



Case study 3

Greening the Pipeline

Melbourne Water

This case study showcases

water businesses delivering more than just water and sewerage provision

how collaboration and integrated planning deliver better value for communities

Problem

The Main Outfall Sewer (MOS) is a 27km disused sewer running through between the suburbs of Spotswood and Werribee, in Melbourne's west. It was built in the 1890s, an engineering feat at the time, and was then decommissioned in 1993 but remains heritage listed to this day. A combination of open concrete lined channels and covered brick lined concrete, it is costly to maintain and in poor condition for most of its length. In 2005, ownership of the surrounding reserve was transferred from Melbourne Water to VicRoads, who built the Federation Trail bicycle path along the length. Despite this, in its current state the MOS provides little community benefit, poses a potential safety hazard, acts as a physical barrier between communities and lacks any amenity benefits. The MOS runs through an area which is one of highest residential growth areas in Australia, has few existing green spaces and suffers from significant heat stress.

Solution

The Greening the Pipeline initiative aims to transform MOS pipeline reserve into a multi-use, natural and vibrant space that will connect communities and provide a

unique place for neighbours to meet, play and relax. This project is being undertaken in a partnership between Melbourne Water, Wyndham City Council, City West Water and VicRoads. Green shady spaces will support the Federation Trail bicycle path and local community needs, as well as counteract heat stress in the area. To showcase the potential of the reserve as a green linear parkland, a pilot project has been initiated by Melbourne Water in Williams Landing, part funded by a State Government grant supporting demonstration sites for integrated water management. The Williams Landing pilot captures and reuses local stormwater to irrigate grass, shrubs and trees in a new community parkland built along the reserve. Community consultation has revealed strong support for the project and final designs for the pilot are complete, with construction due for completion in early 2017.

Business case

This project relies on external funding, which may come in the form of government grants or community funding. High Line in New York is a similar example, which relied on a mix of public grants and private donations for construction, and where the Friends of the High Line continues to raise approximately 98% of the annual budget to maintain and operate the park. Given the GTP project runs over 27km, key zones are being

prioritised and works will be staged as funding is secured.

Key drivers

A strong vision, collaboration with key stakeholders and community engagement are all key to the success of the project.

The vision for the GTP project was initially driven by Melbourne Water, and it has been an important journey to translate this into a joint vision which is accepted and driven by the community and key stakeholders.

Rigorous governance frameworks were set up by Melbourne Water to facilitate the GTP project and coordination between stakeholders

Given the reliance on external funding, Melbourne Water identified the need for strong community buy in to advocate for the project. As such, there has been focus on a marketing campaign and the pilot site, which has been used successfully to inspire a vision for the project within the community.

Benefit/outcome

Improved amenity for the local community

Physical and mental wellbeing benefits, particularly the promotion of active transport.

Enable connectivity within and between communities

Reduce urban heat stress in the area.

Engage local community