



the present

The Dandenong Creek catchment extends from the Dandenong Ranges National Park near Kilsyth, sweeps south to include the rapidly growing industrial and urban areas surrounding Greater Dandenong and Casey, before flowing south-west to link with Port Phillip Bay near Frankston.

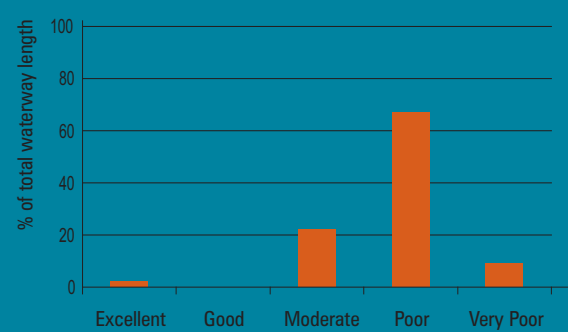
In all, it covers 855 square kilometres of Melbourne's south-east region. Scattered throughout the catchment are a series of regional, state, national and internationally significant natural features including foothill forest, large parks, tree-lined roadsides, bush blocks, meandering creeks, reedy wetlands, and coastal foreshore.

The region's economic profile encompasses the manufacturing hub of Greater Dandenong, the science and technology precinct in the City of Monash, and some of Australia's finest secondary and tertiary education institutions. It is home to almost half of Victoria's manufacturing sector, more than a quarter of Victoria's businesses and approximately one third of Melbourne's population.

Matching this commercial progress, the region is undergoing rapid residential development (45 per cent is presently classified as urban) and is home to Australia's largest road construction project, Eastlink.

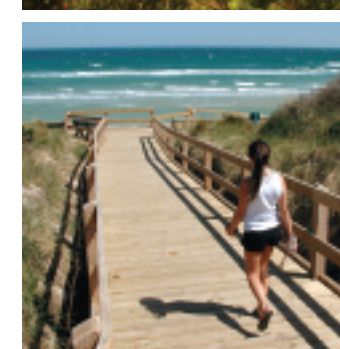
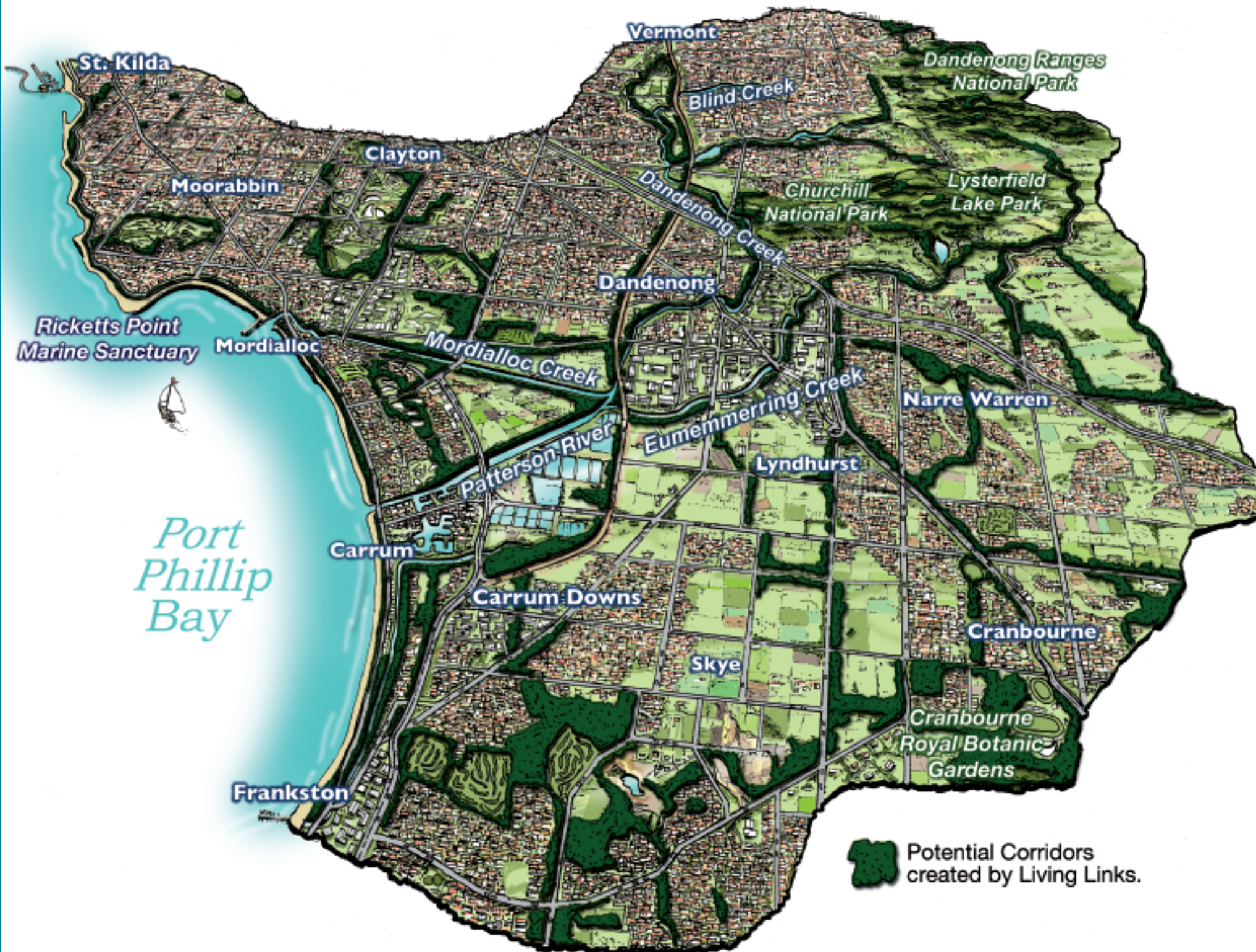
Seventy-six per cent of the catchment's 485 kilometres of rivers and creeks are in poor to very poor condition. Increased volumes of surface water run-off, stormwater pollution, vegetation removal and pest plants and animals are significantly degrading the condition of waterways.

WATERWAY CONDITION IN THE DANDENONG CATCHMENT



The many dedicated groups already working in the catchment are limited in their ability to deal with the scale of works necessary to improve the condition of the area. A coordinated approach is needed to shape future urban and natural environments so they set standards for and attract the most sustainable 21st century investments and development.

the vision



the promise

Living Links will establish an interconnected web of habitat corridors, linking existing open space, conservation reserves, recreation facilities and the many fragmented patches of native vegetation across the catchment. It will enhance the social and economic attractiveness of the region's rapidly developing commercial, industrial and new residential centres by strengthening their relationship with the natural environment.

Fortunately, many of the basic building blocks needed to help turn the vision into reality already exist. The catchment contains numerous regionally significant parks such as Jells Park, Shepherd's Bush and the Bushy Park Wetlands. These are well connected and provide a network of walking and cycling trails. The catchment is also home to other state and regionally significant natural parklands such as Braeside Park, Lysterfield Park, Churchill National Park and the Seaford-Edithvale Wetlands that are presently relatively isolated from one another.

Opportunities for the Dandenong Creek catchment through Living Links include:

- ▶ Developing the existing 'Bay to Ranges' bicycle trail into the backbone of an accessible, safe and continuous north-south vegetation and pedestrian transport corridor.
- ▶ Securing the region's economic future by creating natural environments and urban living spaces to attract 21st century investment and development.
- ▶ Enhancing land and water features to complement existing and planned open space, environmental and recreational assets.
- ▶ Improving the natural environment surrounding industrial estates.
- ▶ Promoting and assisting the local business community in the uptake of environmental offset programs such as carbon credits, native vegetation offsets and land stewardship.
- ▶ Developing closer links between community groups, all levels of government and the business and industry sectors.
- ▶ Providing new opportunities for research and education in urban ecology, recreation, ecological restoration, waterway management and coastal zone management.

the participants

Governments

Living Links will contribute to major Local, State and Commonwealth Government programs such as environmental protection, improved land management practices, waterway management, improved stormwater quality, eradication of noxious pests, job creation and regional economic development.

Local Government will be the key to achieving the Living Links vision. Located within their municipal boundaries are a diverse range of parklands, conservation reserves, waterways, multiple-use trails and golf courses. Councils may directly sponsor the program or can provide in-kind support such as fencing materials, trees, chemicals, machinery, labour and expertise.

Municipalities located in the catchment include the Cities of Greater Dandenong, Knox, Monash, Glen Eira, Kingston, Casey, Whitehorse, Port Phillip, Maroondah, Bayside, Frankston and the Shire of Yarra Ranges.

Benefits for all levels of government include:

- Environmental and community development and education.
- Increased tourism and productivity.
- Substantial new funding attracted to the region.
- Increased land values adjacent to urban parklands.

Business, industry and corporate sponsors

Business, industry and corporate sponsors will be an important source of funding for the program. Businesses and industries can directly invest in on-ground environmental improvement works, provide competitively priced professional services or in-kind support such as materials, trees, chemicals, machinery, labour, technical advice and expertise.

Benefits for business, industry and corporate sponsors include:

- Living Links will attract significant local, state, national and international attention
- Substantial interaction with the local community and local organisations will be involved.
- Participation will demonstrate commitment to improving the health of the local environment and enhancing the intrinsic and economic value of land for the local community.



Photographs courtesy Parks Victoria

Environmental organisations

Environmental organisations will play a major role in the success of Living Links. They will provide expertise, skilled labour, technical advice and links to networks of community groups and interested people.

Benefits for environmental organisations include:

- Increased community awareness and education of environmental issues and practical solutions.
- Support, networking and information sharing between environmental groups, all levels of government and business and industry.

Community groups

Community groups and schools may provide an energetic and enthusiastic workforce for tree planting days and specific projects that benefit the local community. Sporting groups, special interest groups, churches and cultural associations, commercial nurseries and others can participate by providing assistance for specific projects and by encouraging local awareness and support.

Benefits for community groups include:

- Direct involvement in local community improvements.
- Interaction and development of working partnerships with various other groups, government agencies and non-government organisations.
- Significant promotion and acknowledgment of the work of each group.

join us

Living Links will create a picturesque green oasis in the heart of Melbourne's suburban expanse, increasing its attraction as a place to invest, live, work and visit.

If your organisation would like to participate in Living Links, please contact:

PORT PHILLIP AND WESTERNPORT
CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Level 1 Landmark Corporate Centre
454 - 472 Nepean Hwy
Frankston VIC 3199

T: 03 8781 7900 F: 03 9781 0199

E: enquiries@ppwcma.vic.gov.au



Port Phillip and Westernport



CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY



a master plan for a web of
living parks, wetlands, pathways
and open spaces at the heart
of Melbourne's south-east

living links



We have a vision ... and we want to share it with you as an important link to your future...

our vision

Our vision is called 'Living Links' ... it's a master plan for a web of living parks, wetlands, pathways and open spaces. Living Links aims to establish Melbourne's south-east as a world renowned place to invest, live, work and visit.

imagine it

A picturesque web of parks, open areas, beach tracks, tree-lined roadsides, wetlands and newly restored rivers and creeks ... A serene haven where you can experience a day-long bicycle journey or enjoy a stroll with family and friends ... An urban ecosystem that will compete against the best in the world as a place to invest, work, live and visit.

Living Links seeks to:

- Establish a series of habitat corridors, linking existing open space, conservation reserves, recreation areas and fragmented patches of native vegetation.
- Improve the condition of waterways and coastal zones in the catchment.
- Improve connectivity between fragmented social and recreational assets.
- Increase community participation and investment in the catchment.