

A photograph of a river flowing through a wooded area. The water is calm and reflects the surrounding trees and sky. The banks are lined with tall grasses and various trees, some with bare branches and others with green leaves.

Winchelsea Integrated Water Management Plan

JUNE 2019

*A collaborative project between Surf Coast Shire, Barwon Water
and the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning*

About the Project

The Integrated Water Management (IWM) project aims to work with local stakeholders to:

- examine the water management challenges that Winchelsea faces into the future
- identify opportunities for implementing water-related solutions to achieve the town's broader vision
- assist the township in achieving the objectives set out in the Barwon Region Integrated Water Management Forum and the Growing Winchelsea vision.

About the Plan

The Draft Plan covers the following aspects of the urban water cycle system within the township boundaries of Winchelsea:

- Natural water aspects such as waterways, floodplains and wetlands;
- Urban landscape aspects including land use and public open space amenity and streetscapes
- Constructed water management aspects including major drainage and stormwater infrastructure (including Water Sensitive Urban Design);
- Consumptive water sources including drinking water and alternatives (rain, stormwater, recycled water)
- Sewerage services



A partnership approach

This plan has been developed by Surf Coast Shire in collaboration with Barwon Water and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. Support and key input has been provided from local stakeholders, including Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Growing Winchelsea, Hesse Rural Health, Winchelsea Land and River Care, National Trust Victoria/Barwon Park Mansion and the Winchelsea Golf Club, as well as the traditional owners the Wathaurung.

The partners recognize the need for further consultation with both the Eastern Maar and the Wathaurung in the further development of any future opportunities arising from this plan, particularly those related to the Barwon River.



Community engagement

Integrated water management is a process to discover how the water system could enhance a particular place. The broader aspirations of the community in that place are therefore the starting point for understanding how IWM can add value.

The Winchelsea community has a strong connection to its urban water cycle system, particularly given the Barwon River is one of the region's greatest natural assets. The Growing Winchelsea Strategy, developed in 2015, provides the strategic guidance for the way the town will grow into the future. This Strategy, as well as work undertaken by the Barwon Region IWM forum and targeted community stakeholder workshops have all helped to shape the draft Plan.

Focus areas

A series of workshops with local stakeholders identified a range of water related issues and challenges. From these discussions, five IWM Portfolios have been identified, consistent with the themes outlined in Growing Winchelsea Plan.

Enhancing the Barwon River

This portfolio covers all existing, planned and potential opportunities related to enhancing the Barwon River through Winchelsea. It recognises the importance of the river to the town's sustainability, prosperity and liveability and seeks to ensure a coordinated, strategic approach to improving river health, amenity and accessibility over the long term.

Possible opportunities include:

- Encouraging a whole-of-river approach to any actions, in partnership with community and stakeholders and as a catalyst to secure funding for major initiatives
- Leveraging existing pedestrian access-related initiatives to simultaneously address stormwater discharge issues at key access nodes
- Identifying all planned and potential pathway connections to complete the Barwon River Trail
- Recognising the cultural and environmental sensitivity of the corridor and enhancing the cultural, educational and interpretative value of the river

Cooler, country streetscapes

This group of opportunities addresses the key issue of hotter and drier streets across the township, a threat which is likely to be exacerbated by climate change. It involves establishing a 'cooler streetscape' trial, where a combination of measures would be installed to address the underlying causes of a warmer streetscape.

Possible opportunities include:

- Retaining grass swales and planting site-suitable canopy cover trees on the road side
- The Bennett Street Avenue of Honour will be considered as a potential trial site due to existing proposed streetscape upgrade works planned by Council to address local drainage concerns

Smart stormwater, greener golf

The Winchelsea Golf Course is a key open space asset in the town; a major user of recycled water and also uses locally captured stormwater when available.

Possible opportunities include:

- A cost-effective Water Sensitive Urban Design solution to intercept floodwater, whilst providing an opportunity to harvest and treat the water, improving security and enhancing the biodiversity and amenity of the area
- Complementary works would improve the ecological and hydrological functionality of the existing drain along Dwyer Street, with a new adjoining walking path along the creek linking the new development with the proposed Barwon River Trail

Recycled water for greener, healthy spaces

This portfolio recognises the value of water for a greener, healthier and more vibrant Winchelsea, proposing to investigate an upgrade to the recycled water scheme to service key open spaces across the township and an expansion of the existing network.

Possible opportunities include:

- Investigate the potential to upgrade the existing recycled water plant to Class B
- Expand the recycled water scheme for irrigation supply to more locations

For more information and to have your say, go to www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/yoursay/IWMP.

Submissions close **5pm, Friday 23 August.**

Greening, growing Barwon Park

This portfolio presents an innovative proposal to rejuvenate Barwon Park National Trust property through use of recycled water from the nearby treatment plant. The water would be used in the mansion's surrounds, gardens and landscaping, improving potable water security, firefighting ability and the overall visitor experience.

Possible opportunities include:

- Improving the potable water supply, and introducing recycled water from the nearby treatment plant
- New pathway links back to the township, along the river corridor and the potential Winchelsea Arboretum would help make Winchelsea a 'stay and play' destination
- A purpose-built Mansion Circuit Walk, heritage apple orchard and a retail cidery and café in the historic stables would help enhance the visitor experience and provide local employment

