

Media Release

Ms Harriet Shing MLC

Parliamentary Secretary for Creative Industries

Parliamentary Secretary for Equality

Parliamentary Secretary for Water



Tuesday, 15 February 2022

PROTECTING SOUTH-WEST VICTORIA'S WATERWAYS

The Andrews Labor Government is improving and protecting the waterways of south-west Victoria to ensure they continue to be enjoyed for generations to come, with the rivers of Warrnambool identified as priority flagship waterways.

The Rivers of Warrnambool Flagship Project is a \$1.02 million investment in the Merri and Hopkins rivers and Brucknell Creek to protect and rehabilitate habitat both in and along their lower reaches.

The Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority will partner with Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and the Merri Alliance for the ongoing management and development of the waterways to ensure their health while supporting the communities and industries around them.

The Labor Government is also investing \$400,000 towards the Merri Connections Project to ensure local communities of south-west Victoria can connect with nature on their doorstep by providing access through formal walking paths, improved seating and launch areas for canoes, kayaks and paddle boards.

Both projects build on the extensive community and cultural connection and support for the waterways around Warrnambool.

The Labor Government is investing \$248 million to improve catchment and waterway health across regional Victoria, including the flagship waterway sites.

Quotes attributable to Parliamentary Secretary for Water Harriet Shing

"The Andrews Labor Government is strengthening investment in priority waterways to meet the growing pressures of population growth and climate change."

"Improving the health and accessibility of our waterways is essential as it allows the community to connect with nature and increases nature tourism opportunities in regional Victoria."

"We are creating a lasting benefit for the communities where waterways are the lifeblood of our cities and rural and regional towns."