

# Western Treatment Plant Biodiversity Conservation Advisory Committee Charter

## BACKGROUND

*Name of Committee:* Western Treatment Plant Biodiversity Conservation Advisory Committee (replacing “Western Treatment Plant Wildlife Consultative Committee”).

*Formed:* Voluntarily by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works in 1986 as a community committee.

## ROLE

The Western Treatment Plant Biodiversity Conservation Advisory Committee provides specialist advice to Melbourne Water on the conservation and management of the Western Treatment Plant’s native biodiversity values.

While Melbourne Water is committed to giving the Committee’s advice full consideration it will not always be possible to implement all of the Committee’s recommendations due to operational or other factors.

## FUNCTIONS

Specific objectives of the Committee are to:

- ◆ Monitor and review progress with implementation of the current Ramsar & Conservation Management Plan 2002, and to recommend amendments to this plan as necessary.
- ◆ Assist in the preparation of future biodiversity conservation management plans for the Western Treatment Plant.
- ◆ Provide advice to Melbourne Water in regards to the protection and enhancement of native biodiversity at the Western Treatment Plant, and the plant’s overall environmental sustainability.
- ◆ Promote and encourage scientific studies at the Western Treatment Plant, particularly those which will enhance future management of the site’s biodiversity values.
- ◆ Advise on and assist in the dissemination of information about the environmental values of the Western Treatment Plant, particularly relating to the site’s Ramsar status.
- ◆ Advise on appropriate membership on the Western Treatment Plant Biodiversity Conservation Advisory Committee to ensure that a balanced range of skills is represented.
- ◆ To enable the various governing bodies who manage the site to come together and jointly discuss the management of biodiversity on site.

- ◆ To advise or inform about land use changes at Western Treatment Plant including the sale of land with regard to the impact on or benefits to biodiversity conservation values.
- ◆ Identify other sources of funding for work relating to biodiversity conservation at the Western Treatment Plant.

## STRUCTURE

The membership of the Committee will aim to comprise representatives of the following organisations and seek to include expertise from:

### Site and Adjacent Land Managers

- ◆ Melbourne Water  
(3 representatives: from Western Treatment Plant Operations, Werribee Agriculture Group and Waterway Management; and including the Committee Secretary)
- ◆ Wyndham City Council
- ◆ Parks Victoria

### Other Government Agencies

- ◆ Department of Sustainability and Environment
- ◆ Environment Protection Authority Victoria
- ◆ Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (corresponding member)

### Technical and Expert Advisors, such as:

- ◆ A recognized botanist
- ◆ A recognised ornithologist
- ◆ A recognized mammalogist/ herpetologist
- ◆ A recognized marine biologist

### 'End user' Groups

- ◆ Orange-bellied Parrot Recovery Team
- ◆ Bird Observation and Conservation Australia
- ◆ Birds Australia/ Australasian Wader Studies Group
- ◆ Victorian Wader Studies Group
- ◆ Field Naturalists Club of Victoria

In addition, the Committee may also have observers.

## **APPOINTMENT**

- ◆ Organisations represented on the Committee have the right to nominate their representative.
- ◆ Committee members will then be appointed by the Managing Director, Melbourne Water, for a term of two years.
- ◆ Membership of both organisations and their representatives will be reviewed at the end of each two-year period.
- ◆ Members will not be remunerated financially for their services to the Committee but Melbourne Water will reimburse members for any out of pocket expenses related to the Committee's activities.

## **COMMITTEE PROCEDURES**

- ◆ Committee meetings will be held every three months: in February, May, August and November each year, or such other times as the Committee agrees.
- ◆ Meetings will usually be held on the first Tuesday of the month, at 6 p.m.
- ◆ Meetings will usually be held in the conference room of the Discovery Centre, New Farm Road.
- ◆ The Committee chair will be elected by a consensus of Committee members at the first meeting of each year.
- ◆ Melbourne Water will provide secretarial and other support for the conduct of the Committee's business and will produce the minutes of meetings.
- ◆ Any Committee member may submit items for the agenda, which is to be circulated at least one week in advance of each meeting.
- ◆ Decisions will be made by consensus whenever possible. If consensus cannot be reached then decisions supported by at least two-thirds of the Committee will be submitted to Melbourne Water as recommendations.
- ◆ The Committee's advice is to be considered by Melbourne Water, and feedback provided to the Committee on how their advice influenced Melbourne Water's actions.
- ◆ Committee members are asked to take part in an annual review of the Committee's charter and its effectiveness in meeting its objectives. Melbourne Water will conduct this review.