



**8.2 ELSTER CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATION - MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**WARD: CANAL**

**GENERAL MANAGER: CLAIRE FERRES MILES, PLACE STRATEGY & DEVELOPMENT**

**PREPARED BY: RENAE WALTON, COORDINATOR SUSTAINABLE POLICY**  
**BRETT WALTERS, MANAGER SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORT**

**TRIM FILE NO: 30/21/18**

**ATTACHMENTS: 1. Draft - Memorandum of Understanding - Elster Creek CEO Forum**

**PURPOSE**

- To provide a report back on the outcomes of the first Elster Creek CEO forum.
- To request Council’s endorsement of the draft Memorandum of Understanding including a statement of intent outlining a collaborative and shared approach and a commitment to work together.

**I. RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

- 1.1 Endorses the Memorandum of Understanding (Attachment 1) that:
- Defines the drainage problem of concern to communities in the Elster Creek Catchment
  - Sets out the core principles to promote collaboration, a shared approach and a commitment to work together, being expressed by Melbourne Water, City of Port Phillip, City of Glen Eira, City of Kingston and City of Bayside, to enable investigation of improvement opportunities.
- 1.2 Authorises the Mayor to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.
- 1.3 Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to represent Council to progress collaborative action on the Elster Creek Catchment in accordance with the principles outlined in the MoU.



## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 During 2016 Port Phillip Mayor, Bernadene Voss, requested that the Inner South Metro Mayoral Forum commit to looking at catchment wide opportunities to reduce flooding in the Elster Creek catchment. This was agreed to by the four local governments in the Elster Creek catchment.
- 2.2 Since September 2016 Council has worked with Melbourne Water to establish the Elster Creek CEO forum (The Forum).
- 2.3 At present the members of the forum are Melbourne Water, City of Port Phillip, City of Kingston, City of Glen Eira and the City of Bayside.
- 2.4 It is anticipated that this Forum will promote collaboration between the four relevant councils and Melbourne Water.

## **3. KEY INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The first meeting of the Elster Creek CEO Forum was held on March 31 2017.
- 3.2 This was a facilitated discussion between the CEOs of City of Port Phillip, City of Kingston, City of Glen Eira and the City of Bayside and the Executive General Manager, Service Delivery at Melbourne Water, Charmaine Quick.
- 3.3 As a result of the meeting a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been developed and is currently in draft form ([Attachment 1](#)).
- 3.4 The MoU:
  - Defines, at a high-level, the drainage problem of concern to communities in the Elster Creek catchment.
  - Sets out the core principles to promote collaboration between the four relevant councils and Melbourne Water, which will enable investigation of improvement opportunities.
- 3.5 Within the MoU, the following is detailed as the overarching Core Principle:
  - Councils and Melbourne Water are committed to cooperating across municipalities and with water utilities and State departments for the purpose of exploring a whole-of-catchment approach. Engagement with community members is paramount in developing a common understanding of effective ways to address the problem.
  - Specifically, Councils and Melbourne Water will:
    - Be transparent in all interactions and share information with the intent of establishing a shared understanding of the factors influencing the problem.
    - Embed a common language in community engagement processes that is constructive and meaningful for community members.
    - Be considerate of each organisation's respective circumstances, including but not limited to, community interests, commercial imperatives and strategic contexts.

## AGENDA - ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL – 17 MAY 2017



- Collaborate to identify evidence-based and innovative solutions with a best-for-community mindset.
  - Ensure opportunities to build community resilience are explored and actively pursued.
- 3.6 If each Council supports the MoU, it will be presented at the next forum scheduled for 24 May 2017.
- 3.7 At this forum it is anticipated the agenda will be to determine an initial project scope, incorporating governance options and high-level work priorities.
- 3.8 The Chair of Melbourne Water and the Mayor of each Council have been nominated as signatories for the MoU.



## **FURTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **4. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY**

- 4.1 Committing to the MoU indicates to our community that Council has every intention of working collaboratively with the other local governments in the catchment and with Melbourne water to identify opportunities to alleviate the impact of localised flooding in Elwood.
- 4.2 Committing to the MoU aligns with Flood Management actions within Council's Climate Adaptation Plan adopted in 2010.

### **5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS**

- 5.1 Internal consultation regarding the MoU has occurred with the Asset Management team.

### **6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Committing to the MoU has no immediate legal and risk implications.
- 6.2 Committing to the MoU does not commit council to investing funds on Melbourne Water land or in other municipalities.
- 6.3 Not committing to the MoU has reputational impacts for Council.

### **7. SUSTAINABILITY – Triple Bottom Line**

#### **7.1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- Committing to the MoU sets Council's intention to reduce flooding impacts on the local environment including opportunities to improve water quality with reduced pollution and nutrient levels.

#### **7.2 SOCIAL & CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS**

- Committing to the MoU indicates to our community Council's intent to work with Melbourne Water and the other Local Governments in the Elster Creek catchment, to identify and deliver feasible projects to alleviate the impact of localised flooding in Elwood.
- Not committing to the MoU may result in undue social impact on the local Elwood community.

#### **7.3 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS**

- Committing to the MoU may result in the delivery of projects that will reduce the number of occasions and/or the severity of flooding. This has economic impacts on the local community and business impacted by flooding and on the renewal or maintenance of council's own infrastructure.

#### **7.4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- Committing to the MoU does not commit council to investing funds on Melbourne Water land or in other municipalities.



**8. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

**8.1 TIMELINE**

- Should the draft MoU be endorsed by Council, it will then be presented at the second CEO forum, scheduled to occur 24 May 2017.
- The agenda for the next meeting of CEOs and Melbourne Water is to scope priorities, governance and other matters required to give effect to the MoU.

**8.2 COMMUNICATION**

- Details regarding adoption of the MoU by the CEO forum will be included in future councillor briefings regarding Elster Creek.

**9. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST**

- 9.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in the matter.