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Werribee River biodiversity project receives boost

The Pinkerton Landcare and Environment Group, together with Western Water, have received a grant of almost \$22,000 from Melbourne Water's Stream Frontage Management program. The grant was provided to enhance biodiversity values of waterways in the region.

Managing Director of Western Water, Mr John Wilkinson said the grant would allow the continuation of some exceptional work already carried out in the region.

"Our partnership with the Pinkerton Landcare and Environment Group has already produced work with significant environmental and social outcomes.

"We have been undertaking rehabilitation work at the Werribee River over the past two years and have spent over \$60,000 on enhancing biodiversity."

Western Water works with landcare and community groups to address stream frontage rehabilitation. "We have a firm commitment to support and work with community-based projects that enhance our waterways and promote sustainable practices," Mr Wilkinson said.

"Through the Stream Frontage Management Program, we will continue our good work at the Werribee River at Exford," Mr Wilkinson said.

The Melbourne Water grant is matched by a Western Water commitment of an additional \$15,000 with PLEG providing advice. Work will include weed and vermin control, revegetation of riverbanks with indigenous plants and fences to exclude stock.

"Our community benefits from the great work that groups like PLEG do to improve the environment. The positive effects on water quality and the increased biodiversity value of the area will have advantages for all," said Mr Wilkinson.

Around 1900 grants totalling almost \$5 million have been provided since the Stream Frontage Management Program started in 1996. The funding has been used to erect almost 500 kilometres of fencing and plant 746,000 trees and shrubs.

Photo opportunity

Contact Vittoria Chiarella on the number below to organise a photo opportunity

For further information please contact:

Vittoria Chiarella: Manager Communications Western Water

Telephone +61 3 9218 5415 : Mobile 0409 432 202 : Email vittoria.chiarella@westernwater.com.au

Media Release