

# Community Infrastructure, Accessibility and Sustainability Program: Patterson River

The Snapper are biting, spring winds have eased and a hint of holiday cheer fills the trails. This is the season Patterson River comes to life, as visitors from across Melbourne come to enjoy the river scenery and boat launching facilities.

While locals will have watched on as works unfold, visitors to the river will find improved access points, re-surfaced trails and fresh facilities. Unseen work includes significant progress on the Patterson River Masterplan, future community facility designs and environmental initiatives.

## MASTERPLAN PROGRESS

The Patterson River Masterplan has progressed with the shared input of multiple relevant land managers and key user groups. Building on the work previously prepared by BIAV, DELWP (now DEECA) and the NWSC User Group, DEECA have consolidated plans into a shared vision for the river's upper and lower precincts.

While DEECA intended to have the Masterplan available to public by mid-2023, the ongoing complexity of the river's public land boundaries has delayed the appointment of a future land manager. DEECA will therefore continue to develop the masterplan in consultation with stakeholders until a land management direction is set.

## Cross-agency masterplan themes

Four themes have emerged as central aspects of Patterson River's success as an open space destination that can accommodate vastly fluctuating visitation numbers, driven by seasonally dependent recreational activities.



### Active water for all

A safe and diverse waterway that provides premier boating facilities for a variety of user groups, commercial and individual pursuits.



### A unique river destination

Open spaces and facilities that cater to the community and visitors growing needs, whilst developing the river as a unique destination.



### Networked open space

A network of safe, accessible paths connecting pedestrians and cyclists to local neighborhoods and facilities on either side of the river.



### Healthy Biodiversity

Ecologically rich landscapes that support rich biodiversity, provide climate resilience, and connect wildlife corridors.



## DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LOWER PRECINCT

Patterson River's Lower Precinct, defined between Station Street and Wells Road bridges, has seen significant trail and accessibility improvements as part of the \$3.5m State Government commitment.

### New rock retaining wall

A new rock retaining wall near the river mouth now prevents ongoing erosion that was causing persistent potholes along the southern trail linking to Carrum foreshore. Large rocks and a fine mesh will protect the trail material from being drawn into the river at high tide or washed away with runoff.

### Trail access ramps

Three of the steepest street access ramps connecting to the river trail have been replaced with sweeping concrete paths, now better suited for people with limited mobility, prams and

cyclists. Westley Street, Riversdale Street and True Avenue are now safer primary access points connecting the river trail with residential and community areas, offering alternative entrance points from the highly trafficked Launching Way Road and carparks.

### Renewed picnic facilities

In time for a summer snag, a new double hot plate electric BBQ has been installed at the riverside picnic area, alongside the re-painted picnic shelter.

### Additional work during 2024

Still on the way, the project will deliver a widened trail section between tidal gates, resurfacing of the 6km loop, a more accessible underpass connection on the southern side of Wells Road bridge and a broadscale furniture upgrade. Paddle craft access will also be improved downstream of the emergency pontoon.



## DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UPPER PRECINCT

The National Water Sport Centre located upstream of Wells Road bridge in the City of Dandenong offers a unique stretch of flat, fresh water supporting a range of recreational watersports and on-water competitions. The committed \$3m has delivered key functionality and quality improvements for this growing event space.

### Water course improvements

The useability of the National Water Sport Centre relies on suitable water quality and sufficient depth. Behind the scenes work of the project include extensive hydrographical survey and sediment sampling to determine the current depths and future options for deepening or extending the water course.

Feasibility studies and costings are now captured within the masterplan and available to support future business cases to

either dredge, excavate or extend the water way, dependent on user requirements and flood mitigation strategies.

### New community facility

Architectural designs for a community water sport centre have been finalised, incorporating the multiple existing temporary buildings and finish tower into a single modern facility. These designs, driven by user group representatives, will maximise the potential for the National Water Sport Centre to host large scale events, community functions and support growing memberships.

### Entrance road and parking improvements

A new automated entrance gate has been placed at a revised location to allow safe queuing of entering vehicles, minimising congestion overflow onto River End Road. The automated system will allow clubs greater



autonomy of access to their facilities, while also limiting potential for vandalism during unattended hours.

Old and uninviting fencing has been replaced with more functional black chain link fencing that lifts the open space appeal while still allowing appropriate security during restricted times or ticketed events.

Seasonal closure of the grassed overflow carpark will now be possible with additional carpark separation and lockable gates. This will protect grassed areas from vehicle traffic in wet months and reduce overall maintenance of the unsealed areas.

### New public carparking

A public carpark has been established at the entrance to support ongoing visitation by walkers and fishermen at all hours.

### Powered vessel berthing

During 2024, new powered vessel pontoons will be installed to support multi-boat events and shows. To date, designs have been developed in consultation with user groups and a successful tenderer has been chosen to construct the new berthing areas, including new pontoons, finger jetties, and an upgraded mid-course ramp.

## PROJECT INFORMATION

For further information contact [patterson.river@deeca.vic.gov.au](mailto:patterson.river@deeca.vic.gov.au)



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