

Elwood Main Drain Project

September 2026

Works continue in Elwood Park and will soon extend into Head Street Reserve and Elwood foreshore

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.

What you'll see

From **Wednesday 16 September 2026**, our crews will extend the project's construction area into Head Street Reserve.

Work in this area will include:

- removing trees and vegetation
- extending the fencing around the new work areas
- demolishing the Elwood Croquet Club.

It will take us around four months. Dates and times may change due to weather and other factors.

Upcoming works

In the coming months, our site will extend into the Head Street roundabout and onto the foreshore. Works will start on a temporary diversion to the Bay Trail and the foreshore pedestrian path around the future construction zone. To enable this work, access to the beach from Head Street will be closed for around four months.

We understand that temporarily closing the footpath at the end of Head Street for around four months will be disruptive for the local community. However, this closure is required to build a temporary Bay Trail and pedestrian path diversion. Once complete, it will provide continued pedestrian access between Head Street and the beach for the duration of the project

What to expect

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

- Temporary closure of the Head Street pedestrian footpath to the beach for around four months. Pedestrians will be detoured via Dawson Avenue

- The existing Bay Trail and beach footpath will remain open, and we'll let the community know when the diversion is ready to use
- Head Street will become local traffic only including personal vehicles accessing the project's on-site office and car parking for the duration of the project
- Temporary closure of up to 42 car spaces and 10 motorbike spaces in the public car park
- Temporary closure of some car spaces in front of the Elwood Croquet Club on Head Street to allow for vehicles to safely turn around in the street
- Trucks in the area, delivering materials and machinery to and from the site
- Noise and vibration, from the operation of machinery
- People and vehicles in the area.

Asbestos removal

During the project's recent ground investigation and analysis work in Elwood Park, we have confirmed more asbestos-containing material in the ground than originally expected. While some asbestos-containing material was anticipated and planned for, a larger amount has been identified.

We'll need to remove the asbestos-containing material before construction works for the main drain can continue.

Licensed asbestos removal specialists will carry out the work using approved industry methods and processes to safely manage, remove and transport the material from site.

Community and workforce safety remains our highest priority. Strict safety measures will be in place throughout the works, including but not limited to:

- Air and environmental monitoring
- Workers will wear protective clothing and respiratory equipment as part of standard safety procedures for asbestos-related works. These measures are taken as a precaution, even when risks are low
- Temporary fencing and 'asbestos removal' signage around the work area.

Location of work

The map below shows the next stages of site establishment. Notification will be provided as works extend further to Elsternwick Park later in the year and Elwood Pier next year.



Working hours:

Works will be undertaken during normal construction hours which are 7am-6pm Monday to Friday and 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.

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.

Elwood Croquet Club

The Elwood Croquet Club has temporarily relocated to the Brighton Croquet Club grounds for the duration of construction. They'll return to Elwood after the project is completed and their new club house and courts are ready.

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.

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 we're keeping, ones we're trying to keep and the ones we have to remove.



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.

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.



MORE INFORMATION

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



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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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