



Silvan Reservoir High Security Fence Upgrade

Engagement Report

July/ August 2024

<https://info.mwc.melbournewater.com.au/info/cs.exe/link/68888300>

Silvan Reservoir High Security Fence upgrade

Community Engagement Summary

Overview

Melbourne is one of a few cities in the world with drinking water that primarily comes from protected catchments. Most of these catchments have limited public access, producing very clean water that is naturally filtered and needs little treatment.

The legacy fencing around Silvan Reservoir is old, damaged and no longer equipped to protect the catchment. We need to replace it with a secure fence to keep the water in Silvan Reservoir protected and to maintain its Category One protected catchment status. The new high security fence is a project of state significance and will enable us to meet our obligations under:

- Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.
- Water Act 1989 (Victoria).
- Safe Drinking Water Act 2003 (Victoria).
- Safe Drinking Water Regulations 2015 (Victoria).
- Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2008.

Silvan Reservoir supplies over 65% of Melbourne's drinking water and this fencing upgrade will enhance our security to the highest standard, which will allow us to maintain and supply the high quality drinking water.

Funding for this important project has been determined by a formal Price Submission process and approved by the Essential Services Commission. It has been planned over the past few years as high priority critical infrastructure investment.



Phase 1 – Early Engagement

We wanted to explore the views of the community, to understand what's important to them and to ask if there are any issues of concern they could foresee with our plan to replace the existing fence around Silvan Reservoir.

Melbourne Water – Let's Talk

Through Melbourne Water's Let's Talk engagement platform, local residents and businesses surrounding Silvan Reservoir were encouraged to complete a survey to gather opinions and sentiment about replacing the existing fence with a new, higher security fence. The campaign was conducted over a four week period between 14 July and 11 August 2024.

How we promoted the survey

The survey was promoted with 6,000 hand delivered community bulletins, a geo-targeted paid social media campaign and individual emails to local community groups to encourage member participation.

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Community Bulletin

Silvan Reservoir High Security Fence upgrade July 2024

In Melbourne, water is essential to our way of life. Today, clean, affordable water is readily available to our homes and businesses whenever we need it. That's why at Melbourne Water we have been taking action and planning across 50-year time horizons to manage and protect this precious water for our city.

We are one of the few cities in the world with protected catchments, providing much of our drinking water. Limiting public access protects water quality at its source, meaning this water needs very little treatment.

Silvan Reservoir High Security Fence upgrade

We are upgrading the existing fence around Silvan Reservoir, which is old and needs to be replaced. The new fence will provide additional security for Silvan Reservoir and protect our drinking water. The new fence will also ensure we meet our obligations and requirements for health based targets and Australian critical infrastructure. For more information about protecting our water catchments, please visit our website: melbournewater.com.au (search: water quality catchments)

The upgraded fence will be similar to other higher security fences around Melbourne, such as Melbourne Airport. It will include additional security features, such as higher strength fencing materials and provision to install inward facing CCTV and intruder detection devices at a later date.

Current Status

Melbourne Water intends to request that the Minister for Planning support a facilitated planning approval process of this state significant project.

Prior to submitting our application plan, we are encouraging local community members and stakeholders to comment on comment on the upgraded fence project to inform the Minister's consideration of the project.

Let's Talk

Scan the QR code to access our Let's Talk page, where you can:

- Complete a survey and provide us with your feedback and comments about the fence
- Ask the project team a question
- Find out more information about why we need to keep our drinking water safe (letstalk.melbournewater.com.au/silvan-fence-upgrade)

We need your feedback by **11 August 2024**. As the project progresses, we will provide more information and opportunities interact with the project team.

VICTORIA Melbourne Water is owned by the Victorian Government. We manage Melbourne's water supply catchments, remove and treat most of Melbourne's sewage, and manage rivers and creeks and major drainage systems throughout the Port Phillip and Westernport region.

Melbourne Water Enhancing Life and Livability

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Construction

We expect construction to start in July 2025 and to be completed by mid-2027. More details about what the fence will look like and potential vegetation impacts will be available prior to construction, once the design of the fence has been determined.

Project area

The map below shows the existing and proposed alignment of the new fence.



Keep up to date with what's happening

For more information about this project or our other activities please call 121 9222, email smallscaleprojects@melbournewater.com.au or visit www.melbournewater.com.au

For an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 13 14 50

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Visit us www.melbournewater.com.au

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Melbourne Water Enhancing Life and Livability

Melbourne Water Sponsored

In Melbourne, water is essential to our way of life. Today, clean, affordable water comes mainly from protected water supply catchments via our water storage reservoirs.

That's why we're replacing the fence around Silvan Reservoir with an upgraded, higher security fence – protecting our critical water supply infrastructure for generations to come.

This is your chance to let us know what you think. Check out our Let's Talk page to give us your feedback: <https://bit.ly/3LAgBHP>



letstalk.melbournewater.com.au/silvan-reservoir-high-security-fence-upgrade **Learn more**

Like Comment Share

Melbourne Water Sponsored

In Melbourne, water is essential to our way of life. Today, clean, affordable water comes mainly from protected water supply catchments via our water storage reservoirs.

To continue protecting the water in the reservoir, we'll be installing a new high-security fence around Silvan Reservoir to replace the old one.

Do you have a question about the project? Provide your feedback via our Let's Talk page: <https://bit.ly/3LAgBHP>



letstalk.melbournewater.com.au/silvan-reservoir-high-security-fence-upgrade **Learn more**

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What we wanted to know

We want to understand what the community values about Silvan Reservoir and to provide an opportunity for community members or groups to raise any concerns or considerations for the planning and design of the new fence. We asked:

1. Do you live near Silvan Reservoir?
2. What's important to you about the local area near Silvan Reservoir?
3. Would you like to raise any issues or concerns about replacing the existing fence around Silvan Reservoir with a new higher security fence?

Who we heard from

Most people who responded to the survey were aged between 45-65 and lived near Silvan Reservoir. They liked to walk, cycle, ride mountain bikes and picnic.

During the engagement period, 136 surveys were completed. Social media posts generated a number of direct questions on our social media platforms. We also received 3 emails from community members/ groups advocating on behalf of wildlife living in and around Silvan Reservoir, and a Legislative Council member expressed similar views in Parliament (posted online).

What we heard

A number of themes or issues of concern were raised, in particular:

- Wildlife protection
- Nature
- Shared path connections
- Project need and cost

Context and Melbourne Water's Response

The issues of concern raised are covered in our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section on the Let's Talk engagement platform. While the original FAQs included topics such as project need. We updated the FAQs to include wildlife protection and shared path connections information as the interest became apparent.

Wildlife Protection - Comment was generally related to ensuring wildlife safety, not using barbed or razor wire and to consider wildlife crossings. Melbourne Water is not intending to use razor or barbed wire and is working with experts to facilitate wildlife crossings.

Shared path connections – We met with a local community group and Yarra Ranges Council to discuss long-held community and Council desire for a shared path along Monbulk Road. When the engagement was active, we emailed the community group to ensure their members were aware of the project and provided an opportunity to participate in the survey. We received over 50 responses suggesting Melbourne Water should move the fence further into Melbourne Water's property to facilitate Council building the path between the fence and Monbulk Road. Melbourne Water raised with Council a number of constraints which could affect feasibility, including potential increased costs, timelines and vegetation removal. We will continue to work with Council, as their plans for the path develop.

What's next

The engagement results are be available on the Let's Talk page. We will also advise visitors to the site that this engagement was part of the process to encourage members of the community to comment on the project prior to submitting an application to the Minister for Planning to request support for a facilitated planning approval process of this state significant project.

Responses will be provide to prospective service providers so that issues, concerns and comments can be considered during the detailed design phase which will take place end-2024 and early 2025. After the detailed design phase, we will have more information about the fence. Construction is expected to take place in mid-2025.

The site remains active and responsive to any new questions or concerns raised.

Infographic

