



Elwood Main Drain Project Community Bulletin February 2026

We're building a second drain to carry flood water from Melbourne's southeast to the Port Philip Bay at Elwood.

The project will add 660 metres of new drain from Elsternwick Park to the Elwood foreshore – improving drainage and helping manage stormwater during heavy rain, storms, and floods.

Works now starting in mid-2026.

Pre-construction

In August 2025 we entered the pre-construction phase with our Service Partner, John Holland - KBR Joint Venture (JH-KBR).

Impacts to stakeholders and community were found to be more significant than originally anticipated.

Investing more time at this stage has led to better outcomes for community and the project overall.

Why this project is happening



Flood & drainage

Significant flooding occurs when there are medium to large storms in this low-lying urbanised catchment, centred around Elster Creek.

Worsened by climate change and sea level rises, this project will reduce flooding in Elwood and Brighton area.



Current drain

The existing drain was built in the 1950s and is at full capacity.

Water flows from the retarding basin and lake in Elsternwick Park.



Solution

We're building a second drain to carry flood water from Melbourne's south-east to the bay at Elwood.

This improves our ability to divert water during major storm events - helping protect more than 500 properties from major flood events.

Community safety and resilience are boosted.



Project

Approximately 660 metres of new drain will be built to supplement the existing drain including:

- a bigger outlet and pier at Elwood Beach
- a new drain inlet in Elsternwick Park
- a diversion structure in Elster Creek and maintenance pits.

January 2026 – refined design

- 1 We're moving 250 metres of new construction to the north side of the existing drain
- 2 New pier, housing outlets for both drains, remains on the preferred south side
- 3 New inlet structure remains next to existing in Elsternwick Park
- 4 Throttle (diversion structure) at Elwood Canal

Process

Throughout September to December 2025 we worked with JH-KBR JV to challenge the construction methodology:

- how each section will be built
- the sequencing of works
- traffic management
- how we minimise impacts on residents and the broader community.

The area beyond the intersection of Ormond Esplanade and St Kilda Street into Elsternwick Park is very constrained. No further design changes were possible.

Benefits and impacts

Moving to the north means we can maintain pedestrian access along Head Street to:

- The Bay Trail
- Shared connections to foreshore paths and beaches on either side of our worksite at Elwood Pier
- Elwood Lifesaving Club
- Elwood Bathers
- Lady Foster Kindergarten.

Major impacts to some homes and a road closure have been avoided, along with some disruptive service relocation works.

This means **pedestrians** can use Head Street to get to the beach, trails & paths, parks, cafes and the kinder, however vehicle access will be restricted.

Where impacts are unavoidable, we will be **fair and reasonable** in reaching agreements with stakeholders, communities and residents.

We'll be reaching out to have more detailed conversations with directly impacted residents, businesses, sports clubs and community groups over the coming months.



This is a complex project

The new drain is big, with two dual-cell pipes (4m wide x 2.5m high) set inside culverts about the same size as 4 lanes of an Olympic swimming pool at the deep end.

We're working in dense urban and highly used marine environments, from the Elwood foreshore to Elsternwick Park.

It's essentially the scale of a level crossing removal - for water.



Concrete culverts and sheet piling

What to expect

We'll make every effort to minimise the impact of these essential works on the local community and the environment.

Trees and shrubs

We understand the importance and value of trees and plants to local communities. However, the removal of trees and vegetation is unavoidable.

We've gone through a careful design process to avoid impacts to significant native vegetation and will provide further information on the trees and vegetation to be removed. We will obtain the relevant permits from Bayside City Council and City of Port Phillip.

When are works happening?

We're working on updates to permits, construction timelines and procurement for this complex construction project and will be ready to start in mid-2026.

Some site investigations and early works have begun. Services (power, internet, gas and sewer) need to be relocated to make way for the new drain. The service authorities and their contractors will commence the service relocations in March 2026.

Timeline



Keep up to date by subscribing and checking our webpage.

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
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