

Maribyrnong River Flood Review

Community Bulletin – October 2024



Two years ago on 14 October 2022, a significant flood event occurred in the Maribyrnong River catchment. We acknowledge the difficulty the community experienced during this event - and continue to experience in the aftermath. The following is an update on the activities and improvements that have been made since that flood event.

12-month update on Melbourne Water's progress

A year ago, Melbourne Water released the report of the Independent Review Panel into the causes of the October 2022 Maribyrnong River flood event.

The review, which was led by former Federal and Victorian Supreme Court Judge Tony Pagone AM, made 15 recommendations.

Melbourne Water accepted all 15 of the recommendations and has now published a 12-month update on how we are tracking to implement each of them.

How are we tracking

Recommendations were in key areas such as flood modelling, flood forecasting, climate change, land use and planning and long-term sustainable flood mitigation options.

Of the 15 recommendations, 6 have been met or are embedded as standard practice for ongoing implementation, and the remaining 9 recommendations are on track for completion.

Completed milestones

- **17 January - 17 March 2023**
Public consultation and submissions
- **May 2023**
Community Shared Experiences report published, progress update to community
- **May - October 2023**
Panel considered submissions
- **October 2023**
Public release of Panel report and addendum
- **April 2024**
6-month progress update
Released the new lower Maribyrnong River flood modelling and undertook a program of community engagement
- **May 2024**
Final Panel addendum completed and released
- **October 2024**
12-month progress update

Key updates

- We are progressing a procurement process for a detailed flood mitigation study to assess mitigation solutions for the lower Maribyrnong River catchment.
- The Panel's final assessment of the Flemington racecourse wall was published in May 2024. We will incorporate an examination of the flood wall mitigation into our broader investigation of potential mitigation options across the catchment.
- We are continuing to work closely with the Bureau of Meteorology on several recommendations including transitioning flood forecasting services from Melbourne Water to the Bureau.

You can find detailed progress update here:



[letstalk.melbournewater.com.au/
maribyrnong-river-flood-review](https://letstalk.melbournewater.com.au/maribyrnong-river-flood-review)

Snapshot of community engagement in 2024

We released new flood modelling information for the lower Maribyrnong River catchment in April this year. Through the engagement program that followed, we listened to your experiences and feedback. We are continuing to improve how we communicate new flood information, including through holding 1:1 meetings and improving our online information. We understand you may still have questions, and we are available to answer them.

240+ **COMMUNITY MEMBERS** 

ATTENDED

9 **FLOOD AWARENESS AND PREPAREDNESS EVENTS**
ACROSS 4 COUNCIL AREAS 

DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT SITE

WITH

100+ **ACTIVE FOLLOWERS**

ONLINE WEBINAR

139

COMMUNITY MEMBERS ATTENDED



TARGETED SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN REACHING

176,000+ PEOPLE

YOU WANTED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT

Flood levels and flood depths



Mitigation infrastructure study



Insurance and property value impacts



How does the model work, how was it developed, what does it mean



Planning scheme amendment process



Update on new planning controls

The new flood modelling information for the lower Maribyrnong River catchment is used for emergency and land use planning, flood mitigation decisions, and other flood risk measures.

For flood modelling to be used in land use planning and development decisions, it needs to be translated into appropriate zones and overlays in planning schemes. This is done by a Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA) process, usually undertaken by the local Council or the Planning Minister, at the request of Melbourne Water.

A Planning Scheme Amendment process includes a public exhibition stage, where anyone can make a submission, and a review stage by an Independent Planning Panel or Advisory Committee.

There are different planning scheme zones and overlays which are applied to reflect varying levels of flood risk in accordance with State Government guidelines. These include the Urban Floodway Zone, Floodway Overlay, Land Subject to Inundation Overlay and Special Building Overlay.

The predicted depth and velocity of flood waters determine the level of flood risk and flood hazard categories are applied in accordance with industry best-practice guidelines (Australian Rainfall and Runoff Guidelines). Flood hazard categories are then translated into the most appropriate planning scheme zones and overlays, in accordance with State Government planning guidelines.

Melbourne Water is working with impacted Councils and government to translate the new lower Maribyrnong River flood information into draft planning scheme controls. Melbourne Water is working with the Planning Minister on the proposed planning scheme amendment, which will include public exhibition of the proposed controls, providing the community an opportunity to review the draft controls and to make submissions. An Independent Panel or Advisory Committee assesses the submissions and submits a report, suggesting any modifications to the amendment before it is finalised. We will keep you informed of the next stages in this process. You can also follow our Let's Talk page to receive email updates: letstalk.melbournewater.com.au/maribyrnong-river-flood-model

Flood mitigation

We are progressing a procurement process for a detailed flood mitigation study to assess mitigation solutions for the lower Maribyrnong River catchment. The study will look at solutions that prioritise the safety and resilience of communities and have the greatest impact on reducing flood risk.

It's important to note that mitigation measures cannot be progressed in isolation for just one area, since adverse impacts on other neighbouring areas or upstream will also need to be considered.

Mitigations could include a range of solutions including:

- Infrastructure, such as levees, retarding basins or improved drainage
- Water management strategies and projects
- Flood resilient building and design features.

What's happened so far

Preliminary investigation work began last year with a desktop review of past flood mitigation studies.

Melbourne Water has sought expressions of interest to engage specialist expertise to draw on global best-practice solutions. We are working through a comprehensive procurement process to determine the most suitable consultant.

We anticipate this study to take up to 18 months to complete. This timeframe will be confirmed when a consultant is on board.

How to get involved

Register your interest in the flood mitigation study by completing our short survey at letstalk.melbournewater.com.au/maribyrnong-river-flood-model/flood-mitigation-study

So far, we've had 72 survey respondents.

Greater Melbourne flood modelling

We've completed flood modelling for the lower Maribyrnong River catchment, and we've also got a rolling program underway to remodel flood risk across the entire Greater Melbourne area. This will include both waterway and stormwater flooding and climate change forecasts to the year 2100.

A flood modelling program of this scale is unprecedented in Australia.



We will replace over 1000 flood models with approximately 250 new models.

Modelling for stormwater drains is undertaken in partnership with local Councils. There are 38 local Councils within our region and Councils own and manage approximately three quarters of Melbourne's drainage system.

Updating flood models ensures up-to-date flood information is available to understand flood risk and build community resilience. It is important that flood risk is understood, so communities and agencies can be prepared and know what actions to take before and in the event of a flood.

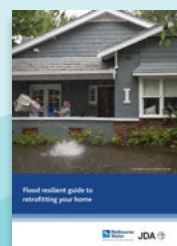
Interactive map coming soon

We are developing an **online interactive map** on our website that will provide your property's flood levels. This will make it easier to access your flood information, replacing the need to download and view a pdf map, and will be rolled out in stages with the Greater Melbourne flood modelling program.



Building back after the floods

If you are building back in a flood affected area, you may find our guide to retrofitting your home a useful resource. Find out what to consider by downloading our guide <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/media/15581/download?attachment>. Or call us and we can post you a hard copy.



Be flood ready

Here are some actions you can take to know your flood risk and be prepared for a flood event:

 Know your flood risk We can provide the flood level and flood depths that may be experienced on individual properties in the lower Maribyrnong River catchment. Lodge a request at enquiry@melbournewater.com.au	 Sign up to alerts and warnings Install the VicEmergency app and monitor weather warnings at the Bureau of Meteorology website: bom.gov.au	 Create a business flood plan Create a flood plan by downloading the VICSES Business Flood Planning Checklist: ses.vic.gov.au	 Create an emergency plan The Australian Red Cross Get Prepared app and Rediplan template can help you find your local emergency services, get information on how to prepare for disasters and make an emergency plan: redcross.org.au/prepare	 Pack an emergency flood kit Ensure you have essential items close at hand if you lose power or need to evacuate quickly. Find a checklist at the VICSES website: ses.vic.gov.au	 Make your house flood resilient Regularly clean your gutters, downpipes and drains to remove debris and leaf litter and prevent blockages. Check that loose items around your house are safely secured	 Check home and contents insurance Check if your insurance covers flooding and the types of flooding it covers.
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Find out more

For more information, visit the Let's Talk page here:



letstalk.melbournewater.com.au/maribyrnong-river-flood-review



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TIS Interpreter Services Information
tisnational.gov.au