



## Project progress

The funds distributed to home owners and council has so far has seen:

- > 94 participating properties:
- > 23,000 m<sup>2</sup> of roof treated
- > 12 million litres of storm-water retained each year
- > 1.9 million litres of storm-water filtered each year
- > 135 tanks installed, totaling over 1 million litres
- > 66 rain-gardens built on private land
- > 1 'neighbourhood' rain-garden built



Little Stringybark Creek after heavy rains in December 2010.



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## New EB Price- \$2,250

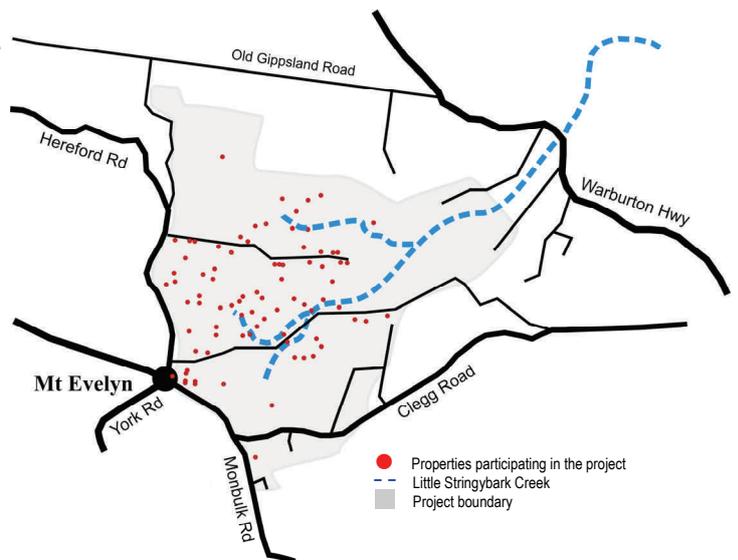
We are now paying **\$2,250** (up from \$2,000) for every EB Unit your rainwater tank and/or rain-garden provides. With this rise, the average payment to participating properties is now \$4,650.

Competition for our remaining funds is ramping up as more neighbourhood rain-gardens become good value options for us (see over ), so we expect this could be one of the last price rises of Stormwater Fund— property owners keen to have a rainwater tank installed are encouraged to apply.

## A reminder of the project aims

Maybe you are new to the area, or just not sure what we are doing and why? In short, the Little Stringybark Creek project is all about:

- reducing the impact of stormwater on the Little Stringybark Creek
- testing the idea that by capturing, using and treating storm-water, we can improve the health of urban creeks;
- raising awareness within the local community and water management industry of the threat of stormwater to urban creeks; and
- getting local home owners and council to install rainwater tanks and rain-gardens.



The map above shows the boundary of the project area, the location of the creek (and its main tributaries) and the locations of participating properties.

## Neighbourhood rain-gardens

Work has now commenced on building a series of large rain-gardens and infiltration systems. These “neighbourhood” rain-gardens will capture and treat stormwater run-off from entire streets, including the road and all houses. They may also be used to treat run-off from specific properties with large roofs, such as schools and industrial areas.

The neighborhood rain-gardens are being built in collaboration with the Yarra Ranges Council and selected property owners. At present, there is 1 rain-garden already built and a further 4 at different stages of construction or design.

### Hereford Road

The first of our neighbourhood rain-gardens, constructed in July 2010. The site, adjoining the petrol station in Mt Evelyn, was originally a small flood retarding basin. The upgrade to a rain-garden not only reduces the impact of runoff from Hereford Rd to the creek, but has improved its ability to mitigate local flooding.

### Stringybark Blvd

Two rain-gardens are currently being planned for Stringybark Blvd. Both will be positioned in the reserve adjacent to the creek.

### Morrison Reserve

This stormwater harvesting, re-use and treatment system will capture stormwater from the Pembroke Secondary College in three large tanks (630,000 litres in total). The harvested water will be

Below: construction of the Hereford Road Rain-garden (July 2010). Note the 2 pipes that enter the overflow pit. These limit the time surface water remains in the rain-garden.



used to irrigate the 3 sports ovals, with any excess water (overflowing out of the tank) being diverted into a series of vegetated rain-gardens.

### King Street

A series of rain-gardens will improve the currently unused section of the King Street road reserve. It will treat stormwater from over 8,000m<sup>2</sup> (2 Acres) of roads and roofs.

### Primary School

Additional water tanks will be installed at the Mt Evelyn Primary School - to assist in irrigation of their sports oval. Also, a 200m<sup>2</sup> rain-garden will be built in the north east corner of the school yard, treating stormwater and providing practical learning opportunities for students.

## What will the neighbourhood rain-gardens mean for tanks in homes?

*More rain-gardens will result in fewer home tanks, but only if the price is right.*

The funding used to build the neighbourhood rain-gardens is the same as that used to fund tanks and rain-gardens in private homes.

Essentially, neighbourhood rain-gardens are competing with the works on private properties, in that the more we spend on neighbourhood rain-gardens, the less we will spend on private properties. But we only proceed to build a neighbourhood rain-garden when and if the estimated cost of construction is competitive with the private properties.

How do we do that? We calculate the cost per EB unit to construct the rain-garden. If its less the current EB Price (which is \$2,250/EB) - then the money is set aside for the neighbourhood rain-garden.