

# Greening the West – A Regional & Collaborative Approach to Urban Greening



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## Our vision

*to enable sustainable, liveable,  
healthy communities through  
urban greening*



# Background

- GTW is a partnership of stakeholders
- Aims to increase the quality and quantity urban green space to deliver positive health and social outcomes for communities in the western suburbs of Melbourne
- CWW is the facilitator
  - Water is the enabler - access to reliable water sources
  - Service area covers the western suburbs
  - Links with government



# Who are we?



# Why focus on the west?

## Melbourne's west

- Drier & often warmer than the east
- Particularly high risk demographics for heat waves:
  - very young, elderly as well as a high incidence of disability and other complicating factors
- Brimbank, Hobson Bay, Melton and Wyndham exceed state average for inactivity
- Melton has the highest level of type 2 diabetes in Victoria
- Melton, Brimbank and Maribyrnong are reported to have high psychological distress, above the Victorian average.
- By 2021 Melbourne's west is expected to accommodate an extra 250,000 residents, becoming home to over 1 million people
  - Most growth is projected in Wyndham and Melton



# GTW Strategy - goals and targets

Goals	Targets
1. Maximise urban greening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Double tree canopy cover in the west by 2050</li> <li>• Green space to be increased by 25% by 2030</li> </ul>
2. Improve quality and functionality of green space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure quality and well-designed green open space for all communities</li> </ul>
3. Increase the use and interaction of residents in green space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All residents to have access to quality green space within 400 – 500 metres from their home</li> <li>• Enhance the range of facilities to maximise use and participation</li> <li>• Increase tree canopy cover to improve connectivity between open spaces and create urban habitat corridors</li> </ul>
4. Improve the health and social wellbeing of residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the health indicators of the west</li> </ul>
5. Showcase the economic and intrinsic value of urban green space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a business case for each green space project</li> </ul>
6. Improve environmental quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create benchmark standards for stormwater quality, air quality, natural habitats and heat stress</li> </ul>
7. Advocate green spaces to all levels of government and key stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annually showcase five Greening the West projects</li> <li>• Increase engagement and investment from stakeholders and government bodies</li> <li>• Lobby all levels of government and stakeholders to maximise greening outcomes</li> <li>• Each council to establish a tree protection overlay</li> </ul>
8. Maximise sustainable water supplies to establish and maintain green space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify opportunities for alternative irrigation of green space</li> <li>• 25% increase in supply of alternative water for green space by 2030</li> </ul>

# Research

- GTW has supported a number of research projects
- Limited time and funding means effort is spend on:
  - Understanding baseline data to deliver Strategy targets
  - Focus on establishing pilot projects & measuring project outcomes

## **Recent supported research includes:**

- Monash University CRC Study - Understanding the spatial relationship between vegetation, built area and land surface temperature in the GTW region
  - Calculated a vegetation index (photosynthetic activity and ground cover) of 0.34 compared to 0.46 in the east (0.5 is healthy)
- Monash University Study - Impact of park irrigation influencing local and downwind temperatures
  - Footscray Primary School



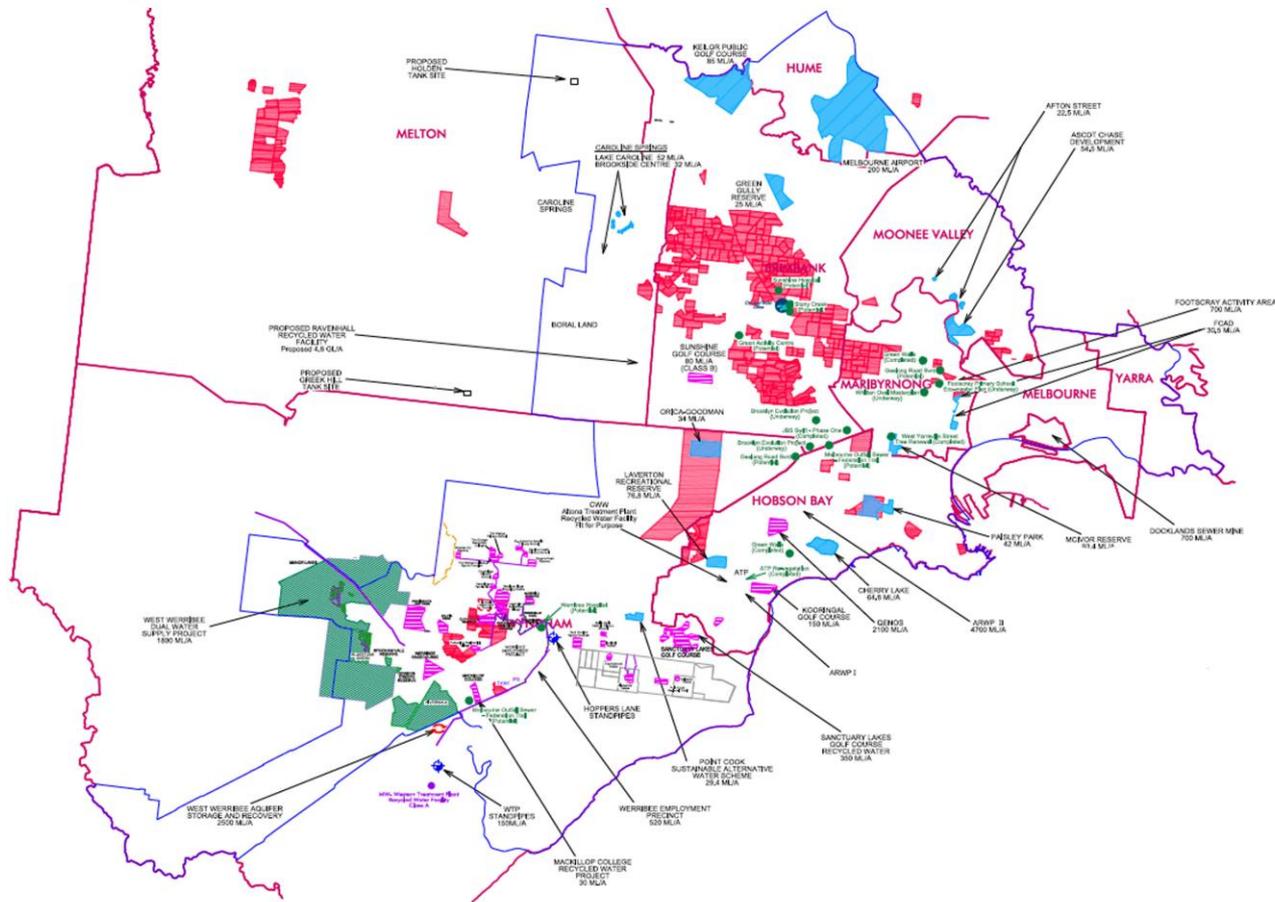
# Pilot Projects

GTW has a number of pilot projects at various levels of development.

Examples-

- School greenwalls program (complete)
- Naturalisation of Stony Creek – including microclimate monitoring (Design)
- Ardeer Green Activity Centre (concept)
- Melbourne Outfall Sewer - Federation Trail (concept)
- Geelong Road Boulevard (concept)

# GTW platform identifies water sites



- IRSD score 347 - 889
- IRSD score 890 - 950
- GTW project sites
- Stormwater business case approved projects
- Approved recycled water projects
- Completed recycled water projects



# Concluding Remarks

- Vegetation as a preventative health strategy
- Providing alternative water to green spaces
  - Not just the enough water – we want to maximise canopy cover & quality green space
- Connect communities using shaded corridors

Thank you

[greeningthewest.org.au](http://greeningthewest.org.au)

