

REIMAGINING BENDIGO

CREEK COMMUNITY BULLETIN ISSUE 2, AUGUST 2019



Inside:

Snapshot of issues and opportunities

*“The spirits (murrup) link us back through time in a continuing connection with our past and our traditions, and our stories instil an on-going respect for our Country. Our songs and stories tell us of how the world was and how it should be, and we feel a moral responsibility to care for our Country as it binds us to the past, present and future. Our ancestors looked after this Country and we are duty bound to look after it for the next generation.” **Dhelkunya Dja- Dja Dja Wurrung Country Plan 2014 – 2034.***

Symbolism of the Reimagining Bendigo Creek logo (created by Nyauwi Art and Design)

The Bendigo Creek has been subject to destruction and toxicity from settlement and the goldrush. Here it is pictured as what we would imagine it to be. Many paths coming together as one, nurtured and cared for by all as a people; the open-ended hands signify that this is a journey that will continue long after we are here, as Djandak will start to heal itself as it used to.

Our partner and community perspectives

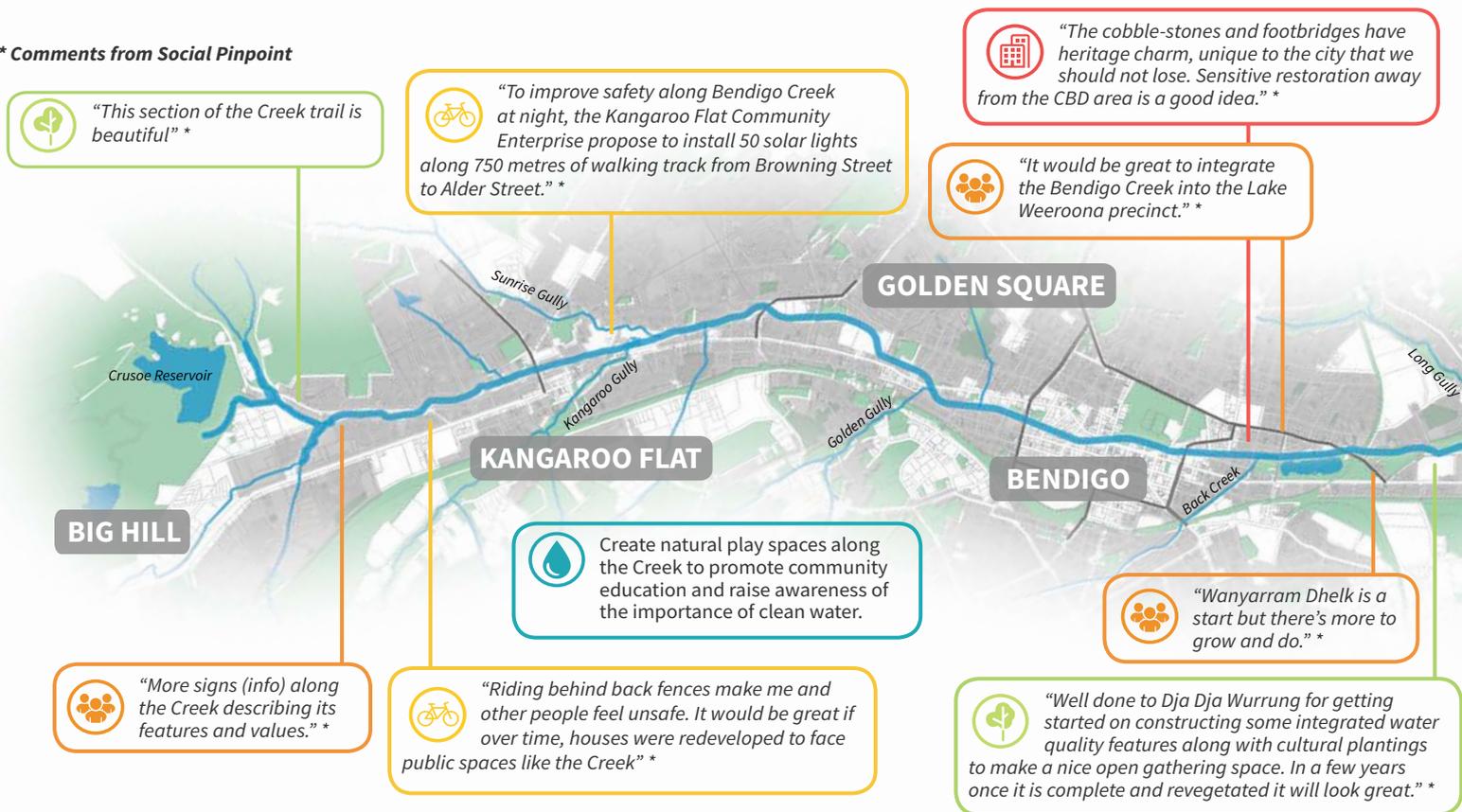
We have been working with our partners and talking with the local community to understand the issues and opportunities that are connected with the Bendigo Creek.

The *Reimagining Bendigo Creek: our Partner and Community Perspectives of Issues and Opportunities Report* weaves together the voices of our project partners and our community to reflect their stories, views and understanding of the Creek. This information was collected through workshops, listening posts, Social Pinpoint online interactive map, area surveys and in general conversation.

The report is framed according to six overarching themes that were identified as common issues for Bendigo Creek - Culture and Identity, Water, Natural Environment, Built Environment, Access and Safety, and Governance and Management. The issues covered in the report are inter-connected, complex and will take long term commitment to address.

Following is a snapshot of the report. To read the full report please visit the project webpage (see back page).

* Comments from Social Pinpoint



Water

Issues

- Groundwater interaction with surface water
- Urban stormwater contamination and altered flows
- Erosion and sedimentation
- No indicator levels for water quality specific to Bendigo Creek
- Lack of appreciation and community custodianship



Governance and Management

Issues

- Complex governance
- Fragmented views and uncoordinated approach
- A complex range of legislation and policy
- Public land purpose and values of the land needs to be considered
- Lack of funding and resources
- Vision and objectives need to balance



Culture and Identity



Issues

- What does 'good water' mean to the Djaara people?
- More cultural awareness is needed
- The Creek reflects migrant culture and values
- Misinformed perceptions about changing the heritage of the Creek
- Negative views about the Creek's condition
- Limited identity of and community connection with the Creek

Access and Safety



Issues

- Isolated areas feel unsafe
- Road crossings that limit access
- Steep and straight sided walls
- Limited infrastructure and amenities to support all abilities access
- Lack of directional and informative signs



"Landscape areas around schools to a much higher standard. Plant up large grass swale areas of creekline and set them up so they are easy to maintain until vegetation gets established." *



Enable the Dja Dja Wurrung to share their creation stories to teach people of how water works in the landscape.



"There are great opportunities to enhance access and provide interpretations of local, indigenous, heritage and flora and fauna values along this section of the Creek." *

Eaglehawk Creek

HUNTLY

WHITE HILLS

EPSOM

Reccourse Creek



"From Epsom right up to Tennyson Road would be fantastic. A loop around Huntly, and then back down the Creek again, with a minimum interaction with traffic." *



"It would be good to see some kind of useable green restoration of the natural Creek environment in Bendigo. Something like the Cheonggyecheon River design in Seoul." *



"Slow the flow down with chains of wet lands, let it meander as it would have originally. Link lakes and wetland areas." *

Natural Environment



Issues

- Limited connectivity narrow creek corridor
- Management of weeds and pest animals
- Contaminated soils
- Fragmented and degraded native vegetation
- Extensive sections of concrete
- Increasing urbanisation and population growth

Built Environment



Issues

- Buildings face away from the Creek
- Urbanisation on the Creek is increasing
- Parts of the Creek are designed like a drain
- Areas of heritage significance along the Creek
- Aging and degraded areas along the Creek

Our progress

The *Reimagining Bendigo Creek Plan* is being developed over the course of about 18 months and over six stages. We have recently completed **Stages 3 and 4** and we are now moving into **Stage 5- the development of a draft Reimagining Bendigo Creek Plan**.

We are on track to produce a draft plan in the last quarter of 2019. The draft plan is expected to be released for public information and input in early 2020.

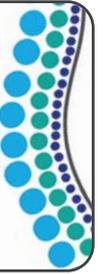


Have you a vision or idea for the Bendigo Creek that you want to share? We are still online!

Jump onto the Social Pinpoint interactive map at <https://bendigo.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/bendigocreek> to add your comments about the project and explore what other people have to say!

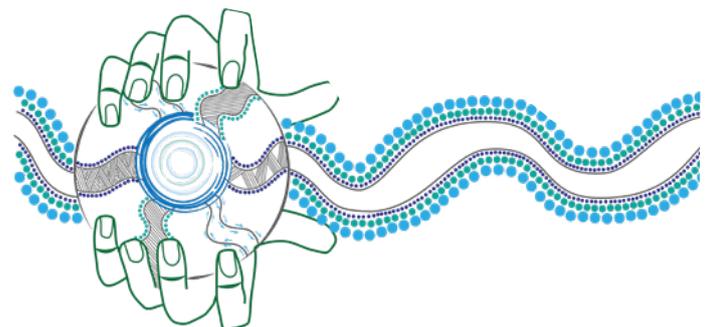
"It would be great to integrate the Bendigo Creek into the Lake Weeroona precinct. At the moment Bendigo Creek feels like an ignored drain at the back of an area which is one of the highlights of our city. Potentially some wetlands could be introduced, not only improving the creek but also improving and extending the Lake Weeroona precinct."

-Comment from Social Pinpoint



Contact us

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