

Media Release

Ms Harriet Shing MLC

Parliamentary Secretary for Creative Industries

Parliamentary Secretary for Equality

Parliamentary Secretary for Water



Tuesday, 25 January 2022

KINGS BILLABONG ONE OF VICTORIA'S FLAGSHIP WATERWAYS

The Andrews Labor Government continues to invest in the future of Victoria's nationally significant wetlands by adding Kings Billabong to its flagship waterway program.

Under the program the Government is providing \$1.35 million for Kings Billabong as part of a \$248 million investment to ensure Victoria's waterways will be enjoyed by families across the state for many more generations.

The Kings Billabong Flagship Waterway is 219 hectares of nationally significant wetlands and diverse environmental landscapes adjacent to the Murray River.

The master plan will reflect the Mallee Catchment Management Authority and local community work to identify the importance of maintaining access and amenity of Kings Billabong for the entire community.

The funding will consolidate access tracks to protect the floodplains – which are under threat from expanding unofficial track networks – improve community amenities, support local community groups and improve access for fishing, caravanning, camping, bush walking and bike riding.

Over the last four years the Mallee Catchment Management Authority has revamped the condition of these sites by delivering environmental water to six waterways, track rationalisation, improved visitor facilities like new canoe launches and fishing platforms and a Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

New projects will be planned and implemented in partnership with Traditional Owners through the Registered Aboriginal Party, First People of the Millewa-Mallee Aboriginal Corporation and broader community.

Quotes attributable to Parliamentary Secretary for Water Harriet Shing

"Kings Billabong is home to a diverse range of protected native plant and animal species and this program will ensure this unique environment remains healthy for future generations to enjoy."

"The community input has helped inform the planning for the site and ensure works focus on what the community values most."

Quote attributable to Member for Northern Victoria Mark Gepp

"Kings Billabong is a popular destination in Northern Victoria and Flagship Waterways Program will make sure we maintain the health and amenity of the river and encourage more visitors to this beautiful part of the world."