

Maribyrnong River Flood Review

Community Bulletin – October 2023



Release of Independent Panel's Report

In case you missed the recent announcement, the Independent Review Panel appointed to conduct a review into the Maribyrnong River flood event of 14 October, 2022 has handed down its report. Melbourne Water would like to acknowledge and thank the community, key stakeholders and agencies who contributed to the Panel's work.

The review, led by former Federal and Victorian Supreme Court Judge the Honourable Tony Pagone AM KC examined the causes and contributors to the flood event in the Maribyrnong catchment. Melbourne Water thanks Justice Pagone and his Panel for their work.

The Panel considered all 63 submissions made to the review and held public consultations in July this year where they heard from interested parties and members of the community detailing their experiences of the floods. Melbourne Water also attended and participated in the Panel's consultations.

Melbourne Water accepts all 15 of the recommendations of the Independent Panel and we will work to implement them as quickly as possible.

Details on how to access the report are available below.

What's Next?

Melbourne Water will continue to work with the Panel to close out our questions of clarification, and we will provide 6 and 12 month progress updates to the community on implementation of the Panel's recommendations.

Key Dates

- ✓ **17 January - 17 March 2023:**
Public consultation and submissions period
- ✓ **April 2023:**
Submissions publicly released and provided to Review Lead
- ✓ **May 2023:**
Community Shared Experiences report published, update to community on progress with review
- ✓ **May - October 2023:**
Review Panel considers submissions
- ✓ **October 2023:**
Public release of Review Report
- ☆ **April 2024: 6 month progress update**
Melbourne Water will provide an update on progress with implementation of the Panel's recommendations.
- ☆ **October 2024: 12 month progress update**
Melbourne Water will provide an update on progress with implementation of the Panel's recommendations.

Where to go for further info

You can access the Report and Melbourne Water's response to the recommendations by scanning the QR code or typing the link into your browser.



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



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Melbourne Water's response to the Independent Review Panel's recommendations.

Melbourne Water agrees in principle with all 15 of the Panel's recommendations.

#	Panel recommendation	Melbourne Water response
1	Melbourne Water should review flood models every five years and update them every 10 years and after the occurrence of a major flood.	Agree, work well underway
2	Melbourne Water needs to ensure that rainfall runoff and flood models are calibrated to observed flood information.	Agree, this is Melbourne Water current practice
3	Melbourne Water should ensure that their rating curves, which represent the relationships between river levels and corresponding river flows, extend also to rare and extreme flood events and have been derived using established best practice.	Agree, work underway
4	Melbourne Water should take account of the best estimates of the impact of climate change when setting flood levels for planning and development and the application of the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO).	Agree, this is Melbourne Water current practice
5	Melbourne Water should adopt forecasting tools which enable forecasts to be made within a total of no more than 60 minutes.	Agree in principle, subject to transition to the Bureau of Meteorology
6	Melbourne Water should use the hydraulic model developed (expected April 2024) to determine (and be subjected to independent peer review) the impact of the Flemington Flood Wall and the efficacy of the associated downstream compensatory works.	Agree
7	Melbourne Water should commission an independent expert review and audit of their forecasting system with the aim of identifying areas where forecast accuracy, warning times and model run times could be improved.	Agree
8	Melbourne Water should take account of the change in land use and projected changes to land use when setting flood levels for planning and development and the application of the LSIO.	Agree in principle
9	Melbourne Water should immediately update the Mid Maribyrnong model with a modern two dimensional flood model developed in accordance with Melbourne Water guidelines and use this model to set new design flood levels.	Agree, work well underway
10	Melbourne Water should have a protocol that enables flood forecasting at intervals at less than two hours when prudent to do so by reason of responsiveness of the catchment for significant events.	Agree in principle, subject to transition to the Bureau of Meteorology
11	Melbourne Water should consult with BoM to develop rainfall forecasts more frequently than 6 hours.	Agree in principle, subject to transition to the Bureau of Meteorology
12	Melbourne Water should seek the approval of the Minister for Planning to apply the interim planning controls designating the LSIO in locations where flooding occurred, pending the update to the Mid Maribyrnong flood model.	Agree in principle
13	Melbourne Water should investigate how it came to be satisfied with the reduction of the flood levels and finished floors levels at the Rivervue Retirement Village as specified in the endorsed plans dated 2 June 2009.	Agree, investigation is ongoing
14	Melbourne Water should investigate the feasibility of installing one way valves on the outlets from the street and yard drainage from Evergreen Avenue (Rivervue Retirement Village).	Agree in principle, work underway
15	Melbourne Water should investigate long term sustainable flood mitigation options for the Maribyrnong River.	Agree, work underway

For more detail on Melbourne Water's responses, please go to:
<https://yoursay.melbournewater.com.au/maribyrnong-river-flood-review>