



2 SITE CONTEXT

The City of Melton is one of metropolitan Melbourne's outer west councils. It covers a vast 528 square kilometers and is one of the fastest growing municipalities. Caroline Springs is 31km from the Melbourne CBD and lies on the far east of the Council boundary.

Lake Caroline is sited in the heart of Caroline Springs, adjacent to the main civic and shopping precinct.



2.1 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The land, where the lake sits, is located within the traditional country of the Wurundjuri Woi Wurung People of the Eastern Kulin Nation.

The region was primarily a grazing area since colonisation. In 1999, Caroline Springs was developed as part of the greenfield development by Delfin. Lake Caroline was conceived as a magnificent artificial recreational lake, acting as the centerpiece of Caroline Springs Town Centre.

In 2005, the construction of Caroline Springs was underway, with many of the roads and the lake near completion. The town centre, including Lake Caroline, the shopping district, and much of the residential areas had been completed by 2009.

Since its completed construction, Caroline Springs has become home to more than 20,000 people. It is expected to continue to grow and expand, increasing pressures on the supply of quality public open space.



Caroline Springs Region with current boundary of Lake Caroline shown as red dashed and Kororoit Creek visible to the south, 1948. (Source: Department of Lands and Survey, Aerial Survey of Victoria)



View north towards future Caroline Springs Town Center and Lake Caroline, with Kororoit Creek in foreground, 1962 (Source: Ian Harrison)

2.2 EXISTING LAND USE CONDITION

Lake Caroline is located within the town centre of Caroline Springs, adjacent to CS Square and a number of public and commercial facilities. This includes Caroline Springs Library, Caroline Springs Police Station and Mercure Melbourne and Westwaters Hotel. Lake Caroline is also in close proximity of a number of schools, making the lake a popular hangout space for students.

LEGEND

- Commercial / Hospitality
- Educational
- Institutional
- Waterbody / Waterway
- Open Space / Reserve
- Feature of Interest



2.3 LANDSCAPE

Lake Caroline is a composite reserve itself, which comprises three open spaces: Lake Caroline Reserve, Boathouse Reserve and Lake Caroline Waterfront.

The lake is surrounded by a ring of landscape reserves and open spaces, including both naturalistic plantings and designed landscape, which presents opportunities to strengthen connection among these open spaces.

Notable features include: Themeda Grassland, located on the northeast to the Lake and the Urban Wetland and Cascade, located upstream of the Lake. These are designed as an integral part of the overall wetland system.

Lake Caroline is in close proximity to Kororoit Creek and is connected via a small open space known as Lake Caroline Spillway.

LEGEND

- Passive Open Space / Reserve
- Active Open Space
- Waterbody / Waterway
- Existing Tree

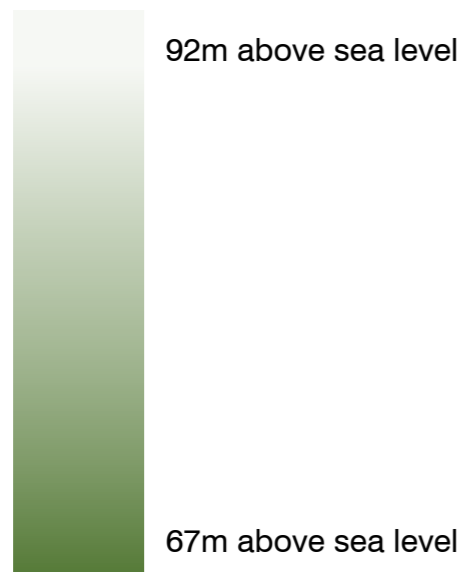


2.4 TOPOGRAPHY

The overall topography of Caroline Springs is measured between 92m to 67m above sea level, with the lowest point being Kororoit Creek.

The immediate surroundings of Lake Caroline are relatively flat, with a steeper fall observed on the southern side of the Lake. The depth of the Lake ranges between 0.4m to 2m.

LEGEND




2.5 HYDROLOGICAL SYSTEM

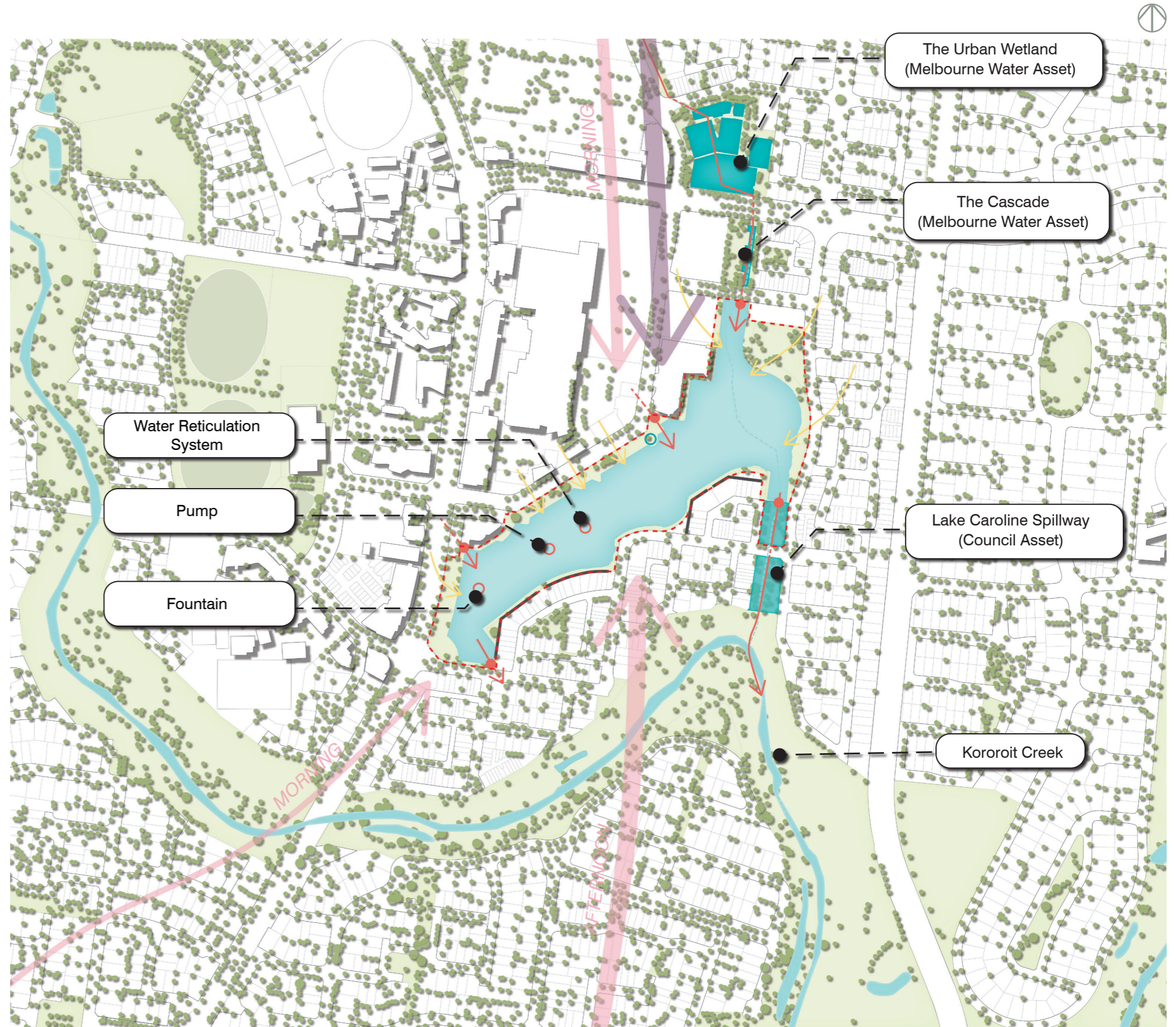
Lake Caroline is the main retention water body of Caroline Springs, with an area of 7.49 ha. It is part of the greater water system, connected to the Cascade and Urban Wetland upstream and Kororoit Creek downstream through the spillway. Stormwater from the surrounding area is collected and discharged into the lake.

Lake Caroline also serves as a reservoir, providing irrigation water to the adjacent open spaces and sportsgrounds.

The Urban Wetland and the Cascade are owned and managed by Melbourne Water.

LEGEND

-  Drainage Connection (Underground - dashed)
-  Surface Runoff
-  Water Inlet / Outlet
-  Drainage System Feature
-  Wetland / Spillway
-  Retention Pond
-  Lake Wall
-  Main Prevailing Wind - Summer
-  Main Prevailing Wind - Winter



2.6 ECOLOGY

Caroline Springs and Lake Caroline are located on the Western Volcanic Plains, a landscape historically dominated by grasslands and scattered trees. A number of key ecological habitats have been identified, including Themeda Grasslands, Lake Caroline and Kororoit Creek.

The Themeda Grasslands are part of the Natural Temperate Grasslands of Southern Volcanic Plain, as defined by the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment of Water.

Fauna sighted in this region includes (but is not limited to): Eastern long-necked turtle (*Chelodina longicollis*), Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*), Eastern Grey Kangaroo (*Macropus giganteus*), Growling Grass Frog (*Ranoidea rabiforis*), Common Eastern Froglet (*Crinia signifera*), Eastern Banjo Frog (*Limnodynastes dumerillii*), Tiger Snake (*Notechis scutatus*), Eastern Brown Snake (*Pseudonaja textilis*).

LEGEND

-  Habitat - Remnant
-  Habitat - Current
-  Record of Growling Grass Frog (Post 2007)
-  Historical Record of Growling Grass Frog (Prior 2006)

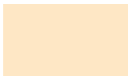


2.7 HERITAGE & CULTURAL SENSITIVITY

Lake Caroline and its surrounding sits within the Traditional Country of the Wurundjuri Woi Wurung People of the Eastern Kulin Nation.

Kororoit Creek and its proximity are identified as areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity as specified in Division 3, Part 2 of the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018. This area is either known to contain, or are likely to contain Aboriginal cultural heritage places and objects.

LEGEND

 Areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity










2.8 TRAIL NETWORK

Lake Caroline is highly accessible by foot and bicycle. The lake itself provides a 1.8km shared circuit for pedestrians and cyclists, allowing visitors to move around within the parkland.

Lake Caroline is connected by a number of existing cycleways and footpaths, which lead to the Kororoit Creek Trail. To further improve the accessibility, a number of proposed cycleway network and pedestrian networks are identified in *Moving Melton - Melton Integrated Transport Strategy* (2015). This plan designates Caroline Springs Town Centre as a pedestrian priority area, with its future development centered around walking and cycling activities.

LEGEND

-  Kororoit Creek Trail
-  Cycleway
-  Footway
-  Proposed Cycleway Network
-  Proposed Pedestrian Network
-  Pedestrian Priority Area
-  Future Works



2.9 PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Lake Caroline is accessible by Public Transport Victoria bus connections on its northern, eastern and western interface.

The nearest train station is Caroline Springs Railway Station, providing a Ballarat V/Line rail service. The train station is 3.46km south to the lake and is connected to the town centre via a bus service.

It is worth noting that there is a large carpark in CS Square, providing 1,200 free car parking spaces encouraging private vehicle transport to the commercial precinct and Lake Caroline.



LEGEND

- Major Vehicular Corridor
- PTV Bus Route
- PTV Bus Stop

2.10 CURRENT CONDITION

Detailed mapping has been undertaken to document the existing furniture, facilities, amenities and material of Lake Caroline Reserve, Boathouse Reserve and Lake Caroline Waterfront to assist assessment of issues and opportunities.



2.11 FURNITURE & MATERIALS

A photo inventory has been undertaken to document the existing furniture, facilities, amenities and material of Lake Caroline Reserve, Boathouse Reserve and Lake Caroline Waterfront.



Seating



Doggy Bags



Drinking Fountain



Barbecue and Seatings



Timber Deck Pier



Fitness Equipment



CCTV & Light Post



Rubbish Bin



Lake Street Interface



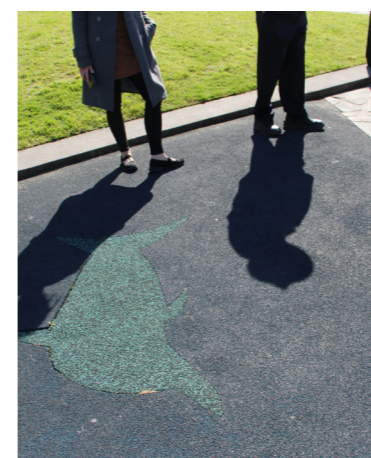
Lake Street Interface



Signage



Playground
(near Lake Street)



Existing Softfall Condition



Prints on Ground



Table Tennis Table

