



Building a Water Stewardship Community in the Cardinia Creek Catchment

Western Port Biosphere Water Stewardship Project

“Good water management is good business.”

The Western Port Biosphere is leading the implementation of the Water Stewardship Project which aims to build collaboration between major water users, the community, water agencies, local government and other stakeholders. The International Water Stewardship Standard provides a framework to protect and enhance significant water-related assets in the Biosphere Reserve including Ramsar wetlands.

Water Stewardship is a form of water management that is easily developed and implemented, builds on existing works and planning, and can be externally accredited.

A site water stewardship plan provides a framework for water management actions on your site. Simply put, a site water stewardship plan examines the water coming onto your property, what happens to the water on your property, and the quality and volume of water leaving your property, as well as the areas downstream relying upon this water.

For more information visit www.biosphere.org.au/biosphere-projects/water-stewardship.

Why Cardinia Creek Catchment?

Cardinia Creek is an important catchment within Western Port due to its high environmental value, including the support of internationally recognised wetland habitats and animals.

The creek is an important source of water and productivity into the Western Port Ramsar wetland at the North Western Port Nature Conservation Reserve.



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The Ramsar site is home to internationally significant mangrove communities (Ramsar listed), migratory bird populations, some of Victoria’s most extensive saltmarsh habitats and highly significant seagrass and mudflat communities. As a signatory to the Ramsar Convention of 1972, Australia has an international obligation to preserve and protect these areas.

The creek and catchment, especially to the south of the Princes Highway, have been significantly affected by urban and agricultural development. Increased urban and light industrial development has led to an increase in threats to stormwater quality and runoff into the creek. Further threats arise from septic tanks, sewerage, unsealed roads and rural activities. Our collective work on water stewardship can help improve these conditions, benefiting the ecosystems within the catchment and within Western Port Bay.



Cardinia Creek Catchment Area

Cardinia Creek is a fresh water creek which flows from Cardinia Reservoir into Western Port Bay. It forms the boundary between the City of Casey and the Shire of Cardinia. There are a large number of indigenous heritage sites along the length of the creek.

North of the Princes Highway, Cardinia Creek is in its natural form with the presence of remnant riparian vegetation which provides important in-stream habitats for native fish and macroinvertebrates. South of the Princes Highway, the creek runs through predominantly rural areas before discharging into Western Port Bay.

Many of the waterways in the catchment to the south of Princes Highway, including Cardinia Creek, have been highly modified with vegetation clearance and stream alignment. The tributaries to the east of Cardinia Creek around Berwick and Narre Warren are largely urbanised and the creeks receive large amounts of stormwater from these rapidly expanding developments.



How can you be involved in the Water Stewardship Program?

Landholders, businesses and organisations are invited to be at the forefront of this exciting initiative by becoming a water steward and developing a Site Water Stewardship Plan.

More information

Visit our website: www.biosphere.org.au/biosphere-projects/water-stewardship

Or contact Lance Lloyd,
Water Stewardship Project Officer
Phone: 03 5979 2167/0412 007 997
Email lancel@biosphere.org.au