

Areas along Edgars Creek, like many other areas in Melbourne, are experiencing strong growth as former industrial land is redeveloped and housing and population densities increase.

The Edgars Creek conservation and development plan seeks to establish a clear strategic direction for future integrated planning and management of open space along Edgars Creek between Merri Creek and Edwardes Lake over the next ten to fifteen years. The plan aims to protect and enhance the unique geology, cultural heritage and environmental values while achieving a sustainable balance between conservation and public access and use of open space along Edgars Creek. A key outcome is to maintain the secluded bushland character while continuing to improve local community access to open space and pride in the area.

The draft plan below is a summary of key recommendations only. To see a full copy of the Report and more detailed plans go to [www.moreland.vic.gov.au](http://www.moreland.vic.gov.au)

### OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Protect areas of existing remnant vegetation and continue indigenous revegetation works in collaboration with local community groups to increase biodiversity and to link fragmented habitat areas.
- 2 Prioritise weed control efforts focusing on weeds of national significance and protection of areas of high value remnant indigenous vegetation.
- 3 Retain natural processes associated with Edgars Creek and protect landscape values associated with significant geological landforms.
- 4 Minimise the impact of existing urban areas on the 'secluded bushland character' of the creek reserve through appropriate buffer planting to existing open space boundaries.
- 5 Implement best practice planning and design guidelines for new development areas to ensure appropriate set back and buffer planting to retain and improve the 'secluded bushland character'.
- 6 Protect and improve understanding of indigenous cultural heritage values.
- 7 Improve water quality in Edgars Creek targeting at source litter control and improvements to existing stormwater connections to the creek where possible.
- 9c Improve on road cycling links between Coburg Hill and Edwardes Lake via Elizabeth Street, where cycle paths cannot safely be established or are inconsistent with environmental objectives along the creek.
- 10 Retain flat grass open space areas towards Newlands Rd for informal recreation.
- 11 Provide additional seats overlooking the creek and key views while ensuring design is consistent with the bushland character of the open space corridor.

### PROPOSED WORKS (Refer Plan)

- 8 Establish a new water quality treatment wetland on the existing golf range area to treat urban stormwater runoff prior to discharge to Edgars/Merri Creek and improve floodplain habitat values.
- 9 Improve walking and cycling access between Edwardes Lake and Merri Creek Trail including:
  - 9a Establish a new 2.5m wide sealed walking/cycling path from new development areas at Coburg Hill to the existing Merri Creek Trail and Coburg Lake along the west bank of Edgars Creek.
  - 9b Establish a new 1.5m wide unsealed all weather walking only path in stages north from Coburg Hill to Jenkin Street on the east side of the creek using the existing track.

THOMPSON BERRILL LANDSCAPE DESIGN P/L with Ecology and Heritage Partners P/L

