

Preventing pollution in Mullum Mullum Creek – a case study

The Mullum Mullum Creek flows for 22km and is one of Maroondah's largest waterways, and a significant wildlife corridor and tributary to the Yarra River. It is one of the only watercourses in metropolitan Melbourne that is surrounded by native and regenerated bushland for almost its entire length.



Litter and pollutants that enter the creek impact on the health and quality of the water downstream to the Yarra River and Port Phillip Bay.

Litter and pollutants pose an ongoing threat to the health and water quality of the Mullum Mullum Creek. Recently a number of businesses along Maroondah Highway have taken proactive steps to manage their onsite litter and waste to prevent contaminants ending up in the Creek.

Easy actions have included ensuring that the lids on waste and recycling bins are securely closed to prevent waste from these bins escaping and blowing around the business premises. These sites have also been secured to discourage illegal dumping.

Securing fencing and placing shade cloth over cyclone fencing traps and contains small litter to the worksite where it can be swept and disposed of appropriately.

These actions have helped prevent litter blowing and washing down into Mullum Mullum Creek and becoming trapped in the branches and foliage overhanging the creek. During the event of a storm and high waters, these pieces of small litter build up and cause obstructions to the waterway.



**Keep the
Mullum Mullum Creek
clean**



Before and after slashing works behind Maroondah Highway

Businesses who contain litter onsite are positively contributing to improving the health and amenity of Mullum Mullum Creek and ultimately the Yarra River and Port Phillip Bay.

Council is keen to improve the public and environmental amenity of Mullum Mullum Creek. New bins have been installed along the creek, and excess weed growth has been removed from the bushland reserve parallel to Maroondah Highway between Glencairn Avenue and Oban Road.

Other simple actions businesses could implement to prevent litter and pollution entering Mullum Mullum Creek include:

- Ensuring waste bins are available for food and drink litter
- Regularly sweep outdoor areas and dispose of collected litter in a waste bin
- Preventing wastewater, liquids and/or solid waste entering stormwater drains
- Avoiding washing equipment, transferring chemicals, opening liquid containers and filling tanks where spillage could flow to stormwater drains
- Clearly marking the storm water entry points on your site to ensure that they are not used for waste disposal
- Controlling airborne sprays so they cannot land on an area where rain can wash them down stormwater drains
- Educating staff about the importance of good waste management practices and the immediate effect of stormwater and litter pollution on the Mullum Mullum Creek

To find out more about the *My Mullum Mullum Creek* project call Council on 1300 88 22 33 or 9298 4598, or visit www.maroondah.vic.gov.au

For more information about preventing pollution, visit www.epa.vic.gov.au