# Summary of the community workshop outcomes

### Snapshot of the community values

We asked participants what they value most about the Upper Merri Creek sub-catchment. Here is a summary of what they said:

Social values:

* Ability to connect with nature
* Communities that are inclusive and look after each other
* Knowing your neighbours
* Opportunities to collaborate
* Community safety

Cultural values:

* Indigenous land management practices
* Caring for Country
* Wurundjeri cultural values
* Respecting and embracing the various cultures within the community

Economic values:

* Stable economy
* Local food security
* Local water security
* Supporting our farmers

Environmental values:

* Retaining and using water locally
* Shared community commitment to climate change
* Biodiversity
* Healthy waterways and wetlands
* Green corridors
* Beautiful, healthy landscapes
* Trees and greenery throughout our neighbourhoods
* Low carbon foot print
* Recharged water table.

### Draft community principles

We asked participants to provide input into a set of guiding community principles for the future of the Upper Merri Creek sub-catchment:

1. Design of neighbourhoods demonstrate our shared values of Caring for Country.
2. Neighbourhoods are place-based, supporting opportunities for people to be healthy, connect with one another and with nature.
3. Opportunities to learn, collaborate and work together to build stronger communities are ongoing.
4. Available natural resources are efficiently managed to ensure the needs of our waterways and natural landscapes are met.
5. Biodiversity and ecological systems are protected and enhanced across the sub-catchment and throughout residential and commercial areas.
6. Supply and use of water are fit-for-purpose and make best use of locally captured and treated stormwater and recycled water.
7. Knowledge of the natural aquatic system and achieving the required water quality is continually building and being drawn on.
8. Housing options and designs are sustainable, supporting stronger communities and provide for choice and affordability.
9. Local food production is planned at a variety of scales within the sub-catchment, and food growers are supported.

### Overarching messages

Across the day there were some overarching key messages that came through the discussions. These are summarised as follows:

* **Business-as-usual is not OK.** Minimising the impact on the environment is important but the focus needs to be on regenerative practices.
* **Water is central** to how to design and develop sustainable, connected and climate resilient neighbourhoods.
* **Traditional and natural methods are preferred over engineered solutions.** This was strongly linked to the support for regenerative practices and using natural sollutions that provide environmental benefits and support landscape values.
* **Stormwater and recycled water need to be used more effectively** to minimise impact on potable water supplies and to stop runoff into our waterways. However, there were some concerns around the quality of water and how to make alternative water sources fit-for-purpose.
* **Innovation is important, but choice is essential** particularly regarding housing options and design of neighbourhoods.
* **Collaboration with the community is highly valued** to create shared ownership of the solutions and build the capacity of the community to get involved.