



Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc

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*To ensure the preservation, restoration, environment protection and ecologically sensitive development and maintenance of the Moonee Ponds Creek and adjoining catchment areas.*

19 May, 2022

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Hello Ute and Madeleine,

**RE: SOUTH DYNON TRAIN MAINTENANCE FACILITY UPGRADE PROJECT**

The Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek (FoMPC) firstly thank you for seeking input from our organisation regarding the South Dynon Train Facility project and for the recent Teams meeting to further outline the scope of the project area and works. We provide comments below.

Firstly, by way of background, the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek is a long-standing community organisation with interest in the whole of the Moonee Ponds Creek, from its source above Greenvale to its junction with the Yarra River. A key aim of the FoMPC is as above:

*To ensure the preservation, restoration, environment protection and ecologically sensitive development and maintenance of the Moonee Ponds Creek and adjoining catchment areas.*

To this end, the organisation actively participates in both on-ground activities the length of the Creek and in strategic and statutory matters affecting the wider Creek corridor.

Another FoMPC aim is to support the development of linear parklands along the length of the Creek; this is also relevant to South Dynon Train Facility project.

Also relevant to the South Dynon Train Facility project are the City of Melbourne's Strategic Opportunities Plan 2019 and the Westgate Tunnel Project.

Our comments relate in particular to environmental and native vegetation aspects of the South Dynon Train Facility project, and particularly for the area closer to the Creek outlined on the diagram below, between the Creek and the South Dynon Access Rd:



Google Earth

Not shown is that all buildings bar one red roofed building have been removed from the subject area or the proposed route of the WGTP viaduct (preparatory ground works underway) over the Creek.

It is understood that the South Dynon Facility project proposes to convert the subject area to a car park with a security facility at the northern end.

The FoMPC would strongly argue for increased greening abutting the site's Creekside boundary. This would be in keeping with our objective for a linear 'parklands' along the length of the Creek – linking vegetated areas/contributing to biolinks along the lower section of the Moonee Ponds Creek with:

- the existing vegetation directly abutting the subject site, along the Creek (as shown in the photograph above)
- the existing native vegetation area just below Footscray Road
- proposed WGTP revegetation plans associated with the Dynon Rd viaduct over the Creek – both sides of the Creek
- existing vegetated western bank of the Creek upstream, adjacent to AusNet terminal (revegetation plans in train following Metro Tunnel works)
- existing vegetated western bank – Kensington Embankment – upstream, above Arden St Bridge

Increased greening would certainly be in keeping with the City of Melbourne's Strategic Opportunities Plan (2019) for the subject area as shown in the excerpt below - see

## MOONEE PONDS CREEK STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES PLAN 2019

### South: Dynon Road to the Yarra

#### The Research Wetlands

Create a series of biodiverse wetlands with varying vegetation, habitat and ecologies as a site for research and education. Opportunities to research the value of carbon sequestration ecologies such as mangroves. A simple boardwalk system would allow passive public enjoyment of the landscape.



The FoMPC therefore feels that greater environmental effort should be made to meet the above aims and strategic objectives in planning the car parking area next to the Creek. A rationalisation of car parking numbers in the subject car park area should be undertaken – taking into account the much larger area of the project that extends westward to the main train maintenance building that could facilitate alternate parking areas, as well as a compact, efficient car park design would allow a greater green buffer to be created along the site's Creek boundary. This would build on the existing vegetation in the Creek corridor, increasing biodiversity, habitat and amenity. Appropriate native vegetation for the site could be referenced from the Moonee Ponds Creek Revegetation Guidelines by David Chynoweth (2000).

Otherwise, the South Dynon Train Facility upgrade would provide no environmental benefits in its context adjacent to the Moonee Ponds Creek and strategies to enhance the Creek's natural values or in context of greater environmental awareness at all levels of government, agencies, business, organisations, community, etc.

The FoMPC would be happy to work with the project team to see a wide vegetated buffer adjacent to the Creek incorporated into the project design.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Kavanagh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

John Kavanagh  
President