strategies	Lead Agency	Priority
5.1	Promote and encourage Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) within new and infill developments abutting Kororoit Creek and its catchment to ensure improved on-site stormwater retention, treatment and to maximise opportunities for disconnection from the stream.	Municipalities Melbourne Water	High
5.2	Ensure drainage connections to Kororoit Creek: • are in accord with WSUD and are generally minimised; • have appropriate energy dissipation at the point of proposed connection; • provide for soft engineering treatments through compatible use of vegetation and local rock; • take advantage of favourable flat grades; and • are visually unobtrusive.	Municipalities Melbourne Water	High
5.3	Progressively implement key waterway rehabilitation projects as identified in the Kororoit Creek Waterway Management Activity Plan (Melbourne Water, revised 2004) and seek opportunities for adjacent value-adding projects with Local Councils.	Melbourne Water Municipalities	Various
5.4	Prepare plans and undertake actions to ensure that significant rock outcrops / escarpments and stream pools along the waterway corridor are protected and actively managed to preserve their values as key features.	Municipalities Melbourne Water	Various
5.5	Ensure review and application of Stormwater Management Plans provides for the ready identification of litter generating sources and the ability to respond with appropriate solutions that significantly reduce litter volumes in Kororoit Creek.	Municipalities	High
5.6	Undertake rock riffle modification between Main Road West and Station Road, Deer Park and also in Reach 8 to improve fish passage, discourage informal crossing and boost in-stream habitat diversity.	Melbourne Water	Medium
5.7	Continue to encourage sound stormwater management practices by commercial and industrial premises in the catchment, especially through initiatives outlined in Stormwater Management Plans.	Municipalities	Various
5.8	Prepare, exhibit and implement Planning Scheme Amendments (Urban Floodway Zone, Land Subject to Inundation Overlay, Special Building Overlay) to address gaps or inconsistencies in waterway controls. Implement new controls as suggested in the program of planning scheme amendments.	Municipalities	Medium

Objective 6 – Landscape Character

Identify and protect landscapes which are representative of the Kororoit Creek corridor.

	Landscape Strategies	Lead Agency	Priority
6.1	Prepare, exhibit and implement Planning Scheme Amendments to protect landscape character in identified areas in the upper reaches of Kororoit Creek	Melton Shire Council	High
6.2	Protect and enhance landscape values, including viewlines enjoyed along the Creek Corridor and views from major roads and bridges, through sympathetic landscape vegetation management. Areas of special note include the Altona Coastal Park and Wide Bend, near Cherry Lake and stream escarpments and pools throughout.	Municipalities (particularly Hobsons Bay City Council)	Medium
6.3	Create a landscape buffer between infill and new developments and the creek corridor to protect the landscape character of Kororoit Creek.	Municipalities	Medium
6.4	Through the suggested Planning Scheme Amendments, ensure that developments adjacent to the creek corridor are appropriate and that they do not compromise the existing landscape character.	Municipalities	Medium

Figure 9: Kororoit Creek adjacent to More Park with the Western Ring Road beyond

Figure 10: Kororoit Creek Farm near Mount Kororoit in Plumpton (left)

Figure 11: Semi-mature Eucalypt plantings along Kororoit Creek in Ardeer (below)

2. Creek Reaches

Introduction

The landscape character of Kororoit Creek varies markedly along its length – from open rural landscapes of Melton, to the established suburbs of Deer Park and Sunshine, to stark industrial landscapes in Brooklyn and Altona North, to the unique estuarine landscape of the Altona Coastal Park. Due to these changes in landscape, for the purposes of this Strategy, the creek corridor has been divided into nine separate planning units or 'reaches'.

These reaches are predominantly defined by changes in land-use or changes in municipal boundaries. They are designed to provide an easy way of examining specific areas of Kororoit Creek. The identification of these reaches also provides a way of investigating Landscape Character, Linear Open Space and Shared Trails that change markedly from reach to reach. The nine reaches are:

- Reach One – Melton Rural;
- Reach Two – Rockbank Rural;
- Reach Three – Caroline Springs New Residential;
- Reach Four – Deer Park Residential;
- Reach Five – Cairnlea New Residential;
- Reach Six – Orica Industrial;
- Reach Seven – Sunshine Residential;
- Reach Eight – Brooklyn / Altona Industrial; and
- Reach Nine – Altona Coast / Wetlands.

The following chapter describes the specific issues and existing conditions that apply to each reach.

Figure 12: View south along Creek Corridor from Historic Sewer Outfall Bridge

Figure 13: Ruin of the Former Williamstown Racecourse Grandstand at Altona Coastal Park

Figure 14: Deep pools landscape in Sunshine