

Community bulletin

Little Yarra River Vegetation Management Project

July 2018

Background

As stated in the Water Act (1989) Melbourne Water are responsible for maintaining and improving waterway health across the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment. Under the Healthy Waterway Strategy, the guiding document for waterway management the Little Yarra River has been identified as a high priority for protection and restoration due to its unique values.

In April 2017 Melbourne Water staff and contractors undertook a detailed survey of the Little Yarra River between Tarrango road in Gladysdale and Warburton Highway in Yarra Junction. During the assessment the condition of the streamside vegetation including the type and cover of weed species was assessed as well as surrounding land use and fencing.

Using the data collected a 3 year river health improvement project has been developed and is now ready for implementation.

Description of works

Melbourne Water is working in partnership, DELWP, Parks Victoria and local residents to deliver a river health improvement project over an eight kilometre section of the Little Yarra River.

A range of activities will be undertaken as part of the project including the removal of environmental weed species such as blackberry and willows, land survey and minor revegetation. Works crews will access the crown land from road crossings, the Melbourne Water pipe reserve or through willing landowners properties. All works will be done in accordance with ministerial directions and local management plans.

These works will reduce the cover of weeds which will allow natural regeneration of indigenous plant species, thus improving the streamside vegetation as well as reducing impacts on surrounding agricultural land. Works will be conducted by skilled and experienced environmental operators using a range of effective techniques including brush cutting, cutting- and-painting, and herbicide application. In areas with large willow infestations, these trees will be killed in-situ, felled and stockpiled using excavators. The piles will be either chipped and taken off site or later burned when seasonal conditions are safe to do so.

Timing of works

Works are to commence in late 2018 (depending on seasonal conditions) and be completed mid 2022, starting from Tarrango Road in Gladysdale, progressively working downstream.

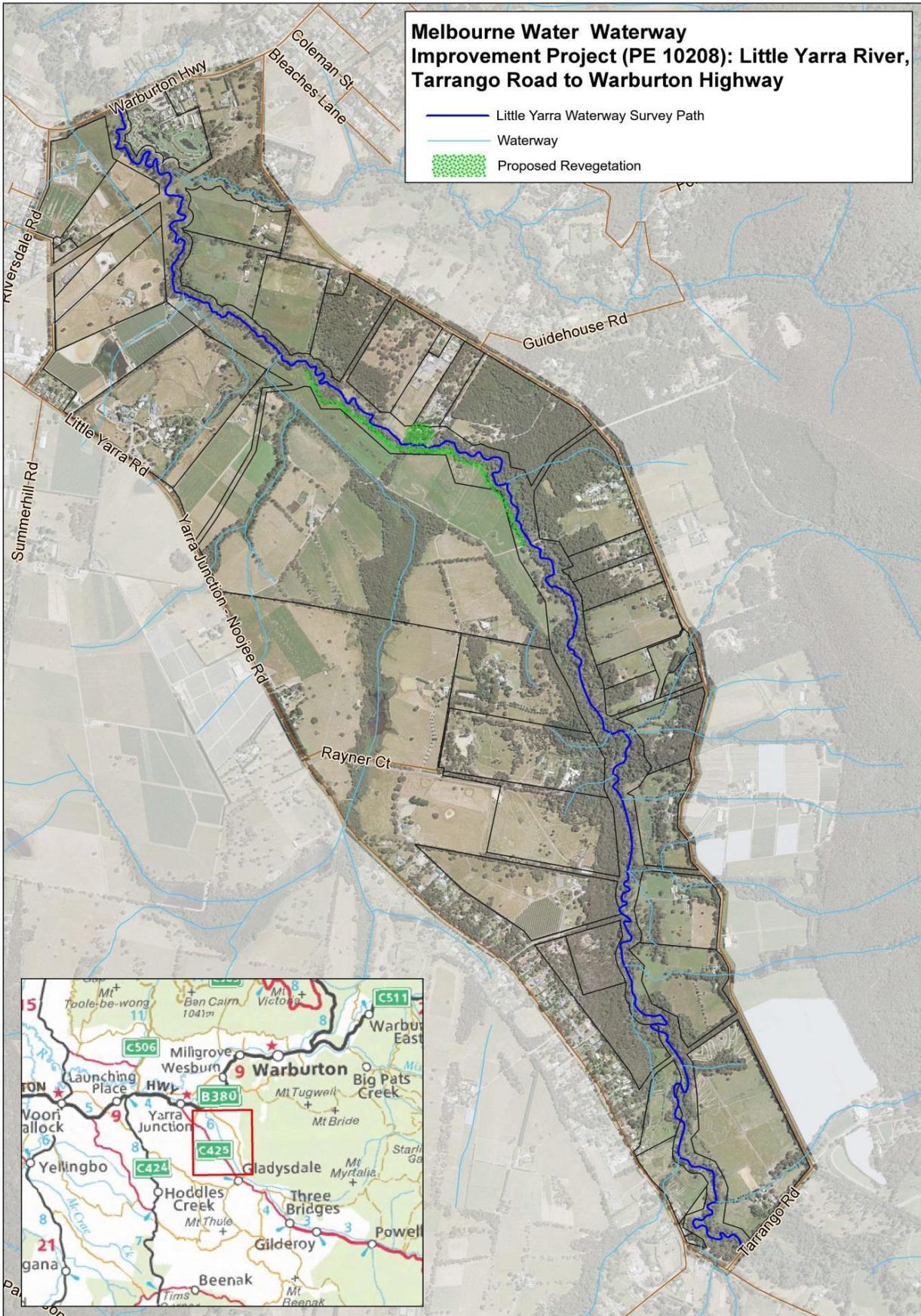
The works will be carried out between 7.30am and 4pm, Monday- Friday in accordance with EPA guidelines.

Impact of works

During the works you may notice crews working along the Little Yarra River but interruption to adjacent landowners will be kept to a minimum. Site signage will be set-up to inform the public about the works.

We will make every effort to minimise the impact of these essential works on the local community and the environment, and thank you for your patience.

Locations of works



Getting involved

Melbourne Water Stream Frontage Management Program

In recognising that adjoining landowners play an important role in protecting the natural values of our waterways; DELWP, Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water are also inviting adjoining landowners to participate in the management of the Little Yarra River by joining the Melbourne Water Stream Frontage Management Program (SFMP). For adjoining landowners who wish to be involved in conservation and restoration activities, this program provides financial incentives and expert advice to undertake weed control, revegetation and fencing along the Little Yarra River adjoining your freehold land. Please see the Melbourne Water website for details

How are these works funded?

These works are funded by the Waterways and Drainage Charge collected through Melburnians' water bills. We work to deliver river health projects efficiently and responsibly.