

Elwood Main Drain Project

Works notification July 2026

Works are starting in Elwood Park and Head Street Reserve

In Melbourne, managing stormwater safely is essential to our way of life. We're building a second drain from Elsternwick Park to the Elwood foreshore, to help reduce flood risk and strengthen our drainage network for generations to come.

From the week of 3 August 2026 (subject to approvals) you'll see our crew onsite.

The first stage of works includes:

- Putting up fencing around work areas
- Building truck and construction vehicle access from Ormond Esplanade
- Building a light vehicle (e.g. cars and utes) driveway from Head Street
- Setting up project site offices and worker facilities, including off-street car spaces within the site for the workforce.

These works will take approximately two months. Dates and durations of work may change due to weather and other factors.

What you'll see

The first stage of tree and vegetation removal will take place in early August. Further stages of removal will be undertaken prior to works commencing in each area.

Location of work

The map below shows the initial works area. Notification will be provided as works extend to Elwood foreshore and Head Street Reserve, and then Elwood Pier and Elsternwick Park later in the year.



What to expect

We'll do our best to minimise impacts, but you can expect the following:

- Trucks in the area, delivering materials and machinery to and from the site
- Noise, from the operation of machinery, vehicles and workforce
- People and vehicles in the area.

Working hours

Works will be undertaken during normal construction hours which are:

- 7am-6pm Monday to Friday
- 7am-1pm Saturdays.

Quiet work will take place before and after these hours such as arriving and leaving site, tidy up and office work.

Residents will be advised if any work is necessary outside these hours.

Traffic

There will be some changes to traffic on Ormond Esplanade while we build a new truck entry to the site (Elwood Park):

- While we build the driveway, the northbound slow lane will be closed during off-peak times. This is expected to take approximately two weeks.
- Once complete, trucks will only turn left in and out of the site to help reduce traffic impacts on Ormond Esplanade. This will be in place for the duration of the project.

Light vehicles (including staff cars) will use Head Street to access the site:

- Works to construct the driveway will take about one week. During this time, there may be short delays. Please follow the direction of traffic controllers and signage.
- This driveway will remain in place and in use for the duration of the project.

Lighting

Lighting and security cameras will be installed to support safety on the site and timelapse cameras to capture the progress of the works. All cameras and lighting will be positioned away from private property.

Asbestos removal

Some asbestos-containing materials may need to be removed during the project. If this is required, the work will be completed by a licensed asbestos removal contractor following strict safety procedures.

The area will be securely fenced or clearly marked, with access restricted during removal works. Inspections and monitoring will be carried out as required to help ensure the safety of workers, residents and visitors.

Tree and vegetation removal

We understand the significant value that trees and vegetation bring to the community. Throughout the design process, we've worked closely with local councils and an independent arborist to minimise impacts and avoid impacting important vegetation where possible. However, the removal of trees is unavoidable.

See the map for the location of trees to be kept, removed and the ones we're trying to keep. Tree removal will be completed in stages throughout the project.

After the works are complete, we'll replant vegetation and restore disturbed areas, with plans approved by councils. We'll share more updates with the community as the project progresses.



Sporting clubs update

To support local sporting clubs during construction, some training will move to the Carnival Site north of Elwood Park.

Temporary lighting will be installed and positioned away from nearby homes.

Thank you

A huge shout out to the committees and members of local sporting clubs who are moving temporarily while we build the new drain:

Elwood Croquet Club

Elwood Cricket Club

Elwood City Soccer Club

St Kilda Junior Football Club

St Kevins Gaelic Football Club

St Kilda Celts Soccer Club

Utility relocations update

Utility relocations, including gas, water, power and telecommunications, began in March 2026.

These works will continue through to November 2026 (pending service authority schedules) as service authorities and their contractors move their assets in preparation for the new drain.

Residents and businesses nearby will be notified ahead of these works as they are scheduled.

Your feedback

We are keen to hear your thoughts on the project by scanning the QR code and completing a short survey.



Acknowledgment

Melbourne Water acknowledges the Bunurong peoples of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of this land.

Stay informed

Follow the Let's Talk project page by registering your email to receive the latest news and engagement opportunities. See the web page details below.

MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions, please contact the project team or visit the web page for more information:



1800 841 444



elwoodrain@melbournewater.com.au



letstalk.melbournewater.com.au/elwood-main-drain

Scan the QR code for direct access to the project web page



To access the TTY and Interpreter Services: TTY 133 677
Interpreter: 131 450

