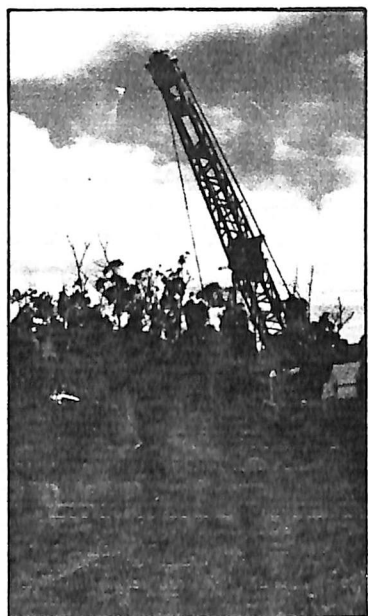


DANDENONG VALLEY AUTHORITY



Preamble to the *Dandenong Valley Authority Act 1963*



An Act to constitute a Dandenong Valley Authority for the better drainage of the waters of the Dandenong Creek and its tributaries, channels and watercourses, the improvement of lands within the catchment thereof and for the prevention of flooding and pollution, and for other purposes.

WHAT IS THE DVA?

The Dandenong Valley Authority is a statutory body created for the prevention of flooding and pollution in the streams within its district which comprises the Dandenong Valley and part of the catchments of Cardinia and Toomuc Creeks. The district contains an area of 1036 square kilometres covering parts of 15 municipalities forming the eastern suburbs of Melbourne. Each municipality appoints a member to the Authority whilst the Government nominates three representatives. This 18 person Authority is advised by permanent staff under the control of the Chief Engineer-Manager. The Authority undertakes its works by using its day labour employees as well as contractors. Its employees also operate and maintain the waterway system throughout its District.

The headquarters of the DVA is at 208 Princes Highway, Dandenong, and its field personnel operate from four depots at Dandenong, Knox, Pakenham and Seaford.

The Authority raises revenue by levying a precept on the 15 councils who in turn recoup this payment by addition of an amount to the municipal rating account. In areas such as Patterson Lakes and Rowville Lakes a special precept is levied to cover the cost of special service provided to benefiting residents.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF DVA

The function of the Authority is to provide, maintain and operate the main waterway system in its district. It constructs all works required to meet the community's requirements for better drainage of land.

The DVA is responsible for development and enhancement of waterways and their environs, having regard to environmental factors, conservation objectives, and the provision of areas for public recreation.

This involves the management of the flow and control of water and also the management of its purity. The Authority undertakes appropriate investigations into pollution problems. It monitors discharges to the system and stream water quality.

and implementation of a rehabilitation project for the Kananook Creek estuary at Frankston, is worthy of a special noting.

In conjunction with other statutory Authorities, the DVA accepts responsibility for collection, collation, and presentation of stream-flow, rainfall, and topographic information within its district. Within these fields, the DVA researches and develops procedures suitable for the finding of solutions to problems relevant to part or all of the overall catchment area.

The Authority has a watching role covering drainage aspects of developments, and assisting landowner, Councils and businesses to improve drainage of lands under their control.

The Authority is responsive to public demands. It seeks public comment in a constructive way and retains local advisory committees to assist in the overall task of achieving its objectives and at the same time adapting to changes in community needs and aspirations.

WHO STARTED IT ALL?

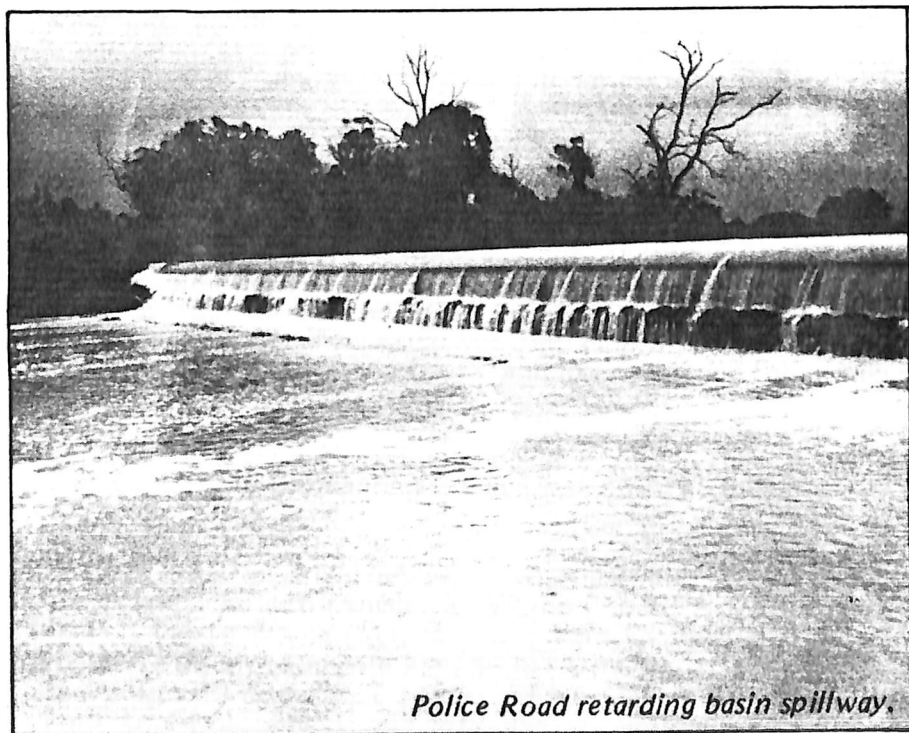
By 1940 it was obvious to the 14 municipalities then affected in the Dandenong Valley, that some form of overall Authority should be established to control and manage the rivers, drains, creeks and flood plains. As urbanization continued additional stormwater runoff created greater problems, and the need for a central authority became clearer.

Between 1960 and 1963 a series of conferences between the municipalities and parliamentary representatives resulted in the passing by Parliament of the *The Dandenong Valley Authority Act*, 1963. The DVA was constituted and held its first meeting in 1964.

IS IT LEGAL?

Yes. The DVA Act specifies that the Authority shall comprise Commissioners elected by the Councils of the constituent municipalities to represent them, and not more than three Commissioners appointed by the government.

The most significant feature of the Act is that it makes one single Authority responsible for the main drainage and flood protection for the whole Dandenong Creek Catchment from its estuaries and outlets into Port Philip Bay right up to its watershed lines in the hill country around Mount Dandenong.



Police Road retarding basin spillway.

WHO FINANCES IT?

The Authority finances its operations from revenue, government grants, and supplementary contributions from contributing schemes, and finances its capital works by borrowing from a variety of sources.

The Authority does not directly levy a rate on landholders, but determines each year how much money it requires, and then it raises this amount by issuing precepts on the existing rating bodies, the member municipalities. Councils then contribute on a proportional basis according to the N.A.V. (net annual value) of rateable properties in their municipality.

WHAT POWERS DOES IT HAVE?

Under the Act which established the DVA, the Authority is not required to accept responsibility for every watercourse in its catchment area. It controls only those declared as "Declared Arterial Drains" by resolution of the Authority, leaving minor waterways to be managed by councils. All are monitored, reviewed or watched.

Persons wishing to make connections to DVA drains may only do so with the approval of the Authority, otherwise penalties apply. Similarly, the Authority can control building within its defined "building lines" along its arterial drainage courses.

The Authority has the power to proclaim a flood plain under Section 27 of the Dandenong Valley Authority Act. The purpose of these declarations is to enable the Authority to control any building or construction works within the area proclaimed which might adversely affect drainage or the movement of flood waters. They also provide a ready reference to the extent of floodable areas along major or significant water-ways.

The Authority also has the power to refuse the sealing by Council of plans for subdivisions or developments which do not conform to Authority standards and there are provisions by which the Authority controls discharges of pollutants.

In the interests of the community, the Authority has the power to designate certain areas of land as "Recreational Areas" or "Environmental Areas", and it administers such areas by means of Committees of Management created under the Act.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE AREA

Before Melbourne was developed, the runoff from the entire Dandenong Valley catchment was "penned in" by the Carrum Swamp which spread behind the sand dunes between Mordialloc and Frankston. At places the swamp was 5 km wide, and the only outlets to the bay were the Mordialloc Creek, and the Kananook Creek with its outlet at Frankston.

In 1866 the Lands Department initiated reclamation plans and subsequently the Dandenong Council was given the first contract in 1873.

However, in 1876 the first really positive step towards proper drainage was made. The then Minister for Works (the Hon. J. B. Patterson) heeding the recommendations of a Select Committee of Enquiry, provided a grant of approximately \$3000 to construct a 10 metre wide cut to provide direct drainage to the sea. Thus was formed the "Patterson Cut" which was originally 10 metres wide, but was subsequently scoured out to its present width by flooding and tidal action.

By 1889 the local landowners set up an Irrigation Trust about which little is recorded, except that its efforts at actual drainage and financial management were regarded as inadequate, and it was taken over by the Auditor General in 1904.

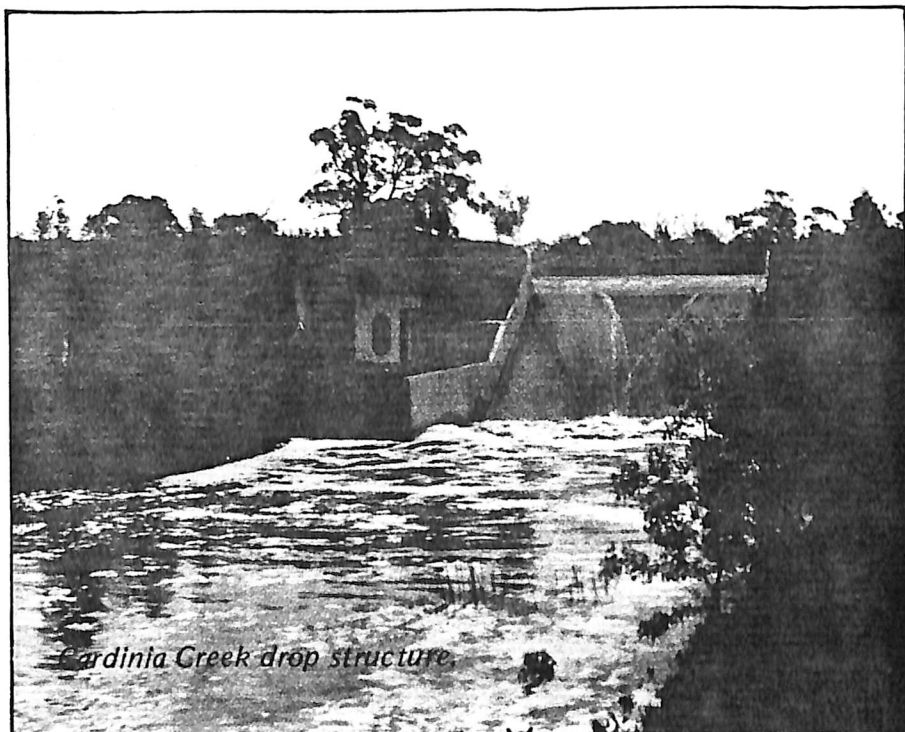
The 1905 Water Act abolished this Trust, and replaced it with the Carrum Waterworks Trust which expended about \$32,000 on reclamation works. This body also proved financially unstable, and was controlled by the then SR and WSC in 1908.

In 1934, 960 houses and farmlands were inundated with flood waters and 700 families were evacuated from the Chelsea area.

It was then decided to raise the levels of the artificial banks of the Patterson River, for the 2.5km stretch from the sea to Pillar's Bridge.

The 1936 Royal Commission on Water Supply recommended changes, and in 1941 the C.W.T. was abolished and reconstituted, as the Carrum Drainage District under the control of the SR and WSC.

In 1951 a Parliamentary Public Works Committee recommended additional works to be done and these were completed by the SR and WSC. These works included the pondage and basin works along the Kananook Creek in the Seaford area.



Cardinia Creek drop structure.

After further enquiry and assessment of drainage problems in the Dandenong Valley, the fourteen municipalities requested the formation of a central control authority. By March 1964 the DVA Act officially proclaimed the Dandenong Valley Authority, which took over areas previously uncontrolled. The area was soon increased by transfer of responsibility of areas from the MMBW, and later by transfer of the entire Carrum Drainage District from the SR & WSC in 1967.

A further extension in June 1967 also added part of the waterway of the Mordialloc Creek.

The final addition was made in May 1977 when portions of Toomuc Creek, Cardinia Creek, and Deep Creek catchments upstream from the Koo-Wee-Rup drainage district were added.

This extension necessitated inclusion of the Shire of Pakenham, as the 15th member municipality of the DVA.

AUTHORITY OFFICE:

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Postal Address: P.O. Box 550, Dandenong 3175, Victoria

DEPOTS:

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797 1555

KNOX

Off Lewis Road, Wantirna South.

221 7181

PAKENHAM

Purton Road, Pakenham

(059) 41 2275

SEAFORD DEPOT & TIDAL WATERWAYS

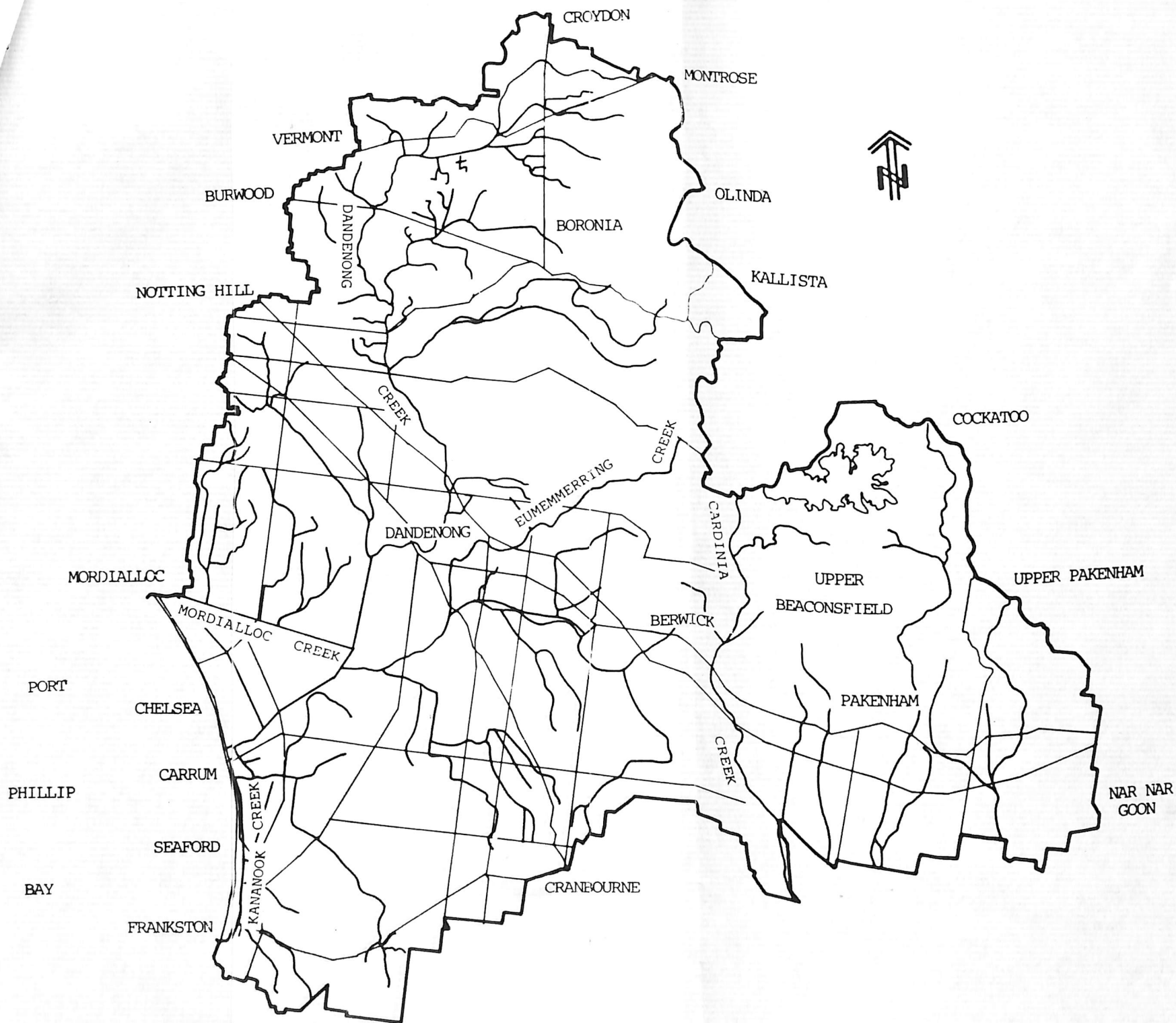
Riviera Street, Seaford

786 1125



WATERWAY MANAGEMENT

"THE WAY TO GO"



0 1 2 4 6 8 10
Scale (kilometres)

**DANDENONG VALLEY AUTHORITY
DISTRICT**