



Action plan 2025-2028

Draft Brimbank Integrated Water Management Strategy 2025-2035

February 2025

Acknowledgment of Country

Brimbank Council respectfully acknowledges and recognises the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong peoples as the Traditional Custodians of this land and its' waterways and pays respect to their Elders past, present and future. For the Traditional Custodians the lands and waterways in the City of Brimbank have always been a significant trading and meeting place.

Acknowledgment

This action plan was developed with the insights of traditional custodians, other key water sector partners, stakeholders and representatives of Brimbank Community panel. Brimbank Council appreciates their interest, knowledge, and feedback for developing the actions that aim to continue improving water management in the council area and related catchments.

Introduction

This action plan has been developed to help Council achieve the Vision and Objectives contained within the Brimbank Integrated Water Management Strategy 2025-2035.

Each of the 17 actions shown in this plan highlights the main activities to be undertaken along with timeframes, priority levels and key measures to track progress. The action plan also identifies external partners that may contribute knowledge, funding and other resources to various projects.

The Integrated Water Management Strategy 2025-2035 has identified four objectives linked to different IWM outcomes and enablers:

Objectives	Key areas of focus	Linked IWM outcomes and enablers
Objective 1. Preparing for more severe and frequent heat waves, drought and flood events.	Continue finding ways to improve water efficiency and increase the use of alternative water sources. Look for opportunities for new WSUD projects considering flood and drought scenarios in a changing climate. Consider IWM opportunities and flood risks through planning processes. Urban greening and cooling.	
Objective 2. Improve IWM systems, processes and asset management.	Improve systems and processes for effective IWM implementation. Improved asset management including regular maintenance and rectification works. Strengthen partnerships with internal and external stakeholders to deliver IWM outcomes.	
Objective 3. Strengthen communication, advocacy, education and participation.	Improving community engagement around water projects to increase water literacy and build support for a greener and cooler municipality. Work closely with the water industry, Traditional Custodians and environmental groups on water projects.	
Objective 4. Increase efforts in monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement (MERI)	Improve data collection, evaluation and reporting to ensure Council's water assets are well maintained and future projects are developed to get the best outcomes for the environment and community.	

*Further information on the IWM outcomes and enablers can be found in the IWM strategy report 2025-2035.

Key themes	Actions		Description	Priority	Timeframe	Potential strategic and/or delivery partners*	Measures of success and/or deliverables	Linkage with Traditional Custodians interests and expected outcomes
Objective 1. Preparing for more severe and frequent heat waves, drought and flood events. IWM strategic outcomes and enablers:    	1.	Continue reducing use of potable water in Council buildings and facilities.	This action will focus on continuing installation of efficient fittings, reviewing irrigation practices and using captured rainwater as an alternative to potable water.	Medium	Ongoing	Tenants, facility maintenance and capital works contractors.	Amount of potable water saved.	Ensuring drinking water is used for appropriate end-uses to further support water for Country, be that healthy water for the lands, waterways, skies and beings.
	2.	Develop a feasibility study to expand the water storage at Keilor golf course.	A feasibility study is required to evaluate options to expand the water storage which does not meet current demand.	High	2026	Consultancy firm, Melbourne Water and Greater Western Water.	Delivery of feasibility study.	Storing and using water where it lands, aligns with Aboriginal philosophy of caring for Country.
	3.	Improve green infrastructure resilience.	Investigate the condition of Council's green infrastructure assets including the performance of drought and heat-tolerant plants. Continue to roll-out the warm season grass conversion program.	Low	2028		Report on green infrastructure performance including evaluation of the survival and growth rate of the plants.	
	4.	Investigate the risks and impacts of drought and flood events on Council natural and built assets.	Develop a long-term flood and drought risk assessment that is aligned with the most recent climate modelling.	High	2028	Consultancy firm, internal stakeholders, and Melbourne Water.	• Delivery of risk assessment including flood and drought mapping overlayed with Council assets. • Documented flood and drought mitigation approaches for Council's water assets and property in general	Ensuring that in the face of changing climates and population and development growth, all living things are being considered and remaining safe on Country.
	5.	Consider IWM opportunities and flood risks through planning processes.	Develop a report on how updated flood mapping will impact the municipality and consider planning implications. The Sunshine Precinct planning (and other key planning processes) will be	High	2028		• Both reports completed. • Consultation with relevant teams and stakeholders completed.	

Key themes	Actions		Description	Priority	Timeframe	Potential strategic and/or delivery partners*	Measures of success and/or deliverables	Linkage with Traditional Custodians interests and expected outcomes
			considered under this action.					
	6.	Explore challenges and impacts of drought on Council's natural and built assets.	Develop a report on managing Council assets before, during, and after drought events.	High	2028	Key agencies.		
	7.	Preparing for and mitigating climate change in the urban environment through intelligent green space design and engineering.	Demonstrate how the replacement of hard surfaces on streets with a palette of carefully specified horticultural features and engineering design can improve liveability and resilience to climate change	Medium	2028	Melbourne University.	Percentage increases in green spaces and permeable surfaces.	
Objective 2. Improve IWM systems, processes, and asset management. IWM strategic outcome and enablers:  	8.	Enhance WSUD processes adjusting and incorporating roles and responsibilities of internal teams and key stakeholders.	This action will focus on documenting and making improvements in the current WSUD processes, roles, responsibilities and hold points of WSUD projects	High	2027	Key stakeholders.	• Documentation completed. • Consultation with relevant teams and stakeholders completed	Work with Traditional Custodians to design WSUD, incorporating cultural knowledge and native species, providing opportunities for Traditional Custodians to continuing caring for Country.
	9.	Improved WSUD asset management including regular monitoring, maintenance and rectification works.	Council has installed multiple WSUD assets that require regular maintenance and will at some point need rectification or renewal works that demand considerable expenditure. A WSUD Management Plan has developed to provide a long-term program (2022-2030). This plan needs to be reviewed and delivered.	High	2027		• Delivery of WSUD maintenance program • Review of WSUD rectification and renewal program. • Delivery of WSUD rectification and renewal program. • Undertake a yearly update to Council.	Investigate opportunities for maintenance by Traditional Custodians for assets designed by Traditional Custodians.
	10.	Develop a 'WSUD in lieu' scheme for Council.	The WSUD in lieu scheme offers developers an alternative approach to meet some of their stormwater quality obligations under the Victorian Planning Provisions through a voluntary	High	2026	Key agencies and developers.	• Feasibility report developed. • Engagement process report. • WSUD in lieu scheme implemented.	Incorporate Traditional Custodian knowledge and values to further ensure that there is a connection to the cultural landscape and (potentially) resulting in improvements within developments to improve stormwater before WSUD

Key themes	Actions		Description	Priority	Timeframe	Potential strategic and/or delivery partners*	Measures of success and/or deliverables	Linkage with Traditional Custodians interests and expected outcomes
			contribution to Council.					assets)
	11.	Explore opportunities for new stormwater harvesting schemes through partnerships.	Working with Greater Western Water and Melbourne Water, look across the municipality for locations that would benefit from stormwater harvesting schemes.	Medium	2027	Greater Western Water and Melbourne Water.	Development of opportunities map which highlights potential locations for SWH projects.	
	12.	Guideline for passively irrigated street trees.	A guideline will be developed for the design, construction and maintenance of passively irrigated street trees and how they will be integrated with different WSUD assets and streetscapes.	Medium	2027		Guideline for passively irrigated street trees developed.	Development or use of native species can further support cooling environments by introducing small ecological areas/ "gardens". This can also result in corridors for habitat to move across Country, particular when connecting with waterway corridors or public open space.
	13.	Develop cost-benefit analysis of the typology of WSUD assets and passively irrigated street trees used by Council.	Develop a cost benefit analysis that compares the costs of building and maintaining WSUD assets and passively irrigated trees versus benefits. This works will guide future works and investment.	Medium	2027		Cost-benefit analysis of the typology of WSUD assets and passively irrigated street trees completed.	
Objective 3. Strengthen communication, advocacy, education and participation. IWM strategic outcomes and enablers:	14.	Improve communication around IWM initiatives across Council to increase water education and community participation in planning processes and/or citizen science projects.	This action will focus on: - Developing tools and approaches to increase water education in the community including culturally diverse and vulnerable groups. - Continue to advocate to external stakeholders and industry on the need for investment in water management and use of alternative water for multiple purposes.	Medium	Ongoing		- Communication plans and/or awareness campaigns delivered. - Workshops reports completed. - Communications tools developed. - Advocacy undertaken.	Incorporate language, signage and awareness of the significance of the area through the engagement of the registered aboriginal parties. This is as an opportunity to further educate the community about the cultural values and boundaries between mobs.

Key themes	Actions		Description	Priority	Timeframe	Potential strategic and/or delivery partners*	Measures of success and/or deliverables	Linkage with Traditional Custodians interests and expected outcomes
  	15.	Work with Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation to identify opportunities for genuine engagement and outcomes related to water and waterways.	Undertake meaningful engagement with the Traditional Custodians, Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong people, in relation to Integrated Water Management. Seek guidance and input regarding First Nations priorities.	Medium	Ongoing	Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and Bunurong Land Council TBC. Aboriginal Corporation. DEECA via IWM Forums.	Meetings initiated by Council focusing on IWM. Should include site visits where possible.	Continue to build cultural awareness within Council to ensure that all staff recognise the importance of early engagement with Traditional Custodians and incorporating cultural knowledge.
	16.	Engaging and empowering environmental groups.	The friends of Kororoit Creek (FOKC) have identified Killeen Street Reserve as a potential location for create an ephemeral wetland. Council will provide technical knowledge for a feasibility study and high-level design of the wetland.	Medium	2025		- Meetings between Council and FOKC. - Technical information provided to FOKC via report (or similar)	

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Objective 4. Increase efforts in monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement (MERI). IWM strategic outcomes and enablers:      	17.	Upgrading Council's water asset databases.	This action focuses on improving data collection as part of the development of a Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) plan.	High	2025	DEECA via IWM Forums.	• Completion of audit of Council owned WSUD assets. • Definition or confirmation of targets for reduction on current drinking water consumption; alternative water uses for irrigation and water quality improvements. • Development of a MERI program for Council that is clearly documented and can meet the IWM Forum MERI Plan requirements.	Investigate opportunities where Traditional Custodians have influence over the planning and design of WSUD infrastructure, noting that this provides a greater opportunity for aligned maintenance by Traditional Custodians for assets designed by Traditional Custodians.

*Please note that Melbourne Water and other agencies are potential strategic or delivery partners for the actions, and external grant funding needs to be sought at the time

*Please refer to Appendix 1 for further information on the actions

Appendix 1. Action Status of Brimbank Sustainable Water Management Strategy 2013-2023

Actions	Status	Comments
Innovate to reduce drinking water use for irrigation	Achieved and ongoing	Improved irrigation management systems have reduced drinking water use. Additional reductions have come from increased water storage on sites, a grass conversion program, and appropriate use of synthetic sport surfaces.
Reduce drinking water usage in Council buildings	Partially achieved	Council has successfully installed efficient fittings and rainwater tanks on a number of Council facilities for use in building operations. Further work is required to update all Council building including leasing and licensing provisions.
Maximise use of captured rainwater for toilet flushing and council maintenance activities (streets sweeping, drain cleaning and street tree irrigation)		
Support community uptake of water efficient products and behaviours	Progressed through other government programs or plans	These actions have progressed via regional programs and plans such as Target 155 and Make Every Drop Count. Greater Western Water and Melbourne Water provides up-to-date information on water consumption and storage levels.
Promote business uptake of water efficient products and behaviours		
Publicise community water consumption data		
Continue to work with key partners and authorities	Achieved and ongoing	These actions are now business as usual. Council works with partner organizations such as Melbourne Water, Greater Western Water and the State Government in all water management planning activities.
Source funding and grants		
Construct and ensure good performance of the large-scale alternative water systems in Balmoral, Delahey, Dempster and other priority sites.	Partially achieved	Multiple stormwater harvesting systems have been developed successfully. An improved monitoring and maintenance program is required to review the performance of the systems over time and ensure ongoing functionality.
Investigate the concept of sewer mining and small scale membrane based water recycling systems	Progressed through other government programs or plans	Melbourne Water, Greater Western Water and DEECA invest in alternative water research initiatives to increase knowledge and social acceptance.
Promote greater use of greywater recycling on site and investigate incentives and measures to overcome barriers to uptake		
Investigate opportunities to share alternative water sources by practice case studies and approach potential partner organisations		

Support clubs to be water wise	Achieved and ongoing	Council has installed recycled water systems in different reserves and provided information to upgrade sport facilities.
Utilise capability in water demand forecasting and climate change to support the prioritization and placements of water assets		Feasibility studies, business cases and designs of projects consider water and climate change data. Future projects will be better supported through a MERI framework.
Facilitate IWM working group		Staff from Environment, Engineering, Urban Design, Asset Management, and Parks attend bimonthly IWM internal working group meetings.
Map Municipal water oases	Completed	Dempster Park, Delahey Reserve; Keilor Downs Activity Centre and St Albans Leisure Centre were identified as key water oases across the municipality.
Showcase completed WSUD projects	Achieved and ongoing	Council teams have shared knowledge gained from working on WSUD projects with industry, academia and the community.
Prepare Council's systems and processes for land use planning WSUD requirements for all new development		Planning approval processes were established to ensure all development plans meet policy requirements. Guidance for developers are currently being updated.
Provide community education		Council regularly hosts events in riparian reserves to engage community on their local environment. These events included the World Environment Day which is held every year in early June, and community events where people can learn about riparian ecosystems.
Implement WSUD as infiltration and water quality treatment as standard practice for capital works planning and design		Capital works projects related to open space, streetscape and hard surface areas now incorporate WSUD elements. For instance, Sunvale Community Park incorporates a stormwater treatment system with underground water storage used for irrigation.
Prevent point source pollution in priority sub-catchments at Cumberland/Sunshine, Kayes, Burgess St and Anderson Rd diversion Drains	Partially achieved	A WSUD prioritisation framework was developed with specific concept designs to prevent point source pollution at a number of sites. Further work is still required at Cumberland/Sunshine, Kayes, Burgess St and Anderson Rd on diversion drains.
Roads and car park projects to include WSUD	Achieved and ongoing	Various roads and car park projects have included WSUD. Examples include the road rehabilitation at George Street, which incorporated passive irrigation to street trees, and the swale in Simmie Street that contained stormwater capture and treatment from a car park for irrigation of future open space. In Dawson St and Keilor Village, raingardens were established to capture car park runoff and passive irrigation of tree pits was constructed along Old Calder Highway.
Remove weeds from open storm water and water courses	Partially achieved	Staff from Council, Melbourne Water, and community organisations work on weed removal in water assets. Further works and resources are needed to remove and control aquatic weeds from

		open storm water and watercourses. Future projects involving management of assets will be better supported through a MERI framework.
Assist waterway rehabilitation and revegetation efforts with collaborative agencies and community organisations in important sites including Stoney Creek	Achieved and ongoing	Council is part of the intergovernmental working group established to provide advice and inputs regarding Stony Creek. A series of revegetation efforts have been implemented with community organisations and Melbourne Water. Community planting events were undertaken in Taylors Creek, co-hosted with Friends of Maribyrnong Valley. These events focused on weed control and stream revegetation.
Undertake Water Sensitive Cities Index benchmarking	Partially achieved	Council did not undertake the Water Sensitive Cities Index. However; Melbourne Water developed a Brimbank Integrated Water Management Transition Assessment in 2022. This assessment includes indicators from the Water Sensitive Index benchmarking.
Continue to refine WSUD prioritisation planning and designs	Achieved and ongoing	WSUD is considered in open space, facilities redevelopments and roads projects. A WSUD Audit was developed in 2019 to ensure the assets were performing as per design intent. The WSUD audit reviewed all the wetlands in the Council area and provided maintenance recommendations. It also identified the need to remove large volumes of sediment and control erosion in 21 sediment basins. Works are scheduled for the coming years to rectify those sites and an updated audit was completed in February 2025.
Review and strengthen enforcement of sediment control and erosion protection		
Review Council's approach to maintaining 35 wetlands across 14 sites	Completed	
Integrate climate adaptation and liveability in the IWM governance systems and processes to ensure that are part of all decision making processes	Partially achieved	Progress was made in IWM governance through Council's bimonthly working group however further work is required to more formally integrate climate adaptation and liveability measures in decision making process.
Maintain strong data management and monitoring		Data management and monitoring remains a gap in Council's water management program. The WSUD audit conducted in 2019 provided relevant data about the water assets. An update of the audit was completed in February 2025, however, it is necessary to establish a formal monitoring program that identifies trends and measures progress toward expected outcomes.
Complete a final review of the Brimbank Sustainable Water Management Strategy and development of a new version	Completed	The review was finalised in February 2025
Continue the GPT (Gross Pollutant Traps) program and align with the WSUD prioritization findings		The design of WSUD projects takes into account gross pollutant traps (GPTs). Nevertheless, the traps are expensive, and as such, Council only installs GPTs in higher priority sites.
Investigate tree health in the Maribyrnong catchment		An investigation was undertaken to understand stresses and conditions impacting the health of the River Red Gum population, and possible ecological and hydrological interventions. Outputs from this investigation informed design and response

		measures for other catchments.
Implement Flood Management Plan 2017		The engineering team worked with Melbourne Water staff in the review and update of the flood management plan incorporating new flood data relevant for water projects.

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