

Submission 1289632

Castlemaine Field Naturalist Club, Birdlife Australia - Castlemaine.

This joint submission with Birdlife Australia – Castlemaine District was made via the standard Engage Victoria website. Our response was to express medium or high concern about potential impacts on surrounding land and ground water resources (questions 7 – 15) however we did support the project subject to licence conditions. For a summary of all submissions see [here](#)

The groups made the following comments about the redevelopment of the waste-water treatment plant.

There are many concerned citizens who are passionate about the quality of and reliability of water flow in Campbells Creek. They have injected many volunteer hours and grant money into restoring the riparian sites to reverse the ravages to the creek over the last 200 years. We look to CW and the WRP to support these activities by ensuring that the quality of water release is reliable to maintain a constant year long water flow and of quality to maintain a population of Platypus and Rakali - both endangered species.

In addition to comments above, there are water ponds in the surrounding area which are vital as waterbird habitat. Maintenance and enhancement of these ponds will not only act as bird refuges but also attract birdwatchers and bird researchers. There is the possibility that within a few years, CW and the WRP will have reputations as managing a quality vital community treatment plant but also supporting an environmentally rich bird refuge, smaller than but equally important as the Werribee WTP. With supplementary planting of locally indigenous species reptiles, amphibians and insect pollinators and food resources will also thrive - a thriving biodiverse ecosystem thanks to Coliban Water.

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