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Glossary of terms

BMID	Bacchus Marsh Irrigation District
BPEM	Best Practice Environmental Management
CGRSWS	Central Gippsland Regional Sustainable Water Strategy
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
GWW	Greater Western Water
IWM	Integrated Water Management
ktpa	Kilo-Tonnes per Annum
MW	Melbourne Water
PEP	Parwan Employment Precinct
PSP	Precinct Structure Plan
RWH	Rainwater Harvesting
TN	Total Nitrogen
TSS	Total Suspended Solids
UGF	Urban Growth Framework
VPA	Victorian Planning Authority
WID	Werribee Irrigation District
WIN	Werribee Irrigation Network

Disclaimer

This report is an Integrated Water Management (IWM) opportunities paper prepared for the Victorian Planning Authority. It examines IWM opportunities within the Parwan Employment PSP. It is important to note that this report focuses on exploring IWM within this precinct. The options presented herein should be regarded as suggestions and are not definitive. Further investigation, public consultation, and policy amendments may be necessary to enable these opportunities.

Executive Summary

The three Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) areas in Bacchus Marsh – Merrimu, Parwan Station and Parwan Employment Precinct – provide an opportunity to showcase Integrated Water Management (IWM) planning, building on work that has already been completed and is underway. **This strategy is for the Parwan Employment Precinct.** In the Melbourne context where policy and targets around IWM are evolving rapidly, these PSP areas could be an exemplar for testing how to contribute to the broader catchment targets at a precinct scale and a catalyst for broader IWM initiatives in the catchment.

There are many unique regional opportunities in the area with the proximity of the Bacchus Marsh Irrigation District (BMID) and Werribee Irrigation Network (WIN), the Werribee River, Melton and Merrimu Reservoir and a possible recycled water supply. There are also some exciting precinct level opportunities to link to urban greening, amenity and cooling, integrated drainage design and provision of alternative supplies to both residents and business. There is significant IWM work being undertaken across Melbourne’s West, to develop it into an exemplary region as population grows and Melbourne expands. However, to deliver the potential, there are also some significant site constraints to be consideration, including the integration of sodic soil considerations, topography and the escarpment, and the local waterway and development needs.

This report sets out the methodology undertaken to shortlist IWM opportunities for the Parwan Employment Precinct, and to determine a final recommended portfolio of IWM solutions.

The report outlines the context, policy drivers and requirements for IWM, summarises the site context, explains how a long list of options were shortlisted, how each shortlisted option was appraised, and recommendations and next steps.

This report is for Parwan Employment PSP, however the description of site context and shortlisting of options considered the wider Bacchus Marsh region, which also includes Merrimu PSP and Parwan Station PSP.

The shortlisted IWM options, following a stakeholder workshop with VPA, DEECA, Moorabool Shire Council, Greater Western Water and Melbourne Water, is shown below.

Shortlisted Option	Precinct relevance for opportunity
1. Precinct-scale rainwater harvesting for non-potable supply of industrial areas	✓
2. Passive irrigation of street trees with stormwater	✓
3. Stormwater infiltration into Alluvium formation	✓
4. Class A recycled water supply to PSP	✓
5. Transfer stormwater to Melton Reservoir and then to Merrimu Reservoir for potable supply	✓

The criteria used to assess each shortlisted option has been adapted from the Werribee IWM plan, as well as bespoke criteria. A full list of criteria can be found in Appendix A.

For the Parwan Employment PSP, it is recommended precinct scale solutions are further investigated and integrated in the planning and development process. This includes:

- **Option 1:** Rainwater harvesting for non-potable supply to industry (lot-based or shared)*
- **Option 2:** Passive irrigation of street trees with stormwater

- Further development dependant opportunities for increased permeability or infiltration/evapotranspiration of stormwater at a lot scale should be explored at a development scale to decrease runoff from the PSP.

**Pending the results of the Werribee System Reconfiguration currently being investigated by stakeholders, if the supply of Class A recycled water is found to be desirable and deliverable for the Parwan Station PSP area, this, could be delivered as an alternative to rainwater tanks (Option 4). The IWM planning within the PSP should retain flexibility until this decision is made.*

Complimenting this, it is also recommended that authorities work together in the wider catchment to further investigate and implement regional stormwater harvesting outside of the PSP area, utilising excess stormwater from the PSP:

- **Option 3: Stormwater infiltration into alluvium plains downstream**
- **Option 5: Treated stormwater transferred to the Melton Reservoir and then eventually to Merrimu Reservoir for potable reuse**

The outcomes of this opportunity assessment have recommended lot and precinct scale solutions as well as continued work on regional initiatives. This has been based on available information and a qualitative and quantitative opportunity assessment of benefits. The estimated infrastructure requirements and benefits identified through this project have been developed based on a number of assumptions, and further investigation and consultation will be needed to refine and optimise outcomes, particularly costing and detailed design of the options within the developments in the PSPs.

Integrated Water Management is a continuous process and is led by different stakeholders at different phases throughout the entire 'IWM journey', from high level strategic directions through to conceptual analysis, to functional design, funding, and implementation. The development of this report was led by the VPA and the analysis is at the conceptual level, but IWM investigations and stakeholder collaborations continue post PSP process. The 'next phase' will be led by a different (or a consortium of) authority to further investigate the concepts developed by this process. As understanding of the options improve, further details such as timelines, adaptive pathways, costs, benefits, and design details can be established.

The following recommendations for next steps are:

- Inclusion of the IWM recommendations in the PSP documentation, and a requirement for developers within the PSP to document their integration of the IWM strategy as part of the planning application process, demonstrating integration of the recommended portfolio, or alternative options that would achieve equivalent outcomes.
- Continued and regular stakeholder engagement between Council, Melbourne Water and Greater Western Water, Traditional Owners, DEECA and local developers post PSP gazettal to understand the outcomes of any IWM investigations and to align agency positions on preferred IWM solutions. The Bacchus Marsh IWM working group should be maintained and a lead agency should be appointed to coordinate collaboration and engagement. In particular, updates should be made to the stakeholder group at key points regarding:
 - The evolving drainage solution under the drainage scheme, and implications for stormwater harvesting on or near site.
 - The outcomes of the recycled water optimisation study for the Werribee catchment and any proposals for recycled water networks from Bacchus Marsh RWP. Engagement may lead to identifying potential opportunities for joint business cases and synergies between projects, such as offtakes from proposed networks. Any changing priorities and policy, particularly as to how it affects any options that are not yet possible.
 - Implementation and adoption pathway for the recommended IWM options.
 - Engagement with interested developers to ensure a shared understanding of IWM requirements and outcomes from the outset.

1. Introduction

Arup has been engaged by the Victorian Planning Authority to review the Integrated Water Management (IWM) Opportunities for the Merrimu, Parwan Station and Parwan Employment Precincts, within Bacchus Marsh. This Opportunities Report has been developed in conjunction with completed and current work underway by stakeholders and takes a holistic approach to designing with water, considering all aspects of the water cycle and how they interact with urban design, infrastructure planning and place-making.

This strategy is for the **Parwan Employment PSP**.

1.1 What is Integrated Water Management?

Integrated Water Management (IWM) recognises the interconnected nature of the water cycle, seeking to manage water across the whole water cycle in a coordinated manner and improve its interactions with the built and natural environment. Traditionally, three ‘areas’ of the water cycle have been managed separately: water supply, wastewater, and stormwater. Roles and responsibilities have similarly focused on the different areas of water management.

Integrated water management recognises the interrelationships between different sources of water, and also views water cycle management within a specific environmental, social, cultural and economic context – recognising the needs of local catchments and waterways, communities and industries.

The three Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) areas in Bacchus Marsh – Merrimu, Parwan Station and Parwan Employment Precinct – provide an opportunity to showcase IWM planning, building on work that has already been completed and is underway. In the Melbourne context where policy and targets around IWM are evolving rapidly, these PSP areas could be an exemplar for testing how to contribute to the broader catchment targets at a precinct scale and a catalyst for broader IWM initiatives in the catchment.

There are many unique regional opportunities in the area with the proximity of the Bacchus Marsh Irrigation District (BMID) and Werribee Irrigation Network (WIN), the Werribee River, Melton and Merrimu Reservoir and a possible recycled water supply. There are also some exciting precinct level opportunities to link to urban greening, amenity and cooling, integrated drainage design and provision of alternative supplies to both residents and business. There is significant IWM work being undertaken across Melbourne’s West, to develop it into an exemplary region as population grows and Melbourne expands. However, to deliver the potential, there are also some significant site constraints to be consideration, including the integration of sodic soil considerations, topography and the escarpment, and the local waterway and development needs.

In a greenfield environment, such as these PSPs, it is important to recognise how the water cycle could be affected by urbanisation as significant growth occurs. In these PSPs, the growth is forecasted to be a combination of residential, non-residential and industrial. As urban development occurs, there is an opportunity to protect the natural environment and water cycle as it transitions to an ‘urban water cycle’. The urban water cycle encompasses water supplies extracted from or imported to a local catchment, wastewater and stormwater generated locally, and the catchments and receiving environments affected by those water cycle interactions. As urban settlements grow, additional water demands and changes in generation of wastewater and stormwater will have knock-on effects on the natural water cycle, requiring forethought and understanding of the environmental, economic and social influences and sensitivities in the system.

1.2 What does this study consider?

The aim of this IWM Opportunities Report is to bring together previous IWM options proposed, with new targets, objectives and work underway, to recommend proposed IWM options for each PSP.

It explores and prioritises opportunities to maximise outcomes across the water cycle, including consideration of:

- Water supply (potable and non-potable)

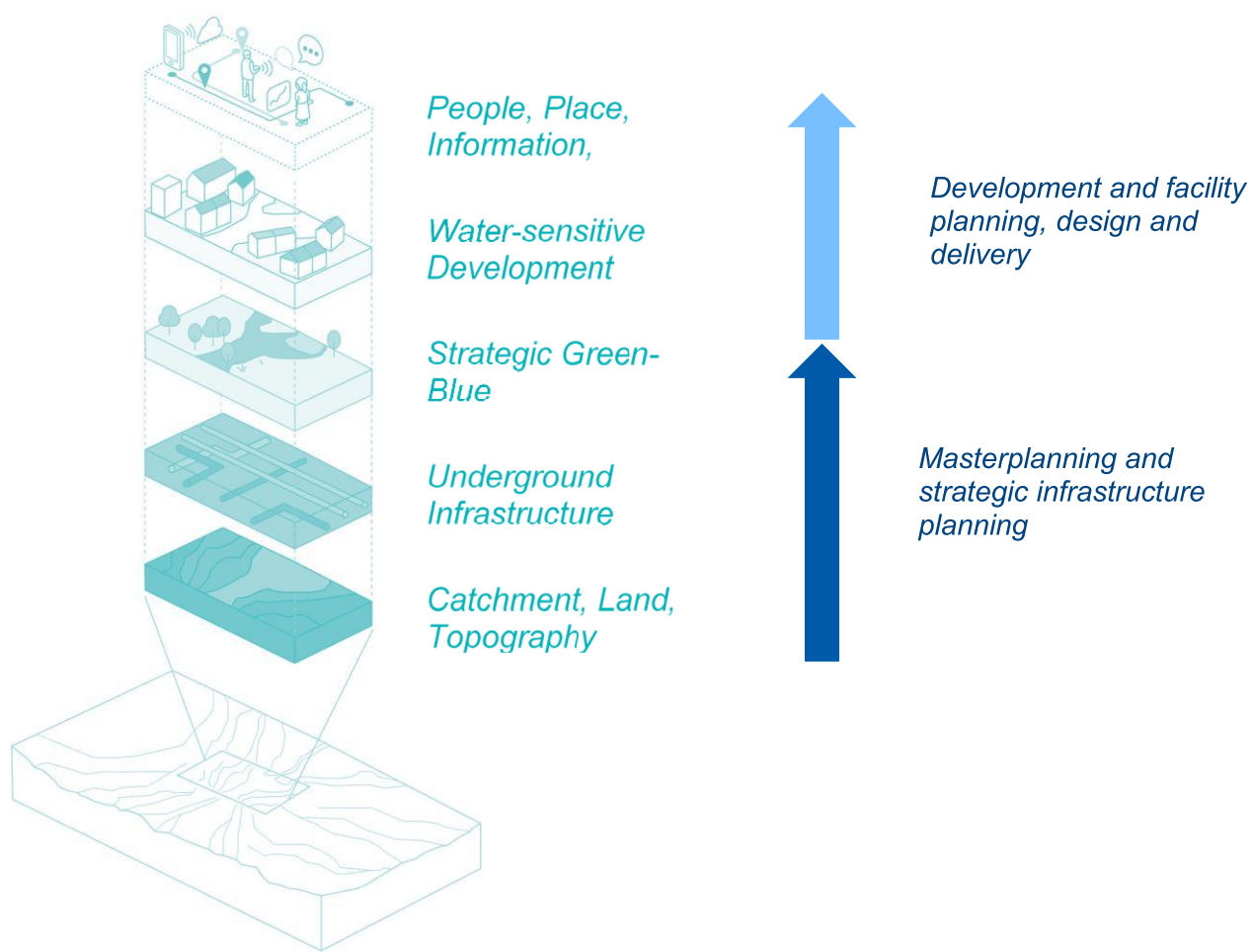


Figure 1-2 Layered approach to IWM (Arup)

1.3 IWM Opportunities methodology

This study is based on information collected through previous assessments provided by VPA, including the Bacchus Marsh IWM Strategy, prepared for Moorabool Shire Council (September, 2021), a series of interviews conducted with key stakeholders to inform additional work underway, a site visit and a stakeholder workshop to prioritise options.

Following this, the shortlisted options were further developed and assessed using an IWM Options Preliminary Assessment Method (DELWP, 2016). Options were then prioritised into recommended portfolios for each PSP.

The methodology undertaken is illustrated below.

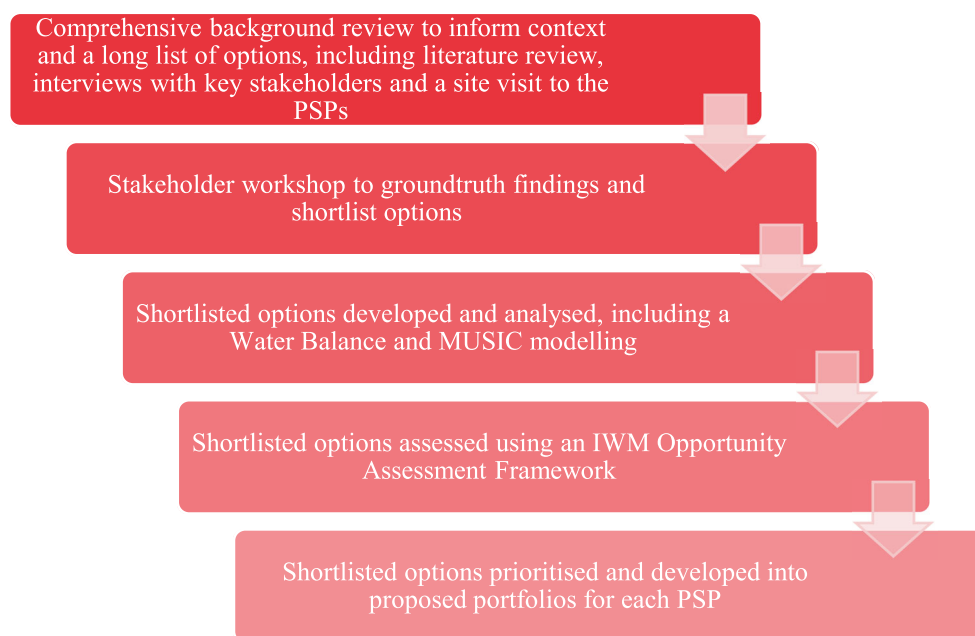


Figure 1-3 Methodology (Arup, 2023)

1.4 Key stakeholders

Stakeholders were consulted in the development of this study as outlined above. There is extensive work underway across the water cycle, with multiple stakeholder touch points. The purpose of this study is to bring together all of the work underway, identify opportunities and consolidate it in this Opportunities report. The key stakeholders consulted as part of this study are listed below.

- VPA
- Melbourne Water
- Greater Western Water
- Moorabool Shire Council
- DEECA

	– 16 Gigalitres/year of alternative water sources that substitute potable mains supply by 2030 for the catchment – 53 Gigalitres/year of alternative water sources that substitute potable mains supply by 2030 for the Greater Melbourne Region
	– 85 Gigalitres/year of recycled water delivered to customers by 2030 for the Greater Melbourne Region
	– 100% of projects cross-consider IWM and flood mitigation opportunities as part of their design by 2030 and maintained by 2050 for the catchment and Greater Melbourne Region
	– 46 Gigalitres/year and 197 Gigalitres/year of mean annual urban runoff volume reduction by 2050 for the catchment and Greater Melbourne Region respectively – Remove TSS and TN to achieve the marine pollutant load objectives for the Port Phillip Bay and Western Port
	– 14% and 30% of street trees are supported with permanent irrigation from an alternative water supply by 2030 and 2050 respectively, for the catchment – 22% and 50% of active public open space (sports fields and organised recreation) is supported by an alternative water source by 2030 and 2050 respectively, for the catchment – 9% and 25% of passive public open space (parklands and gardens) is supported by an alternative water source by 2030 and 2050 respectively, for the catchment
	– Rating of 5 out of 5 for water as a key element in city planning and design processes by 2030 and maintained by 2050 for the catchment
	– 41 Gigalitres/year of alternative water is supplied to agricultural production in the catchment by 2030 – 60 Gigalitres/year of alternative water is supplied to agricultural production in the catchment by 2050
	– Rating of 5 out of 5 for vision, leadership and long-term commitment through vision statement and objectives articulated in corporate documents by 2030 and maintained by 2050, for the catchment – Rating of 5 out of 5 for knowledge, skills and organisational capacity by 2030 and maintained by 2050, for the catchment – Rating of 5 out of 5 for cross-sector institutional arrangements and processes by 2030 and maintained by 2050, for the catchment

Performance measures have been developed for each of the outcomes and for a set of enabling factors that underpin all outcomes in the *Werribee Catchment IWM Plan (2022)*, as shown in Figure 2-1. **This has also been incorporated into the assessment framework for the shortlisted options.**

2.2 Key policies and legislation

2.2.1 Urban Stormwater Best Practice Environmental Management (BPEM) Guidelines

The *Urban Stormwater 'BPEM' Guidelines* (1999) were produced to assist in the protection of stormwater quality. The BPEM included best practice performance objectives (at the post construction phase) of:

- 80% retention of the typical urban annual load for suspended solids,
- 45% retention of the typical urban annual load for phosphorous,
- 45% retention of the typical urban annual load for nitrogen,
- 70% reduction of typical urban annual load for Litter; and
- Flows: maintain discharges for 1.5 year Average Recurrence Interval (ARI) at pre-development levels.

The BPEM guidelines are included within Victorian Planning Schemes, within the Victorian Planning Provisions (VPPs), although it is noted that they were not introduced into the planning provisions until 2006.

2.2.2 Victorian Planning Provisions

Clause 56.07 Integrated Water Management provides objectives and discretionary standards in relation to drinking water supply, reused and recycled water, waste water management, and stormwater management for subdivisions, including meeting the stormwater quality performance objectives in the Urban Stormwater BPEM Guidelines outlined above. For apartments, Clauses 55.03 and 55.07 also encourage the use of alternative water sources, facilitate stormwater collection, utilisation and drainage; and reduce the impact of stormwater run-off. Amendment VC154 also recently introduced Clause 53.18 which extends the stormwater management requirements for residential subdivision and apartment development to all commercial and industrial and subdivision development, all public use development and all residential multi-dwelling developments.

Amendment VC224 which was gazetted by Victorian Government on 28 October 2022. The amendment updates the policy document reference to Melbourne Water's Healthy Waterways Strategy (at Clause 12.03-1S), from the outdated 2013 strategy to the current 2018 strategy. This is an important change ensuring the VPP is current, and supports better waterway outcomes through strategic planning processes and statutory decision-making.

Amendment VC224 also makes changes to Clause 53.18 (Stormwater management in urban development) to clarify that the stormwater management provisions for commercial, industrial and public use development (in particular) are applied equally in growth areas (where a Precinct Structure Plan applies) as in established areas. This change removes ambiguity that existed in the application of relevant stormwater standards to non-residential land in growth areas.

2.2.3 Urban Stormwater Management Guidance, EPA, 2021

EPA Victoria published urban stormwater management guidelines in 2021, which aims to help improve the management of urban stormwater by highlighting the risk of harm caused by stormwater and helps developers who create new impervious surfaces to minimise risks to human health and the environment. The guideline sets out a hierarchy of hazard reduction, which prioritises eliminating the hazard as far as reasonably practicable as the most favourable solution. This includes eliminating specific impervious surfaces, using permeable or porous paving, capturing and infiltrating stormwater, eliminating pollutants from stormwater from entering waterways etc.



Figure 2-2 Hierarchy of controlling hazards in Urban Stormwater Guideline, 2021

Quantitative performance objectives are set in this Guideline, where MUSIC modelling should be carried out to assess performance against these objectives. The water quality objectives remain unchanged from those referenced in the Victorian Planning Provisions and state there should be a;

- 80% reduction in mean annual load¹ of suspended solids
- 45% reduction in mean annual load of total Phosphorus
- 45% reduction in mean annual load of total Nitrogen
- 70% reduction in mean annual load of litter

Significantly, the guidance introduced objectives for mean annual run-off reduction, whereby the target reduction is based on mean annual rainfall, and differs for priority and non-priority areas. Previously, Melbourne Water set a preferred target of a 50% runoff reduction to recognise the sensitivity of the Werribee and the downstream platypus population. Subsequent advice from Melbourne Water is that the target should now be in line with that defined by the Urban Stormwater Management Guideline, and the subsequent Healthy Waterways Strategy Stormwater Targets - Practitioner's Note (see below).

2.2.4 Healthy Waterways Strategy Stormwater Targets - Practitioner's Note, July 2021

Melbourne Water in collaboration with the EPA developed this note to develop a consistent framework, whereby the targets in the EPA guideline and in the Healthy Waterway Strategy are aligned. This document included the Figure below, which provides stormwater runoff targets for areas based on MUSIC Modelling Targets.

This document clarifies that the targets for the Bacchus Marsh region is 29-32% for stormwater harvesting, and 3-6% for infiltration (Bacchus Marsh bridges two rainfall templates as shown in Figure 2-3).

¹ Reduction in the load discharged from the managed development compared to pre-development levels without management

As per the *Ministerial Direction 22*, matters related to clauses 5 and 6 must be included in a Climate Change Consideration Report, outlining how the requirements are being met for the proposed planning scheme or amendment. For the purposes of this report, we have outlined how the recommended IWM options for Parwan Employment PSP could support these requirements in section 9.3 The report does not assess or recommend whether the Parwan Employment PSP complies with the Direction, nor prepare a Climate Change Consideration Report.

		- Challenging transfer pipeline - Difficult to distinguish stormwater from river water in terms of allocations - Recycled water for BMID is already a priority	Review priority for stormwater for BMID given recycled water is already likely.	recycled water.
Stormwater harvesting to supplement regional water resources	Transfer of stormwater to Melton Reservoir and then transfer to Merrimu Reservoir for indirect potable reuse.	- Assessments have shown challenges in capacity of Melton Reservoir and potential environmental damage - Challenging transfer pipeline - Mentioned as an optimised option in existing work underway	Consider flow balance of Melton Reservoir in updated analysis. Upon analysis, incorporate design risks in any costing and assessments. Need to confirm infrastructure requirements with GWW including challenging pipeline (and construction methodology required), pump sizing and installation, as well as ongoing operating and maintenance costs and energy requirements.	Option still has high potential however may not be possible in short term given regulatory context.
Recycled water to supplement regional water resources	Upgrade of Bacchus Marsh Recycled Water Plant to potable standard and transfer to Merrimu Reservoir	Regulatory challenges	Consider tying this option into existing plans. Review of regulation changes required.	Option still has high potential however may not be possible in short term given regulatory context. Stormwater to potable more likely in short term.
Additional opportunities				
Passive irrigation of trees with stormwater	Tying into existing or a new option, stormwater harvesting for street tree irrigation.	Raised as potential new option given local targets	Analysis of new option required or an “add on” to an existing option.	Flexible option that can be achieved in combination with other options.

Class B/C open space irrigation	Additional option reviewing targeted open space irrigation using Class B or Class C recycled water. This could include within PSPs or to Bacchus Marsh town.	Raised as alternative to Class A recycled water and residential reuse	Analysis of new option required.	Likely option and in line with existing work underway by stakeholders.
Stormwater storages at previous mine site	Rehabilitation of previous mine dam as a stormwater storage with stormwater harvesting.	Potential option raised from interviews	Likely to be major constraints to viability.	Unlikely given site constraints
Precinct-scale rainwater harvesting for local use	Collective, larger rainwater tanks for a region scale, third pipe network serviced by rainwater.	Raised as a potential variation to rainwater harvesting in the Situational Analysis workshop.	Potential for areas with industrial land uses.	Option has potential but requires additional analysis.
Precinct scale stormwater harvesting for local use	Harvesting stormwater following wetland treatment in a precinct and transferring to a storage for distribution and reuse for open space irrigation or in-home use	Raised as a potential option to assist with reduction of stormwater in Situational Analysis workshop.	Potential as a third pipe feed source (if recycled water not deliverable) which would also assist with runoff reduction	Option has potential but requires additional analysis.
Recycled water and stormwater combined servicing for open space irrigation	A combined stormwater harvesting and Class A or Class B/C third pipe network.	Raised as a potential option in the Situational Analysis workshop.	Requires significant further investigation and depends on quantum of demand. May not be cost effective. To be considered further following individual option analysis.	Option has potential but requires significant additional analysis and may be a high cost option.

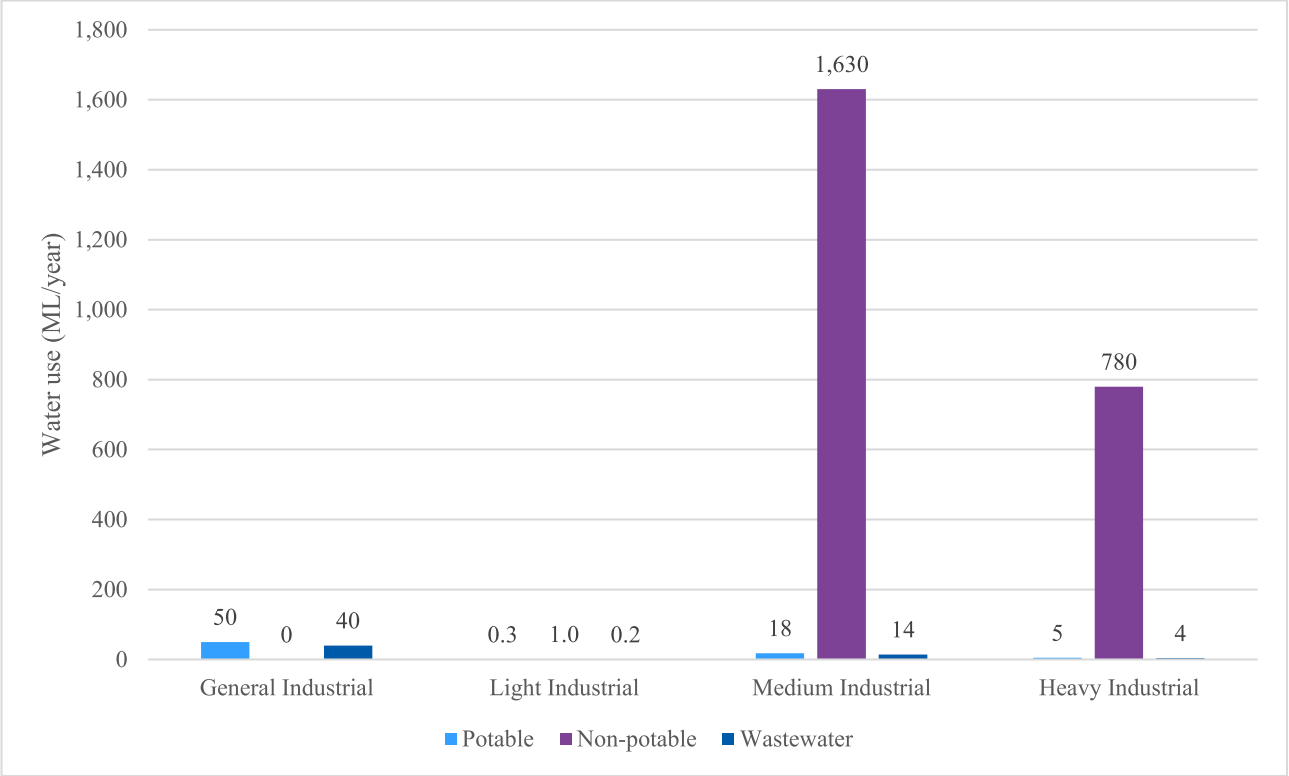


Figure 6-2 - Parwan Employment water demands (Arup, 2023)

6.1.3 Stormwater base case

To analyse the base case stormwater generation, a MUSICX model was set up for this PSP. Table 6-3 shows the flow, TSS and TN generated as a result of the proposed development.

Table 6-3 Parwan Employment Precinct Stormwater base case

Source Node	Impervious Stormflow Out (ML/y)	Impervious Stormflow out TSS kg/yr	Impervious Stormflow out TN kg/yr
Open Space	100.5	8,872	97
Industrial	8670.1	1,604,912	19,129
Existing Developed Land	503.3	104,105	1,466
Total	9,274	1,717,889	20,692

In addition, two scenarios were modelled to show a predevelopment scenario, and a scenario to meet BPEM targets;

- 1. A pre-development scenario to understand flow and pollutants if there was no development at all; and
- 2. A post development scenario using the areas provided in the land use budget. For each of these land uses, Melbourne Water MUSIC guidelines were used to allocate fraction impervious values and soil parameters (Soil Storage Capacity = 120mm and Field Capacity = 50mm). This scenario assumed the presence of a wetland before discharge into the Parwan Creek, which has a surface area of 50ha (this represents 2% of the total PSP area) and an extended detention depth of 350mm. This wetland was added to meet Best Practice Environmental Management (BPEM) as set out by the EPA.

Table 6-4 shows the results of the stormwater base case modelling.

Table 6-4 Parwan Employment Precinct Stormwater base case comparison with pre-development

	Flow (ML/y)	TSS (kg/y)	TP (kg/y)	TN (kg/y)	Gross Pollutants (kg/y)
Pre-development	2,678	122,000	161	2,304	45,010
Post development (no IWM interventions, only wetland)	8,965	247,700	909	12,230	9,294
% reduction with wetland	6.6	85.8	67.5	42.1	97.4

Resilience to extreme climate events caused by climate change	High/Medium/Low	Based on the options relative impact to the PSP’s climate resilience compared with each other.	Low = 1, Medium = 3, High = 5
Relative land take	High/Medium/Low	Based on the options land take, relative to other options. High land take scored lower and low land take scored higher.	Low = 5, Medium = 3, High = 1

for use of stormwater for potable supply, so an interim option or adaptive plan would be required to identify the short term demands and transfer for the stormwater.	
Climate change This option could enhance water security in the region by topping up potable water supplies. There are also possible benefits of environmental flows within the Werribee River if stormwater is held into Melton Reservoir and allocated as an environmental flow.	
Land take There would be no land take within the PSPs for this option.	

9. Parwan Employment PSP

9.1 Results and discussion

The combined scores for the IWM options for Parwan Employment PSP are shown in Table 9-1.

Table 9-1 - Scores for Parwan Employment PSP

Parwan Employment	Alternative water sources that substitutes potable mains water supply	Recycled water delivered to customers	Impact on fluvial flood mitigation	Mean annual runoff volume reduction	Total Suspended Solids prevented from discharging to receiving waters	Total Nitrogen prevented from discharging to receiving waters	Additional ML/yr of water allocated to environmental water reserve that	New total number of passively irrigated trees	New area of public open space supported by an alternative water	Opportunity to embed Traditional Owner values in the delivery of	Blue-green infrastructure created by integrated water management as a	Contribution to community literacy	Alternative water supplied to agricultural production	Alternative water supplied to businesses and industry	Implementation and complexity	Resilience to extreme climate events caused by climate change	Relative land take	Total
1 Precinct scale rainwater harvesting for non-potable supply of industrial areas	2	0	5	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	2	1	3	1	22
2 Passive irrigation of street trees with stormwater	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	5	0	1	1	3	0	0	5	3	5	27
3 Stormwater infiltration into alluvium	0	0	5	5	4	5	5	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	3	1	3	37
4 Class A recycled water to PSP	5	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	5	3	5	5	33
5 Transfer of stormwater to Melton and then Merrimu Reservoir for potable supply	5	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	5	5	24

Appendix A

Assessment Criteria

Appendix B

Literature Review

