



MRM to North Western Sewer Connection Project

Project introduction – January 2021



Melbourne Water is planning to build a new sewer in the suburb of Maidstone to improve the transportation of wastewater to where it's eventually treated at the Western Treatment Plant in Werribee.

PROJECT INTRODUCTION



Why this project is important

The Maribyrnong River Main (MRM) Sewer, which follows the Maribyrnong River from Thompson Street Reserve in Avondale Heights to Epsom Road in Ascot Vale, is one of the main sewers in Melbourne Water's network. Population growth and more extreme rainfall events have resulted in substantial increases in sewage flows, and the MRM Sewer is running out of capacity to carry these higher flows.

The MRM to North Western Sewer Connection Project will provide a world-class sewerage system to manage future flows. The new sewer will transport approximately 24 million litres of sewage each day from 36,000 properties in Essendon West, Airport West, Tullamarine (including Melbourne Airport), Avondale Heights, Keilor East, Taylors Lakes and Sydenham to the Western Treatment Plant.

Improving the sewerage system is an important initiative for the residents of the north-western suburbs as it will ensure the community continues to be provided with a secure and reliable sewerage service for decades to come.

What are we doing?

- A new 1.2km gravity sewer will be built to divert sewage flows from the MRM Sewer into the larger North Western Sewer in Maidstone, which transports wastewater to the Western Treatment Plant.
- The new sewer will connect from the MRM Sewer on the northern side of the Maribyrnong River, crossing the river via a new pipe bridge, with a buried sewer to be constructed from Medway Golf Club to Hampstead Road.
- 800m of the new sewer will be constructed by a tunnel boring machine (TBM) from the eastern end of Medway Golf Club to the North Western Sewer near the corner of Hampstead Road and Williamson Road. The sewer will be located at depths of up to 30-40m below ground.
- The remaining section of the new sewer will be constructed by open-cut trenching methods at a depth of 2-4m below ground.
- The two-year project is planned to start in late 2021.

Community benefits

The MRM to North Western Sewer Connection Project will provide an improved sewerage system with capacity for future flows whilst ensuring local amenity, environment, heritage and community interests are protected and enhanced during the delivery of the project.

LEAVING A LONG LASTING LEGACY



Improving connectivity and amenity for the lower Maribyrnong River

- We're working closely with Maribyrnong and Moonee Valley City Councils to plan a legacy project which will deliver long-term benefits for the Maribyrnong River and for the community.
- A new pipe bridge over the Maribyrnong River will be located approximately 100m to the east of the existing water pipe (M102) bridge. The new bridge will be designed to cater for active transport connection and accessibility (eg. for bikes, pedestrians, prams, wheelchair access).
- A section of land next to the Maribyrnong River, which is currently inaccessible, will be opened up for the community to enjoy continuous views and access along the river.
- Extensive weed removal will be undertaken through this reserve and native grasses, trees and shrubs will be planted in their place.
- A new 300m shared path will be created and will join up to existing shared paths on either side, creating a key link in the western active transport corridor.

The continuation of the shared trail between the M102 water pipe bridge and Freshwater Crescent in Maidstone is the final missing link in the north of the city. This is part of Maribyrnong City Council's key objective to achieve continuous public access along the river.

Connecting this path network will also improve linkages to the other side of the Maribyrnong River and to shared paths within Moonee Valley City Council.



Following construction of the sewer, a new shared path will be created



Native vegetation will be planted after weed removal

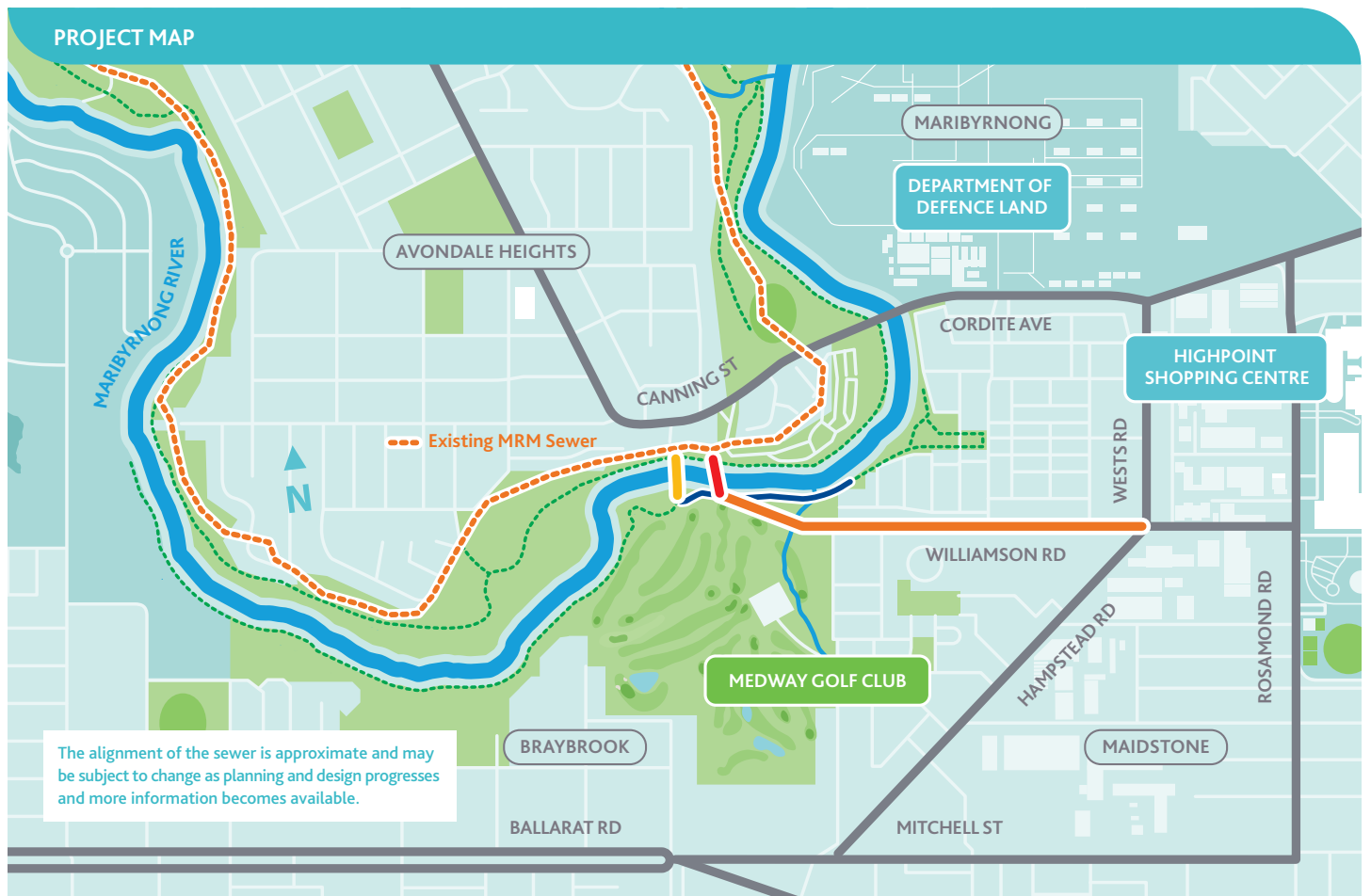
Managing impacts

Like any major project, there will be impacts associated with the construction of the new sewer. We are working closely with Maribyrnong City Council, Moonee Valley City Council and other key stakeholders to plan for and manage these impacts.

There may be some temporary changes to local traffic conditions, parking and access, including speed limit reductions, lane closures and some road closures. A traffic management plan will be developed to manage these impacts.

There may also be reduced access to the Maribyrnong River Trail in some locations, with temporary diversions in place for cyclists and pedestrians around construction areas.

The project is being carefully designed to avoid as many trees and shrubs where possible; however, not all vegetation can be avoided. Some trees, shrubs and grasses may need to be removed so we can undertake the works. We are working with independent ecologists and Councils to determine areas of importance and prevent vegetation loss where possible.



The alignment of the sewer is approximate and may be subject to change as planning and design progresses and more information becomes available.



Project timing

- The project is currently in the Design & Construct tender stage, due to be awarded in June 2021.
- Geotechnical investigations, cultural heritage assessments, and flora and fauna surveys have been completed. Reports from these surveys are in development and will be used to inform the detailed design.
- The detailed design stage is expected to be complete in September 2021.
- Construction for the new sewer is planned to start in October 2021 and is anticipated to take approximately two years to complete (subject to weather and ground conditions).

These dates may be subject to change as planning and design progresses and more information becomes available.

We'll keep you updated about the timing of the works as things progress.

Did you know...?

The Western Treatment Plant treats about 60 per cent of Melbourne’s sewage. Roughly the size of Phillip Island, it is also a place of historical, cultural and environmental significance. It is recognised for its thriving ecosystem and internationally-recognised bird habitat.

The Western Treatment Plant is one of the most innovative and advanced facilities of its kind in the world. Over 120 years, the treatment plant has evolved as Melbourne has grown, building on a legacy of foresight and ingenuity to become a world leader in environmentally-friendly sewage treatment.

The treatment plant is located in Werribee, half an hour from the city of Melbourne, just off the Princes Freeway. But you don't have to physically visit it to learn all about it - You can take a virtual tour from the comfort of your own home...and minus the smell!



Western Treatment Plant



Scan the QR code for access to the Western Treatment Plant Virtual Tour or visit the Melbourne Water website.



MORE INFORMATION



We will provide more information, including the timing of activities, as the planning and design progresses and more information becomes available.

We will make contact with directly affected residents and businesses through door knocks and notifications to ensure they are appropriately informed prior to upcoming work.

To keep you up to date with what we’re doing and how the work is progressing, we’ll also provide web updates, community bulletins and email notifications if you wish to subscribe.

Contact Melbourne Water



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