

Introduction to the Greater Melbourne Flood Information Program

Transcript

Nicole Sutherland, Melbourne Water, Manager Strategic Flood and Drainage Planning:

Hi, and welcome to the Greater Melbourne Flood Information Program.

If you're watching, you may be wondering:

'Is my property at risk of flooding – and what does that mean for me?'

At Melbourne Water, we understand that flooding can be concerning.

This may be the first time you're hearing about flood risk, or you may have experienced flooding before.

Either way, we're here to help you understand what it means and where to find reliable information.

In this first video, we'll explain:

- why we're updating flood information;
- what the maps are; and
- how you can use them to provide feedback.

In other videos in this series you'll be able to find out about flood information for your municipality and have some commonly asked questions answered.

Across Melbourne, much of the drainage network was built in the early to mid-1900s. It was designed to manage more common, everyday rainfall.

Today, things are changing.

Storms and rainfall are becoming more intense, and increased urban development means more hard surfaces - like roads and roofs - which cause water to run off into drains more quickly.

The drainage system was never designed to cater for large intense rainfall events; so even with ongoing maintenance and upgrades, we still see an increase in flood risk in some areas.

To better understand flood risk - that's why we're updating flood maps and flood information through this program.

The Greater Melbourne Flood Information Program brings together data and information from Melbourne Water and local councils to give a clearer, more complete picture of flood risk.

For the first time, the maps combine:

- Regional drainage systems managed by Melbourne Water; and
- Local drainage systems managed by councils.

This helps us better understand how water moves across the landscape during heavy rainfall.

The flood maps use the latest modelling techniques and follow National Guidelines.

They consider a range of factors, including:

- Landscape shape and terrain
- Different rainfall scenarios
- Drainage infrastructure and assets
- Historical flood events and information
- Climate change projections

Together, this allows us to simulate where water may flow and collect during a large storm event.

It's important to know that these flood maps do not predict exactly when a flood will happen.

Instead, they show where flooding could occur during certain storm events.

They also show different flood hazard levels, based on how deep **or** how fast the water may flow. These hazard levels range from:

- Low hazard (H1) to High hazard (up to H6).

This information can help you better understand potential impacts at your property or in your area.

You'll see two types of maps online:

1. One map shows the current day flood information – this is the present-day flood risk and used for emergency services and flood awareness and preparedness. This map is draft and we are currently seeking feedback from the community.

2. The second map shows a possible future flood scenario to the year 2100 taking into consideration climate change projections and current knowledge. This map is used to support long-term planning and will be used for future planning scheme amendments.

Your feedback is important.

The easiest way to get started is to search for your address in the online draft flood map.

You'll see a simple summary of your flood risk, with options to explore more detailed information.

For the current day draft flood maps, we encourage you to share your local knowledge, such as:

- Past flood experiences
- Changes to the landscape, like major earthworks
- Existing engineered structures that may affect the flow of water.

This information helps us improve the accuracy of the final flood maps. The Year 2100 flood map is based on future scenarios, so we are not collecting feedback.

Our aim is to provide clear, reliable flood information so you can better understand your flood risk and make informed decisions.

To learn more about your flood risk, you can watch the next video in our series which provides an overview of the flood maps in your council area. In the final video of the series, you can hear answers to some of our most asked questions.

Together, we can prepare and plan for a safer, more resilient flood future.