

Princes Park Stormwater Harvesting Project

Analysis of Community Engagement Results

September 2022

Project background

Melbourne's iconic Princes Park in Carlton North is a major sports and recreation ground, home to sporting clubs, and features open space with playgrounds, picnic facilities and some of Melbourne's most significant trees.

City of Melbourne's proposal to harvest excess stormwater from the Moonee Ponds Creek will protect this valuable open space from the impacts of future drought. It will also improve the health of the creek by removing excess stormwater and pollution.

This project is part of our Climate and Biodiversity Emergency response and will enable us to adapt to the impacts of climate change and improve water quality and green spaces. The project will also contribute to Sustainable Development Goals.

Community engagement

A project overview was provided on Participate Melbourne including details about how the Stormwater Harvesting Project will remove pollutants and transfer stormwater from the Moonee Ponds Creek to Princes Park.

Between 21 July 2022 and 30 August 2022, we asked the community to review the benefits and impacts of the proposal and to provide feedback via an online survey.

The purpose of the engagement was to:

- communicate details of the proposed Princes Park Stormwater Harvesting Project
- encourage the community to provide feedback on the project and note any potential concerns and questions.

During the engagement period, 337 individual visitors accessed the Participate Melbourne project pages, 37 online surveys were received as well as one stakeholder submission.

Age of survey respondents

5	9	10	5	5	3	1
20-29 years of age	30-39 years of age	40-49 years of age	50-59 years of age	60-69 years of age	Over 70 years of age	Preferred not to say

Survey respondents primary interest in project

10	9	4	11	3
Spend time at Princes Park	Spend time at Royal Park	Have an interest in Moonee Ponds Creek	Have an interest in climate change and preparing for drought	Other reasons

Where survey respondents live

5	4	1	1	7	11	2	6
Carlton	CBD	Docklands	Kensington	North Melbourne	Parkville	West Melbourne	Other

Survey responses

Please indicate level of agreement with following statements:

1. Future periods of drought will impact the supply of water to parks and green spaces in the City of Melbourne	81% Strongly Agree	11% Agree	8% Neutral	0% Disagree	0% Strongly Disagree
2. Treated stormwater is a suitable alternative water source for parks and green spaces	78% Strongly Agree	19% Agree	3% Neutral	0% Disagree	0% Strongly Disagree
3. The Princes Park Stormwater Harvesting Project is an important step in drought proofing our open spaces.	70% Strongly Agree	22% Agree	5% Neutral	0% Disagree	3% Strongly Disagree

Do you have any concerns about alternative water use for Princes Park?

Survey respondents raised the following concerns about the use of alternative water at Princes Park:

- Potential noise impacts of pumps
- The long distance between the Moonee Ponds Creek and Princes Park
- Negative impacts on the Moonee Ponds Creek ecosystem
- Energy and maintenance costs
- The need for treatment of stormwater prior to irrigation
- The need to also consider drought tolerant plantings in addition to alternative water

There were also suggestions about the potential for the project to be expanded to:

- Include other parks in City of Melbourne and City of Moonee Valley
- Combine a waste water treatment component to ensure there is always adequate water available to fill storage tanks.

There was one query about the financial viability of this project.

We will work directly with formal sporting clubs that use Princes Park and Royal Park to inform the staging of construction. Please identify any other activities or considerations we need to plan for during construction?

Community members identified the following items be planned for during construction:

- Maintaining accessible paths for prams and bikes
- Ensuring there is space for dog walking, cycling and passive recreation
- Impact on native vegetation and birds
- Potential interference with future road projects i.e. City Link

There was a suggestion to have a Instagram account for regular project updates.

Please provide any feedback on the Princes Park Stormwater Harvesting Project

Community members provided the following general feedback about the project:

- Stormwater harvesting is important to secure adequate water supply into the future
- Provide information about how litter and pollutants will be removed from the gross pollutant trap
- This project is necessary as climate change is a reality.
- Pleased to see the added benefit the project has in removing pollution from the Moonee Ponds Creek.

A question was raised about the capacity of the underground storage during times of drought

Submissions

We received a written submission from a community group noting:

- The need to ensure that measures are in place to avoid impacting established planted areas and the significant regional population of White Skinks
- That vegetation exists along the proposed pipeline that is known habitat for smaller birds and it is important that this habitat area is not adversely affected by construction or servicing.
- Access routes to construct and service the system should be designed to have minimal impact on Royal Park.
- That locating the pipeline under asphalt paths be considered.
- The Gross Pollutant Trap (GPT) should be not be located in Royal Park.
- Any infrastructure at McPherson Field should be located within the existing Trin Warren Tam-boore tank compound.

How feedback will be used

Additional engagement materials

Several of the responses related to frequently asked questions on the Participate Melbourne project page. Following this feedback, we will update the Participate Melbourne page with further details about the project business case, information about the noise impacts of pumps and the safety of using stormwater for irrigation.

Design considerations

As part of the detailed design process, we will be undertaking vegetation impact assessment and working with our ecologist on how we can minimise any disruption to vegetation and significant species including the White Skink.

Construction considerations

Many of the items raised will be addressed through our construction planning particularly access to paths and park areas and the impact on vegetation and wildlife. Where possible, directional pipe boring will be used. This construction technique minimises above ground disturbances.