



MEDIA RELEASE

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Secure the future of water and become a Water Steward for Watson Creek

The Western Port Biosphere is inviting managers of horticultural farms, plant nurseries, chicken and livestock farms, schools and other landholders along Watson Creek and within its catchment to be at the forefront of Water Stewardship. Water Stewardship is a form of catchment and water management which is applied at a site or catchment scale, and is externally accredited.

The benefits of being a Water Steward include:

- cost savings through more efficient water and fertilizer management
- a more secure water future
- recognition of good practice through a documented Water Stewardship Plan
- accreditation as a Water Steward; and
- the potential for funding for on-site works.

Lance Lloyd, the Western Port Biosphere's Water Stewardship Project Officer will work with landholders to develop a Site Water Stewardship Plan. This assistance includes specialist training from Water Stewardship Australia.

The Watson Creek Water Stewardship Project uses the AWS International Water Stewardship Standard as a tool for businesses and land managers that use water to address the shared and site-specific challenges of the catchment. The Watson Creek Catchment is the initial focus for developing Site Water Stewardship Plans with landholders, organisations and businesses (eventually we will be offering opportunities across the Biosphere area).

A Reference Panel supporting the project includes representatives from the Western Port Biosphere Reserve, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority, Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water, South East Water, Inghams Enterprises, and Water Stewardship Australia.

The Western Port Biosphere stretches from the Mornington Peninsula across the council areas of Frankston City Council, the City of Casey, Cardinia Shire to Bass Coast; as well as French Island. Our role, at the Western Port Biosphere, is to foster conservation and sustainable development by facilitating partnerships to create an environmentally, economically and socially sustainable future for Western Port.

For information about becoming a Water Steward contact:

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