

WESTERN MELBOURNE CATCHMENTS NETWORK

STATEMENT OF PURPOSES

The core purpose of the Western Melbourne Catchments Network (WMCN) is to achieve the environmental vision for the Wider Werribee Catchment, which is:

The Werribee Catchment's natural places are well looked after. People treasure their peacefulness and natural heritage.

- The waterways, grasslands, forests, wetlands, coasts and other natural places in the wider Werribee Catchment are well looked after and securely protected.
- People treasure these places for their peacefulness and natural heritage, visiting them often and participating in their management.
- The natural places are linked together with carefully designed corridors of local native vegetation following the waterways as well as crossing the hills and plains.
- Farmland and urban areas are designed and managed sustainably and with sensitivity to the natural places.
- The catchment is a healthy, attractive and prosperous place to live, work and visit.

The geographic scope of the association is:

The area as recommended in the Strategic Management Plan in the map on Page 6.

Western Melbourne Catchments Network's vision for itself is:

Western Melbourne Catchments Network is a not-for-profit association for individuals, groups and agencies that share an environmental vision for the Wider Werribee Catchment. WMCN:

- unites, strengthens and resources people, groups and agencies,
- advocates for the protection, management and enhancement of natural heritage,
- gathers resources for the implementation of the vision across the catchment.

WMCN is well resourced, well-researched, well-connected and speaks fearlessly to promote the shared vision of its members.

Western Melbourne Catchments Network acknowledges that the Wider Werribee Catchment's waterways flow through the cultural landscape of the Wathaurong and Wurundjeri people and that recognition, reconciliation and engagement with Aboriginal people is necessary to achieve its purpose.

In order to achieve its core purpose, Western Melbourne Catchments Network:

1. provides a forum for member individuals and organisations;
2. advocates for policy, development and resource allocation decisions that help achieve the vision for the catchment;

3. liaises with, consults, co-ordinates, informs, resources, and advises individuals, organisations and agencies in the catchment;
4. seeks the consolidation and expansion of public open space along natural corridors and in other areas of natural significance;
5. works with private and public land owners to improve environmental values on their land
6. participates in strategic and statutory planning and development assessment processes;
7. undertakes conservation planning;
8. raises funds for helping to achieve the vision;
9. supports members and member groups with project management, especially fundraising and acquittal;
10. facilitates group building and skills development within community groups;
11. informs and educates the community about natural heritage values;
12. researches, develops and maintains relevant skills and expertise;
13. engages the community in achieving the vision; and
14. hosts and support relevant Coast and RiverKeepers.