Achievements in 2015/16

In 2015/16, the Living Links Master Plan was maintained by updating the Living Links Prospectus of projects ready for implementation through collaboration with Living Links partners. An additional 10 projects were identified and added to the Living Links Prospectus. There are now a total of 64 projects ready for implementation.

A total of 103 projects from the Prospectus have now been completed, or are currently underway. This includes a wide range of activities carried out by our partners, including:

- Environmental works (revegetation, weed control, wetland creation, ecological burning);
- Civic works to improve recreational values (construction of trails, playgrounds, interpretive signage, community art projects); and
- Water quality improvement works (creation of retarding basins, bioswales, water filtration ponds and billabongs).

It also includes projects that carried out investigations or developed plans for the above types of activities, as well as educational programs, and the creation of environmental protection overlays.

In 2015/16, the environmental restoration works at River Gum Creek Reserve in Hampton Park were completed (see case study).
Looking ahead

Living Links will continue to work collaboratively with the project partners and is actively seeking major funding to support implementation of the Master Plan. The Living Links Prospectus is being used to promote and advance the implementation of Living Links wherever possible.

Case study -
River Gum Creek Reserve
Environmental Makeover and Schools Program

With support through Living Links, the City of Casey and Birdlife Australia have given the River Gum Creek Reserve in Hampton Park an environmental makeover and carried out a successful educational program for local schools.

On-ground works to restore the Reserve included re-alignment of the creek to stabilise badly eroded banks, revegetation of the creek corridor and the creation of a ‘Habitat Island’. These works were carried out by the City of Casey. They also created a network of walking paths, a boardwalk, seating, picnic tables, a shelter and an environmentally-themed playground to attract local residents and visitors to enjoy the natural environment.

To supplement these on-ground works, Birdlife Australia delivered an educational program to teach local school children about the native birdlife that can be found at the River Gum Creek Reserve. Over 100 students from three local schools were involved in in-class sessions and excursions to the Reserve. It is hoped that by educating local children about the environmental benefits of the Reserve, they can develop a greater understanding of the importance of nature in urban environments.

We thank the following organisations for providing financial support to Living Links in 2015/16.