

Media Release

The Hon Lisa Neville MP
Minister for Police
Minister for Water



Thursday, 20 October, 2016

WATER FOR VICTORIA: SUPPORTING OUR REGIONS

The Andrews Labor Government will improve water security in our regional and rural communities and involve Aboriginal communities in water management as part of *Water for Victoria* – the state’s water plan.

Reflecting the plan’s focus on liveable and resilient communities, Minister for Water Lisa Neville today announced a further \$1.1 million towards upgrades and irrigation improvements at the Bendigo Botanic Gardens and Rosalind Park.

The funding will ensure these highly-valued public open spaces remain healthy for families to enjoy even during hot and dry conditions.

Visiting the Bendigo Botanic Gardens, Minister Neville announced stage one of the ‘Garden for the Future’ project.

Through stormwater harvesting, storage and reuse for irrigation, the garden will be more resilient to climate change. There will also be a connection to Coliban Water’s recycled water system.

Ms Neville also announced \$330,000 towards the Bendigo Creek Project – an initiative driving collaboration between water authorities and Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owners.

The local Aboriginal community will help identify restoration and enhancement opportunities on Dja Dja Wurrung country – including the potential for areas along the creek to be used for cultural education.

Water for Victoria includes \$537 million in funding over the next four years for projects to strengthen water security for communities, protect jobs and agriculture, recognise Aboriginal water values and improve environmental health.

In a first for Victoria, the plan recognises the value water has for Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians. It includes \$9.7 million to support economic development and an Aboriginal Water Program to ensure Aboriginal participation in the planning and management of water resources.

Water for Victoria can be accessed at: <http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/water/a-new-water-plan-for-victoria>

Quotes attributable to Minister for Water Lisa Neville

“The state water plan ensures we have Aboriginal communities involved in the planning and management of our water resources.”

“The Bendigo Creek Project is a great example of how we recognise Aboriginal values and identify opportunities to enhance our waterways.”

“Bendigo’s Botanic Gardens are an important part of the local community – so we’re working to drought-proof the site so it can be enjoyed by families, even during hot, dry conditions.”